



PRESIDENT'S Update

September 25, 2019

Notes from the September Board Meeting

SUMA Board members engaged in two days of meetings Thursday and Friday, discussing everything from Convention 2020 to SUMA's provincial budget submission.

The Convention Planning Committee met Thursday evening where plans for Convention 2020 continued to come together.

During the meeting, the planning committee set rates for Convention registration. Members who register by the early-bird deadline will pay **\$450 (\$550 after the early-bird deadline)**. Your registration now includes your tickets to the Welcome Reception and President's Banquet - you no longer need to purchase tickets in addition to your convention registration.

The **agenda for February 2-5 is now set**. This year, SUMA will be adding a **Sustainable Cities Speaker Series** on Sunday. The series is open to all registered delegates as well as city staff. Watch for more details as we approach registration, which is set to open on **November 4**. We'll keep you updated in [Urban Update](#) and [Urban Voice](#) as well as on the [Convention Page](#) of our website.

To help SUMA's smallest members take advantage of Convention, we are excited to announce a Convention **program for hometowns with populations of less than 150**. Municipalities with populations less than 150 will be invited to enter a draw to win free convention registration for two delegates. Three hometowns will be chosen. Watch your inbox and Urban Update for more information.

Talk of Convention continued into the full SUMA Board of Directors meeting on September 20 as directors discussed **Board sponsored resolutions**. Resolutions we will be bringing forward at Convention 2020 are:

- The introduction of an administration fee for collecting education property taxes;
- The importance of getting resources to market;
- A new provincial-municipal relationship where municipalities are better consulted when infrastructure and legislative decisions are being considered;
- Funding for a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre; and
- Removal of PST on construction projects.

Resolutions for Convention 2020 are being accepted until **November 1**. If your municipality has a resolution in mind, check out SUMA's [Call for Resolutions](#) which includes a template you can use as a guide. If you want to review [past resolutions](#), see the SUMA website - resolutions are available online all the way back to 1997. Also, don't forget to review SUMA's [Resolutions Policy](#).

SUMA will also be asking for the removal of PST on municipal construction projects and

funding for a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre in our **provincial budget submission**. During the meeting Friday, we directed SUMA staff to prepare a provincial budget submission asking for both of those items as well as reinstatement of the Community Rink Affordability Grant and sharing of cannabis excise tax revenues with municipalities.

Sharing cannabis excise tax revenues aligns with SUMA's **federal election advocacy** which calls for a new federal-municipal relationship where municipalities can manage their assets and make meaningful investments through gas tax and cannabis excise tax revenues. Find out more about our federal election advocacy by visiting our [Federal Election Advocacy Hub](#).

The Board also discussed RCMP detachment and non-detachment rates. At Convention 2019, [members resolved](#) for SUMA to advocate to have RCMP service costs assessed at a per capita rate that is fair to all municipalities that fall under the provincial policing contract. SUMA is continuing in discussions with SARM and the Ministry of Justice.

We are also closely **monitoring the progress of "prompt payment" legislation** and have provided a response to the consultation on the development of the regulations. As owners of construction projects, municipalities could be required to provide quick payments after receiving invoices, putting due diligence in testing work or reviewing payments at risk, as well as uncertainty for payments for federal-provincial-municipal cost shared projects.

Harassment Prevention Policy Template

Yesterday, SUMA, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, launched a harassment prevention policy template. The **template is designed specifically for municipalities**. All employers have a moral and legislative obligation to provide a harassment free workplace. This template is a tool for municipalities to ensure harassment is dealt with appropriately and promptly. It not only applies to municipal employees, but also public, visitors, and business people attending the municipal workplace. I encourage you to [check out the template](#), and revise the policy to fit your municipality's specific needs.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will take place on **December 5, 2019**.

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