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**For Immediate Release**

### **SAMA Provides Stable Property Tax System**

Neil Hardy, Chairman of the board of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), says that SAMA will continue to provide quality assessment services as efficiently and effectively as possible. In the process we will consult closely with stakeholders and will listen carefully to what is needed to improve Saskatchewan's assessment system. He made the remarks at the annual meeting of SAMA stakeholders in Saskatoon.

"SAMA is charged with developing, regulating and delivering a stable, cost-effective assessment system," said Neal Hardy. "SAMA strives to maintain effective communications and positive relationships with our municipal clients and stakeholders."

The Agency is responsible for the governance of Saskatchewan's property assessment system. As part of this function, SAMA coordinates a full revaluation of all properties in the province every four years. 2013 was the year of the last revaluation.

SAMA is responsible for a \$160 Billion property assessment base, and a \$1.64 Billion property tax base. The Agency provides assessment valuation services to 766 urban, northern and rural municipalities. It is directly responsible for the assessed values of approximately 818,000 properties in the province.

"SAMA is pleased to help to support local governments across Saskatchewan by providing reliable, up-to-date property assessment valuations," said SAMA CEO Irwin Blank. "They are the foundation upon which local governments are able to provide services to their communities like water and sewer services, police and fire protection, parks and recreational services and other necessary municipal programs."

Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Government Relations, Kevin Phillips, and Saskatoon Mayor Donald J. Atchison both brought greetings at the meeting.

Delegates to the annual meeting heard the annual report from Chair, Neal Hardy, as well as updates from representatives from SAMA's administration and from Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon and Swift Current, four cities that provide their own assessment valuations.

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