



MINISTER'S ORDER
The Continuation of the Ministerial Advisory Committee
Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel

I, Dustin Duncan, Minister of Crown Investments Corporation, pursuant to *The Executive Government Administrations Act*, section 15, do hereby order:

Continuation of Panel

- 1) There shall continue to be established a ministerial advisory committee known as the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel (herein referred to as the Panel).
- 2) The Panel is established for a new five-year term, commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2028, as approved by Order in Council 550/2023 dated November 1, 2023.
- 3) Cabinet retains the sole prerogative to determine any monopoly utility rate increase or decrease. When it is considered in the best interest of the public, Cabinet may implement any rate change adjustment on an interim basis pending receipt of the Panel's recommendations.

Definitions

- 4) Crown corporation means SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and the Saskatchewan Auto Fund administered by SGI. Minister means the Minister assigned responsibility for Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC).

Members of the Panel

- 5) The following persons are members of the Panel for the term not exceeding the date set out opposite their name:

Albert Johnston	Saskatoon	December 31, 2026
Bonnie Guillou	Saskatoon	December 31, 2026
Keith Moen	Saskatoon	December 31, 2026
Sidney Katzman	Saskatoon	December 31, 2026
Duane Hayunga	Prince Albert	December 31, 2025
Glenn Dutchak	Canora	December 31, 2025
Kim Hartl	Lake Lenore	December 31, 2025

Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6) Designating Albert Johnston as the Chair of the Panel.
- 7) Designating Duane Hayunga as the Vice-Chair of the Panel.
- 8) Where the Chair is absent or unable to act, or the office of the Chair is vacant, the Vice-Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair. Where the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent or

unable to act at a meeting, the remaining members of the Panel may choose another member to act as Chair for the purposes of a meeting or rate change submission.

Review by Panel

- 9) On referral by the Minister, the Panel shall conduct a review and provide an opinion on the fairness and reasonableness of a rate change proposed by a Crown corporation, having consideration for the following:
 - a) The interests of the Crown corporation, its customers, and the public;
 - b) Consistency with the Crown corporation's mandate, objectives, and methodologies;
 - c) Relevant industry practices and principles; and
 - d) The effect of the proposed rate change on the competitiveness of the Crown corporation relative to other jurisdictions.

Operational Terms of Reference

- 10) The Panel's mandate shall include operational Terms of Reference specific for each Crown corporation rate change review, attached by further Minister's Order. The Panel shall conduct its review and report within those operational terms of reference.
- 11) The Panel may utilize the services of such independent experts, consultants, advisors, clerks, reporters, and assistants engaged on its behalf, as it deems necessary or advisable, to aid and assist in its review and written report.
- 12) The Panel shall establish lasting and interactive relationships with an adequate number of appropriately qualified technical consultants, sufficiently knowledgeable about each Crown corporation's operating environment, to assist the Panel in its reviews and reports.

Each Terms of Reference shall include a requirement that the Panel provides the Crown corporation with opportunity and reasonable time to review the technical consultant's preliminary report prior to its finalization to ensure there are no errors in data or in the interpretation of data. The preliminary report shall contain the consultant's observations (e.g., outstanding issues and questions), but will not include the consultant's recommendations to the Panel.

Rules of Practice and Procedures

- 13) The Panel shall establish, adhere to, and operate within internal rules of practice and procedures, including:
 - a) General procedures for conducting a review;
 - b) Expedited procedures, where applicable in the opinion of the Panel;
 - c) A code of ethics and professional conduct to strengthen the accountability and expectations of individual members and the Panel as a whole;
 - d) Provision for subcommittees of the Panel to consider concurrent rate applications, where deemed necessary in the opinion of the Chair. The minimum number of members on said subcommittees shall not be less than three and shall include the Chair or Vice-Chair;
 - e) Confidentiality guidelines applicable to all Crown information submitted to the Panel in confidence. The confidentiality guidelines shall:

- i. Address the categories and types of information that will be kept confidential by the Panel and not publicly disclosed;
 - ii. Describe circumstances where disclosure of confidential information may be permitted by the Panel;
 - iii. Be made available to the Crown corporation; and
 - iv. Be made available to members of the public by posting them on the Panel's website.
- f) Rules and procedures for members of the public, the Crown corporation, and any special interest groups to participate at public meetings held by the Panel.

Public Consultation

- 14) The Panel shall determine a public consultation process for each rate change application that is appropriate and cost effective under the circumstances and within the review timeline directed by the Minister.
- 15) Public consultation may or may not include public meetings. The Panel shall:
 - a) Make available to the public, prior to holding any public meeting, the Crown corporation rate change submission with the exception of any information provided to the Panel in confidence; and
 - b) Provide sufficient notification to the public of the date and location of all public meetings.
- 16) The Panel shall provide members of the public with the opportunity to review and comment on the Crown corporation rate change submission outside any public meeting, by mail, e-mail, Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), and through the Panel's voice message service, to the extent reasonable and within the review timeline directed by the Minister.

Gathering Information

- 17) Legitimate questions from the public, Panel members, and its technical consultant(s) that require a response from the Crown corporation, shall be received and organized by the Panel in a timely and efficient manner and forwarded to the Crown corporation for response.
- 18) The Panel shall receive presentations from the technical consultant(s) and Crown corporation and review any written or oral submissions from the public.

Confidential Information

- 19) The Panel shall maintain the confidentiality and not publicly disclose Confidential Information supplied to it by a Crown corporation. Confidential Information shall include:
 - a) Commercially sensitive information with a legitimate need for protection from disclosure;
 - b) Information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to:
 - i) result in financial loss or gain to the Crown corporation or a third party; or
 - ii) prejudice the competitive position or interfere with the contractual obligations of the Crown corporation or a third party;

- c) Information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, including *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Saskatchewan). This shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i) information of a personal or financial nature respecting an identifiable individual or corporation, including financial accounts and all utility account information;
 - ii) information that could disclose a confidence of Cabinet; and
 - iii) information supplied to the Crown corporation in confidence by a third party.

The Crown corporation shall mark all Confidential Information as ‘Confidential’ when supplying it to the Panel.

- 20) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Panel may disclose Confidential Information to the relevant experts, consultants, and advisors engaged to assist in its review and report, but only after ensuring that such parties are subject to similar obligations of confidentiality and non-disclosure as the Panel.

Report to the Minister of Crown Investments

- 21) The Panel shall prepare a written report on the Crown corporation rate change submission for the Minister after considering all material received from the Crown corporation, the technical consultant, and the public.
- 22) The Panel’s written report to the Minister shall include the following:
 - a) Where the Panel deviates in any significant manner from its technical consultant’s assessment of the proposed rate changes, the Panel’s full rationale for the deviation; and
 - b) Where the Panel determines the rate changes proposed are fair and reasonable, recommend the changes be implemented; or
 - c) Where the Panel determines the rate changes are not fair and reasonable as proposed, recommend how the rate changes should be adjusted and provide full and comprehensive reasons for this conclusion.
- 23) The Panel shall provide its written report to the Minister on or before the date set out in the operational terms of reference specific to the rate change review.
- 24) The Panel shall provide the embargoed written report to CIC prior to making the report available to the public.
- 25) The Panel shall make its written report available to the public, without disclosing any information supplied by the Crown corporation in confidence.

Studies

- 26) In addition to, or outside, any review of proposed Crown corporation rate changes, the Panel may participate in any studies and other reviews, including cost of service studies, initiated and conducted by Crown corporations. For the purposes of the Panel’s participation in these studies and reviews, the Panel may use those powers and duties given to it under a Minister’s Order as the Panel deems necessary.

Remuneration and Expenses

- 27) Remuneration shall be paid to Panel members according to the approved CIC policy outlined in the *Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel Remuneration and Expense Policy*.
- 28) Panel members shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses according to the approved CIC policy outlined in the *Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel Remuneration and Expense Policy* as it may be amended from time to time.
- 29) Payment of remuneration and reimbursement of expenses incurred in the conduct and administration of Panel business, including education programs and rate review undertakings, shall be paid by CIC.

Role of CIC

- 30) CIC shall provide the Panel with assistance, guidance, and oversight as required in order to fulfill the Panel's mandate and shall act as a liaison between the Panel, the Minister and the Crown, as required.

Dated at the City of Regina, Saskatchewan, this 11 day of December 2023



Minister of Crown Investments Corporation