



NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release

A New Look for Real Estate Coming to Saskatchewan in 2020

Saskatoon, March 19, 2019:

REALTORS® from across the province came together today and voted in favour of a new single REALTORS® association in Saskatchewan. In a strong show of support, members from each of the Association of Saskatchewan REALTORS® (ASR), Association of Regina REALTORS® (ARR) and Saskatoon Region Association of REALTORS® (SRAR) chose to amalgamate to create a new entity to be called Saskatchewan REALTORS® Association, which will come into effect on January 1, 2020.

For years, organized real estate has been coming together to improve service offerings and efficiencies for REALTORS® and home buyers and sellers throughout the province. From a one-time high of 11 associations within the province, the current decision will create one single provincial association, in addition to REALTORS® Association of Lloydminster and District, who, due to their dual-provinciality, will not to participate in the amalgamation.

“This isn’t our first go at forming a single association. The idea has been there for years – we just finally got the details right so members could see the value of combining resources, and working together as a single entity,” says Dave Markus, Regina REALTOR® and Co-Chair of the working group that led the initiative. “We did things a little differently this time around, from contracting external consultant MNP LLP and legal advisor Miller Thomson LLP in the process, to engaging members from the onset through surveys, interviews, meetings and informal discussions. We really learned what was important to the majority of members. The in-depth details in the business plan provided members with the information they were looking for, and they saw how the recommendations could benefit their businesses and improve client experiences.”

From a national perspective, Saskatchewan has a relatively small membership of close to 1,600 REALTORS®. As technology becomes more prevalent in our industry, so does the capacity to provide virtual tools remotely. Accessibility is no longer an issue in providing services province-wide. The benefits of combining resources will allow a single association to remain innovative and competitive and help prepare it for future success. The associations already work closely

together with several combined resources. Further consolidation will only enhance opportunity and cost-savings

"It's a win-win-win solution, where associations will no longer be duplicating work, members will see increased services for fewer dollars and home buyer and sellers will benefit from consistent practices throughout the province," adds Steven Bobiash, Saskatoon REALTOR® and working group Co-Chair. "We've got a lot of work ahead of us to get a new organization ready to go in the next 9 months, but we're up to the challenge. Saskatchewan REALTORS® showed strong support for a united Saskatchewan to give us the edge we need to remain current in this ever-changing world!"

*The **Association of Saskatchewan REALTORS®** is the primary advocate for the real estate community in Saskatchewan. As a not-for-profit organization, it provides direction, leadership and support services to its members, the industry and the public. Through effective communication and quality education, the Association also strives to ensure a healthy real estate environment that allows for increased quality of life in our communities. Real estate is at the core of our economy and advocating for a strategic sustainable approach ensures continued growth and prosperity in Saskatchewan.*

*With nearly 700 members focused on professionalism, ethics and service, the **Association of Regina REALTORS® Inc.** has been a proud part of the Regina community since 1912. Among real estate agents in Regina and area, only members of the Association of Regina REALTORS® Inc. are REALTORS®, a trademark signifying high professional standards and qualifications. Learn more at ReginaREALTORS.com.*

*The **Saskatoon Region Association of REALTORS®** is the voice of over 800 professional REALTORS® in the Saskatoon, Prince Albert, The Battlefords and Melfort areas, with a mission to support and enhance our members' success and value as professional REALTORS®.*

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