



PRESIDENT'S Update

March 27, 2019

Notes from the March Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors met for the first full Board meeting of 2019 last Friday, March 22.

Before the board meeting, members of the Convention Planning Committee gathered to review Convention 2019 and start preparing for Convention 2020. The meeting started with the appointments of the **Convention Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**. **Mayor Dale Domeij** was appointed Committee Chair and **Councillor Dawn Luhning** was named Vice-Chair.

The committee discussed the results of the **Convention 2019 evaluation**. Overall, 92 per cent of respondents rated the convention as excellent or good, and 94 per cent said they believe convention offers a reasonable or extremely good value for the cost to attend. The evaluations were filled with great comments on topics including the tradeshow and the education sessions. If there are presentations from Convention 2019 you want to revisit or ones you want to see for the first time, check out [SUMA's YouTube channel](#).

The evaluations also provided some wonderful ideas on how to make future conventions even better. SUMA staff will work to incorporate many of the ideas into **Convention 2020 in Regina**. We are grateful for everyone who completed the evaluation. Your ideas help us improve convention each year.

Speaking of ideas, the Convention Planning Committee is now looking for the next great convention theme. You are invited to **share your theme ideas** by sending an email to events@suma.org. Everyone who submits an idea will be entered to win a great prize.

Convention related content carried into the full board meeting as we discussed our advocacy and educational opportunities for the year. We approved our advocacy priorities relating to the [2019 resolutions](#), and made plans to coordinate a municipal forum to discuss issues of priority for Saskatchewan hometowns - including tax tools and other municipal revenue generation - and host a municipal symposium in place of SUMA Summer School for the 2019 year. Summer School will return in 2020.

On behalf of our members, SUMA will also be contacting CP Rail to express concern over letters being sent to Saskatchewan hometowns asking for a substantial contribution toward railway crossing maintenance and offering a grant towards closure of the crossing as an alternative to paying for the maintenance. In some cases, it appears the funds requested are to be put toward maintenance of the rail track itself, rather than the roadway portion of the crossing—which the municipality may not be responsible for. If your municipality has received a similar letter, we encourage you to contact **John Corey** at the Canadian Transportation Agency (819-953-9930) or **Bruce Kavanaugh** at

Transport Canada (204-983-7295). They can advise you on what the maintenance entails, and what options your municipality has available.

The Board also had a presentation from **Joe Masi**, executive director for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, who spoke of the municipal reorganization in Manitoba.

The next SUMA Board of Directors meeting will be **June 21**.

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