

SIPA

# Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc



## *A Review of 2013 Activities*

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SIPA was established with four goals/objectives

- I. Advocate for irrigation concerns to government
- II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation
- III. Provide direct input to government in setting policies that impact irrigation
- IV. Assist in the expansion of irrigable acres

## I. Advocate for irrigation concerns to government

- Regular meetings and correspondence with Provincial cabinet members, MLA's and Federal members of parliament

Some of areas addressed in 2015 include:

- Federal divestiture of Federal South West Irrigation Projects
- Qu'Appelle water conveyance
- Saskatchewan irrigation strategy
- Transfer of Ministry owned Irrigation District Assets to the Districts
- Water allocations and licensing
- Drainage
- CSIDC operations and Future Potential
- Bridge/culvert crossings of RM roads within irrigation districts
- Sask Power – office closures and maintenance positions
- Crop Insurance
- Growing Forward II



## II. Promote the Benefits of Irrigation

- Documents Produced in 2015:
  - Release of “Time to Irrigate” Volume I in July 2008 , Volume II October of 2008
  - Summary (eight 4 page documents) and “Keeping The Promise” in 2009
  - “Talking About Irrigation Development In Saskatchewan” August 2011
  - “Saskatchewan Irrigation Development Corporation” proposal August 2011
- AG Council Funding
  - “Benefits of Irrigation Rollout” completed last year - Total cost was \$118, 735. SIPA contribution of cash and in-kind was \$33,451
    - Bus tours in 2011 and 2012
    - Video
    - Display and promotional materials
    - Attend a number of trade shows
    - Press releases and media materials
    - Update and improve the website – still a work in progress
  - “High volume vegetable production in Saskatchewan” \$20,000 – originally in conjunction with two Enterprise Regions



### III. Provide direct input to government in setting policies that impact irrigation

- a. Saskatchewan Irrigation Strategy
- b. Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program  
\$65 million 5 year program under the Growing Forward II framework agreement
- c. Program for cost sharing bridge/culvert crossings on RM road allowances with irrigation districts
- d. Operation and future of CSIDC continuing under the five party management structure that has been working well



#### **IV. Assist in the expansion of irrigable acres**

- Release of Upper Qu'Appelle Supply Project "Economic Impact and Sensitivity Analysis" January 2013
- Please to report now that- THE QU'APPELLE SOUTH IRRIGATION DISTRICT #31 INC. is now a reality
  - Water allocation
  - Soils certification

#### **V. Other Activities**

- Irrigation District Board and annual meetings
- Chairman made a presentation at the Water, Agriculture and Environment conference in Lethbridge in April, 2013
- Seminar at University of Saskatchewan by Suren Kulshreshtha on current and Future Water use in Saskatchewan
- Forum on Drainage in Saskatchewan and The Netherlands held in Yorkton
- South of the Divide species at risk meetings
- Discussion with the Water Security Agency on the proposed Saskatchewan Water Council
- Continue to look at funding alternatives for SIPA