



# A MESSAGE FROM THE President

## Notes from the September Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on September 27 in Regina to discuss matters important to SUMA and Saskatchewan's urban municipalities. During the meeting, we touched on important topics such as SUMA's election advocacy platform and the 2024 election hub, Convention 2025, and governance changes, which will be fully implemented after Convention.

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### Convention 2025

During the meeting, **the Board approved key details for the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow including the budget and a preliminary agenda**. SUMA is excited to focus on our content at Convention and provide our members with the best education possible while attending the event.

### Convention 2025 is scheduled for April 13-16, 2025 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

During the Board of Directors meeting, we received a preliminary agenda. The Convention Planning Committee met in advance of the Board meeting on September 16 and discussed the agenda, including the return of the main plenary education session and the election of the SUMA President.

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### SUMA 2024 Election Hub

Visit the [2024 election hub](#) to learn more about **SUMA's advocacy campaign for the provincial election**. On the hub, you'll find great resources to help you make the most informed decision possible when heading to the polls.

Here's a summary of SUMA's advocacy campaign:

### Municipal Revenues

Municipalities are the governments closest to and most accessed by the public. Urban municipalities own 60% of public infrastructure, such as roads, water, wastewater treatment, recreation, green spaces and fire halls, to name a few. To maintain these systems, municipalities must run balanced operating budgets. **Despite ever-increasing responsibilities, streams of funding available to municipalities have not increased;** they have only property taxes and grants from other orders of government for streams of income.

SUMA has been asking for access to more revenue streams and substantial changes to our assessment and revenue systems to better meet needs. Municipalities want to see **simplified property assessments for property taxes, more funding for next generation infrastructure**, such as landfills, hospitals, and green infrastructure, and **support for municipal growth with opportunities to help retain newcomers**.

## **Municipal Responsibilities**

Municipalities work under regulations over which they have little control. For example, many of our communities are governed by the Police Act, which doesn't fit the needs of our modern world. We want to see **holistic changes to the act that will allow police to focus on enforcement, while including other professionals in cases where necessary to provide wrap-around care.**

Future governments can also help municipalities with **bylaw enforcement and prosecution through supports for education and by increasing the scope of fines that municipalities can add to tax rolls.**

We also want to see **support for new technology and education concerning landfill closures, and support for the Municipal Eco-Action Centre**, which will help municipalities across the province navigate climate change and resilience plans through grassroots support and knowledge. Municipalities need programs and investments which will attract newcomers and help them settle and continue to live, work, and play in our communities.

## **Provincial Downloading**

Municipalities do not have the fiscal capacity to handle social services, housing, and shelters, nor should they be responsible for providing these basic needs. However, time and again, despite the lack of funds, municipalities keep having to step in to relieve the stress their communities feel directly. The province must step up and provide better help to residents, or it will continue to cost municipalities more money. We have expressed our concerns over **mental health and addictions, and housing issues** regularly. In particular, **SIS and SAID need drastic improvements to be helpful to the people who require these services.**

Future governments must also take a firm stance on **climate change**, and provide **environmental leadership**. Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces in Canada without a wetland policy, and one is necessary to ensure sustainable water management practices.

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## **Candidate School Recordings**

**Recordings of SUMA's Candidate School are now available** at <https://suma.org/events/candidate-school>. Candidate school is an opportunity for potential municipal election candidates to learn about being an elected official. We encourage you to share this resource with municipal election candidates in your community.

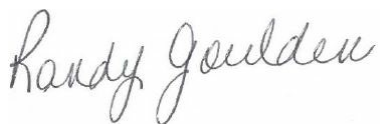
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## **SUMA's Governance Review**

At the meeting the **Board approved SUMA's governance election process**, and decided that they will elect board chairs after the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow.

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I look forward to seeing everyone at our next board meeting.



Randy Goulden  
SUMA President

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