



*121st Annual
SUMA Convention
April 12 – 15, 2026
ITC Trade Centre
Regina, SK*

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Presentation of resolutions:

- The SUMA Board will determine the order in which resolutions are presented at the Convention.
- Resolutions will be presented on screen at Convention for voting, including the “Therefore” clause and the name of the sponsoring municipality.
- The Resolutions Session Host will read the action clause and ask for speakers supporting, opposing, or seeking amendment to the resolution.
- All speakers will be given no more than two (2) minutes to speak.
- If an amendment is proposed:
 - the amender will be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the amendment.
 - If a speaker is opposed to the amendment, regular debate then occurs.
 - Once debate has concluded, or if there is no speaker opposed, the question is called.
 - If the amendment is successful, the amendment will be recorded, and the chair will ask for any speaker opposed to the amended resolution to speak.
- Should no members speak to the resolution, or at the close of debate, the Host will call the question.
- Resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions Session because of insufficient time or lack of a quorum will be presented to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

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2026-01: Regional Cost Sharing

The Village of Borden and the SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas urban municipalities provide the majority of essential community services and recreation facilities in Saskatchewan, including community halls, arenas, fire halls, parks, and libraries, that are used extensively by residents of surrounding rural municipalities; and

Whereas the capital and operational costs of constructing, maintaining, insuring, and staffing these essential facilities, including the hosting of regional library branches within urban community buildings, are borne disproportionately by small urban municipalities while rural municipalities contribute inconsistently relative to their resident usage; and

Whereas rural municipalities often contribute to fire protection services, but the hosting urban municipality remains responsible for maintaining the fire hall, carrying insurance costs (vehicle, liability, and facility), and providing administrative and logistical support to the fire departments; and

Whereas the long-term sustainability of regional services is critical to economic development, public safety, learning and literacy, and quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan for a strengthened provincial framework that ensures fair financial participation from rural municipalities in support of regional community services by implementing the following:

1. Mandatory cost-sharing agreements for essential regional emergency services such as fire response, ensuring fair proportional contribution relative to service area and population served;
2. Provincial incentive programs that encourage and support collaboration on recreational and community-based services and facilities, including library hosting costs, through capital and operational funding opportunities; and
3. Provincial guidelines and tools that assist municipalities in structuring fair contribution models and resolving disputes in a timely and equitable manner.

Background

Small urban municipalities frequently host and maintain regional facilities that serve residents well beyond their municipal boundaries. While rural municipalities benefit from these shared services, financial contributions are inconsistent and often inadequate to cover true costs. A clear provincial framework would promote fairness, predictability, and long-term sustainability for regional services that are vital to public safety, recreation, and community well-being.

Acts affected: The Municipalities Act, The Cities Act, The Planning and Development Act; Sectors/Regions affected: Cities, Towns, Villages, Resort Villages

2026-02: The Retention of Certified Water and Wastewater Operators

Village of Borden

Whereas safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment are essential public services, and municipalities are required under *The Water Regulations, 2023* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* to ensure certified operators are responsible for the operation of waterworks and wastewater systems; and

Whereas urban municipalities — especially villages and small towns — invest substantial public resources into training operators to achieve and maintain certification, including tuition, travel, course materials, and paid training time; and

Whereas certified operators are in high demand and often leave for higher-paying positions in larger municipalities, utilities, or private industry shortly after certification, resulting in operational vulnerability, recruitment challenges, repeated training costs, and a service gap that increases risk to public health and regulatory compliance; and

Whereas small municipalities face limited tax bases and are increasingly unable to offer competitive compensation or career pathways that support long-term operator retention;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada to develop and fund a retention-focused solution for small municipalities, including one or more of the following:

1. A Provincial Retention Grant Program that supports ongoing employment of certified operators in small communities for a defined term following training;
2. A Bonding/Return-of-Service Framework created at the provincial level to ensure cost-shared training investments result in retained municipal talent;
3. Funded Regional Operator Sharing Models, including cross-municipal agreements, mobile circuit riders, or dedicated regional public utility operators; and
4. Review of provincial wage supports or classification programs to ensure small municipalities remain viable service providers in compliance with regulated certification requirements.

Background

Municipal water and wastewater systems rely on highly trained, provincially certified operators. Small municipalities bear significant training costs yet struggle to retain these employees once certification is achieved due to limited fiscal capacity and wage

competitiveness. This results in recurring recruitment, training expenses, service disruptions, and heightened regulatory risk. A coordinated provincial or federal retention framework is necessary to stabilize rural and small-town utility operations, protect public health, and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2026-03: Municipal Transparency Requirements
Village of Buchanan

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan has introduced new transparency and communication requirements through modernization and red tape reduction initiatives, including obligations to maintain municipal websites and publish agendas, minutes, and financial information; and

Whereas small urban municipalities often operate with limited staffing and financial capacity, making it difficult to comply with these additional administrative responsibilities without reducing essential services or increasing costs to ratepayers; and

Whereas mandatory online posting of municipal documents creates privacy, security, and communication risks, including the potential for inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information protected under *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (LA FOIP), and may expose municipalities to fraud attempts or targeted financial exploitation once financial information becomes publicly accessible; and

Whereas small municipalities frequently lack the technical tools, training, and legal expertise required to manage information security, perform proper document redaction, and respond to increased public expectations for explanations of council decisions;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to:

- Provide dedicated funding to small urban municipalities for website development, maintenance, and required online postings;
- Provide communication tools, templates, and training to help municipalities explain council decisions to the public;
- Ensure future transparency and reporting requirements include accompanying financial, technical, and training supports; and
- Provide resources to help municipalities manage privacy, redaction, information security, and financial theft risks associated with publishing municipal information online.

Background

Small urban municipalities in Saskatchewan are facing increasing administrative pressures as the provincial government advances its red tape reduction and modernization agenda. Bill 43 – The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2024 introduces new transparency and communication requirements that will require municipalities to maintain a public website, post council agendas and minutes, and publish financial and administrative information online.

For many small communities, these expectations come at a time when administrative capacity is already stretched. Most small urban municipalities operate with a single administrator who is responsible for all municipal functions, including governance support, financial management, public communication, and regulatory compliance. Adding new reporting and online publishing requirements will significantly increase workload and may force municipalities to divert time and resources away from essential services.

The requirement to publish financial information, contracts, and other municipal documents online also creates heightened privacy, security, and theft-related risks. Small municipalities often lack the tools and expertise needed to properly redact sensitive information, manage cybersecurity threats, or ensure compliance with LA FOIP. Errors in publishing financial data can expose municipalities to fraud attempts, targeted scams, and reputational harm.

Without dedicated funding and technical support, these new obligations place a disproportionate burden on small communities. Ensuring that municipalities have the resources to comply with legislative changes is essential to maintaining transparency, protecting privacy, and supporting the long-term sustainability of small urban governments.

Acts affected: The Municipalities Act; Sectors/Regions affected: Towns, Villages

2026-04 Enhanced Municipal Revenue Tools and Fiscal Fairness

City of Regina and SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas municipalities in Saskatchewan are limited in their ability to generate revenue, relying predominantly on property tax, which places a disproportionate burden on property owners and restricts fiscal flexibility; and

Whereas alternative revenue tools, including taxes and levies for infrastructure have been utilized in other jurisdictions to diversify municipal funding and reduce reliance on property taxation; and

Whereas the collection of provincial education property tax by municipalities imposes an administrative burden without corresponding compensation; and

Whereas removal of the payments in lieu for forgoing electrical generation have resulted in revenue losses; and

Whereas municipalities are required to pay Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on construction projects, further increasing costs and limiting the scope of infrastructure investment; and

Whereas municipal revenue sharing has provided valuable support to Saskatchewan municipalities, and any changes to municipal revenue tools should consider the importance and continued role of revenue sharing in supporting local government sustainability;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA:

1. Advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to enable municipalities to access alternative revenue options including, but not limited to, new or improved taxation alternatives;
2. Advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to either collect its own education property tax directly or reinstate a grant to municipalities that compensates for the administrative burden of collection;
3. Advocate for the reinstatement of municipal payments in lieu for electrical revenues from SaskPower, restoring a vital source of municipal revenue; and
4. Advocate for the Province of Saskatchewan to exempt municipalities from Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on construction projects, thereby reducing costs and supporting infrastructure development.

Acts affected: Various; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2026-05 Improving Access to Emergency Care and Compensation for Fire Departments

City of Warman

Whereas *The Saskatchewan Ambulance Act* has remained largely unchanged for decades, despite significant advancements in healthcare delivery and substantial demographic shifts across the Province; and

Whereas current provisions, governing the licensing of ambulance operators and the designation of service districts and their EMS providers, may limit flexibility and hinder equitable access to emergency medical services across urban and rural municipalities and also where EMS services are not meeting performance expectations; and

Whereas modernizing these provisions would enable operational efficiency, encourage collaboration among service providers and align Saskatchewan's EMS framework with

best practices adopted in other jurisdictions, including performance-based contracts, that municipalities can provide input on; and

Whereas municipal fire departments across Saskatchewan are increasingly required to respond to medical emergencies, providing critical support and backstopping Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and

Whereas EMS services are funded through the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), while fire departments receive no compensation for these medical responses despite incurring significant costs in personnel, training and equipment; and

Whereas no policy or funding is in place to allow municipal fire departments to transfer patients in emergency situations, if deemed the best option, when no ambulance is available; and

Whereas the costs associated with maintaining and upgrading fire department infrastructure, equipment and apparatus have risen dramatically in recent years, placing significant financial strain on municipalities; and

Whereas ensuring timely and equitable access to emergency medical services is essential for public safety, health outcomes and maintaining public confidence in the healthcare system;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to:

- review and amend *The Saskatchewan Ambulance Act*, specifically the provisions governing the licensing of ambulance operators and the designation of service districts, with the objective of ensuring timely and equitable access to emergency medical services across Saskatchewan; and
- establish a formal cost-sharing mechanism between the Government of Saskatchewan and municipalities to maintain and upgrade fire department infrastructure, equipment, and apparatuses; and
- compensate municipal fire departments for their role in responding to medical emergencies, recognizing their contribution to the province's integrated emergency response system.

Acts affected: The Saskatchewan Ambulance Act; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2026-06 Increased Funding for Local Housing Authorities

City of Estevan

Whereas access to safe, affordable housing is essential to the wellbeing and stability of residents in Saskatchewan communities; and

Whereas local Housing Authorities play a critical role in managing and maintaining affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income residents; and

Whereas rising costs for maintenance, utilities, insurance, and staffing have placed significant financial strain on Housing Authorities; and

Whereas current provincial funding levels are insufficient to maintain housing stock, address deferred maintenance, or meet increasing community demand;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to increase funding to local Housing Authorities to ensure the sustainability, maintenance, and expansion of affordable housing in all Saskatchewan communities.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2026-07 Northern Bylaw Enforcement

Village of Air Ronge

Whereas consistent and equitable enforcement of municipal bylaws is essential to uphold community standards; and

Whereas limited staffing and administrative workload hinder the ability to provide equitable enforcement across all areas of northern jurisdiction;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to develop and implement a rotating schedule of bylaw enforcement officials throughout the northern jurisdiction to reduce administrative burdens and ensure consistent, fair, efficient, and visible enforcement of municipal regulations.

Acts affected: None.; Sectors/Regions affected: North

2026-08 Wildfire Mitigation

Town of La Ronge and Village of Air Ronge

Whereas the Village of Air Ronge and the Town of La Ronge are committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

Whereas wildfires pose a significant threat to life, property, and community stability; and

Whereas maintaining functional infrastructure and proactive risk mitigation measures is essential to reducing hazards and ensuring community resilience; and

Whereas the maintenance of existing fuel breaks and the expansion of fuel mitigation efforts are critical components of fire prevention and protection strategies; and

Whereas developing and maintaining bulldozed firebreaks (“CAT guards”) are essential components for the strategic containment of wildfires and the protection of communities;

Therefore, be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada to maintain existing fuel breaks and expand fuel mitigation efforts, including vegetation management and other approved measures, to reduce wildfire risk and enhance community safety in Saskatchewan; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada to maintain CAT guard perimeter for fire guarding and prevention purposes, ensuring it remains functional, accessible, and effective throughout the fire season and as conditions warrant.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: North

2026-09 Improving Census Procedures for Smaller Communities and Ensuring Accessibility for Seniors and Technologically-Challenged Individuals
Town of Tisdale

Whereas accurate census data is essential for municipal planning, service delivery, and securing equitable provincial and federal funding; and

Whereas smaller urban municipalities face unique challenges in census participation due to limited local administrative capacity and reduced in-person census outreach; and

Whereas most census enumerators assigned to small communities are not residents and may not be familiar with the local context, neighborhoods, or residents, which can reduce participation and accuracy; and

Whereas the increasing reliance on online census completion disproportionately impacts seniors and individuals with limited technological access or digital literacy; and

Whereas more accessible census options and improved support from Statistics Canada would help ensure complete and reliable population counts for small communities;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate Statistics Canada and the Government of Canada for improved census procedures that better reflect the realities and needs of smaller urban municipalities; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA request the reinstatement or expansion of in-person census options, paper-based forms, and outreach supports to ensure seniors and individuals with technological barriers can fully participate in the census; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA urge Statistics Canada to prioritize the hiring of local enumerators wherever possible and to provide enhanced training to ensure enumerators understand the community setting, thereby improving accuracy and participation rates.

Background:

The Town of Tisdale was one of the communities that experienced a population decrease in the 2021 Census. While population change can be influenced by many factors, the Town believes census methodology and accessibility challenges also play a role in undercounting residents in smaller communities. Tisdale, like many small urban municipalities in Saskatchewan, has an aging population. As census processes increasingly rely on online completion and digital communication, seniors and individuals with limited access to technology or digital literacy face barriers to participation. These challenges are compounded by reduced in-person census support and the use of non-local enumerators who may be unfamiliar with the community and its residents. Without more accessible and locally responsive census procedures, communities such as Tisdale risk continued underrepresentation, which directly affects long-term planning, service delivery, and eligibility for provincial and federal funding.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2026-10 Reimbursement for Fire Department Services on Provincial Highways

Town of Balgonie

Whereas local fire departments provide essential emergency services by responding to incidents and accidents on provincial highways; and

Whereas Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) is the first payer for fire department charges related to vehicle losses, including fire suppression and rescue/extraction services, based on SGI-established rates; and

Whereas local fire departments also respond to other emergencies such as chemical spills, hazardous materials spills, and debris clean-up; and

Whereas SGI does not reimburse local fire departments for services when the responsible driver and vehicle is unknown;

Therefore, be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to implement a fund to reimburse local fire departments for their time and equipment costs when managing scenes where submitting a claim to SGI is unsuccessful; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA seek an agreement with the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Highways stating that local fire departments and municipalities are not responsible for the costs associated with the clean-up of chemical spills or hazardous materials spills on provincial highways.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

Background

On October 12, 2024, the Balgonie Fire Department responded to a hazardous material spill at the intersection of Highway 46 and Highway 364. The spill extended approximately 4.1 km across multiple roadways within the Town of Balgonie and the RM of Edenwold No. 158, including the North Service Road, Highway 46, Regina Bypass traffic circles and Highway 1 east of Balgonie.

The substance initially appeared to be seed but later began to spontaneously combust when driven over, raising concerns about flammability and chemical hazards. Mutual aid was requested from White City, Emerald Park, and Pilot Butte Fire Departments. Responding crews attempted to mitigate risks by washing the material to the shoulder, but this was halted after consultation with Saskatchewan Environment, which suspected the material was a flammable bulk fertilizer.

The incident required coordination with the RCMP, the Ministry of Highways, and Regina Bypass. Temporary road closures were implemented, and GFL Environmental was contracted for the cleanup. Mobilization of GFL did not occur until late afternoon, and cleanup continued through the night and into the next day. Highways were fully reopened approximately 36 hours later.

The spill was estimated at 13.5 to 14 tons. Multiple volunteer fire departments and agencies were involved, incurring significant costs for personnel and equipment during the prolonged emergency response. While cleanup costs were covered by Regina Bypass and the Ministry of Highways, SGI denied reimbursement for fire services because the responsible vehicle and driver were never identified. Despite extensive efforts – including RCMP investigation, media releases, and review of surveillance footage – the offending party remains unknown.

This case highlights a critical gap; when SGI reimbursement is unavailable, municipalities and volunteer fire departments bear the financial burden of essential emergency services. Establishing a provincial fund and clarifying responsibility for hazardous material cleanup would ensure fairness and sustainability for rural and urban fire departments.

2026-11 Research Farm Closures SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas the 2026 Federal Budget called for the downsizing and/or closure of long-standing research farms across the prairies, including locations near the Town of Indian Head and the Town of Scott; and

Whereas these research farms play an essential role in ensuring the long-term economic success of prairie agriculture and food security through the development and

testing of seed and farming practices that are particularly beneficial to Saskatchewan parkland and grassland; and

Whereas this agricultural development plays a key role in the provincial economy as well as the local economies surrounding urban municipalities, where producers conduct their business and have their crops processed; and

Whereas the anticipated losses from the closure of these facilities are approximately 35 FTEs, 25 summer students and graduate trainees, and as much as \$400M in agricultural sector losses in the first year, in addition to tertiary losses in both urban and rural municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Canada to pause and review any research farm closures or downsizing decisions pending a full, public impact assessment.

Acts affected: None; Sectors/Regions affected: All