



Keeping you informed

President's Update



June 28, 2017

Notes From the Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors gathered June 23 for a full day of discussing issues that matter to Saskatchewan's hometowns.

The morning opened with a Convention Planning Committee meeting, where they adopted *The Power of Hometowns* as the **theme for Convention 2018**. Hometowns are the economic drivers of Saskatchewan, and home to almost 80 per cent of the population. When SUMA and our members work together for a common goal, we can have a very powerful voice. Hometowns are the heart of our province, and your voice deserves to be heard.

The committee considered **education and breakout session topics** based on current events and member input. The [call for submissions](#) will be open until September 6, 2017 for organizations that would like to present at convention. We are looking for presentations focused on current key aspects of urban government.

The **Meritorious and Honorary Service Awards, and the Scoop Lewry Award nominations** will open June 29, and run until October 4. Watch [the Convention page of our website](#) for more details and the nomination forms.

The full Board convened mid-morning, and one of the first items we tackled was the **upcoming retirement of Laurent Mougeot**, after 12 years as SUMA's CEO. We wish Laurent the best, and you can see more details in [our media release](#) from earlier this week.

There was a preliminary discussion about **2020 election dates**. The fixed date election law puts the next provincial

Saskatchewan Urban
Municipalities
Association (SUMA)

200-2222 13th Ave.
Regina, SK
S4P 3M7

suma@suma.org
www.suma.org

Join Our Mailing List!

and municipal elections five days apart. The Board discussed potential implications and will consult members on [the options proposed by Elections Saskatchewan](#).

The Board agreed to formally partner with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan on their **Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Toolkit**. The toolkit aims to help municipalities create an environment that will foster immigration, attracting cultural and business opportunities that will benefit Saskatchewan hometowns. Watch your inbox for the complete toolkit, coming soon.

We endorsed the **Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's 2018-2021 Business and Financial Plan**, which will see further improvements in assessment speed, and cost-of-living increases to the price municipalities pay for service.

The Board **approved the SUMA Urban Solid Waste Management Policy** to help guide the province as it creates its strategy. [This policy](#) is based on member input and research, including the 2015 landfill research project, the 2017 solid waste management survey, feedback at regional and sector meetings, and convention resolutions.

We also approved a **response to the federal government's consultation on the carbon pricing backstop**. The response will highlight the [Convention 2017 resolution](#) and [SUMA's Municipal Climate Adaptation Policy](#), and relate concerns from our members about extra costs from carbon pricing.

The Board wants to hear from members about whether to continue with combined **town and village sector meetings** each spring, or to split the sectors off again for their own individual meetings. SUMA staff will follow up with members during the 2017 regional meetings. (Dates for those are now available on [our Event Listings](#), so save the date.)

Dealing with contaminated sites (such as orphaned gas stations) was a hot topic at the Town and Village Sector Meeting and the City Mayors' Caucus. The Board has heard those concerns and **resolved to engage with the federal and provincial governments** to ensure these sites get cleaned up and are reusable as soon as possible after the business closes.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will take place on **September 22, 2017**.

Resolutions

If you're interested in the responses we've received on resolutions passed at Convention 2017 (or all the way back to Convention 1997), you can visit [the resolutions database](#) on our website. Search by term, sponsoring community, or year to see the resolution and any responses we may have received.

If you have a policy issue you want to bring forward for Convention 2018, now is a perfect time. No need to wait for an official call; we accept resolutions all year. This document has all the details you need to submit.