



PRESIDENT'S *Update*

June 27, 2018

Notes from the June Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors gathered for a full day of discussions June 22, talking about the topics that matter to Saskatchewan's hometowns, from crime reduction and climate change to cannabis legalization.

The morning opened with a Convention Planning Committee meeting, where the committee adopted ***Hometown Advantage*** as the **theme for Convention 2019**. In hockey, there's home ice advantage - the advantage that comes from the cheering fans, the familiar ice, and the other unique features that set that home rink apart from any other. Those unique elements offer the team an edge to success. For Saskatchewan urban municipalities, there's hometown advantage - the unique elements that make your community unlike any other. And the advantages are stronger when hometowns work together. In hockey, there's the one or two-man advantage. For hometowns, there's regional cooperation. We are excited to bring this theme alive in 2019.

During the planning meeting, the committee also discussed education and breakout

session topics based on current events. And we want to know what topics interest you! Take our short, [two question survey](#) to tell us what topics you would like to see at Convention 2019.

The biggest change happening at Convention 2019 is related to our tradeshow. We're excited to announce that we've listened to your feedback, and the tradeshow will be happening on Sunday, February 3 and Monday, February 4 instead of Monday and Tuesday. This change means you'll have more time to browse vendor booths! And if you've missed the tradeshow in the past because of its weekday scheduling, now is your chance to attend.

The full Board came together mid-morning, started with a presentation by RCMP Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki. Commissioner Zablocki highlighted the work being done to **reduce rural crime**. During the meeting, we also heard from Deputy Minister Dale McFee, from the Ministry of Justice.

In addition to crime reduction, directors tackled topics including climate change and cannabis legalization.

On climate change, we adopted a **new climate change policy** that calls on the provincial government to partner with Saskatchewan's hometowns by:

- Creating a Saskatchewan municipal climate change centre for ongoing funding, collaboration, and resources for municipal renewable energy projects and energy efficiency initiatives;
- Aligning the Saskatchewan climate change strategy with the solid waste management strategy; and
- Recognizing the hometown advantage by providing planning, development, and adaptation tools and resources to promote green and resilient hometowns.

This new policy was created using the feedback from our climate change survey. Did you know that **34 Saskatchewan hometowns have already taken on 41 climate change adaptation projects**? And we're still counting.

SUMA is also advocating for municipal facilities, landfills, and wastewater facilities to be exempt from any provincial emissions regulations, with the opportunity to still take part in the offset credits system.

In regards to cannabis legalization, we discussed the ways SUMA is helping hometowns prepare. The federal government has announced that **cannabis will be legal on October 17**. This means hometowns have approximately three months left to get ready. On June 19, SUMA held a cannabis legalization webinar, talking about the responsibilities hometowns have when it comes to cannabis legalization, from bylaws to urban planning. The webinar was for those who may have missed our in-person workshop in May. At the workshop, we talked about cannabis misconceptions, what cannabis legalization means as an employer, and the tools available to help municipalities prepare - like the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' [Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization](#).

During the board meeting, we also directed SUMA staff to research how much communities impacted by the Urban Commuter Highway Program and the Town Connector Program have spent to keep their connector highways operating, and discussed the successful Town, Village, and Northern Sector Meeting held May 10.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will happen **September 21, 2018**.

If I don't see you at SUMA Summer School, have a wonderful summer!

Resolutions

If you're interested in responses we've received on resolutions passed at Convention 2018 (or all the way back to Convention 1997), check out the [resolutions database](#) on our website. Search by term, sponsoring community, or year to see the resolution and any responses we may have received.

Have a policy issue you want to bring forward for Convention 2019? No need to wait for the official call; we accept resolutions all year. [Learn more](#) about submitting a resolution.

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