



A MESSAGE FROM THE President

Notes from the December Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on December 8 in Regina to discuss matters impacting SUMA and Saskatchewan's hometowns. During the meeting, we touched on many important topics, such as modernizing SUMA's governance, continued advocacy efforts surrounding mental health and addictions, Convention 2024, and upcoming sector meetings.



SUMA Sector Meetings

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On **Tuesday, January 16** from **9:00 a.m.** to **3:45 p.m.**, join us online to discuss sector-specific issues with your peers and discover new ideas during the **2024 Virtual SUMA Sector Meeting**.

We will spend the morning together to hear a brief update on SUMA's governance review and advocacy work, updates from SUMA partners, and a keynote presentation from Laura Lawrence, a Saskatchewan author and educator. For the afternoon, we will break out into our sectors – cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities – to share your successes during Hometown Proud, take in an education session specifically designed for your sector, and discuss sector-relevant issues in an open forum. Discussions at sector meetings are driven by members. We encourage you to bring topics for discussion during the open forum.

The Sector Meeting is open to representatives from all SUMA member municipalities. The cost to attend is **\$40 per person**.

[Register here](#)



Convention 2024 Update

During the meeting, **the Board approved key details** for the 2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow in Regina, **including details for our social events and education sessions**.

The Welcome Reception will be taking place in downtown Regina at the historic Hotel Saskatchewan. It will feature a cash bar and light appetizers. The administration is working hard to determine the smaller details including entertainment and networking activities.

We approved a big change to the banquet that takes place on Tuesday night. It will now be known as the President's Gala, which better reflects what the event is. A chance to dress up and join us for an evening of food and entertainment as we honor our award winners and fundraise for the Laurent Mougeot Memorial Scholarship. Following the awards ceremony and fundraising, we will enjoy a hilarious and inspiring show by hypnotist Wayne Lee. Tickets to both the President's Gala and Welcome Reception are included in your convention registration so don't miss out.

With a focus on showcasing our host city and area, we also approved the two optional excursions that will be available on Sunday, April 14. **Delegates will have an opportunity to explore the Saskatchewan Legislative Building and Government House or the Lumsden Solar Facility.** The cost to participate in your chosen excursion will be \$50 per person. Space for the excursions will be limited, so be sure to register early when Convention registration opens on January 15. Both excursions will run concurrently with education sessions at REAL District if you choose not to go offsite.

The topics for education sessions have also been set. With a fresh new focus in mind, delegates will have the opportunity to learn about topics including:

- Municipal roles and responsibilities
- Succession planning
- Municipal customer service
- Municipal relationships with First Nations communities
- Regional collaboration
- Property assessment
- Emergency response preparedness
- Cyber security
- Mental health and addictions

We hope to see you there! **Registration opens on January 15.**

Four Seasons of Reconciliation

During the board meeting, the Director for the Northern Region, Councillor Gerald Roy,

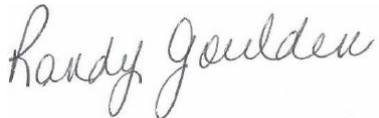
talked about the **Four Seasons of Reconciliation**, a program that highlights the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's educational calls to action. It's a great program that many SUMA staff and members alike have taken. For those municipalities that haven't yet participated in the program, it's an important learning initiative that should be considered. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

Governance Review

As you know, 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.

During the board meeting our discussion focused on what we have heard from our members. SUMA is currently working on developing a package of potential bylaw amendments and pieces that explain the potential changes to our members. We plan to get these items out as early in the new year as possible so that councils have time to discuss the proposed changes.

This process is part of our member engagement strategy as well, which was one of the key items on the 2021-2025 Strategic plan. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible and to consider member feedback. **As we go forward members will hear more about the governance review before we begin any implementation.**



Randy Goulden
SUMA President