

# MUNICIPAL Update

April 11, 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 13, 2022**

MuniCast - Connecting Your Community with SaskTel

**April 26, 2022**

Webinar - Maintaining Healthy Communities through a Cohesive Council (watch for the invitation later this week)

See all [upcoming events](#).



### NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED AT 2022 SUMA CONVENTION

On April 5, SUMA held an election for SUMA President. Mayors and councillors from SUMA member municipalities in good standing were able to vote for their next president.

Councillor Randy Goulden, from the City of Yorkton, was elected SUMA President. Councillor Goulden was first elected to the SUMA Board of Directors in 2000, serving as SUMA's East Central Regional Director. She has also represented SUMA as interim president.

Councillor Goulden's term as SUMA President began at the conclusion of the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow.



## 10.73 Per Cent Increase for Policing Under Provincial Police Service Agreement

The Government of Saskatchewan has set the annual per capita levy for policing, and municipalities will see a **10.73 per cent** increase compared to 2021-22 rates.

For municipalities with an RCMP detachment, the rate for 2022-23 is **\$88.99**, compared to \$80.37 in 2021-22. For municipalities without a detachment, the 2022-23 rate is **\$55.05**, up from \$49.72 in 2021-22.

The percentage increase in the per capita rate is equal to the percentage increase of budget provided to RCMP to fund the Provincial Police Service Agreement.

**Read the letter from the  
Ministry of Corrections,  
Policing and Public Safety**



## 23 New Projects Awarded Funding Through Targeted Sector Support Initiative

On April 5, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that **23 new municipal projects** will receive a combined provincial investment of **more than \$1 million** under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative.

The TSS Initiative supports municipalities partnering to strengthen their core municipal responsibilities through projects focused on good governance, capacity building, and regional co-operation. Funding is provided through cost-shared grants, covering up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs.

[See the list of approved projects](#)

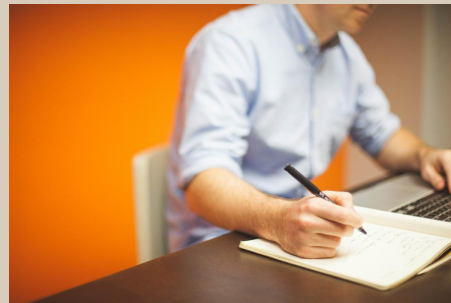


### Time is Running Out to Submit Your Application for the Richardson Pioneer Community Celebration

The application deadline to apply for the Richardson Pioneer Community Celebration is **April 14**.

The celebration is a contest for small-to-medium sized communities in Saskatchewan who are looking to give their fundraising initiatives a boost. Six communities will be awarded a **\$25,000** donation toward a health and wellness initiative that focuses on sport, culture, or recreation. A community is being defined as a rural municipality, village, town, small city, or a First Nation within Saskatchewan.

[Learn more and apply.](#)



### Learn How to Retain Talented Indigenous Employees with Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Lunch and Learn

The Indigenous population of Saskatchewan is the fastest growing and youngest demographic in Saskatchewan, expected to hit 20 per cent of the overall population by 2036.

On **April 27 at noon**, join Saskatchewan Polytechnic for a Lunch and Learn presentation about and from Indigenous students. During the event, learn how your organization may better recruit and retain talented Indigenous employees.

[Register here](#) and add the Zoom link to your calendar.



## \$7.3 Million in Funding for EMS in 27 Communities

The 2022-23 provincial budget announced an investment of **\$7.3 million** for additional paramedics, ambulances, and funding in **27 Saskatchewan communities**.

The new funding adds **70.7 full time equivalent positions** and is to address critical priority areas in the 27 communities.

See the [list of communities](#).

## WSA Launches Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program for 2022

The Water Security Agency (WSA) has announced it is launching the **Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program for 2022** to **help Saskatchewan communities respond to the challenge of possible flooding**.

First established in 2011, the program provides assistance with implementing emergency flood damage protection measures for communities, rural municipalities, businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals with rural yard sites, country residences, and cottages to prevent damages from imminent risk of flooding.

The WSA is investing **up to \$500,000** for 2022.

[Read more.](#)



## Community Rink Affordability Grant Supports 594 Ice Surfaces in 2021-22

The Community Rink Affordability Grant Program supported **594 ice surfaces** and **379 facility owners** in 2021-22.

Reinstated in 2020-21, the grant provides funding to help offset the costs of operating indoor skating and curling rinks in Saskatchewan. Communities, First Nations, schools, and non-profits are eligible and encouraged to register for an annual grant per indoor ice surface. Registration for the 2022 program will open in the fall.

[Learn more.](#)



## Asset Management for Communities with Populations of 250 or Less

Asset Management Saskatchewan has created a special offer for municipalities with populations of 250 or less.

Municipalities with populations of 250 or less can access:

- unlimited seats in both The Learning Path and the Asset Register and Initial State of the Infrastructure Report
- Learner Success
- Custom Progress Reports
- Full, unlimited access to both courses until November 30, 2023.
- Early-bird access to the NAMS+ workshop in the fall
- Document and Assessment Storage
- FCM Requirement Assistance

All for free! If your community has a population of 250 or less, [read more](#) and



## Advocacy Update



### SUMA's Thoughts on the 2022 Federal Budget

On Thursday, the Government of Canada tabled their 2022 budget. Of course, we have thoughts on what this budget means for Saskatchewan's hometowns.

- SUMA applauds the extension of the Rapid Housing Initiative that funds affordable housing projects, and the Housing Accelerator Fund has the potential to help hometowns get new housing built faster.
- SUMA recognizes the \$100 million over three years for the Substance Use and Addictions Program, but a more proactive focus on mental health and addictions is needed. The budget references the development of a new Canada Mental Health Transfer that will support the expansion and delivery of accessible mental health services across the country, but few details are available.
- We're extremely disappointed that the budget does not address the impact the federally negotiated RCMP labour agreement has on hometowns. Municipal associations from western Canada collectively called on the federal government to cover the costs of the negotiated retroactive pay increases. In Saskatchewan, both the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety and the Leader of the Official Opposition supported SUMA's call, sending letters to the federal government echoing the request for the Government of Canada to absorb the entire financial impact of the retroactive wage compensation for 2017-2021.
- SUMA, in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), is continuing to call on the federal government to make important investments in high-speed internet, clean water and transportation infrastructure, and inter-community bus services.

[Read SUMA's media release on the federal budget](#)

CONVENTION AND TRADESHOW  
**connect**  
APRIL 3-6, 2022 REGINA

**CONVENTION 2022**

### Help Improve Convention by Sharing Your Feedback

Did you attend the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow from April 3-6? If yes, we would like to know what you thought. Take a few minutes to complete the Convention 2022 Evaluation. By filling out this survey, you will be entered to win a prize! Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us improve future conventions.

## Congratulations Award Winners

The annual SUMA convention is a chance to share ideas. It's also a time to recognize the work being done in our hometowns.

On April 5, at Convention 2022, winning local governments received their Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.



### **First Place: Riverhurst Wetland** *Village of Riverhurst*

Restoring a local wetland that will provide both environmental and economic benefits to the community.



### **Second Place (TIE): Churchbridge Community Campground** *Town of Churchbridge*

Developed the community campground into an asset that supports tourism and local residents alike with recreational opportunities, while providing economic benefits for the town.



### **Second Place (TIE): Duane Lowe Community Centre** *Town of Birch Hills*

Transformed a vacant building on Main Street into a multi-use facility to house the library, provide space for events, and bring diverse user groups together.



### **Third Place: Jean Louis Legare Regional Park Expansion Project** *RM of Willow Bunch No. 42 and Town of Willow Bunch*

Undertaking a water and sewer project to support the expansion of the local regional park and enhance tourism and economic opportunities for Willow Bunch and the surrounding region.



### **Regional Cooperation: South Saskatchewan Ready** *RMs of Poplar Valley No. 12, Hart Butte No. 11, Willow Bunch No. 42, Bengough No. 40, and Happy Valley No. 10, and the Towns of Rockglen, Willow Bunch, Bengough, and Coronach*

Created an action team to find ways and funding to diversify the local economy and mitigate the impacts of the transition away from coal fired power dependence.



We also celebrated long-serving municipal employees and elected officials, and presented former Regina councillor Mike O'Donnell with the Scoop Lewry Award. [Read the biographies](#) of the award winners.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### Novavax Available in Saskatchewan Starting Today

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has secured a supply of 4,200 doses of COVID-19 vaccine Novavax and the vaccine is available starting today.

Residents may choose this protein-based vaccine rather than the mRNA (Pfizer, Moderna) or viral vector (Janssen) vaccines, or receive it if they have contraindications to mRNA vaccines. Novavax is available for third or fourth doses, when an individual is eligible to receive them.

Novavax will be available via appointment booked with the SHA through 1-833-SASKVAX; it will not be available through pharmacies.

[Read more](#)

### Weekly COVID-19 EPI Report

Each week, the Ministry of Health releases a COVID-19 integrated epidemiology (EPI) report that includes laboratory-confirmed cases, deaths, tests, vaccination information, hospital and census trends, and distribution of rapid antigen tests.

For the week of March 27 - April 2:

- 7,689 laboratory tests were performed in Saskatchewan reflecting 6.4 tests performed per 1,000 population.
- The number of tests was higher than the number of tests in the previous week (7,449).
- More than one in eight laboratory tests were positive (weekly test positivity of 13.2%), which is higher than the previous week (12.3%).
- There were 24 newly-reported COVID-19 deaths, about 20% higher than in the previous week (20).
- 20 confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care and care home settings were reported this week.
- As of April 2, of the population five years and older, 85.7 per cent received at least one



[See the full report](#)

## Saskatchewan Discontinuing Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

Sotrovimab, a monoclonal antibody given by intravenous infusion, has been used for the treatment of mild COVID-19 in Saskatchewan to prevent serious outcomes, including hospitalizations. Recent clinical studies have demonstrated reduced efficacy against Omicron's BA.2 subvariant. Based on this evidence and the growing prevalence of Omicron BA.2 in Saskatchewan, sotrovimab use has been discontinued in the province. Future recommendations regarding the use of sotrovimab and early therapeutics will continue to be guided by emerging evidence.

The oral (pill) antiviral Paxlovid will continue to be available to eligible patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

[Read more](#)

## CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



### Classifieds

#### Positions Available:

- Village of Torquay: *Administrator* (April 12)
- RM of Corman Park No. 344: *Communications Officer* (April 14)
- Town of St. Brieux: *Chief Administrative Officer* (April 15)
- Town of La Ronge: *Director of Public Works* (When filled)
- RM of Hoodoo No. 401: *Foreman* (When filled)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.



### Grants

#### Upcoming Deadlines:

- *Richardson Pioneer Community Celebration* (April 14)
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program *Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream* (May 10)
- Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program *Green Stream – Landfill Decommissioning* (Applications accepted until funding fully allocated)

Find the latest listings by visiting the [classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.

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

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