

# 2015

## CHAPTER G-5.101

An Act respecting Government Relations and making  
consequential amendments to certain Acts

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(Assented to May 14, 2015)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

**Short title**

1 This Act may be cited as *The Government Relations Administration Act*.

**Interpretation**

2 In this Act:

- (a) “**minister**” means the member of the Executive Council to whom for the time being the administration of this Act is assigned;
- (b) “**ministry**” means the ministry over which the minister presides.

**Responsibilities of the minister**

3(1) The minister is responsible for all matters not by law assigned to any other minister, ministry or agency of the Government of Saskatchewan relating to municipalities, municipal governance and administration and matters of an intermunicipal nature, including:

- (a) coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating and promoting policies, programs and procedures that support accountable and responsible municipal governments;
- (b) providing financial, administrative, technical and other support services;

- (c) providing for the establishment and supervision of training courses for employees, administrators or elected officials of municipalities;
  - (d) coordinating and carrying out plans, programs, services and projects that involve one or more other ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan or one or more jurisdictions other than Saskatchewan;
  - (e) cooperating with other public and private organizations or agencies to achieve measures that respond to and improve growth and development in municipalities;
  - (f) conducting research and collecting, organizing and disseminating information and statistics; and
  - (g) coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating and promoting policies, programs and procedures with respect to the assessment and taxation of property and the levying, collection and remittance to school divisions of education property taxes in municipalities.
- (2) The minister is responsible for all matters not assigned by law to any other minister, ministry or agency of the Government of Saskatchewan relating to affairs in northern Saskatchewan, including:
- (a) coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating and promoting measures that foster and advance the development of northern Saskatchewan;
  - (b) participating in planning, issue identification and analysis, policy formulation and review and development of the strategy of the Government of Saskatchewan respecting issues affecting northern Saskatchewan;
  - (c) coordinating and carrying out plans, programs, services and projects that involve one or more other ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan or one or more jurisdictions other than Saskatchewan;
  - (d) cooperating with other public and private organizations or agencies to achieve measures that respond to and improve growth and development in northern Saskatchewan; and
  - (e) conducting research and collecting, organizing and disseminating information and statistics.
- (3) The minister is responsible for all matters not assigned by law to any other minister, ministry or agency of the Government of Saskatchewan relating to public safety, emergencies and emergency management in Saskatchewan, including:
- (a) coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating, promoting and enhancing policies, programs, procedures and standards related to:
    - (i) the safety of the public;
    - (ii) emergency planning; or
    - (iii) emergency management;

- (b) cooperating with other public and private organizations or agencies to achieve measures to improve public safety, responses to emergencies and emergency management;
  - (c) providing technical advice and other support services;
  - (d) providing for the establishment and supervision of training courses;
  - (e) conducting research and collecting, organizing and disseminating information and statistics; and
  - (f) coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating and promoting communication services to be used in emergency circumstances, including emergency call receiving and dispatching and other related services.
- (4) The minister is responsible for all matters not assigned by law to any other minister, ministry or agency of the Government of Saskatchewan relating to First Nation and Métis relations, including coordinating, managing and implementing policies and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan affecting First Nation and Métis peoples.

**Payment to a school division of moneys otherwise payable to a municipality**

- 4(1) The minister may act pursuant to subsection (2) if a municipality:
- (a) has failed to levy or collect taxes on behalf of a school division as required by an Act; or
  - (b) has failed to remit taxes levied or collected on behalf of a school division to the school division as required by an Act.
- (2) In the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1) and notwithstanding any other Act or law, the minister may:
- (a) retain from moneys otherwise due or payable to the municipality by the minister pursuant to an Act for which the minister is responsible an amount equal to the amount of taxes that are required to be levied, collected or remitted; and
  - (b) pay the amount of moneys mentioned in clause (a) to the school division on whose behalf the taxes should have been paid.
- (3) At least 60 days before taking action pursuant to this section, the minister shall:
- (a) notify the municipality in writing that the minister intends to act pursuant to this section; and
  - (b) in the written notice, give reasons for the intended action.
- (4) The minister shall give the municipality mentioned in subsection (1) an opportunity to make written representations, within 30 days after receiving the written notice pursuant to subsection (3), respecting why the minister should not take the intended action.

- (5) After considering any written representations submitted by the municipality, the minister may:
- (a) decide to take the intended action;
  - (b) decide not to take the intended action.
- (6) The minister shall notify the municipality of the minister's decision pursuant to subsection (5).
- (7) Treasury Board may make any orders and issue any directives with respect to the exercise of the minister's powers pursuant to this section.
- (8) This section applies to any tax that is or ought to have been or is to be levied, collected or remitted on behalf of or to a school division before, on or after the coming into force of this section.

#### REPEALS

S.S. 1983-84, c.N-5.01

**5** *The Northern Affairs Act* is repealed.

S.S. 1979-80, c.R-23.02 repealed

**6** *The Rural Affairs Act* is repealed.

S.S. 1986-87-88, c.R-23.1 repealed

**7** *The Rural Development Act* is repealed.

S.S. 1979-80, c.U-8.01 repealed

**8** *The Urban Affairs Act* is repealed.

#### CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

S.S. 2002, c.C-11.1, new Part XIII.1

**9** The following Part is added after Part XIII of *The Cities Act*:

#### “PART XIII.1

#### **Minister's Power to Review or Mediate Certain Intermunicipal Disputes**

##### “Review or mediation of an intermunicipal dispute

**351.1(1)** If a city or other municipality is affected by an intermunicipal dispute regarding a matter not mentioned in section 349, the minister may appoint one or more persons to:

- (a) conduct a review of the intermunicipal dispute and to advise the minister and make recommendations; or
- (b) mediate between the parties to the intermunicipal dispute and assist them in resolving the dispute.

(2) If the minister acts pursuant to subsection (1), the minister shall give notice in any manner that the minister considers appropriate to:

- (a) the cities and other municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute; and
- (b) any other parties that the minister considers affected by the intermunicipal dispute and of whom the minister has knowledge.

- (3) Subject to the direction of the minister, a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall establish the terms and conditions for conducting the review or the mediation, as the case may be.
- (4) A person appointed to conduct a review pursuant to subsection (1):
- (a) may require the attendance of any person whose presence a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) considers necessary during the course of the review; and
  - (b) has the same powers, privileges and immunities conferred on a commission by sections 11, 15, 25 and 26 of *The Public Inquiries Act, 2013*.
- (5) On completing the review or mediation, a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall:
- (a) prepare a written report;
  - (b) provide a copy of the written report to the minister and to every party mentioned in subsection (2).
- (6) On receipt of a written report pursuant to subsection (5) and if the intermunicipal dispute has not been resolved, the minister may:
- (a) refer the intermunicipal dispute to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board; or
  - (b) take any action pursuant to section 356 that the minister considers appropriate.
- (7) The cities and other municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute shall equally bear the costs for a review or mediation pursuant to this section, including the fees payable to any person appointed pursuant to subsection (1).
- (8) Nothing in this section authorizes the minister to appoint a person to review or to mediate any decision of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or any other appeal board.

**“Compulsory dispute resolution required by the minister**

**351.2(1)** Instead of acting pursuant to section 351.1, the minister may, at any time, refer any intermunicipal dispute mentioned in that section to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or a member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to hold a hearing and make a decision to settle the intermunicipal dispute.

- (2) The Saskatchewan Municipal Board or member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board may, in a decision to resolve an intermunicipal dispute:
- (a) include terms and conditions; and
  - (b) make the decision effective on a future date or for a limited time”.

S.S. 2005, c.M-36.1, new part XIII.1

**10 The following Part is added after Part XIII of *The Municipalities Act*:**

“PART XIII.1

**Minister’s Power to Review or Mediate Certain Intermunicipal Disputes**

“**Review or mediation of an intermunicipal dispute**

**394.1(1)** If a municipality is affected by an intermunicipal dispute regarding a matter not mentioned in section 392, the minister may appoint one or more persons to:

- (a) conduct a review of the intermunicipal dispute and to advise the minister and make recommendations; or
- (b) mediate between the parties to the intermunicipal dispute and assist them in resolving the dispute.

(2) If the minister acts pursuant to subsection (1), the minister shall give notice in any manner that the minister considers appropriate to:

- (a) the municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute; and
- (b) any other parties that the minister considers affected by the intermunicipal dispute and of whom the minister has knowledge.

(3) Subject to the direction of the minister, a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall establish the terms and conditions for conducting the review or the mediation, as the case may be.

(4) A person appointed to conduct a review pursuant to subsection (1):

- (a) may require the attendance of any person whose presence a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) considers necessary during the course of the review; and
- (b) has the same powers, privileges and immunities conferred on a commission by sections 11, 15, 25 and 26 of *The Public Inquiries Act, 2013*.

(5) On completing the review or mediation, a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall:

- (a) prepare a written report;
- (b) provide a copy of the written report to the minister and to every party mentioned in subsection (2).

(6) On receipt of a written report pursuant to subsection (5) and if the intermunicipal dispute has not been resolved, the minister may:

- (a) refer the intermunicipal dispute to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board; or
- (b) take any action pursuant to section 399 that the minister considers appropriate.

(7) The municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute shall equally bear the costs for a review or mediation pursuant to this section, including the fees payable to any person appointed pursuant to subsection (1).

(8) Nothing in this section authorizes the minister to appoint a person to review or to mediate any decision of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or any other appeal board.

**“Compulsory dispute resolution required by the minister**

**394.2(1)** Instead of acting pursuant to section 394.1, the minister may, at any time, refer any intermunicipal dispute mentioned in that section to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or a member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to hold a hearing and make a decision to settle the intermunicipal dispute.

(2) The Saskatchewan Municipal Board or member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board may, in a decision to resolve an intermunicipal dispute:

- (a) include terms and conditions; and
- (b) make the decision effective on a future date or for a limited time”.

S.S. 2010, c.N-5.2, new Part XIII.1

**11 The following Part is added after Part XIII of *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*:**

**“PART XIII.1**

**Minister’s Power to Review or Mediate Certain Intermunicipal Disputes**

**“Review or mediation of an intermunicipal dispute**

**415.1(1)** If a municipality is affected by an intermunicipal dispute regarding a matter not mentioned in section 413, the minister may appoint one or more persons to:

- (a) conduct a review of the intermunicipal dispute and to advise the minister and make recommendations; or
- (b) mediate between the parties to the intermunicipal dispute and assist them in resolving the dispute.

(2) If the minister acts pursuant to subsection (1), the minister shall give notice in any manner that the minister considers appropriate to:

- (a) the municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute; and
- (b) any other parties that the minister considers affected by the intermunicipal dispute and of whom the minister has knowledge.

(3) Subject to the direction of the minister, a person appointed pursuant subsection (1) shall establish the terms and conditions for conducting the review or the mediation, as the case may be.

- (4) A person appointed to conduct a review pursuant to subsection (1):
- (a) may require the attendance of any person whose presence a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) considers necessary during the course of the review; and
  - (b) has the same powers, privileges and immunities conferred on a commission by sections 11, 15, 25 and 26 of *The Public Inquiries Act, 2013*.
- (5) On completing the review or mediation, a person appointed pursuant to subsection (1) shall:
- (a) prepare a written report;
  - (b) provide a copy of the written report to the minister and to every party mentioned in subsection (2).
- (6) On receipt of a written report pursuant to subsection (5) and if the intermunicipal dispute has not been resolved, the minister may:
- (a) refer the intermunicipal dispute to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board; or
  - (b) take any action pursuant to section 420 that the minister considers appropriate.
- (7) The municipalities that are parties to the intermunicipal dispute shall equally bear the costs for a review or mediation pursuant to this section, including the fees payable to any person appointed pursuant to subsection (1).
- (8) Nothing in this section authorizes the minister to appoint a person to review or to mediate any decision of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or any other appeal board.

**“Compulsory dispute resolution required by the minister**

**415.2(1)** Instead of acting pursuant to section 415.1, the minister may, at any time, refer any intermunicipal dispute mentioned in that section to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board or a member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to hold a hearing and make a decision to settle the intermunicipal dispute.

- (2) The Saskatchewan Municipal Board or member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board may, in a decision to resolve an intermunicipal dispute:
- (a) include terms and conditions; and
  - (b) make the decision effective on a future date or for a limited time”.

R.S.S. 1978, c.S-52.01, section 8 amended

**12** Section 8 of *The Social Services Administration Act* is amended by adding the following clause after clause (f):

“(g) conducting research and carrying out and coordinating programs respecting housing”.

COMING INTO FORCE

Coming into force

**13** This Act comes into force on assent.

