

MUNICIPAL Update

December 13, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3-6, 2022

2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow

See all [upcoming events](#).

2021 WEBINARS AVAILABLE IN SUMA'S MEMBER PORTAL

In 2021, we hosted a total of 19 webinars, all free to SUMA members.

Webinar topics included:

- good governance
- economic development
- immigration
- nuclear power
- COVID-19
- Property assessments
- Recreation
- Grade crossing regulations

Recordings of all our 2021 webinars are available to SUMA members through the member portal on the SUMA website.

[Visit the member portal](#)



The Deadline for Resolutions is Now January 31

Resolutions at SUMA's annual convention and tradeshow are one way to get municipal issues in front of provincial decision makers and the media, and help shape SUMA's advocacy. With the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow moving to April 3-6, SUMA's Resolutions Committee has changed the resolutions deadline to **January 31** from November 1.

To get started with resolutions, check out the full [Call for Resolutions](#), which includes a template you can use as a guide. You can also view SUMA's current [Resolutions Policy](#) and see [past resolutions](#) on SUMA's website.

[See the Call for Resolutions](#)

[New Funding Announced to Support
Local and Indigenous Community-Based
Rail Safety Engagement](#)



Transport Canada has announced a new rail safety component under the Community Participation Funding Program and launched a call for proposals for 2021-22 with up to **\$300,000 in funding available**.

The objectives of the Community Participation Funding Program - Rail Safety Component include:

- supporting the participation of, and collaboration with, local and Indigenous communities and organizations in Transport Canada's engagement processes; and
- increasing awareness and improving information sharing regarding risks and mitigations associated with railway safety.

The Community Participation Funding Program - Rail Safety Component aims to provide **short-term grants** with the goal of **supporting the participation of eligible communities and organizations in the development and improvement of Canada's rail safety transportation system**. Recipients will be encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise of local environments to help inform rail safety initiatives and future programming.

[Find out more](#)



2022 SUMA Membership Due in January

Earlier this month we sent members all the information needed to renew your membership for 2022. Please be sure to have your payment and updated information to us by **January 31**. We wouldn't want you to miss out on any membership benefits.

Renewing your membership for another year gives you access to our money saving programs. It also supports our advocacy and capacity-building work. We appreciate your support all year long.



FCM Program Stream Focused on Local Solutions to Achieve Net Zero at GLOBE Forum 2022

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is partnering with GLOBE Forum 2022 to deliver a **municipal-focused program stream on achieving net zero**.

In this first-of-its-kind partnership for FCM and GLOBE, sustainability leaders from cities and communities across Canada will join leading change-makers to outline a vision for local pathways to net-zero emissions from buildings, energy, transportation, and waste.

FCM's Local Solutions to Net Zero track will focus on high-impact areas where municipalities have an essential role to play: buildings, energy, transportation, and waste. Within these topics, this stream will showcase local innovation that can be accelerated and scaled up, as well as explore implementation challenges related to procurement, governance, and regulation—all of which require new partnerships with the private sector and unprecedented cooperation between orders of government. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with municipal practitioners and elected officials, technology providers, and leading thinkers on community sustainability on-site at the Vancouver Convention Centre and via virtual livestream. FCM's municipal stream presents a set of tangible local pathways that will enable Canada, and the world, to achieve a net-zero emissions future.

[Registration for the event is now open](#)



Spring Workshops on Dealing with Difficult Conversations

The Rural Municipal Administrators' Association and Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan are hosting a series of workshops on dealing with difficult conversations.

During the workshop, Advisory Services and the Dispute Resolution Office will give a presentation on dealing with difficult conversations, whether it is with councillors, ratepayers, or other employees.

Learn more and register. Registration is open until **January 14**.

PEOPLE FIRST HR SERVICES

HR Support Services for SUMA Group Benefits Subscribers Starting in January

Elected officials and administrators come to their roles with diverse professional backgrounds, and sometimes have limited employer or HR experience. However, all must manage direct reports and ensure legislative compliance while serving the public.

Recognizing the critical role of HR in the workplace, SUMA is offering HR OnCall Support through People First HR Services to all SUMA Group Benefits subscribers. **Learn more** about the services that will be available starting on **January 1**.

Don't Forget to Put the Municipal Revenue Sharing Declaration of Eligibility on Your Council Meeting Agenda

In November, the Ministry of Government Relations emailed municipalities their unique link and password to access the online Municipal Revenue Sharing Declaration of Eligibility Form.

Municipalities are required to report their compliance with eligibility requirements to receive their Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. The deadline to submit the Declaration of Eligibility is **January 31**. A resolution from council is required, so municipalities are encouraged to include the Declaration of Eligibility on their council

The Ministry of Environment Wants Your Feedback on their Transfer Station Chapter

The Ministry of Environment released the **Solid Waste Management Strategy** in 2020 with a goal of modernizing regulations which includes a commitment to develop a Transfer Station chapter for inclusion in the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. The ministry is now seeking feedback on the proposed new Transfer Station chapter.

The Transfer Station chapter will establish an efficient application system for Saskatchewan that will minimize the time applicants spend applying and reapplying for permits and submitting reports.

meeting agenda before January 31.

See the [Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#) for more information.

Read the [quick reference guide](#) on the Transfer Station chapter or find more detailed information [here](#).

Submit your written comments no later than **February 5** to waste.management@gov.sk.ca.



New Salary Guidelines Released

The Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS) has released new salary guidelines for 2022.

To view the guidelines, visit the [UMAAS website](#).



Regulations Amending the Grade Crossing Regulations

Regulations Amending the Grade Crossings Regulations were published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II on **December 8**.

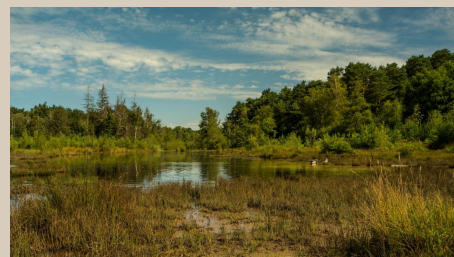
For more information, please visit the [Regulations Amending the Grade Crossings Regulations](#) on the *Canada Gazette* webpage and Transport Canada's website at [Grade Crossings Regulations: what you need to know](#).

In November, the deadlines for the regulations' compliance were changed. November 2022 is the deadline for high-priority grade crossings and November 2024 is for all other grade crossings. SUMA advocated for an extension of the compliance deadlines and is pleased changes were made.



New Policing Team to Fight Drugs, Illegal Weapons, and Human Trafficking

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced a new policing initiative to target gang-related criminal activity entering the province through trafficking corridors. The



Farmland Drainage and Environmental Virtual Conference December 14-17

The Citizens Environmental Alliance (CEA) is holding its third annual Farmland Drainage and Environmental Virtual Conference from **December 14-17**.

Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team (STRT) is a specialized intelligence-led enforcement team dedicated to addressing illegal weapons, drugs, and human trafficking.

The STRT will be comprised of 30 RCMP officers, six municipal police officers, two criminal analysts, and three support staff, for a total of 41 new permanent positions. STRT will have three offices strategically located in Lloydminster, Estevan, and Swift Current.

[Read more about the initiative.](#)

Sessions at the Conference:

- Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects Town Hall
- Crown (Public) Lands Gone Forever
- Wetlands and Their Role in the Resilience of Prairie Communities
- All Our Conversations Begin with Treaty - The Duty to Consult in Saskatchewan

[Find out more](#) about the sessions. If you are interested but are unable to attend live, recordings of the discussions will be uploaded to the [CEA YouTube channel](#).



Updated Vehicle Fire and Accident Claims Form

The **Vehicle Fire and Accident Claims Form** has been updated with the new rate. Instructions related to attaching supporting documents, if necessary, are also included.

[See the new form.](#)



WCB Raising Average Premium Rate for 2022

The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has approved the 2022 average employer premium rate of \$1.23 per hundred dollars of payroll. This is the first increase to the average premium rate since 2004. The 2021 rate was \$1.17.

[Read more.](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE



SUMA's Advocacy on Changing the Municipal Election Date

Earlier this year, Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer suggested the municipal election date be changed to avoid voter confusion.

Through a SUMA survey, polls at regional meetings, and a discussion at the City Mayors' Caucus, SUMA asked what date members would prefer for municipal elections. Based on your feedback, SUMA will be advocating for a **May election date for cities** and a **September 2024 election date for towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities.**



Waste Management, Water, or Adaptation? Which Environmental Topic is Most Important to Your Municipality

In the last *Municipal Update*, we asked which environmental topic - waste management, water, or adaptation - is most important to your municipality. We thank everyone who responded. If you didn't respond to our poll in the November 29 edition of *Municipal Update*, tell us now. Your answer will help shape SUMA's advocacy.

Which of these environmental topics is most important to your municipality?

Waste management (recycling, landfills, composting, impacted sites)

Select

Water (wetland, aquatic invasive species)

Select

Adaptation (climate change, green infrastructure, electric vehicle charging)

Select

CONVENTION



Mandatory Vaccinations and Masking at Convention 2022

On December 3, SUMA's Board of Directors met for a Board of Directors Meeting, and the agenda included discussions on SUMA's 2022 Convention and Tradeshow.

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors made the decision to have an in-person event. However, at the time of decision, the number of COVID-19 cases in the province was declining and the Government of Saskatchewan was removing restrictions.

During the recent Board of Directors Meeting, the Board discussed whether to move forward with in-person or pivot to a virtual event. Based on member feedback - in a recent *Municipal Update* poll, 79 per cent of respondents said they would attend in person - the recent success of Agribition, and in consultation with SUMA's sister associations, the Board of Directors made the decision to continue **moving forward with in-person**. The Board of Directors does not want to miss this opportunity to come together in-person and connect. However, if public health measures restrict gatherings, the plans will change. Delegate safety is a top priority.

With safety in mind, the SUMA Board of Directors has decided to introduce a number of measures at the 2022 Convention in April to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This includes **mandatory masking** and **proof of vaccinations**; a negative COVID-19 test will not be accepted. These measures will be in place even if the provincial health orders requiring mandatory masking and vaccinations have expired or been rescinded. The goal with all of the precautions SUMA will be taking is to make Convention a zero-spread event. Watch your email for more information.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Updated SK Vax Wallet App Supporting International Travel

The SK Vax Wallet app has been updated to display the full vaccination certificate with both the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada's visual identity wordmarks to support international travel.

Travellers are responsible for ensuring they understand vaccination requirements in other countries. More information about international travel can be found on the [Government of Canada website](#).

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Regina Beach: *Superintendent of Public Works* (December 23)
- Town of Oxbow: *Community Development Officer* (December 24)
- Town of Blaine Lake: *Administrator* (January 3)
- Resort Village of Tobin Lake: *Administrator* (When filled)

For Sale:

- *Submersible pumps*

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:

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program *Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream - Shovel Ready Projects* (January 11)
- *Community Rink Affordability Grant* (January 15)
- *Targeted Sector Support Initiative* (February 1)
- *SaskCulture Community Cultural Engagement Planning Grant* (February 15)
- *SGI Community Grant Program* (February 28)
- 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)

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

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