

MUNICIPAL Update

April 21, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30

MuniCast S8:E3: Collaborative Waste Management with the Ministry of the Environment, SWRC, ARWMAS, and TSS

May 1

Webinar: Navigating Social Media for Municipal Leaders

June 3

Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators

June 10-25

SUMA Regional Roadshow

July 11

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

See all [upcoming events](#).

Presidential Election

At Convention 2025, SUMA delegates re-elected Yorkton Councillor Randy Goulden to serve as their President.

"I am deeply honoured to have SUMA members place their trust in me once again," said President Goulden. "I look forward to seeing our new governance model and policies fully implemented and to continue the great work we have done to strengthen our advocacy and member services over the past several years."

Goulden was first elected to council in 1997 and became involved with SUMA shortly thereafter. She served for years as East-Central Regional Director before being elected as SUMA President in 2022.

Goulden began her next four-year term at the conclusion of SUMA's annual Convention, on April 16, 2025.



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, **Healthcare Practitioner Community Support Toolkit**, 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 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

Advocacy at Convention 2025

Resolutions Passed

18 Resolutions were passed on April 15 during the SUMA Convention. Resolutions involved advocacy calling for support on issues such as Dutch Elm disease, dilapidated buildings, paratransit vehicles, sustainable infrastructure development and infrastructure costs, Legislative tax sales, housing and homelessness, funding for police officers, mental health and social services, open-air skating rinks, personal care homes, regional economic development authorities, building officials, home supports for seniors, climate change adaptation, waste diversion, and urban municipalities' contributions to the Communities in Transition Fund.

SUMA will communicate these Resolutions to the Provincial and Federal Governments asking for a response.

Keynote Address: Dr. Gabor Maté on Mental Health and Addictions

SUMA was pleased to present a keynote address by **Dr. Gabor Maté**, a physician who worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness. Dr. Maté illuminated where and how addictions originate, discussing addiction as a response to a distressing life history and life situation, and the purpose that addiction serves to the individual. Using cutting-edge science, this session covered the sources of addiction, the development of the addicted mind, the social basis of addiction in economic, cultural, and political dislocation and disempowerment, and more. **Dr. Maté's presentation helped build delegates' understanding of the mental health and addictions crisis that many of our urban municipalities are facing.**

Governance Renewal

At last year's Annual General Meeting in 2024, **our members voted the future of SUMA's governance, choosing to restructure to a smaller Board of Directors**, following many years of research from governance professionals, and conversations, meetings and discussions with our members and board. This new structure involves a **seven-member Board of Directors and came into effect on April 16 following Convention 2025.**

We're thankful to our membership for exercising their right to shape SUMA's future, and look forward to the way this restructuring will strengthen our members' voices and make SUMA a more agile organization.

Federal Election Advocacy

Canadian voters are set to head to the polls on **April 28** to vote in the **federal election**.

At SUMA, we know that our urban municipalities are at the frontlines of many of the challenges facing Canada today -- from infrastructure needs to tariff challenges to the crisis in mental health, addictions, and homelessness.

Throughout the federal election campaign, **SUMA is advocating to all parties** to ensure policy decisions are made that support the prosperity and wellbeing of our communities.

For the 2025 Federal Election Campaign, SUMA is calling on all federal parties to present platforms that address 12 issues within three key areas of focus:

Infrastructure

- Funding for municipal infrastructure
- Broadband connectivity
- Municipal development costs

Economy

- Getting products to market
- Border services
- Inter-provincial trade barriers and tariff challenges as an impediment to growth in small communities
- Return of carbon tax funds to municipalities
- Maintenance of Canada Post services

Community Safety and Well-Being

- RCMP resourcing
- Non-market housing support
- Funding for municipal emergency services
- Changes to the *Canada Health Act* to support mental health, addictions, and homelessness

We need your support. We encourage our members and partners to advocate for our priorities to your local federal candidates.

We have launched **SUMA's 2025 Federal Election Advocacy Hub** as a resource for you to use and share to support our advocacy. Here you will find information on our key advocacy issues, links to social media platforms, and recent articles relating to the issues we are championing.

[Visit SUMA's 2025 Federal Election Hub](#)

CONVENTION 2025



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

Thank you to our members from across Saskatchewan who joined us last week 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.

Announcement of New Partnership: SUMAInvest

SUMA announced our newest partnership, SUMAInvest, at Convention. SUMAInvest is a collaboration between SUMA and the Saskatchewan Community Foundation with the goal of **strengthening the financial capacity of municipalities by working together for pooled reserve investment.**

The program leverages the diversified and professionally-managed investment portfolio of the Saskatchewan Community Foundation to help your municipality grow reserves and meet the needs of your community.



Click [here](#) for further information about how you can more effectively manage your municipal reserves through SUMAInvest. Visit the SUMAInvest website [here](#).

SUMA Recognizes Chris Brown of Cross Border Interviews Podcast

SUMA was pleased to recognize Chris Brown, creator and host of the Cross Border Interviews Podcast, at Convention 2025. Since 2019, Chris has been using his podcast as a platform to look into what he considered the untold stories of Canadian politics. In 2023, he began to focus exclusively on municipal politics, travelling Canada to interview community leaders and policy experts in his frank, open, conversational style.



Many of the SUMA Board and other Saskatchewan elected officials serving our urban municipalities have been a part of these conversations, and Chris has participated at many SUMA Conventions.

In acknowledgement of Chris Brown's contribution to the municipal sector and the elevation of municipal issues and champions into the public sphere, SUMA presented him with a plaque.

Check out Cross Border Interviews [here](#).

Recognizing Excellence with the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards celebrate the innovative practices of Saskatchewan's municipal governments. Four innovative projects from 10 municipalities were recognized in the 18th Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards. This year's winners have shown excellence in sustainable land stewardship, accessibility, cooperation, and addressing community needs. The winners of the 18th Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are:

Top Municipal Initiative: Bredenbury Community Daycare *(Town of Bredenbury)*

To address the lack of childcare options for residents, the town has established a licensed, town-owned daycare. This initiative not only supports families already living in the community and surrounding areas but also encourages new families to move here. The old school was renovated to house the daycare centre, the firehall, the Lions Club, and private businesses.

Top Rural Municipal Initiative: RM of Enniskillen Grazing Project *(RM of Enniskillen No. 3)*

The RM acquired a section of land along the Souris River, initially for gravel extraction, but with a vision for its potential as pastureland. A fence has been erected, and a community grazing plan has been developed. This innovative project is one of the first of its kind, and future plans include offering pasture tours for school groups and other interested parties. These tours will educate visitors on carbon sequestration, regenerative agriculture, animal impact, stock density, and soil armor.

Top Urban Municipal Initiative: Plewis Automotive Group Inclusive Park *(City of Swift Current)*

Through collaboration with experts and community members, the City of Swift Current created an inclusive park designed according to the seven principles of Universal Play. The park is a welcoming space for all community members, featuring accessible amenities like symbol communication boards, double-wide ramps, the Sway Fun Wheelchair glider, braille panels, multiple swings including a wheelchair-accessible bucket swing, a sensory play center, and more.

Regional Cooperation: Fire Chief Collaboration/School, EMO Committee, and CSO Program

(Twin Rivers District: Towns of Duck Lake, Hauge, Hepburn, Rosthern, and Waldheim and the RM's of Rosthern No. 403 and Duck Lake No. 463)

The seven municipalities of the Twin Rivers District have worked together on three major initiatives to provide essential municipal services to their region. These initiatives enhance professional human resources, ensuring competent and proactive management of Fire and Rescue Services, the Emergency Measures Organization, and a Community Safety Officer program. Through shared responsibility and strong inter-municipal partnerships, the municipalities have created multiple successful, cost-sharing programs that directly address the needs of the region.

The winning projects were selected by the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Committee who reviewed 12 nominations, submitted on behalf of 34 municipalities in Saskatchewan.

Each year, the awards committee is made up of partners from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), New North, the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (RMAA), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), and the Ministry of Government Relations.

Congratulations to SUMA's Service Award Winners

Each year, through the municipal long service awards program, the SUMA Board of Directors recognizes individuals from across the province who have demonstrated a commitment to outstanding service in the municipal field. We celebrated our award winners at the President's Gala at Convention 2025.

The awards acknowledge the contribution of individuals in the municipal field to an improved quality of life in their communities and to the advancement of local government in our province.

Award nominations are accepted from communities and councils throughout the province. The

individuals nominated are considered the most deserving of recognition for their outstanding service to their communities.

We are proud to honour these individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development and prosperity of our communities and urban governments in Saskatchewan.

Meritorious Service Awards are granted to **municipal staff members** with **20 or more** years of service. This year's Meritorious Service Award winners are:

Dean Acaster, City of North Battleford - 20 Years
D. Chris Adams, Town of Waldheim - 32 Years
Jeff Carey, Town of Lumsden - 28 Years
Crystal Campbell, Town of Lemberg - 23 Years
Rob Campbell, City of North Battleford - 30 Years
Chris Exner, Town of Lumsden - 28 Years
Steven Flynn, City of Swift Current - 20 Years
Marlene Funk, City of Swift Current - 20 Years
Joe Gagne, City of North Battleford - 25 Years
Borden Kishalowich, Town of Estehazy - 45 Years
Nicole Lerat, Town of Rosthern - 34 Years
Rick Manshande, Town of Nipawin - 21 Years
Mitch Mazurek, City of North Battleford - 35 Years
Monica Merkosky, Town of Lumsden - 35 Years
Kent Silbernagel, City of Swift Current - 20 Years
Kenneth "Bud" Wall, City of Swift Current, 20 Years

Honorary Service Awards are granted to **elected officials** throughout the province with **20 or more** years of service. This year's Honorary Service Award winners are:

Albert Boylak, Town of Wynyard - 24 Years
Douglas Terry, City of Melfort - 20 Years
T. Allan Jellicoe, Town of Tisdale - 25 Years
Glen S. Lewis, Town of Glen Ewen - 22 Years
Darcy Stefiuk, Town of Gravelbourg - 29 Years
Chris Wyatt, City of Yorkton - 20 Years

The **Scoop Lewry Award** recognizes outstanding service in municipal government or administration on a local, provincial, and national basis. This award is dedicated to the memory of L.H. "Scoop" Lewry, long-time Mayor of Moose Jaw and past SUMA President, who dedicated his career to improving his community with a kind and humanitarian spirit. This year's recipient of the Scoop Lewry Award was **Don Cody**, who has nearly 50 years of experience in the public sector including serving as an MLA and cabinet minister in Saskatchewan, chairperson of numerous boards, and mayor and city councillor for Prince Albert.

The **SUMA Life Membership Award** is granted by the Board of Directors to a municipal elected official who served on the SUMA Board of Directors. It recognizes an individual whose career exemplifies commitment and dedication to community, and significant contributions to urban government in Saskatchewan through SUMA. This year's Lifetime Membership Award recipient was **Mike Strachan**, who served as mayor of Torquay from 2009 to 2024 and served on the SUMA Board of Directors beginning in 2012, including as Southeast Regional Director and Vice President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities.

Congratulations to all our 2025 award winners!

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



MuniCast

A SUMA Podcast

S8:E2

Bylaw Enforcement for Public Safety with the City of Yorkton and the Town of Allan

From dangerous animals to noise and debris and many areas in between, bylaws are municipal regulations that cover areas not enforced by provincial and federal law. However, despite their importance in keeping a community safe, enforcement of bylaws is a challenge faced by many of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities. In this episode, **Bylaw Enforcement for Public Safety with the City of Yorkton and the Town of Allan**, Advocacy and Communications Advisor Cheyenne Geysen sits down with Jordan Hafichuk, Mayor of the Town of Allan, and Nicole Baptist, Bylaw & Safety Supervisor with the City of Yorkton, to unpack some of those challenges and look at the perspective of bylaw enforcement seen by their communities.

[Listen now!](#)

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



Webinar

SUMA

05.01.25

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Navigating Social Media for Municipal Leaders



Sponsored by

SUMAssure

Webinar: Navigating Social Media for Municipal Leaders

For municipal elected officials and staff, social media serves as both a bridge to their communities and a platform fraught with unique challenges. In an era where social media plays a pivotal role in communication and engagement, mastering its challenges has never been more crucial. In this webinar, **Navigating Social Media for Municipal Leaders**, dive into the latest best practices and trends to help municipalities effectively engage with the public while addressing pressing online issues.

Presented by **Catalyst Communications**, participants will gain insights into strategies for combating harassment, countering misinformation, and managing the dynamics of "rant and rave" groups. By providing actionable insights, this session highlights the importance of maintaining trust and transparency in digital communication. This session aims to equip attendees with the tools they need to foster meaningful and positive interactions online.

Join us on **Thursday, May 1** from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** to build confidence and resilience in the ever-evolving world of social media.

Register Now!

SUMA webinars are free to all SUMA members. There is a fee of \$45 + GST and PST for non-members to attend.

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by SUMAssure.



Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators

Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators.

On **Tuesday, June 3** join us in **Saskatoon** at the **Travelodge Hotel by Wyndham Saskatoon** ahead of the UMAAS Convention for a **Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators**.

Step into this comprehensive workshop on urban municipal procurement, where you will be guided through a wide array of procurement essentials. From uncovering best practices to understanding mandatory requirements, policies, and cooperative buying groups, this workshop has you covered.

This session is open to municipal administrators who have not already participated in either the in-person or virtual sessions that took place in 2024.

Thanks to funding received from the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) initiative, this 1-day procurement bootcamp is **available to SUMA member municipalities at no cost**.

Register now!



REGIONAL ROADSHOW

SPONSORED BY



SUMA Regional Roadshow

The **SUMA Regional Roadshow** is coming to a community near you this June! We look forward to a day full of learning, engagement, and networking in your home region.

Southwest Regional Meeting
June 10
Town of Gravelbourg

Northeast Regional Meeting
June 16
Town of Wakaw

East Central Regional Meeting
June 24
Town of Esterhazy

Central Regional Meeting
June 11
Village of Elbow

Northern Regional Meeting
June 17
City of Prince Albert

West Central Regional Meeting
June 12
Town of Delisle

Southeast Regional Meeting
June 25
Town of Whitewood

Northwest Regional Meeting
June 20
Town of Shellbrook

Register Now!

Not sure which region you are a part of? Visit <https://suma.org/about-us/members> and enter your municipality to find out!

Thank you to every municipality that submitted a venue proposal. The SUMA Regional Roadshow will take place annually and venues that were not selected for 2025 will be considered for future years.

The SUMA Regional Roadshow is sponsored by SaskWater.



SaskWater

SUMA **Golf Tournament**

★ **JULY 11** ★

OUTLOOK RIVERVIEW GOLF COURSE
Hosted by the Town of Outlook

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

Swing into Action at the **35th Annual SUMA Golf Tournament**, hosted by the **Town of Outlook**.

The Pirates of the South Saskatchewan River will be setting sail for the **Town of Outlook**! Join us on **Friday, July 11** at the **Outlook Riverview Golf Course**. Expect a day filled with 18-holes of golf, hearty laughter, and, of course, treasure-worthy prizes. The theme is Pirates of the South Saskatchewan River, so don your finest pirate attire, and get ready for a swashbuckling good time!

Come a day early and enjoy a **social evening** on **Thursday, July 10** to network with your peers while enjoying wings, beer, pickleball, bowling, and more!

Following the tournament a banquet and awards ceremony will take place. Set your course for an unforgettable event where camaraderie and competition come together on the greens.

OTHER UPDATES

Climate Ready Infrastructure Service

The Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) is **now accepting project submissions from local governments and communities across Canada**. This new program, delivered by the Canadian Urban Institute, **connects smaller municipalities with top climate and infrastructure experts to help strengthen infrastructure investments for long-term sustainability**.

Local governments with **populations under 30,000** can register projects at any stage of development to receive specialized expertise, decision-making support, and capacity-building opportunities tailored to their needs.

Learn more and register [here](#).

The Roster of Climate and Infrastructure Experts is facilitated by the Canadian Urban Institute and funded by the Government of Canada.

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](#).

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Kinetic GPO

CDW Canada is pleased to be an Apple Authorized Reseller for Apple technology through their awarded Kinetic GPO contract RFSO #21-12 catering to IT solutions and services.

CDW is your trusted technology partner for Apple products and services as well as other OEM solutions that complement the entire Apple ecosystem.

Whether you need to deploy devices with charging carts, ruggedized cases, deploy an MDM solution, leverage AppleCare+ for schools or refresh your Apple fleet, CDW offers personalized support.

Utilizing this agreement simplifies the procurement process, ensures compliance and puts technology solutions into action when you need them.

The Kinetic GPO contract spans CDW's full catalogue which now includes offerings from Apple Education.

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Business Development Manager **Michelle McCarthy** at michelle@kineticgpo.ca.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- **Air Ronge:** Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Manager of Legislative Services (April 24)
- **Town of Kindersley:** Director of Corporate Services (April 30)
- **Resort Village of Greig Lake:** Part-Time Administrator (April 30)
- **Town of Southey:** Administrative Assistant/Finance (May 1)
- **Lakeland District for Sport, Culture & Recreation:** Executive Director (May 2)
- **Town of Rouleau:** Public Works



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)
- TSS: *Targeted Sector Support Grant* (April 30)

For a full listing of grants, check the **Grants** section of our website under the Resources tab.

Foreman (May 8)

- [Resort Village of Cochin](#): Chief Administrative Officer (May 10)
- [Town of Shaunovan](#): Chief Administrative Officer (May 22)
- [Town of Shaunovan](#): Assistant to Chief Administrative Officer (May 22)

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.

SUMA | suma.org
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