News Release

For immediate release

October 26, 2026

SARM Brings Rural Saskatchewan's Priorities to Parliament Hill

Ottawa, ON – The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Board of Directors was in Ottawa last week to speak with federal decision-makers on issues including agriculture, public safety, trade and transportation infrastructure, rural development, and the technologies that can strengthen Saskatchewan communities.

Over the course of the week, SARM met with ministers, parliamentarians, senators, and senior federal officials to advance the priorities of rural municipalities (RMs), producers, families, and businesses they serve. Throughout the week, the discussions focused on food security; value-added ag; transportation infrastructure; rising costs of diesel and other inputs; trade relations; rural development; combatting rural crime; broadband; and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in agriculture and rural healthcare.

"Rural Saskatchewan feeds Canada and the world, moves our products to market, and fuels a significant share of the national economy, but our communities cannot carry that load alone," said SARM President Bill Huber. "Federal action is needed to improve rural public safety, support agriculture producers, strengthen the roads, bridges, trade corridors, and international relationships our producers rely on, and ensure rural communities can benefit from new technologies in agriculture and healthcare. Last week was about building the partnerships needed to keep rural Saskatchewan safe, competitive, and connected."

Rural residents continue to face unique public safety challenges, including long police response times and repeat offending. SARM is emphasizing that the new bail and sentencing reforms will only make a difference in rural communities if they are backed by effective implementation and adequate policing resources.

SARM is also highlighting the need for continued federal investment in rural transportation and trade infrastructure, timely and transparent agriculture programs that get Saskatchewan products to market, and federal programs that reflect the realities of rural development.

Reliable broadband is the foundation for rural Saskatchewan to benefit from new technologies. SARM is encouraging Ottawa to accelerate rural connectivity and support the responsible use of tools such as artificial intelligence to improve efficiency on the farm and expand access to rural healthcare.

The delegation also had an unexpected opportunity for an impromptu conversation with Prime Minister Mark Carney while on Parliament Hill.

"Every conversation we have here helps put a face to rural Saskatchewan," added Huber. "We appreciate the time federal leaders have taken to meet with us, and we look forward to continuing to work with them on policies, programs, and investments that support strong, sustainable rural communities."

- 30 -

For interview requests, please contact:

Adam Brougham, Strategic Communications Advisor, SARM
coordinator@sarm.ca or 306.761.3729

Background: *SARM is the independent association representing rural municipalities in Saskatchewan, serving as the primary advocate for its members before senior governments. Since 1905, SARM has been working to address the concerns of rural municipalities and ensure that their voices are heard by senior levels of government. We provide support to our members in dealing with the provincial and federal governments. We advocate on behalf of our members and help ensure their compliance with legislation and regulations.*

SARM has also been mandated and plays an important role in the advocacy of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector. SARM believes that Agriculture is more than just an industry — it is the very foundation of our rural communities.

In compliance with the Act of Incorporation, SARM directly and lawfully engages in activities that tend to advance the interests of agriculture, including the handling, transportation, processing, and marketing of grain and grain products. Furthermore, the Act instructs that SARM be an actively engaged participant and member of the Canada Grains Council, as well as other organizations, associations, councils, congresses, and bodies advancing the interests of those who produce agricultural products.