

# Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc.



## A Review of SIPA's 2019 Activities

**SIPA was established in 1996 with four goals/objectives:**

- I. Advocate for irrigation concerns to governments
- II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation
- III. Provide direct input to develop irrigation strategies in setting policies that impact Saskatchewan Agriculture and Economy
- IV. Assist in the expansion of irrigable acres.

## I. Advocate for Irrigation Concerns to Governments

- Our chairman participated in a federal meeting in Regina briefing the Hon. Justin Trudeau and the Hon. Ralph Goodale on irrigation potential in Saskatchewan
- Chairman and board members met with the Hon. Ralph Goodale to discuss details for major water projects including expansion of irrigation in Saskatchewan
- Accepted an invitation to attend a briefing with the Saskatchewan Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture regarding the provincial budget and afterwards attended the budget address
- Our chairman participated in a workshop with the Minister of Agriculture, Deputy Minister and staff to negotiate the terms for asset transfer.
- Participated in a presentation from WSA on their Ag Water Management Strategy to discuss the role of irrigation,
- Sent correspondence and meet with Ministerial staff to encourage the development of a plan for the control of algae in irrigation canals



## II. Promote the Benefits of Irrigation

- Helped with the organization of a tour for University and Western Economic Diversification staff of CSIDC, the Gardner and Qu'Appelle Dams and the Qu'Appelle valley to Buffalo Pound.
- Our chairman participated in a WSA drainage tour in the east side of the province to look at the possibility of incorporating irrigation.
- Numerous times we presented our video on the potential of irrigation in Saskatchewan and the success stories we have in Saskatchewan.
- Interviews with media of the benefits of irrigation to drought proof Saskatchewan
- Presentation to the annual Stock Growers Convention and met with media
- Participated in the water session at the Pacific North West Economic Summit held in Saskatoon.
- Display booth at Crop production show, CSIDC field day and SK Stock Growers Conference



### III. Provide Direct Input to Develop Irrigation Strategies in Setting Policies That Impact Saskatchewan Agriculture and Economy

- Continued to participate in meetings to modernize Saskatchewan's *Irrigation Act* and the regulations. Submitted a letter outlining our key concerns with the new regulations being proposed under the updated *Irrigation Act*.
- We continue to emphasize that an irrigation strategy should be based on the 5 principles of
  1. Universal—all programs available equally to all irrigators and potential irrigators across the province
  2. Long term
  3. Sustained program funding
  4. Co-operation amongst Government Ministries, Agencies and Crown Corporations
  5. One stop for programs and new development
- SIPA participated in discussions pursuing the formation of one organization for research and for the promotion of the irrigation industry in Saskatchewan as directed at our 2017 annual meeting with the goal of what we want to look like in 10 years. There have been ongoing discussions with ICDC representatives and they have attended board meetings during the year.
- SIPA organized meetings with the Irrigation Districts that signed asset transfer agreement in the spring of 2019.
- On numerous occasion we discuss Asset Transfer and related programs with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and participated in a meeting with senior Ministry staff in Regina.
- We continue to support the collaborative research that is carried out by ICDC and CSIDC
- Throughout the year we have had numerous formal and informal meetings with Ministry staff.



## IV. Assist in the Expansion of Irrigable Acres

- In 2016 we participated in a lean exercise with the objective to simplify the process for new irrigators including one door stop. In 2019 SIPA participated in a workshop on the process and encouraged MOA and WSA to streamline the application process.
- SIPA participated in WD Water Summit and SIPA has been working with WD on their Water for the Prairies Strategy
- Continues to support the work of the board of the Qu'Appelle South Irrigation District #31.
- At trade shows SIPA distributed information to the public and potential irrigators.
- We continue to respond to enquiries from out of country and out of province on irrigation development. Also, we responded to enquiries on irrigation projects and on drainage issues.
- We participated in the Water Council for Saskatchewan meetings.



## V. Other Activities

- In 2017 SIPA put forward a nomination to the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame and in 2019 we were successful in having Roger Pederson inducted into the Hall in recognition of his work on the irrigation portfolio.
- There are 2 resolutions going forward at the APAS conference to support WD's initiative and expansion of irrigation in Saskatchewan.
- We continue to organize the annual irrigation conference
- We supported the work of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force on mussels.
- SIPA representatives participated in watershed stewardship committees
- Attended irrigation district board and annual meetings
- We appointed board members to ICDC and representatives on the Executive Management Committee at CSIDC
- In the last year the board had monthly conference calls, board meetings and numerous committee meetings

