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For Immediate Release

### **SAMA Provides Timely and Accurate Property Assessments**

Neil Hardy, Chairman of the board of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), says that SAMA is charged with developing, regulating and delivering a stable, cost-effective assessment system. SAMA strives to maintain effective communications and positive relationships with our municipal clients and stakeholders.

"SAMA is implementing ways to deliver our services with better outcomes for our clients and stakeholders," said Neal Hardy. "This new level of service delivery is improving the ability of client municipalities, the provincial government and the Saskatchewan public to move ahead by attaining timely and accurate property assessments in a rapidly growing economy."

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, and the next revaluation will occur in 2017.

SAMA is responsible for a \$160 Billion property assessment base, and a \$1.73 Billion property tax base. The Agency provides assessment valuation services to 763 urban, northern and rural municipalities. It is directly responsible for the assessed values of approximately 843,000 properties in the province.

"Assessments pay for the essential services that politicians and taxpayers want and need," said SAMA CEO Irwin Blank. "Over 50% of revenue for municipalities comes from assessment, and it forms 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 Regina City Councillor Wade Murray 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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