

MUNICIPAL Update

January 12, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20

Virtual SUMA Summit

See all [upcoming events](#).

Join Municipal Leaders at the *Virtual SUMA Summit* Next Week

Ready to start the year energized and connected?

The *Virtual SUMA Summit* on **January 20** is your first big chance of the year to join the conversation shaping Saskatchewan's communities.

Join us for a full day of fresh ideas, bold conversations, and collaboration.

Find more details under "Capacity Building" below.

[Learn More and Register!](#)

Municipal Voice: Winter 2025 Issue Now Available

The Winter 2025 issue of SUMA's magazine *Municipal Voice* is hot off the press! Print copies should be in our members' mailboxes soon, or you can read the [digital version](#).

This issue shines a light on how municipalities can help end workplace sexual harassment, navigating LA FOIP and Access to Information requests, regulations for building secondary suites, and using municipal lawyers effectively, plus a feature article by Director of Advocacy Services Sean McKenzie highlighting how SUMA approaches pre-budget advocacy.

Share the News!

Is your entire council receiving *Municipal Update* emails? We encourage mayors, councillors, and administrators to **individually sign up to our newsletter** so our updates make it straight to your inbox. Please share this email with your colleagues and encourage them to sign up today!

Reminder: Access to SUMA Member Portal

The **SUMA Member Portal** hosts valuable resources for members including meeting recordings, webinars, and more.

Each municipality has one shared login for the Member Portal that should be distributed to all staff and members of council. Please contact your Chief Administrative Officer for access. We encourage you to revisit or share previous webinars and other relevant information with other staff or elected officials.

If you are unsure of your login information, please contact communications2@suma.org for assistance.

Visit the SUMA Member Portal

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Strengthening Partnerships to Kickstart 2026 Advocacy

We continue to explore partnerships with other organizations to increase our reach and further amplify our members' voices.

Last week, SUMA staff met with the **Western Canadian Municipal Associations (WCMA)** to discuss common advocacy concerns among western provinces; the **Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)** to look at shared recreation-related advocacy; and **Jack.org** to look into shared advocacy items related to youth mental health.



Next week, we will also be meeting with the **Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS)** to see if shared advocacy efforts around agricultural production and processing can be expanded.

Call for Caucus Representative Nominations: Village and Resort Village Caucus West Central and East Central

The **Village and Resort Village caucus** is currently seeking nominations for **two vacant positions: a West Central representative and an East Central representative**.

Unsure which region you're located in? Search for your municipality [here](#).

The core mandate of the Village and Resort Village Caucus is to provide a forum for the management of advocacy topics considered relevant to Saskatchewan towns and villages and resort villages, respectively.

The Caucus role includes the following responsibilities:

- Facilitating the meeting of the Caucus

- Identifying and providing advisory input on advocacy topics relevant to member urban municipalities in your sector
- Prioritizing advocacy topics and contributing to the setting of strategies required to advance the advocacy interests of the Caucus
- Providing input on provincial, federal, and/or collective advocacy topics
- Contributing to SUMA's communication efforts with the interest of keeping sector members informed and engaged

The Village and Resort Village Caucus each meet virtually for approximately 90 minutes on a quarterly basis. Additional participation in events such as the Regional Roadshow and caucus meetings at Convention are also strongly encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted to suma@suma.org. Elections, if required, will take place on January 20, 2026 at the **Virtual SUMA Summit**.

Please read the governing policy [here](#).

The period for nominations has been extended. Nominations close Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Complete the Nomination Form



2026 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS
 deadline **JANUARY 31, 2026**
 REAL District - Regina, Saskatchewan
 APRIL 12- 15

SUMA invites members to **submit resolutions ahead of the 2026 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow in Regina, Saskatchewan, from April 12 to 15**. Resolutions are an important way to bring forward issues confronting urban councils that require action by the provincial or federal government or another agency. Members are encouraged to submit resolutions on anything throughout the year. However, the **deadline for receipt of council resolutions for Convention 2026 is January 31, 2026**.

After concerns were raised by members about late resolutions and the inability for councils to discuss these resolutions in advance, only those late resolutions that are absolutely critical and could not possibly have been submitted early enough to be included in the Convention package will be brought forward, and only then with justification for why it is both urgent and emergent. Any other late resolutions will be considered by the SUMA caucuses after Convention.

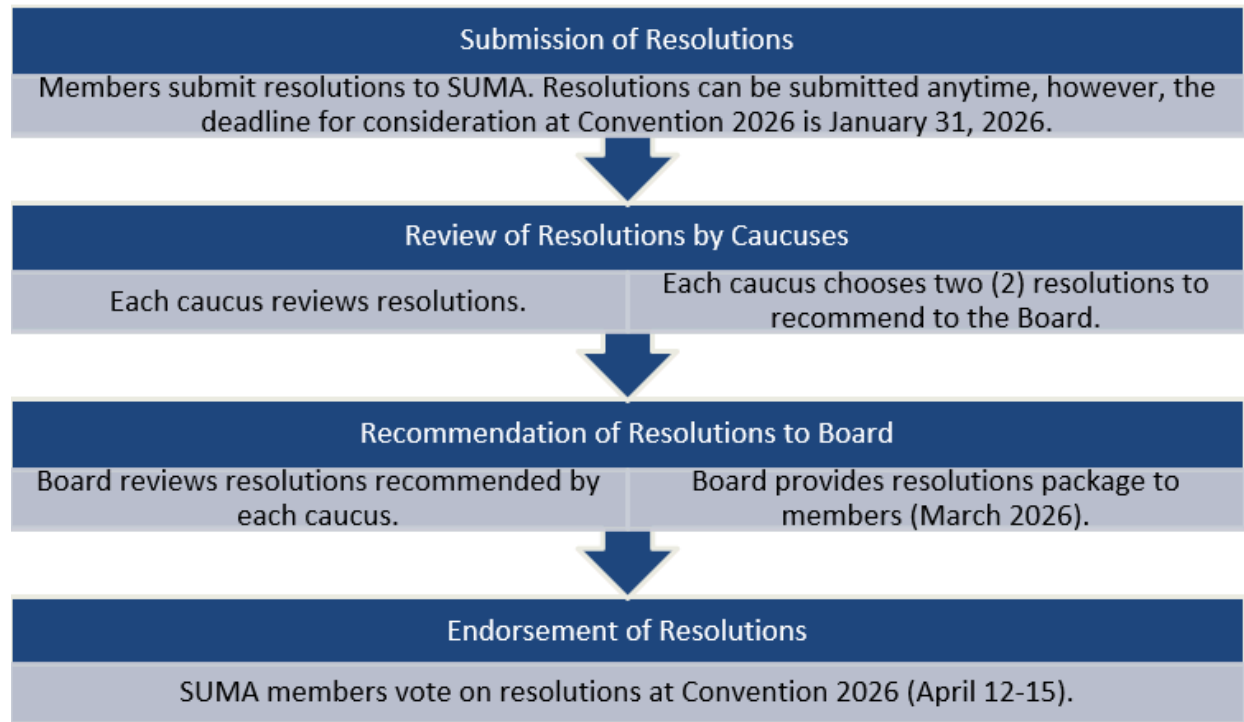
Members are encouraged to review the [Resolutions Policy](#) before crafting their resolution.

Read the Full Call For Resolutions and Learn How to Submit

SUMA's move to a caucus model of governance has resulted in related changes to our resolutions process. While in previous years, we have had a resolutions committee review and recommend

resolutions to our Board of Directors, this function will now be taken on by our sectoral caucuses. **Members should still forward their resolutions to the SUMA office in Regina, but it will be our caucuses that review and make recommendations to the Board as to which resolutions should proceed to the Convention floor.**

The number of proposed resolutions to be voted upon at Convention from each caucus has been limited to two. The caucuses may still choose to work independently on additional resolutions without full membership endorsement (i.e., resolutions that have not been brought forward and passed at Convention).



While this represents a substantial change for our membership, it is meant to emphasize the intent of our Convention resolutions session: to bring additional media and government attention to those resolutions that will best benefit from that attention. Not every resolution requires this level of attention; many are better dealt with internally in discussions between SUMA elected officials or SUMA staff and their counterparts in the provincial and federal government. Members will still retain the ability to bring their concerns forward through resolutions, in addition to many opportunities provided through engaging with your caucus representatives, contacting SUMA staff, or attending our numerous events, including Convention.

Once resolutions have been recommended to the Board by each caucus, the Board will review and provide a package to all members in March 2026.

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



The Virtual SUMA Summit

Don't miss out on your first opportunity of 2026 to connect with SUMA at the **Virtual SUMA Summit** on **January 20** from **9:00 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.**

SUMA's first member event of the year gathers municipal leaders online for a full day of learning, discussion, and collaboration, providing an excellent opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences, and hear updates from SUMA and our partners.

The **Virtual SUMA Summit is driven by members**, and we encourage you to bring forward topics for discussion with your sector during the Urban Spotlight and Open Forum sessions.

This meeting is open to representatives from all SUMA member municipalities. **The cost to attend is \$40 + GST and PST per person.**

Register Now!

The Virtual SUMA Summit is Sponsored by



SUMA | Visit the SUMA Member Portal

2025 SUMA Webinars



2025 SUMA Webinars

Did you miss a webinar in 2025? Did you attend one that you want to rewatch, or share with others? All SUMA webinars from 2025 are now available on the [SUMA Member Portal](#).

Webinars topics in 2025 included property revaluation, governance, toolkits, harassment, social media, investments, waste management and more.

Not sure how to access the SUMA member portal? Each municipality has one shared login. Visit <https://suma.org/member-login> and contact your administrator for your municipality's username and password.

Keep an eye on the Municipal Update and member emails for more information about webinars in 2026!

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by SUMAssure. Webinars are free to all SUMA members. There is a fee of \$45 + GST and PST for non-members to attend.

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by



MuniCast Season 9

Tune in to Season 9 of MuniCast to hear more about the changes to SUMA's governance structure from the Board of Directors themselves! All 10 episodes are now available on all major podcast platforms, including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), and [YouTube](#). Keep an eye on member emails or subscribe to MuniCast on your platform of choice to be notified when the latest episodes are released.

CONVENTION 2026



FOUNDATION of URBAN STRENGTH

2026 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow
April 12-15 • Regina, SK

Saskatchewan's urban municipalities thrive on strong foundations—delivering municipal services, guided by dedicated leadership, and enriched by vibrant communities. **SUMA is a cornerstone of urban strength**, empowering urban municipalities through advocacy, education, and programs and services that drive progress.

Join us at the 2026 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow to share solutions, shape policy, and amplify the voice of urban Saskatchewan.

Strong urban foundations build a stronger Saskatchewan.

Convention Registration Opens Next Week!

Join us at the **2026 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow** in Regina. Registration for Convention 2026 opens on **January 19, 2026**—one week from today!

What You Need to Know:

New Registration System

We're using a new registration system this year called PheedLoop. Things will look a little different on the registration page than previous Conventions, so please follow instructions throughout the process to ensure a smooth experience. We're available for support too!

As always, your municipality will be registered as a group, not as individuals. It is important to assign one person (such as your CAO, administrator, or clerk) to handle the registration process.

A **Registration FAQ email** will be sent out early next week outlining everything you need to know to register.

Invitation to Register

The main contact for each municipality will receive an email with the link to register. This email will also include a link to book your hotels (see "Hotel Booking" below for more information).

To ensure this email reaches your inbox, consider adding registration@suma.org to your trusted sender list. If your municipality does not receive your invitation to register, please check your junk mail.

Not there? Email:
registration@suma.org.

Hotel Booking

SUMA is once again using Resiada to book your hotels. With Resiada, you can view prices for each hotel, see where they are located, check their availability, and book your rooms, all through a single website. To ensure accurate availability, **all accommodations at participating Convention 2026 hotels must be booked through Resiada.**

Hotel booking opens the same day as registration, on January 19, 2026. **There will be a link to access hotel booking included in the registration email.**

Free Access to the Tradeshow

Did you know? **All municipal staff and council members can access the Tradeshow only at no cost.** To do so, you must **register as a Tradeshow Observer** in the Convention registration system when registration opens on January 19.

Resolutions Deadline is January 31

As the 2026 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow approaches, we encourage members to submit their resolutions. **The deadline to submit resolutions is January 31.**

Resolutions are a way to get municipal issues in front of provincial decision makers and the media, and help shape SUMA's advocacy.

For more details on the Resolutions process, please see the [Advocacy Updates](#) section above.

OTHER UPDATES

SUMA Membership Renewal Fees Due January 31

SUMA sent out Membership Renewal notices the first week of December. Members should check their email inboxes for the renewal invoice. Membership fees are due January 31, 2026.

Please contact us with any questions or if you did not receive your notice.

Important Changes for SUMA Payments

As of December 31, 2025, SUMA is no longer issues cheque payments. All payments will now be made via EFT, including refunds (including during Convention).

Banking information will be requested from our members if payments or refunds are needed.

Solid Waste Management Strategy Consultation

The Ministry of Environment is seeking input on the renewal of Saskatchewan's **Solid Waste Management Strategy**.

The Ministry invites you to review the discussion paper and submit your feedback by January 15, 2026. The discussion paper, survey, and contact information are available [here](#).

The Ministry will review all responses and prepare a "What We Heard" report, which will be shared with stakeholders and posted on the Government of Saskatchewan website once completed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to enhance the Saskatchewan Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Federal Funding Available to Support BDO Zone Ratings for Your Region

Canadian communities now have an opportunity to access federal funding to enhance their readiness for clean-energy investment. From January 5 to 30, 2026, the [CanExport Community Investments Program](#) will open a new intake that can help subsidize a **BDO Zone Rating** for your region.

A BDO Zone Rating is an independent, internationally recognized assessment that evaluates a region's biomass supply, logistics, and infrastructure to determine its suitability for new biofuel and biomanufacturing facilities. Often described as a **credit rating for biomass development potential**, it provides a trusted signal that helps communities stand out to developers and investors.

BDO Zone Ratings have already supported over \$10 billion in capital being raised for projects in rated regions. Notably, the [\\$845 million Provectus Biofuels plant announced in Vegreville, Alberta](#) in 2025, highlights how an investment grade rating can help attract major investment.

Communities interested in exploring eligibility or learning how a BDO Zone Rating could support local economic development are encouraged to contact **Ryan Magwood** at ryan@ecostrat.com for guidance.

Nominations for the 2025 SK Waste Reduction Awards Are Open

The **SK Waste Reduction Awards** recognize excellence in waste reduction in Saskatchewan. They are intended to promote leadership and inspire all sectors to undertake waste reduction projects. The Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) hopes not only to provide well-deserved recognition to the winners, but also to highlight success stories for others to follow.

There are two categories for municipalities:

- Municipality (<5,000) — Saskatchewan municipalities with a population under 5,000 who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in waste reduction
- Municipality (>5,000) — Saskatchewan municipalities with a population over 5,000 who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in waste reduction

The deadline for applications is midnight on Saturday, January 31.

Read more about the award categories and judging criteria and access the nomination form [here](#).

Rural Development Action Plan Consultation

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is developing a **Rural Development Action Plan**. Your participation in this consultation will support the Government of Canada's efforts to reflect the needs and priorities of rural communities across Canada.

Your feedback will help:

- Inform federal policies and programs that support the needs and opportunities of people living in rural Canada—now and in the future
- Shape new tools that help government include rural perspectives in decision-making
- Build a stronger, more resilient future for rural Canada

Your responses to the following questions will help shape the Rural Development Action Plan:

1. How can federal initiatives be improved to better address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by your rural community?
2. What federal, provincial, territorial, or regional programs have worked well in promoting rural development within your region?
3. What policy changes or new initiatives would make the biggest difference for the long-term sustainability of your region, and how should we measure their success?

Learn more and complete the **Rural Development Action Plan online questionnaire** [here](#) by **February 6**.

Please note that the federal definition of "rural" is different than that of the provincial and includes smaller urban municipalities.

If you need further information or have questions, email rural@ised-isde.gc.ca.

Public Consultations on Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

The Honourable Maninder Sidhu, Federal Minister of International Trade, recently announced the launch of **public consultations on four free trade agreement negotiations**. Each of these agreements has the potential to create business opportunities and improve market access for Canadian goods and services in several fast-growing economies around the world.

As part of Canada's work to double Canadian exports to non-U.S. markets in the next decade, these agreements will help build stronger and more reliable trade relationships around the world.

Public consultations will help shape Canada's negotiating positions, ensuring benefits are maximized for Canadians by reflecting their specific interests and priorities.

Canadians are invited to share their views in the following consultations:

- [Canada-India comprehensive economic partnership agreement](#)
- [Canada-United Arab Emirates comprehensive economic partnership agreement](#)
- [Canada-Thailand free trade agreement](#)
- [Canada-Mercosur free trade agreement](#)

Comments can be submitted until **January 27, 2026**.

Business Diploma Speciality: Municipal Administration



Do you or someone you know have an interest in working in municipal administration?

Saskatchewan Polytechnic's municipal administration specialty prepares students for leadership roles in municipal corporations by equipping them with the skills needed to effectively advise council, implement policy, and direct staff. Developed in partnership with key industry

organizations, this program provides applied learning at the diploma level to prepare graduates for senior government management positions.

This program is delivered **online in a self-study format or first-year can be taken in-person at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, or Saskatoon campuses** (virtual options also available). If you have any questions regarding the part-time delivery of this program or tuition costs, please contact the student advisor for School of Business and Entrepreneurship Continuing Education students, Twyla Verhelst, at twyla.verhelst@saskpolytech.ca or by phone at 306-691-8256.

The curriculum for this specialty has been developed in partnership with the following organizations: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), Saskatchewan Association for Rural Municipalities (SARM), Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations.

Learn more [here](#).

SUMA's Pet Tag and Animal Control Products Program Has Ended

Since 2008, SUMA has provided members with **pet tag and animal control products** from Ketchum Manufacturing Inc. When this program was established, there were limited options for our members to find these types of supplies. SUMA stepped in to provide this program, offering a much-needed service to ensure pets are safely managed in your communities.

In today's online world, there are now many options to order pet tag and animal control products at competitive prices, so SUMA's role in managing this program is no longer needed moving forward.

We discontinued the Ketchum pet tag and animal control products program as of December 31, 2025.



Why the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Funding Grant Matters

Municipalities often face resource constraints, administrative hurdles, and governance complexities for starting new or costly initiatives beyond normal operations of the municipality. **Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Grant Funding** directly addresses these issues by reviewing applications to fund **75% of these costs** with the intent to:

- **Encourage Inter-Community Collaboration:** Projects must involve at least one partner municipality or community, fostering regional unity and shared solutions.
- **Enhance Governance and Capacity:** Funding supports training, restructuring, and strategic planning that elevates municipal leadership and administration.
- **Drive Innovation in Service Delivery:** From emergency management plans to regional land use strategies, TSS-funded projects improve efficiency and responsiveness.

Each project can receive up to **75% of eligible costs, capped at \$100,000 maximum funding**, making it a high-impact, low-barrier opportunity for municipalities to innovate and grow.

TSS is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5 million per fiscal year) used to encourage inter-community collaboration, help build capacity and promote good governance in all Saskatchewan municipalities. The funds are used to support projects that help municipalities strengthen their core governance and administration responsibilities

The TSS Steering Committee is now accepting applications for funding under this program. **Applications are accepted at any time of the year and will be reviewed on a monthly basis.**

Please view the [intake guide](#) for details on the TSS initiative, project eligibility, and the application process. The online application portal can be accessed [here](#).

Learn About How TSS Can Support Your Community

Partnership with People First HR Provides Assistance to SUMA Members

Does the thought of HR make your head hurt? We get it.

HR issues can be complex and difficult to navigate. That's why SUMA has partnered with **People First HR** to provide group benefit members with HR On Call support and access to 100s of HR templates.

Approved callers can get HR On Call support for topics such as:

- Creating a respectful workplace
- Employee relations
- Managing leaves
- Performance management guidance including employee discipline
- Termination
- Disability management consultation (accommodations, return to work, doctor notes)
- Legislation and best practice
- Requirements for policy development and workplace procedures



Free up time with access to hundreds of HR templates

From recruitment to performance management, policies to respectful workplace (and so much more), with HR On Call you have access to hundreds of FREE HR templates to make supporting your team easier.

To learn more and access templates you need, email People First at hroncall@peoplefirsthr.com



Kinetic GPO

Kinetic GPO is pleased to announce a new competitively solicited and publicly awarded contract RFSO #25-09 for modular buildings and trailers awarded to [Modulable](#) and [Modular Energy Solution](#). Whether you need modular buildings, portable and permanent trailers, mobile medical units or other related products and services, our awarded supplier partners have you covered.

Utilizing cooperative contracts simplifies the procurement process, saves time and money, ensures compliance, and makes purchasing seamless.

All of the contracts available through [Kinetic GPO](#) offer a variety of innovative, sustainable, and quality solutions for Canadian educators and public sector organizations.

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Vice President of Member Experience and Business Development, **Dana MacDonald** at dana@kineticgpo.ca.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- [New North Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities](#): Chief Executive Officer (January 17)
- [Town of Hepburn](#): Chief Administrative Officer (January 23)
- [Town of Wynyard](#): Director of Leisure Services (January 23)
- [Town of Canora](#): Chief Administrative Officer (January 30)
- [Village of Goodsoil](#): Fire Hose for Sale (February 6)
- [Town of Oyen, AB](#): Chief Administrative Officer (February 9)
- [Town of Radisson](#): Administrator (March 10)



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Office of the Provincial Interlocutor: *First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Seed Funding* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* (Year-round)

For a full listing of grants, check the [Grants](#) section of our website under the Resources tab.

- [Town of Battleford](#): *Town Hall Administration Executive Assistant* (March 14)
- [Village of Halbrite](#): *Administrator* (until filled)
- [Town of Maidstone](#): *Administrator* (until filled)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.

Find the latest listings by visiting the [classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.

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