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News Release

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SAMA HOSTS 2005 ANNUAL MEETING IN REGINA

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) will hold its 2005 Annual Meeting on April 14th in Regina.

The year 2005 marks a revaluation year for property assessments in Saskatchewan. Representatives from municipal governments, school divisions and other stakeholder organizations will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Centre of the Arts to discuss property values for 2005, and hear the annual report from SAMA's Board of Directors. Delegates will also attend information sessions on subjects such as agricultural land assessment and the proposed change from the present "fair value" assessment system to an industry standard "market value" assessment system in 2009 for urban, commercial and residential properties.

"SAMA has experienced many changes since last year's annual meeting," SAMA Chair Craig Melvin said. "In March 2004, the Government of Saskatchewan announced it would amend *The Assessment Management Agency Act* (AMA Act) in an effort to strengthen and stabilize SAMA and the property assessment process in Saskatchewan."

Legislative changes expanding the SAMA Board and increasing provincial funding to the agency took effect on November 30, 2004. Additional changes to the agency's assessment roll confirmation and audit responsibilities took effect on January 1, 2005.

Mayor Pat Fiocco will also bring greetings on behalf of the City of Regina to the delegates at SAMA's Annual Meeting.

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