



Keeping you informed

President's Update



March 28, 2018

Notes From the March Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors met for the first full Board meeting of 2018 last Friday, March 23. During the meeting, we discussed the issues that matter to Saskatchewan's hometowns, from carbon pricing to cannabis legalization.

Before the full board meeting, members of the Convention Planning Committee gathered to talk about Convention 2018 and prepare for Convention 2019. The meeting started with the appointments of the **Convention 2019 Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**. Councillor Randy Donauer was appointed Committee Chair and Mayor Dale Domeij was named Vice-Chair.

The committee discussed the results of the **Convention 2018 evaluation**. Responses were extremely positive, with 99 per cent of respondents rating the convention as excellent or good, and 98 per cent saying they believe convention offers a reasonable or extremely good value for the cost to attend. The evaluations were filled with excellent comments about the education content, keynote address, tradeshow, and many other topics. There were also great comments on how to make future conventions even better. The committee discussed the suggestions, and SUMA staff will now work to incorporate many of the ideas into **Convention 2019 in Saskatoon**. Thank you to everyone who completed the evaluation - your ideas help us improve convention each year.

Speaking of ideas, the Convention Planning Committee is looking for our next great convention theme. Committee members briefly discussed theme ideas at the planning meeting, suggesting the use of "hometowns" in the 2019 Convention title. You also have the chance to **share your theme ideas** by sending an email to events@suma.org.

The full board gathered later that morning. Convention related content carried into the meeting as we reviewed and approved a **change to our [resolution policy](#)**. The change ensures that amendments from the convention floor are

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consistent and do not change the intent of the original resolution.

We also approved a **response to the federal government's consultation on carbon pricing**. We will be sending a letter highlighting our desire for urban municipal leadership in carbon emissions and requesting, due to cost, that municipal facilities and operations be exempt from any carbon pricing mechanisms. We also want to emphasize the need for support of efficient infrastructure and renewable energy opportunities. The response is in line with resolutions from [Convention 2017](#), and [Convention 2018](#).

Building on the topic of the environment, the board agreed to work with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to **advocate for action on contaminated sites** (such as orphan gas stations).

A topic of discussion was the province's recently released [cannabis framework](#). The framework, released March 14, includes details on distribution and retail sales, prescribes zero tolerance for all drug-impaired drivers in the province, and prohibits cannabis consumption in public spaces, schools, and daycares. The Board discussed how the provincial framework will impact municipalities, and how best to move forward. We approved a formal **response to the provincial government highlighting cost concerns**. SUMA will also be offering a **cannabis legalization workshop May 9**, the day before our 2018 Town and Village Sector Meeting.

During the meeting we agreed to promote the [International Day of Older Persons](#). As our Convention 2018 keynote Doug Griffiths recognized, elders are community builders. International Day of Older Persons, the first day of October, is an opportunity to highlight the contributions of older persons and raise awareness about the joys and challenges of ageing in today's world. We are **encouraging members to sign proclamations** in support of the initiative.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will take place **June 22, 2018**.