



A MESSAGE FROM THE President

Notes from the March Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on March 22 in Saskatoon to discuss matters important to SUMA and Saskatchewan's hometowns. During the meeting, we touched on important topics such as SUMA's advocacy efforts and response to the 2024 budget, mental health and addictions, SUMA's communications vehicles and campaigns, and the upcoming AGM and Convention.



Finalizing Details for Convention

With just over two weeks to go until the 2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow, Friday's board meeting included final details about Convention.

We also received an update on the tradeshow. **This year's tradeshow will be the biggest one yet, with over 225 booths sold.** There will be lots of exhibitors to explore during Convention, and you will get a sneak peak at the tradeshow during the **Early Access Reception** taking place on **April 14 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.** The reception will include light appetizers.

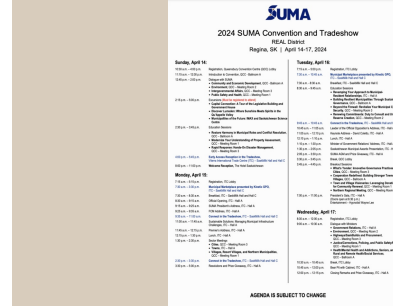
While focused on the upcoming convention and tradeshow, planning has already started for the 2025 event. During Friday's meeting **we approved the booth rates for our 2025 Municipal Marketplace.**

To see everything we have planned for Convention, check out the:

[2024 Convention Brochure](#)



[Convention at a Glance](#)



Governance Review and AGM

As Convention 2024 approaches, so too does the AGM where SUMA will vote on its governance structure. The SUMA Board of Directors commissioned a governance review of the organization as part of SUMA's 2021-25 Strategic Plan. Since then there have been many updates that we have discussed with our membership. Most recently, **SUMA hosted the Governance Review Open Forum to answer questions and explain the process that will be used during the upcoming AGM to implement changes** once they have been voted on. **The board looks forward to the governance review discussion that will happen at the AGM.**

Communications and Campaigns

At the meeting, the board conveyed enthusiastic support for our upcoming provincial election campaign, which we will be kicking off in May with a brand-building exercise that will showcase our cities, towns, villages, resort villages and northern municipalities and the many ways in which they serve their residents. **More details will be provided to our members following our Annual Convention.**

SUMA's quarterly magazine, Municipal Voice, was also discussed, and **the request to continue pursuing the contractual relationship with Kelman was approved.** The newly amended agreement between Kelman and SUMA allocates more money to SUMA through the advertising from Kelman in addition to decreasing the time required to produce the magazine.

Advocacy and SUMA's Response to the Province's 2024 Budget

The board also discussed SUMA's advocacy and our media release in **[response to the province's 2024 budget](#)**.

Mental health and addictions remains a key focus for SUMA, as our communities continue to struggle, experiencing housing insecurity and addictions. SUMA was pleased to see the province follow through with its previous commitments around treatment beds, but there is still much work to be done in the areas of community supports, housing for those with complex needs, and harm reduction. We would also like to see increases to SIS (Saskatchewan Income Support) and SAID (Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability). As well, the decrease in the government's annual investment in the northern transportation systems was disappointing, especially at a time when we need to focus on growth and community support. However, we also recognize the governments efforts in helping residents' lives through the continuance of Municipal Revenue Sharing and its agreed upon formula.

The board looks forward to SUMA's work in the advocacy arena, and our continued work with the province to help make the lives of Saskatchewan residents better.

I hope to see you at the 2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow in April.

Randy Goulden
SUMA President

