

## Key Messages Amended Clauses

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- Ag Crown land lessees received a notice regarding amendments to two of the clauses in their lease:
  - Billing date clause amendment; and
  - Consent to release and acquire information amendment.

### Q&As

#### **1) *Why did the Ministry of Agriculture amend my billing date?***

The Ministry of Agriculture implemented a new computer system. Billing dates were all amended to October 1 to streamline the billing process.

Prior to the amendment, agricultural leases were billed on October 1, November 1 or December 1. If the bill was not paid within 30 days of the billing date, interest would be charged on the unpaid amount.

#### **2) *How am I impacted by the change in billing date?***

Most lessees will receive their invoice sooner than previous years (those previously billed in November or December) and all lessees will be provided more time to pay their bill before interest is charged. Going forward, interest will be charged on unpaid amounts as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Lessees will now have an average of three months to pay their invoices, instead of 30 days after the billing date, before interest starts being charged on unpaid amounts.

#### **3) *Why did the Ministry of Agriculture change the Consent to Release and Acquire Information clause on leases?***

The Ministry of Agriculture's privacy officer and legal counsel identified the original clause provided the Ministry with a greater ability to release and acquire information than what was outlined in provincial privacy legislation.

The amendment to the lease clause was made to align wording with provincial privacy legislation and what we have been doing in practice. This means only the wording has changed and we will not be changing how we acquire or share lessee's information.

**4) *How am I impacted by the change to the Consent to Release and Acquire Information clause?***

There are no impacts to you as the lessee from the change. The only change made was to the wording in the clause in order to align with provincial privacy legislation and how we have been acquiring and sharing information in practice.

**5) *Why do you need to share my information?***

As a lessee of Crown land, there are legal obligations. The Ministry will share your contact information (name, phone number, mailing address) where lessee consent is required, such as requests to develop have been made on your leased land. This is typically for sand and gravel or oil and gas requests.

**6) *Why do you need to share my information with First Nation communities?***

The Government of Saskatchewan is a signatory to Treaty Land Entitlement agreements and has obligations under Specific Claim selections from First Nation communities. When land is selected by a First Nation community under one of these two processes, it is reviewed to determine if the land can be made available for sale to the First Nation community. Should this occur, a letter is sent to you, the lessee, to notify you of the selection and your rights as a lessee. The First Nation, not the Crown, is required to contact the lessee to see if there is a willingness to negotiate the surrender of the Crown land lease. Your contact information (name, phone number, mailing address) is shared with the First Nation community so they can make contact.

As a lessee, it is 100 per cent up to you if you are willing to negotiate with a First Nation community to surrender your lease. If you are not interested, you are fully within your right to say no, and the sale does not proceed.

**7) *Under what situations would you acquire/gather my information?***

The Ministry will gather information for the purposes of:

- determining eligibility to hold a lease, licence or permit;
- determining eligibility for provincial or federal programs (Crown lease as security, FRWIP, etc.) the lessee has applied for; and
- confirming the lessee is in compliance with their lease. This occurs when the ministry receives complaints for sub leasing or non-use. In these situations, we will request information to validate the lessee is actively managing the lease.