


# **Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV)**




## **Strategic Plan**


**2015 - 2019**




The Strategic Plan is intended to guide the Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers (SARSAV) in meeting goals, celebrating successes, strengthening partnerships, and advancing the abilities and roles of ground SAR volunteers in Saskatchewan over the next 5 years.




*"To save lives by fostering, coordinating and encouraging excellence in volunteer search and rescue organizations in Saskatchewan."*



*"To have a provincial community of skilled search and rescue volunteers whose contributions are valued and supported by the public and all levels of government."*



- Cooperating and collaborating with SAR Providers
  - Respecting roles & responsibilities of jurisdictions
  - Respecting the cultural diversity of SAR providers and users
  - Creating value from innovative ideas coming forward
  - Responding to the needs of the public and stakeholders in a timely way
  - Maintaining credibility and accountability
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## Strengths

- Strong leadership in the provincial body, providing a united provincial voice
- Broad range of skills and expertise
- Representing all regions of Saskatchewan
- Increased awareness of SARSAV amongst the Police Services and Provincial departments such as EMFS, Environment, and Parks Canada
- New CSA Standards provide clearer guidelines on training and response


## Challenges

- Lack of financial resources and a sustainable funding source
- Lack of incidents affects member recruitment and retention
- Lack of awareness of the organization and its role amongst volunteers and stakeholders
- Lack of parity in regional / local needs and priorities
- Lack of support/co-operation from Chapters in areas of record keeping

## Opportunities

- Individual teams have advanced to the point that they are looking at the bigger picture and are looking for direction
- Motivation to progress the organization
- Raising SARSAVs level of recognition / awareness similar to other organizations as CASARA, CCGA, Red Cross, etc.

## Threats

- Complacency by authorities that GSAR will continue to do its job regardless of funding
  - Concern over other entities entering GSAR and being considered as competitors
  - Not being called upon by local RCMP detachments due to cost
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## Key Result Area: Financial sustainability

**Objective: Secure permanent funding for SARSAV**

### **Outcomes**

1. Obtain a partner to fund core operations of SARSAV
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Access funding to leverage timely and urgent opportunities

### **Strategies and Actions**

1. Articulate the value of GSAR volunteers in Saskatchewan
  2. Advocate for the critical role of a Provincial GSAR champion
  3. Engage in and support the process for a Provincial GSAR champion
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1. Identify and select the opportunities which require additional funding
  2. Source the appropriate funding agencies and collaboratively develop proposals
  3. Forge a long-term partnership agreement with new partners



## Key Result Area: Training and Development

**Objective: Train and develop GSAR Volunteers so that they meet the GSAR needs of their communities and the nationally accepted standards**

### Outcomes

1. Identify, accept and publish Provincial SAR response standard, training curriculum, delivery approach and evaluation criteria in order to support common skills and competencies.
2. Define the role of GSAR volunteers in Emergency Preparedness & Response and facilitate appropriate training and development
3. Create a forum for focusing on operational GSAR best practices and information

### Strategies and Actions

1. Form SARSAV standards criteria committee for tactical, leadership and management competencies
  2. Inventory standards, analyze and provide recommendations to Board
  3. Approve and publish standards criteria report
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1. Define our role in emergency response & preparedness
  2. Secure partners' agreement on definition of the role
  3. Communicate to membership and stakeholders the agreed upon definition of role
  4. Establish and meet training and development needs
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1. Develop a system to gather, store and disseminate information to partners
  2. Maintain and update the system
  3. Provide a yearly forum for GSAR volunteers to come together.

### Achievements:

- Formulated a province-wide SAR Response Procedure
- Maintained active voice on committee that recently published GSAR Standards (CSA)

## **Key Result Area:**

# **Prevention education of the general public**

**Objective: Increase the public's ability to survive in ground based lost person incidents**

### **Outcomes**

1. Provide training programs and program resources to SARSAV members so they can deliver PSAR programs in their jurisdictions
2. Administer mechanisms to monitor and evaluate program(s) successes
3. Become the authority and resource on PSAR programs for GSAR volunteers
4. Strengthen partnerships with other agencies (i.e. Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, Parks, Paddle Canada)

### **Strategies and Actions**

1. Provide train the trainer programs for AdventureSmart
2. Secure and provide program resources
1. Design and provide a system of data collection
2. Collect the information
3. Communicate results to partners
1. Identify additional national PSAR programs available
2. Formalize partnerships for delivery of additional National and Provincial Prevention programs and strategies
1. Provide / support training of AdventureSmart presenters
2. Focus on public awareness through tradeshow and trailhead information

### **Achievements:**

- Widespread delivery of both the AdventureSmart programs and Presenter courses
- Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate program successes are in place
- Partnerships with other agencies are in the formative stage





## Key Result Area: Advocacy

**Objective: Effectively advocate on behalf of the chapters and their members**

### Outcomes

1. Develop the capacity to continuously identify and monitor issues
  
2. Advocate for the critical needs of members when appropriate

### Strategies and Actions

1. Regularly contact the membership
2. Maintain a hot list of issues
3. Communicate hot list to Board of directors
4. Encourage members to communicate critical and urgent issues
5. Engage with appropriate stakeholders to pre-empt escalation of issues

Contact the relevant authorities to make them aware of the critical needs and to provide recommendations for action

- a. Insurance
- b. Workers compensation
- c. Radio license fees
- d. Tax incentives

### Achievements:

- National Search and Rescue Volunteers' Tax Credit established for the 2014 tax year



## Key Result Area: GSAR Volunteer Promotion and Retention

**Objective: Strengthen our respective and collective capacity to deliver excellence in Search and Rescue in Saskatchewan**

### Outcomes

1. Increase the profile and recognition for GSAR volunteers within its stakeholder groups and the public
2. Ensure that the role and value of SARSAV is understood within SARSAV's membership, its stakeholder groups and the public
3. Jointly plan and deliver activities when appropriate

### Strategies and Actions

1. Create a Provincially recognized recognition program for service of volunteers
  2. Create a SARSAV recognition program
  3. Support the membership in leveraging media opportunities when appropriate
  4. Seek opportunities to inform stakeholders (conference and meetings)
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1. Define SARSAVs roles and responsibilities and the expected outcomes in relationship to the key partners
  2. Implement a communications strategy and action plan
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- Identify common goals and collaborate on these
- a. GSAR Champion
  - b. RCMP GSAR Coordinator



The Strategic Plan will be updated on an annual basis as progress is assessed. The renewed Strategic Plan will be presented to all members at each AGM by the Chair of the Strategic Plan committee.