

# MUNICIPAL Update

December 4, 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 16**  
SUMA Virtual Sector Meeting

See all [upcoming events](#).

## MuniCast Available Now!

Did you know MuniCast is available on most podcast platforms including Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Music, Google Podcasts, and Youtube?

In season 5 of MuniCast we are discussing how truth and reconciliation relates to municipalities.

Episodes 1-3 are available now:

**E1:** *Truth, Law, and Reconciliation with John Stefaniuk, K.C.*

**E2:** *Reconciliation Saskatchewan with The Office of the Treaty Commissioner*

**E3:** *Indigenous Engagement with SaskTel*

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## 2023 Webinar Feedback

Want to help shape the future of SUMA webinars?  
Please share your responses below:

Did you attend a SUMA webinar in 2023?

Are you able to attend during business hours?

Yes

Yes

No

No

Were the webinars presented in 2023 relevant to your municipality?

Yes

Most of them were

Most of them were not

No

If you would like to provide any additional comments or share ideas for webinar topics in 2024 please contact the Education and Events Advisor at [education@suma.org](mailto:education@suma.org).

## Virtual SUMA Sector Meeting on January 16



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, and 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!](#)

## ADVOCACY UPDATE

### Working Toward Change

On November 27, representatives from **SUMA's executive committee met in Brandon with the Western Canadian Municipal Associations** to discuss topics important to SUMA and our sister organizations in the West. All attending members put forth a joint **news release** in support of enhanced collaboration between all bodies of government.



Later in the week **SUMA's executive also attended the bi-annual meeting of the Photo Speed Enforcement Committee**, which delivers traffic safety grants to municipalities and First Nations. They also **attended meetings with the Rural Road Reclassification Committee**, which reviews grant funding for municipalities related to the many kilometers of provincial roads they maintain.

Today, **SUMA continued with our pre-budget advocacy by attending the Municipal Forum**, where representatives from Government Relations, and SARM were in attendance. SUMA's topics of discussion included municipal revenue sharing, PST, the Canada Community-Building Fund housing criteria, a consultation protocol agreement, property assessment, and municipal census. **Tomorrow, we will meet with the Minister of Finance Donna Harpauer**, and discuss Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) and the impact of PST on construction services. Later in the week, **our executive will attend the SUMA Executive and Board meetings on Thursday and Friday, respectively.**

**On December 14, our executive will be meeting with ministers Makowsky (Minister of Social Services) and Hindley (Minister of Health).**

## CONVENTION 2024



**reFRESH • reNEW • reFOCUS**

**2024 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow April 14-17 • Regina, SK**

### Resolution Deadline is January 31

As the 2024 Convention and Tradeshow approaches, we encourage members to submit their resolutions. **The deadline to submit resolutions is January 31.**

Resolutions are a way to get municipal issues in front of

provincial decision makers and the media, and help shape SUMA's advocacy. Before getting started, review the [Resolutions Policy](#), and see [past resolutions](#).



For more details and a template you can use as a guide, look at the [Call for Resolutions 2024](#) or login to the [member portal](#) for the same information.



## Hotel Reservations Not Open Until January

We know you are as excited about #SUMA2024 as we are, but there is **no need to book your hotel rooms just yet!**

We will once again be using the reservation system Resiada to reserve rooms for Convention 2024. **The system will open in mid January** in conjunction with registration for the event.

## Submit a Nomination for SUMA's Service Awards

Do you know a longstanding municipal employee or elected official? Celebrate them at Convention 2024 with a SUMA service award!

The [Meritorious Service Award](#) is granted to municipal employees in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 years or more of employment. It recognizes their career success, dedication, and involvement in their local community.

The [Honorary Service Award](#) recognizes elected officials in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 or more years on municipal council. It recognizes their long-term dedication to, and involvement in, their local communities.

The [Scoop Lewry Award](#) is presented in recognition of outstanding service in municipal government or administration, on a local, provincial, and national basis. Those eligible to be nominated are elected officials, administrators, SUMA officials, personnel in the Ministry of Government Relations, and personnel in First Nations and Métis Relations.

Nominations for SUMA's service awards are open until **January 4**. [Visit our website](#) to learn more.



## Election Supplies and Ballots

Since the 1997 election, SUMA has been offering **election forms, supplies and ballot printing** to our members. It provides a one-stop shop for all SUMA members with the assurance that supplies will be up-



to-date, and a staff member available to answer questions or refer them to the appropriate contacts at Government Relations.

For ballots, SUMA members must ensure orders are placed a **minimum of 15 business days prior to advance poll date; this will allow ballots to arrive in time.** Please note **SARM members are only able to order supplies from SUMA, not ballots.**

#### Member Advantages

- Substantial cost savings, based on bulk purchasing of supplies and bulk processing of ballots
- Election forms as prescribed by *The Local Government Election Act* accurately reproduced ready for use on election day
- Forms and supplies shipped using the most cost effective method for each individual municipality (within one to two business days of order receipt)
- When the order is received by the SUMA office within 15 business days prior to the advance poll date, guaranteed processing of ballot orders to meet the limited turn-around time between close of nominations, advance poll, and election dates. Orders received less than 15 business days prior to the advance poll date cannot be guaranteed.

#### Member Order Forms:

- [Election supplies](#) (PDF document)
- [Ballots](#) (PDF document)
- **SARM Members only:** [Election supplies](#) (PDF document)

**Election Scheduling Tool:** Visit [Publications Saskatchewan](#) for an interactive Election-Byelection Scheduling Tool

## The Encouraging Community Housing Options (ECHO) - Housing Plan Component Program



The Government of Saskatchewan's **Encouraging Community Housing Options (ECHO) - Housing Plan Component Program** provides a grant to

**municipalities and regional partnerships to develop a housing plan** to better understand the housing need in their communities.

Municipalities and regional partnerships can receive provincial grants of up to \$20,000 to match eligible municipal expenses. To be eligible, applicants must have the housing plan either completed by or reviewed (with recommendations) by a professional community planner or another professional approved by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

**To learn further details about eligibility requirements for your community, click [here](#).**

## Municipal Growth Readiness

**The Municipal Growth Readiness Checklist (MGRC) is a tool to help municipalities self-assess their strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.** Doing this assessment will allow municipalities to focus prioritization of the most pressing risks to medium and long-term growth.

The checklist tool will allow municipalities' administrative and political officials to come to their own conclusions about the growth readiness of their municipality and what actions, if any, are needed to improve it.

Municipalities can evaluate their growth readiness by answering questions related to eight key categories of municipal responsibility. Based on the responses, the tool will provide municipalities with a score related to each category.

## Radon Mitigation in Saskatchewan

Radon is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless radioactive gas released when uranium decays. Homes built on soil containing uranium can be flooded with radon gas when there are cracks and gaps in foundation walls and basement floor slabs.



**Radon that enters homes poses a health risk, as long-term exposure to radon can increase the risk of lung cancer.** The risk is particularly significant in areas with high radon concentrations in the soil, such as in some parts of Saskatchewan. Effective radon mitigation strategies are essential to protect the health and well-being of Saskatchewan residents.

**Regular testing for radon is recommended, as testing allows residents to determine if high radon levels are present within their homes.** If levels are above the limits recommended by Health Canada, radon mitigation systems that meet or exceed the requirements found in the National Building Code of Canada can be installed. Such systems typically involve installing either an active or passive ventilation system below basement floor slabs and sealing radon gas entry points in slabs and foundation walls.

Radon mitigation efforts in Saskatchewan empower homeowners with the knowledge and tools to address this invisible threat. By prioritizing radon mitigation, homeowners can significantly reduce the risk of lung cancer and create safer, healthier homes for their families.

For more information, download this [Radon Advisory](#).

## Road Maintenance Agreements

The Government of Saskatchewan introduced road maintenance agreements (RMAs) to allow municipalities to cover the incremental cost that occurs above regular maintenance costs due to the increased pressures of heavy or bulk hauls.

In 2021, the Ministry of Government Relations amended [The Municipalities Regulations](#) to allow for the setting of regional rates based on the Ministry of Highways' Area Transportation Planning Committees (APTC). These rates are to be reviewed every two years and updated based on municipal transportation services expenditures in each APTC region, as well as truck traffic, road damage and payload data from the Ministry of Highways.

The new rates are effective for 2024 and 2025, and you can view a map of the regional rates [here](#).

## ADVERTISEMENTS



**Kinetic GPO**

**Want to increase your purchasing power or reduce costs?**

Learn about how Kinetic GPO helps municipalities save time and money. There is **no cost to become a member, no obligation or volume commitments, and membership is not**

an exclusive arrangement.

Learn more about Kinetic GPO [here](#).  
View Kinetic's current list of programs  
and contracts [here](#).

For more information on becoming a  
member, please contact  
[kerriann@kineticgpo.ca](mailto:kerriann@kineticgpo.ca).



Water Security  
Agency

[wsask.ca](http://wsask.ca)

The Water Security Agency is **helping individual landowners and local governments keep our waterways clear** of sediment and obstructions like deadfall and beaver dams.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2023 channel clearing and maintenance program. **Eligible applicants will receive a 50% rebate for their projects completed in 2023.**

Learn more about the program and apply [here](#).

## CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



### Classifieds

#### Positions Available:

- Town of Blaine Lake: Chief Administrative Officer (Dec 12)
- Town of Colonsay: Town Foreman (Dec 12)
- Village of Neudorf: Chief Administrative Officer (Dec 22)
- Municipality of Brenda-Waskada (Manitoba): Chief Administrative Officer (Dec 24)



### Grants

#### Upcoming Deadlines:

- Community Rink Affordability Program (Jan 15)

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

- Town of Raymore: Chief Administrative Officer (Dec 28)
- Town of Raymore: Part-time Administrative Assistant (Dec 28)
- Town of Coronach: Town Foreman or Utility Operator (Dec 29)
- City of Ituna: Chief Administrative Officer (Jan 8)
- Town of Battleford: Community Planner (Feb 7)
- Town of Battleford: Director of Corporate Services (Feb 7)

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.

