

THIS BUD'S FOR YOU



What's in a Name?

A big thank you to the two contributors whose title suggestions played with “**Bud**.” We liked the connection so much that we borrowed a little from both for this issue.

And it gives us a good excuse to talk about our name. **Ombudsman** can be a tricky word to pronounce. Think “**Om**” + “**buds**” + “**man**.” We especially like the “**buds**” part — bud as in friend.

Civility at the Table



At a recent session with the SARM Board, Christina Johns facilitated a conversation on restoring civility and shared the use of **Talking Sticks** as a tool for respectful communication.

Talking Sticks come from Indigenous traditions of gathering, listening and sharing. The person holding the Talking Stick has the space to speak and be heard, while others listen with respect. This practice reminds us to slow down, stay curious and make room for different points of view. It creates space for both sides of respectful communication: the opportunity to speak and the responsibility to listen.

More than a conversation tool, the Talking Stick reminds us that **fairness, understanding and civility** begin with how we listen to one another.

Training Tailored to Your Municipality

We offer **free, customized training** for municipalities across Saskatchewan. Sessions can cover **fair decision-making, procedural fairness, conflict resolution and de-escalation, civility, leadership, active listening, role clarity, transparency and accountability, statutory interpretation, Codes of Ethics and Conflict of Interest**.

We tailor each session to your municipality — and we come to you.

Municipal Shout Out

This time, our Municipal Shout-Out goes to the Town of Indian Head for its thoughtful approach to public communication. Indian Head uses a range of tools to keep residents informed, choosing different channels depending on the type and urgency of the message. From Voyent Alert and digital signage to community event updates and emergency communications, their approach helps residents stay connected to what is happening in their community.

A great example of thoughtful, accessible municipal communication.

Leading with Respect — Why Civility is the Answer

Join us **October 7** for a practical, solutions-oriented session offering municipalities tools to foster respect, mitigate conflict, use de-escalation techniques and navigate challenging situations in local government.

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. | Government House, Regina | In person or virtual

Reserve your seat and take away practical tools you can use in day-to-day municipal work.

Register by September 21: municipal@ombudsman.sk.ca

<https://ombudsman.sk.ca/>

Tollfree: 1-800-667-9787

Today's Featured Title

For this edition, we're inspired by two submissions that played with the word “**Bud**.”



Trent Sim
R.M. of Rudy No. 284



Shawna-Lee Bertram
R.M. of Brock No. 64

Thank you both for your creativity — and for inspiring this issue.

We'll continue featuring other title suggestions in future editions as a way of recognizing the creativity and participation of municipalities across Saskatchewan.



SARM President Bill Huber and Ombuds Educator Maureen Johns of Pasqua First Nation discovering their connection during our Civility event.

Questions or looking for more information?

Contact us

Sharon H. Pratchler, K.C.
SPratchler@ombudsman.sk.ca



Sharon H. Pratchler, K.C.
Saskatchewan's Ombudsman and
Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner

Contact Us:
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Municipal Engagement Team Email:
municipal@ombudsman.sk.ca

Ombudsman Website – Municipal Resources:
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