



**SIMSA**

Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining  
Suppliers Association Inc

April 2, 2026

## Executive Director's Message

SIMSA's Board Chair – Scott Bahr – presented on SIMSA during the Saskatchewan Day event at PDAC. He stood-in for Eric Anderson given a family emergency – and did a great job! He told everybody about who you and we are.



*Scott Bahr at PDAC*

Scott also presented on SIMSA at the NGen N3 Summit on March 31 and April 1 in Vancouver.

SIMSA's Director election process had 20 applications resulting in 17 nominees competing for 5 positions! We are very grateful for the interest and support our members show in the Association. Voting runs until early May. The May 13 AGM will feature several announcements of interest to our members – some by us, some by others.

The annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum is in two weeks! The agenda is here <https://mscf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-MSCF-Agenda.pdf>

As many of you are aware, I create a daily 60-second radio commentary entitled [Prosperity Saskatchewan](#) on NewsTalk 650 CKOM and 980 CJME. It airs during the Evan Bray Show (and before that John Gormley) and a couple of other times per day. It's all about Saskatchewan resource sector and

economy. It began broadcasts on January 7, 2008 and ran until January 17, 2014. It took a break and then restarted again on December 1, 2022 and is still running.

During the week of April 13, episode 2000 of the commentary will be broadcasted. The first sponsors were 49 North Resource Fund (the early money in Athabasca Potash which became BHP Jansen, etc.) and PotashCorp. The sponsors are now Nutrien, the Government of Saskatchewan and Cameco. I still research, write, and voice the content with guidance from the sponsors (but not approval).



# Prosperity Saskatchewan

## Member's News

[STC Industrial Group's Shaun Howdle is Buying Early to Beat Tariffs](#)

[Kitsaki and March Consulting Establish Canada's Largest Majority Indigenous-Owned Engineering Firm](#)

[RESA Power Expands into the Province of Saskatchewan with the Acquisition of JA Tech](#)

[Powering Possibility: SRC's Work to Design and Build a Microgrid for a Remote Community](#)

[North Fringe Industrial Technologies Named WorkSafe Saskatchewan Safe Employer Award Finalist for Second Year in a Row](#)

[JNE Acquires Precision Machining Capabilities](#)

# Advocacy

SIMSA has submitted a “best practice” document for Federal major project and defence procurement. This stems from several requests we received during our advocacy trip to Ottawa in early February. In short, “our members build big, and SIMSA builds big supply chains.”

The core of it is, that as Canada strives to obtain sovereignty in and expand its defence and critical minerals supply chains, as well as embark on a significant nuclear power and major projects build, the question of “How do we do all of this?” comes to the forefront. We have the capabilities and capacity to build these items, what we need is the process to orchestrate the players.

SIMSA is a model on how this can be done.

As an example (which is detailed in the document), we assisted the world’s largest mining company – BHP – create a supply chain for and then build the largest project they have ever built – the \$18B Jansen Potash Mine. To do this, we:

1. Have an open dialogue with BHP and act as a conduit for communications between suppliers and BHP
2. Host annual face-to-face *Procurement Events* with BHP (detailed later)
3. Created a *Supplier Database* for BHP (and others) – a tool to shortlist suppliers – which has seen BHP conduct over 100,000 searches to date. It is called [The Saskatchewan Supplier Database](#). The tool is for short listing, but due diligence nor purchasing (detailed later).
4. Constantly promote the *Procurement Policies and Debriefing Process* noted later.
5. Additionally, SIMSA completes the above, with further dialogues and partnerships, with groups such as the [Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence](#). Indigenous inclusion is a constant and intentional aspect of all we do.

We have proven that to successfully utilise local supply chains, major project procurement must engage - face-to-face - with local suppliers at the project conceptualisation stage. In that manner, local suppliers can be designed into the project, and not be designed out of it via early design choices that limit supplier options. Then, as the project is developed, local suppliers must have frequent access to design, management, and procurement persons. This two-step process, allows local suppliers the choice of participating or not, based upon current and accurate information, and to participate. Finally, the thorough debriefing of unsuccessful bidders is a critical step, as it is a critical educational tool.

All of the above items have seen great success.

# Nuclear

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, SIMSA partnered with the Southeast TechHub ([SETH](#)) for a two-day workshop to help local businesses prepare for SaskPower's Small Modular Reactor (SMR) project and join Canada's emerging nuclear supply chain. SIMSA's nuclear specialist, Grant Cherkas, led the workshop for both days.

## Workshop Highlights:

- **Supplier Readiness:** Participants learned how to identify opportunities, meet supplier expectations, and prepare for work in the nuclear sector.
- **Day 1 (Community Focus):** Explored the unique opportunities and municipal requirements of hosting an operational nuclear power plant.
- **Day 2 (Technical Focus):** Detailed the specific construction and manufacturing processes of the reactors, and what to expect would be required to participate.



SIMSA's nuclear specialist, Grant Cherkas, P.Eng., is here to help our members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to him if you have any questions about the nuclear industry. Grant can be reached at (306) 291-4423 or [Grant.Cherkas@SIMSA.ca](mailto:Grant.Cherkas@SIMSA.ca)

# New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of March were:

- [PA Battery and Truck Accessories](#)
- [Butler Byers Insurance Ltd.](#)
- CD Environmental Services
- [Viking Fire Protection Inc.](#)

# Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 15 & 16, 2026**  
Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 18th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 15 and 16, 2026 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **SIMSA AGM – May 13, 2026**  
Our 2026 AGM will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) – September 29, 2026**  
Save the Date! The 12th Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) will be on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at Delta Hotel in downtown Regina, SK. This event is co-hosted by SIMSA and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development.

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