

MUNICIPAL Update

February 22, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, 2022

Webinar - Municipal Innovation: Accessing Expertise and Funding

March 9, 2022

MuniCast - Lessons of Leadership with Former SUMA President Rodger Hayward

April 2, 2022

MLDP - Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

April 2, 2022

MLDP - Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace

April 2, 2022

MLDP - Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities

April 2, 2022

MLDP - Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

April 3-6, 2022

2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow

April 4, 2022

Southeast College - Fall Prevention

Changes to COVID-19 Mandates: Advice for Municipalities

The Government of Saskatchewan has dropped its proof of vaccination or negative test for workplaces and other public venues. It also announced that mandatory masking for indoor public spaces will end at the end of the day on February 28. Many municipalities have questions about what these changes to the government laws, programs, and recommendations mean to municipal policies, procedures, or practices.

While SUMA encourages each municipality to review its particular issues, context, and circumstances and to get informed professional advice, we can relay that SUMA has been advised that generally:

1. Following the province's lead on all of these issues is unlikely to lead to any liability and is a reasonable and appropriate course of action;
2. Municipalities do not employ or have access to medical, health, or science experts or the current data and evidence on which to base informed decisions on these complex and ever changing health issues and it is not only permissible and in good faith, but entirely appropriate for municipalities to rely on the information, laws, and recommendations from the provincial government; and
3. Municipalities that wish to consider varying from the information, laws, and recommendations from the provincial government should proceed with caution and only after receiving confidential legal advice

specific to their needs and circumstances.

April 4, 2022

Southeast College - Ground Disturbance for Supervisors and Workers

See all [upcoming events](#).



Webinar

SUMA

03.01.22

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Municipal Innovation: Accessing Expertise and Funding



Talent, Funding, and Expertise - Learn How Mitacs Can Connect You

Many municipalities are overextended and the tools needed to implement innovative solutions require time and resources. Mitacs connects municipalities with the talent, funding, and expertise they need to address urgent and important issues. Through Mitacs' innovation support programs, municipalities of all sizes are matched with post-secondary researchers with specialized skills to help them drive innovation and build sustainable futures.

Learn more in SUMA's webinar *Municipal Innovation: Accessing Expertise and Funding*. Register to join us **March 1** at **10:00 a.m.**

[Register for the webinar](#)



\$6.6 Million Announced for High Speed Internet

The Government of Canada has announced nearly **\$6.6 million in funding** for **10 projects** that will bring high-speed Internet to more than **2,500 households** in Saskatchewan.

Funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$2.4 million for FlexNetworks for a project benefiting the communities of Neuhorst, Bradwell, Shields, Thode, and Neuanlage as well as rural areas near the village of Clavet
- \$1.29 million for Prairie Crocus Rural Internet for a project benefiting the communities of Water Park Estates, Eagle Ridge Country Estates, Aberdeen, and Shields
- \$528,909 for Access Communications Cooperative Limited for a project benefiting the communities of Macklin and Shaunavon
- \$458,271 for Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
- \$1.9 million for Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation

[Read more](#)



Canada Community-Building Fund Reports Due March 31

The Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement requires municipalities with active projects under the Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly the federal Gas Tax Fund Program) to submit a Municipal Annual Expenditure Report each calendar year.

Municipalities required to complete a report for 2021 were emailed a request by the Ministry of Government Relations in January 2022.

Reports are due to the Ministry by **March 31**.



Reporting on Building Official Appointments

On January 1, *The Construction Codes Act* came into effect. The act requires local authorities to advise the Chief Codes Administrator of the status of their building official appointments on an annual basis.

Within 60 days after the **end of the local authority's fiscal year**, local authorities must provide the Chief Codes Administrator with the **name and licence number of every building official** who was appointed, whose licence was cancelled, or whose licence was suspended by the local authority in the previous fiscal year. Local authorities will be required to **report this on an annual basis**.

This report may be provided to the Chief Codes Administrator at btstandards@gov.sk.ca or at the following address:

Building and Technical Standards
Ministry of Government Relations
1430 – 1855 Victoria Avenue
Regina SK S4P 3T2



2022 Brownfield Conference

The Canadian Brownfield Network is hosting the **2022 Canadian Brownfield Conference** about **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Brownfield Land Development: Making the**



2021 Census: Canada's fastest Growing and Decreasing Municipalities

The population size and growth rate of municipalities are key indicators to help municipal policy makers and administrators

Connection. The annual conference will be a two half-day virtual conference that will take place during the afternoons of **April 5 and 6**. They will be delivering cutting edge content that explores the relationship between ESG and brownfield land development. The conference will feature a number of sessions including case studies, panel discussions, and the HUB Awards.

[Learn more.](#)

plan the direct services and infrastructure their population needs, such as emergency services, schools, hospitals, roads, social services and parks. One of the strengths of the Census of Population is that it provides reliable data on these topics at the community level.

[See the list of municipalities](#) in Canada that grew the fastest between the 2016 and 2021 censuses, as well as the municipalities whose population decreased the most.




CONVENTION AND TRADESHOW

connect

APRIL 3-6, 2022 REGINA



CONVENTION 2022



COVID-19 and Convention FAQ

The following FAQs provide information on what to expect when you visit the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow. If you have questions or need answers please contact the SUMA office at 306-320-5277 or email info@suma.ca. We will continue to update this document as we receive questions.

Am I required to show proof of vaccination to attend Convention?
No, delegates will no longer be required to show proof of vaccination to attend the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow.

Why is proof of vaccination no longer required?
The SUMA Board of Directors is following the direction of the province with the removal of proof of vaccination.

Do I need to wear a mask at Convention?
No, the SUMA Board of Directors is following the direction of the province and will no longer be required to wear a mask at Convention and Tradeshow. However, Convention is a mask friendly event and we encourage mask use while respecting individual choices regarding masks based on one's own risk assessment.

Will there be social distancing at Convention in Regina?
Delegates are encouraged to social distance whenever possible and to follow the direction of the health care workers on site.

What seating and sanitation measures are in place at the Convention Center and the International Trade Centre?
The event seating and sanitation protocols will be in place at Convention Center and the International Trade Centre. The highest level of cleaning and disinfecting is being used.

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 gateway through the in-person event or test event?
Delegates who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to leave the event immediately for their own safety and the safety of others.

What if I am no longer comfortable attending Convention in person?
We understand that the removal of proof of vaccination and masking requirements at Convention may concern delegates who have already registered to attend. However, SUMA is working to provide alternative options, including virtual debate and voting for elected officials.

Registration opportunities for the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow can also be made at any time for the virtual event of 2022 on-line registration. Substitution of delegates can be made at any time without penalty.

What if I need to cancel my registration?
Registration opportunities for the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow can be made at any time. A 20% cancellation fee will be charged for cancellations received after the registration deadline. However, substitution of delegates can be made at any time without penalty. Delegates who are unable to attend are encouraged to register for the virtual event. Additional event tickets purchased are non-refundable.

Changes to COVID-19 Precautions at Convention

With the removal of proof of vaccination and masking requirements by the Government of Saskatchewan, the SUMA Board of Directors is following the direction of the province and delegates to the 2022 SUMA Convention and tradeshow will no longer be required to show proof of vaccination or wear masks while attending. However, Convention is a mask friendly event, and we encourage mask use while respecting individual choices regarding masks based on one's own risk assessment.

To help answer questions you may have about the changes to COVID-19 precautions at Convention, see the updated [COVID-19 and Convention FAQ](#).

We understand that the removal of the proof of vaccination and masking requirements at Convention may concern delegates who have already registered to attend. For those who are uncomfortable attending in-person, SUMA is working to provide alternative options, including virtual debate and voting for elected officials.

Introducing Virtual Debate and Voting Options for Elected Officials

SUMA is introducing virtual debate and voting options for **Resolutions, Election of SUMA President**, and the **SUMA AGM**.

Mayors and councillors who are unable to attend Convention in-person can register to participate online in these sessions. Both voting and non-voting delegates will be able to watch the presidential speeches and vote for SUMA's next president. For Resolutions and the SUMA AGM, online voting and non-voting delegates can participate in debate, and voting delegates will be able to vote. A unique link to vote will be sent to all elected officials registered to attend Convention in-person or participate online. All voting at Convention 2022 will be done electronically.

A livestream of these three sessions will be available to all SUMA members, including municipal administration. SUMA will also be livestreaming other select sessions at Convention 2022. More information will be available in March.

[Learn more about registering for the online option.](#)

Education Sessions at Convention

Education, breakout, and dialogue sessions. There are so many educational opportunities at Convention 2022, you won't know what to choose.

Dialogue with SUMA

These four repeating sessions are both an advocacy opportunity as well as an educational opportunity, providing delegates with the chance to share ideas with one another and talk about initiatives they would like to see SUMA champion. SUMA's Environment Committee, Community and Economic Development Committee, Public Safety and Health Committee, and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee will each be hosting sessions.

Education Sessions

- *Assessments and Appeals: The Link Between SAMA and Your Community*
- *A Bridge to Reconciliation: Understanding the Challenges of Indigenous Communities*
- *Creating Safe Communities Through Collaboration*
- *Plug in to Project Governance*

Breakout Sessions

- *Building Smart Towns and Villages*
- *When Emergencies Happen: Securing Your Town or Village Buildings*
- *Networking to Address Mental Health and Addictions in Cities*
- *Northern Regional Meeting*

Full descriptions for the education and breakout sessions can be found in the [Convention brochure](#).

Other Opportunities

Fall arrest, ground disturbance for supervisors and workers, municipal leadership and development opportunities. Continue your learning with other sessions at SUMA's 2022 Convention and Tradeshow brought to you Southeast College and the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP). Learn more about the opportunities.

[Southeast College](#)

[MLDP](#)

Last Chance to Save on Convention Registration

The early-bird deadline for the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow is fast approaching. Register on or before **February 28** to save. Plus, by registering early, you'll be entered to win a free Convention registration.

All registration details were sent to the main email contact for each SUMA member municipality and affiliate organization. If you haven't received an email about registering for Convention 2022, please check your junk, spam, or blocked email for the registration invitation. To make sure you receive future communications regarding convention, be sure to add registration@sumaconvention.com to your safe sender list.

If you are unable to locate the registration invitation, please contact the SUMA office by phone at **306-525-3727**, or by email at registration@suma.org.

For more information on Convention 2022, visit the [SUMA website](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE

Business Verifier App Discontinued

With proof of vaccination or negative tests no longer required in Saskatchewan businesses, workplaces, and other venues, the SK Vax Verifier app is being discontinued.

The app was used by businesses to scan QR codes for proof of vaccination. Current users of the app will be asked to delete the app from their device, and new users will not be able to download the app.

COVID-19 vaccination records are still included in the MySaskHealthRecord and can be printed or saved. The QR code is also still available and will continue to be available for the foreseeable future.

New COVID-19 Vaccine Approved in Canada

Health Canada has approved Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine for use in Canadians age 18 and older.

The approval of the vaccine, known as Nuvaxovid, comes approximately 18 months after the Government of Canada announced a deal to produce batches of it in Montreal. Health Canada is recommending the interval for the two-dose vaccine to be at least 21 days based on evidence from clinical trials.

The first Nuvaxovid delivery is expected in March.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Nipawin: *Chief Administrative Officer* (February 23)
- City of Melfort: *Director of Community Services* (March 3)
- Town of Arcola: *Chief Administrative Officer* (March 7)
- Town of Stoughton: *Recreation Manager* (March 16)



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- SGI *Community Grant Program* (February 28)
- Community Initiatives Fund *Community Grant Program* (April 1)
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program *Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream* (May 10)
- Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program *Green Stream – Landfill*

- District of Katepwa: *Public Works Supervisor* (April 7)
- Village of MacNutt: *Administrator* (When filled)
- Town of Wilkie: *Public Works Manager* (When filled)
- RM of Sherwood No. 159: *Manager of Finance* (When filled)
- Town of Grand Coulee: *Chief Administrative Officer* (When filled)
- RM of Dundurn No 314: *Chief Administrative Officer* (When filled)
- Town of Marshall: *Office Assistant* (When 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.

Decommissioning (Applications accepted until funding fully allocated)

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

MUNICIPAL UPDATE ADVERTISEMENT

Training for Heavy Equipment Operator at Southeast College in Estevan

Grader, front end loader, and excavator operators are in demand in Saskatchewan. The Heavy Equipment Operator program at Southeast College in Estevan offers competitive advantages over other similar programs by providing increased seat time in both simulation and hands-on training equipment.

The Heavy Equipment Operator training program at Southeast College is a full-time program. It includes a combined 12 weeks of classroom theory, hands on simulation and onsite project field experience. Students have the opportunity to use state of the art simulators for grader, front end loader, dozer, excavator, backhoe and rock truck. The student will receive approximately 240 hours total of field time on all equipment. New this year the students will have the opportunity to operate all six pieces of equipment in the field.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive an industry accredited certificate in Heavy Equipment Operation. See the [info-sheet](#) or search Heavy Equipment Operator at southeastcollege.org.

SUMA | suma.org

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