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For Immediate Release

SAMA Focuses on Timely and Accurate Property Assessments

Myron Knafelc, 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 its municipal clients and stakeholders. He made the remarks at the annual meeting of SAMA stakeholders in Saskatoon.

"SAMA's main focus is on our relationships with municipalities. Improving our service delivery to municipalities is something the Agency is always striving to accomplish," said Myron Knafelc. "Our relationship with the province of Saskatchewan, and the independent assessment service providers from major cities like Saskatoon, enables both SAMA and the independent jurisdictions to continue to deliver quality assessment services to our respective clients."

SAMA 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. 2017 was a revaluation year, and all properties in the province were updated to a new base date of January 1, 2015. The base date is the date to which all assessments are related. The next Revaluation is scheduled for January 1, 2021.

The Agency is responsible for a \$242 Billion property assessment base, and a \$1.9 Billion property tax base. The Agency provides assessment valuation services to 762 urban, northern and rural municipalities. It is directly responsible for the assessed values of approximately 846,000 properties in the province.

"In 2018, SAMA is focused on the timely delivery of maintenance and achieving 100,000 property reviews and inspections," said SAMA CEO Irwin Blank. "This is the year we deliver on the strategic directions we've been working on for the last five years."

The Deputy Minister of Government Relations, Tammy Kirkland, and Saskatoon City Councillor Bev Dubois both brought greetings at the meeting, and Tony Zuck, CFO, President and founding partner of Zu, a digital products and services firm in Saskatchewan, provided the keynote address.

Delegates to the annual meeting heard the annual report from Chair, Myron Knafelc, 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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