



PRESIDENT'S Update

June 26, 2019

Notes from the June Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors gathered for a full day of discussions on June 21, discussing everything from Convention 2020 to Bill C-69.

Building Sustainable Hometowns is the **theme for Convention 2020**. We're looking forward to bringing this theme alive.

The biggest change happening at Convention 2020 is related to social events. We're excited to announce that we've listened to your Convention feedback, and **tickets for both the Welcome Reception and President's Banquet will now be included in your registration**. Additional tickets will be available for purchase if you are looking to bring a plus one to either of the events. The number of social events is also changing for Convention 2020. The Convention Planning Committee has elected to discontinue the SUMA Hospitality Night to provide councils with the opportunity to get together for dinner, tour the city, or take advantage of one of the many hospitality nights hosted by municipal vendors.

After feedback from resolutions at Convention 2019, the resolutions process was a topic of discussion for the Board as well. **We are looking at the resolution process, and we will be bringing the discussion to you at Regional Meetings** this fall. If you're interested in responses we've received on resolutions passed at Convention 2019 (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. And don't forget, you don't have to wait for the official call for Convention 2020 resolutions; we accept resolutions all year. [Learn more](#) about submitting a resolution.

SUMA is currently involved in a number of consultations, both federally and provincially, impacting Saskatchewan's hometowns.

At a previous Executive Committee Meeting, Directors voiced concern over trade barriers for Saskatchewan's canola farmers, and SUMA agreed to participate in a joint letter with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

During Friday's meeting, we adopted a [policy position on Bill C-69](#). SUMA supports the environmental and consultative aims of Bill C-69, but wants to ensure federal approval requirements are not unnecessarily burdensome for municipalities building or restoring infrastructure.

Provincially, SUMA is consulting on land regulations, municipal legislation, and more.

During the board meeting, we directed SUMA staff to send a letter to the Ministry of

Government Relations **responding to consultations on the *Dedicated Lands Regulations, 2009 (DLR)* and *The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations (SPI)***. The response will include asking the ministry to:

- work with Regina and Saskatoon to improve or eliminate the density provision to reflect the challenges posed by building schools on municipal reserve land and ensure residents have ready access to recreation and open spaces
- determine appropriate school site sizes
- ensure any cash-in-lieu of dedicated lands collected for parks, recreation, or schools is paid to the municipality hosting the parks, recreational facilities, or schools for the region
- explore amending the SPI to reference community resilience and climate change goals stated in the provincial climate change strategy, state the importance of regional collaboration to encourage government-to-government relationships between First Nations, Métis, and municipalities, and add specific reference to public transit and biking under transportation.

We also discussed our response to the proposed changes to Saskatchewan's municipal acts. We thank everyone who shared their thoughts on the proposed changes to *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*. SUMA's municipal legislation survey gathered nearly 100 responses and the legislation webinar on May 14 had 286 registrants, making it SUMA's largest webinar yet. SUMA also presented the draft amendments to nearly 120 hometowns at three different meetings across the province: at the City Mayors Caucus Legal and Legislative Working Group; the Town, Village, and Northern Sector Meeting; and the City Mayors' Caucus. SUMA has provided a preliminary response to the Ministry of Government Relations, and have included your feedback. **Thank you again.**

SUMA will be contacting the Ministry of Justice to be **consulted on prompt payment regulations**.

In addition to the discussions, the Board of Directors also had the pleasure of hosting **Brock Carlton, CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities** (FCM). Carlton highlighted FCM's strategic goals, explaining that FCM aspires to support municipalities that are full partners in nation building, that are empowered with legislative and fiscal tools, and with enhanced capacity, can develop local solutions. Carlton recognized the need for a new relationship between the federal government and municipalities, a relationship in which the federal government would provide municipalities with the fiscal tools they need. He said the best example is the increase in Federal Gas Tax funding.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will happen **September 20, 2019**.

If I don't see you at **SUMA's Municipal Symposium**, have a wonderful summer!

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