

MUNICIPAL Update

June 16, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24 and 25

SUMA Regional Roadshow

July 11

35th Annual SUMA Golf
Tournament Hosted by the Town
of Outlook

August 21-22

SUMA Mayors' Summer School

See all [upcoming events](#).

Wildfire State of Emergency

Premier Scott Moe, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA), declared a provincial State of Emergency due to the wildfires affecting communities across Saskatchewan.

This declaration provides enhanced powers to the Minister and SPSA that may be required to help address this unprecedented start of the fire season.

The state of emergency will be in effect for 30 days and can be extended if necessary.

The SPSA has committed to providing daily updates on the current wildfire situation to ensure that Saskatchewan residents are provided with the most up to date information.

Anyone who spots a wildfire can call 1-800-667-9660, dial 9-1-1, or contact their closest SPSA Forest Protection Area office.

SUMA extends our support to all of those affected by the devastating wildfires in our province, especially those in our northern municipalities who face threats to their safety, homes, communities, and livelihoods. We know the effects of the fires may be long lasting, and we are here to help advocate for the support you need to recover.

Introducing the Municipal Eco-Action Centre Landing Page

We are pleased to announce the official launch of the **Municipal Eco-Action Centre** via our website. On this page, you can learn more about the MEAC, including:

- who we are
- our mission
- what we could offer Saskatchewan's municipalities, including **funding pathways, a**

knowledge hub, pilot programs, and more

- access additional resources

This project was made possible by a partnership with Eco-West. While the MEAC is in its infancy, we are excited about what it can grow into.

[Access the Landing Page Here](#)

Reminder: Access to SUMA Member Portal

SUMA wishes to remind members of the many resources available on the **SUMA Member Portal**, including **recordings from the 2025 Virtual Summit and webinar recordings**. A recording of SUMA's latest webinar, **Municipal Liability and Risk Management for Special Events**, is now available to be viewed at any time.

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

FCM Convention Updates

From May 29 to June 1, SUMA President Randy Goulden, City Mayor's Caucus Chair Gerald Aalbers, and CEO Jean-Marc Nadeau attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference.

President Goulden was **elected chair of the Prairies and Territorial Caucus**, in addition to being recognized for fifteen years of service to the FCM Board. FCM's **Saskatchewan caucus will consist of mayor Aalbers, councillor Sarah McInnis of Humboldt, and councillor Zach Jeffries of Saskatoon**.



Former SARM CEO Ray Orb was also recognized at the event with a spot on FCM's Roll of Honour.

Congratulations to all!

Meeting with the Honourable Lori Carr

On Thursday, June 12 SUMA President Randy Goulden met with **Minister of Heath, the Honourable Lori Carr**.

The meeting was requested by Minister Carr in response to a communication sent regarding the

Saskatchewan Health Authority's Short Term Bed (SSB) policy. The policy states that **patients can be moved from their home communities** when necessary, and that **families are responsible for transportation costs and daily rates.**

SUMA focused on requesting points of clarity and outlining our position on the policy. It is our position that **keeping patients in their home communities and close to their support network is paramount in supporting their health and wellbeing.** Additionally, **income and ability to cover transportation costs to visit patients should not be a barrier for families.**

First Caucus Meetings Held

SUMA's Caucus meetings took place at the end of May for the City Caucus, Town Caucus, and Village/Resort Village Caucus. These were the first meetings of the new governance structure.

The **Cities Caucus** focused discussion on revenue sharing, infrastructure funding, physician recruitment and retention, mental health and addictions, and public safety needs.

The top priority issues identified by the **Towns Caucus** included healthcare, community safety and bylaws, and aging infrastructure.

Infrastructure funding and policing needs dominated conversation at the **Village/Resort Village Caucus** meeting. The Caucus specifically identified the need for tailored programs for municipal infrastructure funding for smaller communities so they do not have to compete in the same funding pools as larger communities.

CONVENTION 2025



SUMA | 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow | April 13-16 Saskatoon, SK

Thank you to our members from across Saskatchewan who joined us April 13 - 16 in Saskatoon to celebrate the strength of our communities as a part of the urban family. We're grateful to have brought together 1,100 delegates and 600 Tradeshow exhibitors for four days of advocacy, education, and networking.

Convention Prizes

Each year at Convention, we have prize draws for delegates. Help us pick next year's prizes! Click the link below to share **what type of prize you'd like to win at Convention.**

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

SUMA REGIONAL ROADSHOW

SPONSORED BY



The SUMA Regional Roadshow is Underway!

Last week we kicked off the Regional Roadshow with the **Southwest, Central, and West Central regional** meetings! Thank you to the communities of Gravelbourg, Elbow, and Delisle for your excellent hospitality.



Town of Gravelbourg



Village of Elbow



Town of Delisle

The roadshow will continue on **June 24** when SUMA visits **Esterhazy** for the **East Central Regional Meeting** and **Whitewood** for the **Southeast Regional Meeting** on **June 25**.

Agenda and Registration

In light of the provincial State of Emergency and the widespread impact of the wildfires, we have made the difficult decision to **cancel the upcoming Regional Roadshow meetings in our northern, northeast, and northwest regions**. This includes:

- Wakaw – June 16
- Prince Albert – June 17
- Shellbrook – June 20

These meetings will be rescheduled at a later date.

The SUMA Regional Roadshow is sponsored by





MuniCast: S8:E5 Reimagining Libraries with Praxis Consulting and the Regina Public Library

Libraries have long been pillars of knowledge, community, and accessibility, but as the world shifts toward digital media and instant information, their role is evolving. In this episode, **Reimagining Libraries**, Director of Advocacy Sean McKenzie sits down with Jason Barnhardt and Malcolm Eaton from Praxis Consulting, along with Jeff Barber from the Regina Public Library, to explore the enduring value of libraries in today's society, both in larger cities and smaller communities.

Both Jason and Malcolm were key players in a study SUMA recently hired Praxis Consulting to conduct into the provincial library system, and to make recommendations on what could be improved. Jeff has been the Library Director and CEO of the Regina Public Library since 2005 and has also worked within the Southeast regional library in Weyburn, been head of Access Services in the University of Saskatchewan, and is a past president of the Saskatchewan Library Association, as well as past Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

From ebooks to streaming services, **technology has reshaped how we access information, yet libraries continue to offer something irreplaceable**. However, they are not without challenges. Funding remains an ongoing concern, and the demands on these institutions are increasing. What needs to change to ensure their future? This episode examines **the essential services they provide, the unique structure of Saskatchewan's one-card system, and how regional collaboration ensures that resources remain available to as many people as possible**. This discussion dives the pressing issues and possible solutions that could shape the next chapter of library services.

[Listen now!](#)

MuniCast is available on most major podcast platforms including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), and [YouTube](#).



SUMA Mayors' Summer School: Registration Open

Calling all mayors! **Registration for SUMA Mayors' Summer School is now open!** This exclusive two-day event in Regina is designed just for you! Join us online or in-person at the **University of Regina** on **August 21 and 22** to dive deep into essential topics like governance, conflict of interest, and leadership with expert presenters who understand the unique challenges of municipal leadership.

Gain valuable insights, exchange ideas with fellow mayors, and strengthen your ability to serve your community effectively. **This event is open to mayors only.** Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network, and elevate your leadership skills in a dynamic and engaging setting. **Register by July 11 at 3:59 p.m. to receive the early bird rate.**

In-person registration includes parking at the U of R, breakfast and lunch on both days, and dinner on August 21.

August 21

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Special event for in-person registrants only: 6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

August 22

9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

In-person EARLY BIRD rate: \$400 + GST and PST

Virtual EARLY BIRD rate: \$350 + GST and PST

Register now!

Room blocks are available at The Atlas° Hotel and the Hotel Saskatchewan.
Visit www.suma.org/events/summer-school for more information and booking links.

Regular registration rates take effect July 11 at 4:00 p.m. until registration closes on August 7 at 4:00 p.m.

In-person rate: \$500 + GST and PST

Virtual rate: \$450 + GST and PST

OTHER UPDATES

Webinar Invite: Cooperative Financing Solutions with GoParity

On **June 24 at 2:00 p.m.** SUMA members are invited to attend a webinar on cooperative financing solutions using GoParity Canada.

Co-ops seeking to raise capital through community and member investment can use this platform to avoid the hassle of securities regulations. In this webinar, Cooperatives First Director of Education White Kyle will be joined by Blake Bunting, Co-Founder and Director of Business Development at GoParity Canada to explain how and when to use GoParity.

If you'd like to attend or receive an email with the recording, sign up [here](#).

Compost Facilities Update

The **Compost Facilities Chapter** of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code has been approved and is in effect as of **May 14**.

What does this mean for you? If you're **currently operating a compost facility in Saskatchewan**, you have until **October 1, 2025** to **inform the ministry of your plans to continue your**

operations. This includes both standalone facilities and those that are part of permitted landfills.

To make things easier for you, all you need to do is submit the required documents through our [online business portal](#). You can find information about the notification process, including guidance documents, on our [compost facilities webpage](#).

Existing landfill permits are not affected by the new chapter. However, when appropriate, we will be updating them to align with the chapter, removing any references to compost management. **If you're planning to start a new facility or expand an existing one, please note you'll need to comply with the new chapter.**

We believe this change will significantly boost the efficiency of composting operations across the province. It's designed to reduce the time municipalities spend on permitting and reporting, giving you more flexibility to achieve environmental compliance. Plus, composting is an important part of waste reduction – it keeps organic waste out of landfills and transforms it into nutrient-rich soil conditioner.

For more information, please [read the news release](#).

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact us through the Inquiry Center at **1-800-567-4224** or centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.

Fire Underwriters Survey

The Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a national organization that assesses and rates the public fire protection capabilities of Canadian communities for the insurance industry. The ratings are published in the *Canadian Fire Insurance Grading Index*, used by around 85–90 % of Canada's private property & casualty insurers to determine fire protection grading, risk appetite, and premiums.

It has been brought to the attention of the Insurance Brokers Association of Saskatchewan that **data contained in the index is out of date in many parts of Saskatchewan, negatively impacting the ability of local insurance brokers to secure appropriately priced insurance products for their clients.**

Why It Matters to Municipalities

FUS ratings directly impact residential, commercial, and farm insurance pricing in Saskatchewan — it's vital that data be accurate. Inaccurate or out of date data can lead to artificially inflated (or deflated) premiums for the commensurate risk and, in some cases, is impacting insurers' willingness to extend coverage. Saskatchewan municipalities are encouraged to update via the online [FUS Municipal Portal](#).

For questions to or more information please contact:

Nicole Sinclair, Vice President

Insurance Brokers Association of Saskatchewan

nicole.sinclair@ibas.ca

or

Verisk Canada, Fire Underwriters Survey

1-800-665-5661

Transition to Online Payments

With the potential for another postal strike, SUMA encourages all municipalities to transition to online payments.

How to pay online

To pay SUMA invoices, please set up SUMA as a bill payee with your financial institution.

SUMA is set up as a bill payee with the financial institutions below. *Please note:* We have expanded to more Saskatchewan Credit Unions through Central One Billers, so some municipalities that previously could not find SUMA as a bill payee with their banks may now be able to utilize this option.

Bank Name	SUMA's Registered Name	Biller/Vendor ID
CIBC	SUMA	000013770-13781
ScotiaBank	SASK URBAN MUN ASSOCIATION	655M-72134
BMO	SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION	22173165-65401
RBC	SUMA	16278
Credit Unions (through Credit Union Central)	SASK URBAN MUNICIPAL	14112
Credit Unions/Other (through Telepay)	SUMA	9809
Central One Billers	No info available	No info available

Once you find SUMA as a bill payee, you will need to set up two different accounts to pay as follows:

SUMA's Group Benefits

In early December 2024, your office would have received an email communication outlining the option to pay your group benefit premiums online. This message included your unique online account number required to facilitate these payments.

To pay group benefit premiums, the account number will be 8 digits starting with GB##### (e.g., GB123456).

If you do not have your account number, please contact the Group Benefits Department directly.

General SUMA Invoices

General SUMA invoices include all payments other than Group Benefits premiums, such as membership, VFF, Convention registration, education sessions registration, shipping labels, election and pet supplies, and more.

The account number to pay general SUMA invoices through online banking is found on the bottom right of invoices. It will be an 8-digit number starting with AR##### (e.g., AR123456).

Preparing for Wildfire Threats

The wildfire season in Saskatchewan is off to a devastating start, with many fires threatening SUMA's member municipalities in our northern regions.

There are three ways in which a wildfire can spread to a building:

1. Flying embers blown by wind can land and ignite the structure;
2. Fire can also spread from vegetation directly to the building walls; or
3. The heat generated from a wildfire can cause combustible building components to auto ignite (also known as "radiant heat effect").

Fuels, weather and topography work together to determine how fast or slow a fire will spread. **If**

your premises are located in the proximity of grasslands or wooded areas, you may be at risk.

Click [here](#) to read the **Wildfire Threat Bulletin** prepared by Aon for information about how to prepare for the risk of wildfires.

Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance: Economic Resilience and Recovery

The **Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance's (SEDA) three part toolkit** connects disruption management functions with economic principles to identify key issues and suggested action planning. The toolkit may be of use to municipalities affected by Saskatchewan's ongoing wildfires.

Wherever possible, resources and contacts specific to Saskatchewan have been included. This information will be updated as changes in our provincial emergency management and economic environment occur. Please note: The list of key contacts for Saskatchewan is currently being updated, with a new living document set to be available online by the end of the week.

Realistic and coordinated planning will reduce duplication of efforts and maximize response and recovery efforts should an incident occur.

Find the toolkit [here](#).

Proximity Initiative by the Railway Association of Canada

Created in 2003, the goal of the **Railway Association of Canada's (RAC) Proximity Initiative** is to prevent problems from arising between railways and residents. The initiative is led by a committee of elected officials and senior railway representatives from across Canada, who work together to develop strategies to reduce misunderstanding, increase safety, and avoid unnecessary conflict arising from railway-community proximity.

The RAC is seeking **input from interested parties in the municipal sector to inform the modernization of proximity guidelines**. To hear more and to share your feedback, complete the survey linked on this [webpage](#).

Have questions? Contact Ben Chursinoff, Manager of Policy, Environment and Programs at bchursinoff@railcan.ca.

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

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Moves to a Continuous Process

TSS has moved to a continuous, rolling intake process. All completed applications in the application system will be reviewed on the **spring closing date of April 30**, and **fall closing date of October 31**.

Please view the [intake guide](#) and [fact sheet](#), both of which outline the changes and updates to the program. The online application portal can be accessed [here](#).

ADVERTISEMENTS



Kinetic GPO

Kinetic GPO is pleased to announce a new competitively solicited and publicly awarded contract RFSO #24-17 for educational furniture and services awarded to Grand & Toy, Humanscale, Krug, Steelcase, and Wintergreen Learning Materials.

Whether you need chairs, desks, tables, student and faculty seating, or services including project management or installation, our educational furniture suppliers have you covered.

Utilizing this agreement simplifies the procurement process, saves time and money, ensures compliance and puts educational furniture into action when you need it.

The Kinetic GPO contract for educational furniture includes a variety of innovative, sustainable, and durable solutions for Canadian educators and public sector organizations.

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Vice President of Supplier Engagement **Sandra Lisi** at sandra@kineticgpo.ca.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS





Classifieds

Positions Available:

- [Town of Colonsay](#): Town Foreman (June 22)
- [Town of Radville](#): Administrator (June 30)
- [Town of Duck Lake](#): Public Works Foreman (June 30)
- [Town of Maidstone](#): Administrator (July 31)
- [Northwest Community Safety Services Inc.](#): Part Time Administrative Support (until filled)
- [Northwest Community Safety Services Inc.](#): Community Safety Officer Sergeant (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.



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.

SUMA | suma.org
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306-525-3727

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