

# Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc.

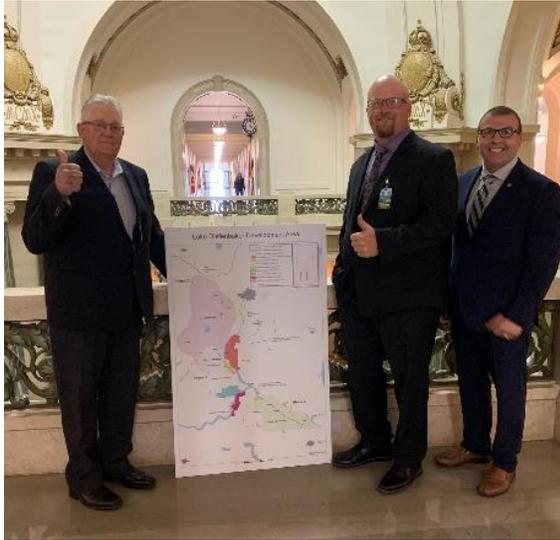


## A Review of SIPA's 2020 Activities

**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. Assist in the expansion of irrigatable acres.



- Chairman and a board member were invited to the announcement by the Hon. Greg Ottenbreit and Mr. Lyle Stewart with the commitment of \$4.0 M to fund the expansion of irrigation from Lake Diefenbaker
- SIPA participated in 2018 WD Water Summit, 2019 Water Workshop and SIPA continued to work with Western Economic Diversification Canada on their Water for the Prairies Strategy
- SIPA continued to supply information to engineers under contract to develop materials for WD's report on Water on the Prairies.
- Continue to support the work of the boards of the Qu'Appelle Irrigation and the Westside project
- We continue to respond to enquiries on irrigation development from out of country and out of province.
- We participated in the Water Council for Saskatchewan meetings hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- SIPA participated in meetings related to the development of a Canada Water Agency and SIPA will be making a submission this winter

## II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation

- We participating in tours with Ministers and staff of the federal and provincial governments.
- Numerous interviews with media of the benefits of irrigation expansion
- Display booth at Crop production show
- We participated in planning meetings and contacted individuals to participate in video interviews prepared for WD.
- Participated in the Agriculture for Growth Forum organized by Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) and Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association (SaskFSA)



### III. Provide direct input to develop irrigation strategies in setting policies that impact Saskatchewan agriculture and economy

- 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 Crowns.
5. One stop for programs and new development



- Continued to participate in meetings to modernize Saskatchewan's Irrigation Act and the regulations. Made a submission outlining our key concerns with the new regulations being proposed under the updated Irrigation Act.

- SIPA organized a follow up meeting with the Irrigation Districts involved in asset transfer.

- SIPA reviewed the CAP program requirements with MOA

- Throughout the year we have had numerous formal and informal meetings with Ministry of Ag & Water Security Agency staff.



- We continue to support the collaborative research that is carried out by ICDC and CSIDC stressing the importance of research even under COVID 19 conditions.

- We appointed board members to ICDC and to the Executive Management Committee at CSIDC



- SIPA signed an agreement with WSA to partner in pilot drainage projects incorporating irrigation



## IV. Advocate for irrigation concerns to governments

- Our board participated in meetings with the assistant Deputy Minister of Western Economic Diversification and staff
- Chairman accepted an invitation to participate in a briefing on the provincial spending plan announced in March
- Our board met with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and staff to discuss the irrigation expansion strategy, the Act and follow up on the terms of asset transfer.
- We had numerous meetings with Water Security Agency to discuss the irrigation expansion announcement and SIPA's expanding role
- Met with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance on their enhanced coverage for irrigation to encourage the inclusion of additional crops, i.e., soybeans.
- Made inquiries and had discussion on the inequitable payment of PST by Irrigation Districts compared to private producers



- Received numerous calls from Provincial Ministers.
- Sent correspondence and met with Ministerial staff on a plan of action for 2020 on the control of algae in irrigation canals with planned implemented prior to the 2021 season
- We continue to encourage the Ministry to streamline the application process for the development of new acres of irrigation.

## V. Other Activities

- We continue to organize the annual irrigation conference with ICDC
- We supported and are involved with the work of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force on mussels.
- SIPA representatives participated in watershed stewardship committees
- SIPA undertook the task of reviewing our mandate, goals and vision with a strategy of expanding our resources.
- Because of COVID, in the last year the board only had 2 in-person board meetings but continued with monthly conference calls, virtual meetings and numerous committee meetings

