

MUNICIPAL Update

January 29, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7

MuniCast: A Conversation with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

April 14-17

2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow

See all [upcoming events](#).

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SUMA Sector Meetings

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While this year's Sector Meetings have come to an end, you can still **access materials and resources** from the meeting **on the SUMA member portal**.

When accessing the member portal **you will find recordings of webinars, member meetings, workshops, information about SUMA's governance review, how to access partnerships like HR on call and the Municipal Helpline, and more.**

Each municipality has one shared login for the portal, so check with your administrator to find out your municipality's username and password. I encourage you to explore the resources available to you. All recordings and resources from the SUMA Sector Meetings are on the member portal.

**2024 SUMA Sector Meetings
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ADVOCACY UPDATE

Advocacy Beyond Borders

Last week, **SUMA met with the MLA for Athabasca, Jim Lemaigre to discuss various topics** including the relationships between First Nations and municipalities, mental health and addictions, and the need for a rewrite of *The Police Act*. SUMA will continue further discussion and collaboration around these topics.



As well, last week, **a delegation from SUMA was in Benin, Africa working with our sister organization, Association Nationale des Communes du Benin**. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities organized this trip to share info on advocacy, communications tactics, and gender parity in politics. ANBC will visit SUMA in April to continue our discussions.

CONVENTION 2024



reFRESH • reNEW • reFOCUS

2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow April 14 -17 • Regina, SK

Convention Registration Now Open!

The registration and hotel booking systems for Convention 2024 are now open!

The main contact for each municipality should have received an email with the link and password to register. If your municipality did not receive your invitation to register, please check your junk mail. Not there? Email registration@suma.org.



Delegates are responsible for arranging their own hotel accommodations. To book your room(s) for Convention 2024, simply click [HERE](#) to access our hotel booking system.

Convention 2024 promises to be a busy four days, from excursions and education sessions, to the Bear Pit. See the [agenda](#) for a list of times and sessions. For more detailed information, check out the [2024 Convention Brochure](#). Click the image below for a message from the Convention MC.



Free Tradeshow Access for Municipal Employees

Municipal employees have **free access** to the **2023 Municipal Marketplace** presented by Kinetic GPO at the annual SUMA Convention.

Municipalities can register their observers for the tradeshow at the same time they register their other convention delegates. The tradeshow is taking place

April 15 and 16. The Early Access Reception is being

held on April 14 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Tour booths in advance of the tradeshow's official opening and enjoy light appetizers.

Announcing the Recipients of the 2024 Small Community Support

To help smaller communities attend convention, SUMA introduced the **Small Community Support Initiative**. Through the initiative, communities with populations of less than 150 people have the chance to win complimentary registration to our annual convention.

Applications for the 2024 Small Community Support Initiative closed January 9 and a draw of eligible applicants was held January 10.

We are pleased to announce the three communities that are recipients of two complimentary 2023 Convention registrations:

- Village of Broderick;
- Village of Calder; and
- Resort Village of Wee Too Beach.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention!

Convention sponsors now have the opportunity to sponsor complimentary registrations for small communities and additional municipalities may be selected at a later date.



Resolution Deadline is January 31

As the 2024 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. Before getting started, review the [Resolutions Policy](#), and see [past resolutions](#).

For more details and a template you can use as a guide, look at the [Call for Resolutions 2024](#) or login to the [member portal](#) for the same information.



Hamilton Council passes a bylaw to end renovictions, helping to fight the housing affordability crisis

On January 17, the City of Hamilton took action to end renovictions, a practice where tenants are evicted from their homes due to renovations. The city's General Issues Committee (comprised of the mayor and all councillors) voted

unanimously to adopt Ontario's first anti-renoviction bylaw.

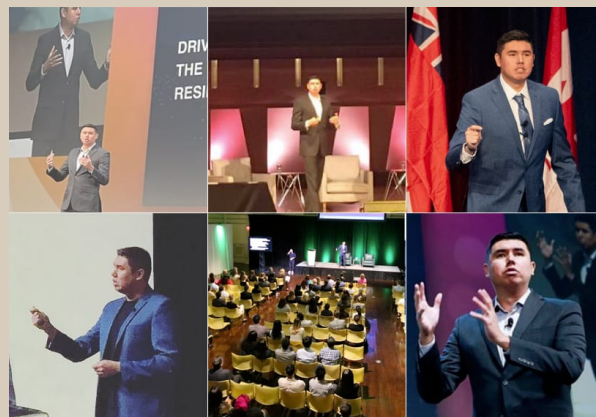
Renovictions are one of the leading causes of unaffordable housing. In some cases, renovation work is so extensive that it requires a landlord to have vacant possession of the unit. However, in many other instances, evictions are done in "bad faith," and modest improvements are used as a pretext to remove sitting tenants and dramatically raise the rent for new ones.

You can read more about Hamilton's new renovictions bylaw [here](#).

Building a Positive Growth Mindset with Indigenous Wisdom from Kendal Netmaker

Recently, **Kendal Netmaker**, an award-winning entrepreneur, author, and gifted keynote speaker, **presented at an Alberta Municipalities' Strength in Members event**. He shared knowledge on how to **bridge cultural divides, learn from Indigenous elders, and keep humility in action and growth**, especially when municipalities, Indigenous groups, and First Nations reserves work together.

Watch the clip of Kendal's talk [here](#) on his blog, and listen to his 4 tips on becoming an Indigenous ally [here](#).



Deadline Fast Approaching: Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant – Declaration of Eligibility

The deadline for submission of the online Declaration of Eligibility is **January 31, 2024**.

To avoid your municipality's Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) grant for the 2024-25 year from being withheld, ensure your municipality submits its online Declaration of Eligibility and that your municipality meets all eligibility requirements. Please refer to the [Declaration of Eligibility Guide, Infographic or the Declaration of Eligibility Webinar](#) for additional information on the declaration process and the eligibility requirements.

The unique link and password for the online MRS grant Declaration of Eligibility were emailed to each municipality by the government on November 15, 2023. If you did not receive this, please email grcompliance@gov.sk.ca requesting the email be resent.

What is a Municipal District?

A municipal district (MD) is a municipality, like a city, resort village, rural municipality, or town.

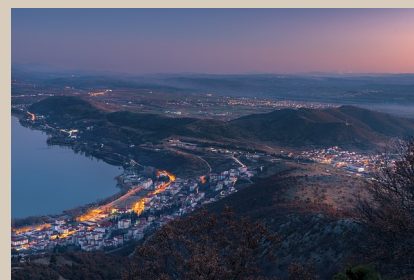
People aren't familiar with municipal districts because **none currently exist in Saskatchewan**, though our legislation has had provisions for their creation since 2014.

Although this is a new concept in Saskatchewan, several other jurisdictions across Canada have had regional municipal bodies for some time. MDs are not rural, and they are not urban. **They are a fusion of separate rural and urban municipalities into one larger regional community.**

Why would municipalities merge to create one MD? Some reasons include:

- Opportunity for modernization;
- Increased capacity;
- Staff recruitment/retention/specialization;
- Economies of scale;
- Reduced duplication; and
- Regional sharing of future economic growth.

You can read more about municipal districts, their history, and how to form them [here](#).





Change to Procurement Thresholds

Saskatchewan is part of many trade agreements, including the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). **Each agreement contains procurement provisions to which municipalities are subject in the MASH category.** The “MASH” acronym is short for municipalities and

publicly funded academic institutions, school boards, and health organizations, as well as any corporation or entity owned or controlled by one or more of these entities.

Unlike the fixed thresholds of the NWPTA, the CFTA and CETA **procurement thresholds are adjusted for inflation every two years.** The **updated thresholds for 2024-2025**, which came into effect on January 1, 2024, are available for download from the Government of Saskatchewan’s **Publications Centre**.

If you have any questions, please contact either Lyndi Blakley at 306-787-8910 or Lyndi.Blakley@gov.sk.ca, or Jesse Tremblay at 306-787-5638 or Jesse.Tremblay2@gov.sk.ca with Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Trade and Export Development.

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You can access more information in the attached document [here](#), or by emailing kerriann@kineticgpo.ca.



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Battleford: Finance and Utility Clerk (Feb 6)
- Town of Battleford: Community Planner (Feb 7)
- Town of Battleford: Director of Corporate Services (Feb 7)
- SUMAssure Insurance Reciprocal: Administrative Assistant (Feb 7)
- Government of Saskatchewan: Northern Municipal Finance Advisor (Feb 8)
- Town of Duck Lake: Municipal Administrator (Feb 10)
- City of Weyburn: City Clerk (Feb 12)
- City of Weyburn: Planning and Development Coordinator (Feb 12)
- City of Weyburn: Communications Coordinator (Feb 12)
- City of Weyburn: Deputy Fire Chief (Feb 12)
- City of Weyburn: Facility Maintenance Coordinator (Feb 12)
- Town of St. Walburg: Administrative Officer (Feb 13)
- Town of Grenfell: Grader Up for Tender (Feb 14)
- Northern Village of Air Ronge: CAO (Feb 16)
- Village of Pelly: Applications for a Foreman (Feb 23)



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant - Declaration of Eligibility (Jan 31)

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

- Town of Whitecourt: Director of Infrastructure (Feb 23)

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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