

MUNICIPAL Update

June 19, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20, 2023

Webinar: Respectful Municipal Workplaces

June 27, 2023

Webinar: Saskatchewan Employment Act Amendment on Violence Prevention Policies: Requirements and Best Practices

June 29, 2023

Webinar: Combating Crime in Saskatchewan (hosted by SARM, free for SUMA members)

July 6-7, 2023

33rd Annual SUMA Golf Tournament hosted by the Town of St. Walburg

August 17-18, 2023

SUMA Mayors Summit

See all [upcoming events](#).



Registration Open for SUMA's Mayor's Summit!

Registration is now open for **SUMA Mayors Summit** exclusively for **Saskatchewan mayors!**

Join us on **August 17** and **18** at the **Atlas° hotel**, or **virtually via Zoom**, for this unique opportunity to connect with other Saskatchewan Mayors.

During SUMA's Mayors Summit, attendees will participate in lectures, small group work, and large group discussions with their peers. Sessions are designed to help freshen up your leadership skills and give you the tools to support your municipality through transitions.

This two-day workshop includes:

- intriguing speakers;
- small group work;
- engaging discussions;
- meals; and
- credit for the *Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities* module of the [Municipal Leadership Development Program \(MLDP\)](#).

If your municipality's Mayor is unable to attend, your Deputy Mayor is welcome to attend in their place.

[Click here to register.](#)

SUMA's Mayor Summit is sponsored by [SaskWater](#)



Lunch n Learn
Webinar

SUMA

06.20.23
12:00-1:00 p.m.



Respectful Municipal Workplaces

Creating respectful municipalities goes beyond simply meeting minimum legislative compliance, it also includes providing the tools and strategies for municipal staff and council to be able to create a work environment where everyone feels safe and respected. On **Tuesday June 20th at 12:00 p.m.** join us for the Lunch n Learn webinar *Respectful Municipal Workplaces*.

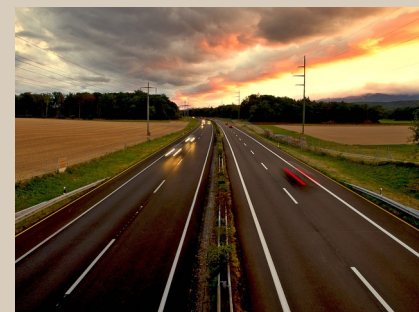
In this session you will gain the tools to:

- Understand what a respectful municipal office is.
- Recognize a respectful municipal office.
- Explore why a respectful municipal office is important.
- Identify steps municipalities can take to be proactive.
- Risks of not dealing with respectful workplace issues in the municipal office.

Register for the
webinar

SGI's New Policy for Excessively Loud Vehicles

Under a new provincial policy, **all light vehicles** (such as passenger cars, pickup trucks, minivans, SUVs, and motorcycles) must be **equal to or quieter than 101.3 decibels**, consistent with methods established by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).



JP Cullen, COO of the Saskatchewan Auto Fund says, "This policy introduces an objective standard, so motorists know if their vehicle is louder than what's reasonable. It draws a line in the sand for residents, motorists and law enforcement to determine how loud is too loud for vehicles."

Along with establishing maximum allowable noise levels, SGI has developed a **standardized testing procedure**. In the coming weeks, SGI will work with SGI-certified light vehicle and motorcycle inspection stations to provide them with equipment and training so they're ready to test vehicles for noise.

Education days for motorists will happen on **June 17** in **Regina** and **June 24** in **Saskatoon**, allowing vehicle owners to test their vehicles without any consequence to determine if their vehicle is over the established threshold. Vehicle owners can book an appointment for a noise test on either of those days by calling Vehicle Standards and

Inspections at [1-800-667-8015 ext. 6188 \(toll-free\)](tel:1-800-667-8015) in advance. A **limited number of spots are available**, so owners are encouraged to book early.

Communities who are interested in hosting a noise testing event may reach out to Auto Fund Partnerships by emailing AutoFundPartnershipSupport@sgi.sk.ca. More information about the policy and education days is available [here](#).

Municipal Surcharge on SaskEnergy Bills Opt-In/Out Period Opens

It's time for the province's urban municipalities to once again decide if they would like to take part in the Municipal Surcharge Program, administered by SaskEnergy.

Introduced in the 2018-19 Provincial Budget, the Municipal Surcharge Program **directs SaskEnergy under The SaskEnergy Act to collect five per cent of natural gas sales from residents and businesses in participating municipalities and remit all funds collected to the municipality**. SaskEnergy does not receive any profit from these payments.

The utilization of the funds received through the Municipal Surcharge Program and the communication to residents of the use of those funds is at the discretion and the responsibility of each participating municipality.

In 2018, municipalities were allowed to opt-in or out of the Municipal Surcharge. If your municipality has since changed its position on the Municipal Surcharge and would like to either opt-in or out, please send a **certified copy of a council resolution noting the decision** to SaskEnergy **no later than September 1, 2023**. If a municipality takes no action, its opt-in/out status will **remain unchanged from its 2018 declaration**.

Changes in status require a regulatory amendment. There are a limited number of opportunities to make changes. Once the window closes for 2023, the next opportunity for municipalities to opt-in or out of the Municipal Surcharge Program is expected to take place in the fall of 2029.

For further details, please read these [FAQs](#). For specific questions on the collection and remittance of the surcharge and/or to submit your council resolution, please contact SaskEnergy's Nicole Rich at NRich@saskenergy.com or [306-535-8802](tel:306-535-8802).



Updating Your Community's Fire Data

Did you know your municipal government's fire insurance grading system data is likely out of date? Learn more about the Fire Underwriters System and use their simple municipal portal to update your data.

One of the **insurance industry's most important tools in the battle against fires is the Canadian fire insurance grading system**. This system includes **the Public Fire Protection Classification (PFPC) program and the Dwelling Protection Grading System from the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS)**.

FUS was created in 1883 and is **intended to help municipal governments with best practices related to the fire protection provided to communities**. The vast majority of municipal governments in the province have data that is either non-existent or at least five years old. This means many properties may be paying incorrect premiums, either too high or too low, for the risk they face.

The Insurance Brokers Association of Saskatchewan (IBAS) is working together with FUS to support Saskatchewan municipal governments in updating their FUS data. The FUS online portal is simple, and inputting data from scratch will likely take most municipal governments two hours or less. Then regular updates to that data – say every two years – will likely take 30



minutes or less for most municipal governments.

This summer, IBAS will **host three webinars to introduce FUS to Saskatchewan's municipal governments, walk through the online portal and enter their data.** You can register [here](#). If you would like to request more information about the FUS, please reach out to mark.cooper@ibas.ca.



Community Airports Receive Another Lift

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing \$850,000 in cost-shared grants to 21 community airports across the province. The 50/50 cost sharing grant goes toward repairs and upgrades through the Community Airport Partnership (CAP) program.

“Community and regionally-owned airports play a key role in providing vital services like air ambulance, law enforcement and firefighting,” Highways Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. “They also help support local and regional economic development in rural and northern communities. Partnerships with the communities continue to lead to important upgrades and maintenance for local airports.”

Grants are cost-shared up to a maximum amount of \$275,000. CAP is designed to help offset safety-related improvements such as upgrades to runways and taxiways, lighting, security fencing and navigational systems.

Interested communities can find out more about the program [here](#).

ADVOCACY UPDATES

SUMA City Mayors' Caucus Meeting

The SUMA City Mayors' Caucus met in the City of Melville on June 8 to discuss issues affecting our cities and residents across the province. Topics addressed in this meeting include **homelessness, the SIS program, derelict and vacant buildings, and destination marketing fees.**



Particularly concerning problems during this meeting were homelessness and the SIS program. SUMA continues to advocate for these issues, as it has become a crisis affecting all our communities across Saskatchewan. We are **concerned that the province chooses to house people in the most expensive ways possible rather than simply investing in social housing and livable amounts for the SIS program.**

SUMA published a media release on June 12 relating to these issues, garnering much attention in media outlets across the province. In the release, Gerald Aalbers, SUMA's Vice-President of Cities and Chair of the SUMA City Mayors Caucus, reiterates our concerns: “The Saskatchewan Income Support Program (SIS) continues to worsen our homelessness problem. The barriers put in place for accessing services, the rates that remain far below the cost of living, and the evictions that occur because the province no longer pays landlords directly, are responsible for ever-increasing numbers of people on our streets.”

This lack of social housing and income support continues to erode our communities, particularly affecting those with mental health and addictions issues. SUMA continues to **call on the province to make changes that support our municipalities in finding a solution.**

To learn more about these issues, you can read the recent media release [here](#), or [watch Vice-President Gerald Aalbers video](#) on the matter.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Wynyard: Waterworks Assistant (June 23)
- City of Estevan: Roads and Drainage Manager (June 23)
- City of Moose Jaw: Director of Public Works and Utilities (July 1)
- City of Lethbridge: Senior Executive Assistant to the City Mayor (July 9)
- Village of Neudorf: Chief Administrative Officer (July 15)
- Town of Lafleche: Chief Administrative Officer (July 17)
- Town of Duck Lake: Municipal Administrator (When filled)
- Village of Debden: Full time Foreman (When filled)
- Village of Parkside: Municipal Administrator (When filled)
- Town of Morse: Public Works Foreman (When filled)
- Grandview Municipality: Chief Administrative Officer (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.



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Infrastructure Canada *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund* (July 19)

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



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