

March 30, 2020

To: CPTA President Hugo Beaulieu

I am writing in response to your March 27<sup>th</sup> email message to CPTA members asking for updates on how different jurisdictions are responding to the COVID-19 situation.

Below is an update on some of the things the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) is doing to address the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic with regards to our business processes and concerns for staff and public safety.

With the rise of COVID-19 cases across the country, SAMA has taken additional precautions to slow the possible transmission of the virus and to protect the health of our staff and the general public.

Effective March 18, 2020, SAMA offices were closed to the public, however, the Agency remains open for business, and we are committed to completing our ongoing work for our municipal clients and to being accessible through phone, email or video conference to municipal clients, assessment stakeholder groups, appeal tribunals and property owners. It is our aim to continue to meet our service obligations and continue providing excellent service during these challenging times.

We recognized there could be some concern from our client municipalities and the public with having SAMA staff working around ratepayers' properties right now, so in addition to our offices being closed to the public, we have currently also suspended on-site field inspections. Our staff will still conduct remote inspections, speaking with property owners over the phone to confirm property details and supplementing with other remotely gathered property information.

The majority of our staff will be working remotely and out of the office in the coming weeks, but are still available to discuss any assessment issues that may arise.

We understand that things are changing quickly right now, and SAMA will continue to work to keep our municipal clients and assessment stakeholder groups such as the Canadian Property Taxpayers Association up to date as things progress.

Regards,



Irwin Blank  
Chief Executive Officer, SAMA