

---

Urban municipalities are on the front line of delivering public safety services to residents of their communities and therefore have a vested interest in a public safety system that is properly funded, dependable, efficient and of the highest quality. As a core member of the Public Safety Review Committee (PSRC), SUMA played a substantial role in influencing the recommendations of the PSRC by ensuring that the municipal perspective was clearly understood. As the representative body of all urban municipalities, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) supports the recommendations of the PSRC and will work with other public safety service providers to ensure these recommendations are acted upon.

---

The PSRC was formed to examine the current public safety environment in the Province of Saskatchewan. Members of the PSRC included representatives from: the Protection and Emergency Service branch of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Association, the Saskatchewan Building Officials and the Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers. The municipal perspective was represented by SUMA and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM). When appropriate, other organizations, such as Public Safety Canada, were invited to participate when their position on certain matters was required to assist in developing recommendations.

After several months of review and extensive consultations, the PSRC released a report that recommended the creation of a public safety grid within the province that would ensure a standardized level of public safety protection around the province. The grid concept was designed to address four challenges currently facing the public safety system in Saskatchewan, including:

1. Adequate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
2. Administrative and governance challenges
3. Human resource capacity challenges
4. Infrastructure challenges

The PSRC members have agreed to work together to find solutions to these challenges. Initial strategies included:

- Proposing changes to the *Fire Prevention Act* to address adequacy standards
- Drafting standard language for mutual aid agreements
- Working to eliminate barriers in current legislation and regulations to creating the grid concept
- Exploring creative ways to fund training and incentives for volunteers within the public safety system
- Advocating for Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) coverage for volunteers
- Seeking additional funding to enhance public safety infrastructure within the grid concept

The creation of a public safety grid within the province is still in the early stages of development. However, all members of the PSRC have committed to ensure that the recommendations from the PSRC report are eventually implemented, so that Saskatchewan can provide its citizens with a properly funded, dependable, efficient and high quality public safety system.

**Notes:**

At the 2009 SUMA spring regional meetings, representatives from member municipalities passed resolutions to support the recommendations from the PSRC report.