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NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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SAMA wins award of excellence for software use in property assessment

Saskatchewan's property assessment agency is receiving an Award of Excellence today from software company ESRI Canada for innovative use of software in the valuation of farmland.

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency wins the award for its "innovative prediction model for property assessments of 400,000 parcels of arable land," according to ESRI Canada, a distributor of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software.

SAMA Chairman Bill Reader says the award recognizes the increased investment SAMA is making in our property assessment system. The software allows the agency to improve efficiency by providing us with the necessary tools to analyze complex property assessment information.

"SAMA is funded by municipalities and the provincial government," says Reader. "The resources they provide to us are being used to upgrade the assessment computer system over a period of several years.

"This award tells us we're on the right track to building a first-class system in Saskatchewan so that property owners get the fairest, most accurate assessments of the property value."

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