

SUMA

2023 Annual Report



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Who is SUMA?

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) is the provincial voice of urban municipal governments representing cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities. We promote, protect, and defend the interests of our members.

Mission Statement

SUMA represents the collective strength of Saskatchewan communities in providing leadership in advocacy, education, and service excellence.

Vision

SUMA is recognized as the voice of Saskatchewan's communities/municipalities.

Values

- Independence: We believe in protecting strong local autonomy
- Member-focused: We are a member-driven organization and consider the interests of all urban sectors prior to making decisions
- Accountability: We are accountable for our actions internally and externally
- Innovative: We believe in providing innovative and value-driven programs and services to our members
- Transparency: We take a fact-based approach to public policy
- Respectful: We respect each other, our members, and others that we work with

Board of Directors 2022-23

SUMA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from all sectors and regions of the province.



Randy Goulden,
President



Gerald Aalbers,
Vice-President of Cities



Michelle McKenzie,
Interim Vice-President of
Towns



Mike Strachan,
Vice-President of Villages,
Resort Villages, and
Northern Villages



Richard Beck,
Director- Northwest Region



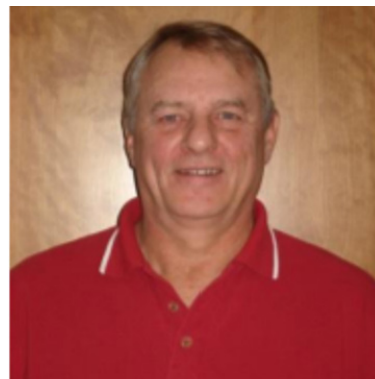
Lori Bresciani,
Director- City of Regina



Randy Donauer,
Director- City of Saskatoon

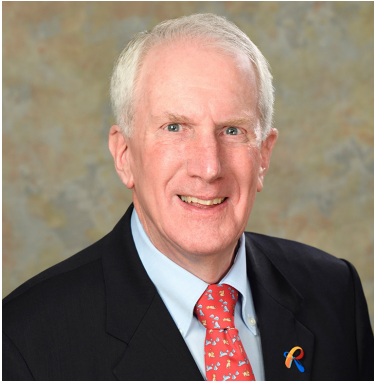


Bev Dubois,
Director- City of Saskatoon



Jim Gallant,
Director- East Central
Region

Board of Directors 2022-23



Bob Hawkins,
Director- City of Regina



Patricia Jackson,
Director- Southeast Region



Dawn Luhnig,
Director- City of Moose Jaw



Bryan Matheson,
Director- Central Region



Kyle Bennett,
Director- Southwest Region



Rod Perkins,
Director- West Central Region



April Phillips,
Director- Northeast Region



Gerald Roy,
Director- Northern Region

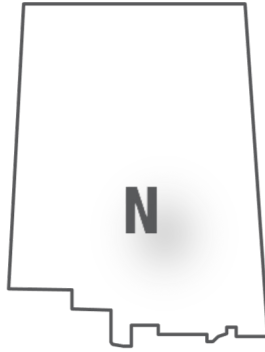


Don Cody,
Director- City of Prince Albert

SUMA Members

SUMA's strength lies in our membership. There are SUMA members in all provincial constituencies and all federal ridings. Representing communities of all sizes and all areas of the province, our members bring to the organization a wealth of knowledge, practical experience, and advice. Membership in SUMA is voluntary and is open to cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities.





Northern Region

Director:

Gerald Roy

Director Alternate

Vacant

City and Towns

City of Flin Flon

Town of Creighton

Town of La Ronge

Northern Hamlets

Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids

Northern Hamlet of Weyakwin

Northern Villages

Northern Village of Air Ronge

Northern Village of Beauval

Northern Village of Buffalo Narrows

Northern Village of Cumberland House

Northern Village of Denare Beach

Northern Village of Green Lake

Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse

Northern Village of La Loche

Northern Village of Pelican Narrows

Northern Village of Pinehouse

Northern Village of Sandy Bay



Northwest Region

Director:

Richard Beck

Director Alternate

Jamie Martens

Cities

City of Lloydminster
City of Martensville
City of Meadow Lake
City of Warman

Resort Villages

Resort Village of Aquadeo
Resort Village of Chitek Lake
Resort Village of Cochin
Resort Village of Greig Lake
Resort Village of Kivimaa-Moonlight Bay
Resort Village of Metinota
Resort Village of Pebble Bay
Resort Village of Pelican Pointe
Resort Village of Turtle View

Towns

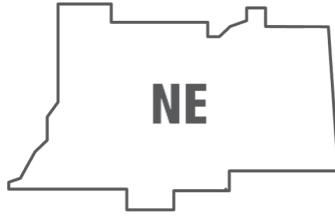
Town of Big River
Town of Blaine Lake

Town of Dalmeny
Town of Duck Lake
Town of Hafford
Town of Hague
Town of Hepburn
Town of Langham
Town of Lashburn
Town of Maidstone
Town of Marshall
Town of Osler
Town of Radisson
Town of Rosthern
Town of Shellbrook
Town of Spiritwood
Town of St. Walburg
Town of Turtleford
Town of Waldheim

Villages

Village of Borden
Village of Canwood
Village of Debden
Village of Denholm

Village of Dorintosh
Village of Edam
Village of Glaslyn
Village of Goodsoil
Village of Laird
Village of Leask
Village of Leoville
Village of Loon Lake
Village of Makwa
Village of Marcelin
Village of Marsden
Village of Maymont
Village of Medstead
Village of Meota
Village of Mervin
Village of Neilburg
Village of Paradise Hill
Village of Parkside
Village of Paynton
Village of Pierceland
Village of Shell Lake
Village of Speers
Village of Waseca



Northeast Region

Director:

April Phillips

Director Alternate

Vacant

Cities

City of Humboldt
City of Melfort

Resort Villages

Resort Village of
Candle Lake
Resort Village of Elk Ridge
Resort Village of
Tobin Lake
Resort Village of
Wakaw Lake

Towns

Town of Aberdeen
Town of Arborfield
Town of Birch Hills
Town of Bruno
Town of Carrot River
Town of Choiceland
Town of Cudworth
Town of Hudson Bay
Town of Kelvington
Town of Kinistino

Town of Leroy

Town of Naicam
Town of Nipawin
Town of Porcupine Plain
Town of Rose Valley
Town of St. Brieux
Town of Star City
Town of Tisdale
Town of Vonda
Town of Wakaw
Town of Watson

Villages

Village of Albertville
Village of Alvena
Village of Annaheim
Village of Archerwill
Village of Aylsham
Village of Beatty
Village of Bjorkdale
Village of
Christopher Lake
Village of Codette
Village of Englefeld
Village of Fosston

Village of Lake Lenore

Village of Love
Village of Meath Park
Village of Middle Lake
Village of Mistatim
Village of Muenster
Village of Paddockwood
Village of Pilger
Village of Pleasantdale
Village of Prud'homme
Village of Quill Lake
Village of Ridgedale
Village of Smeaton
Village of Spalding
Village of St. Benedict
Village of St. Gregor
Village of St. Louis
Village of Valparaiso
Village of Weekes
Village of Weirdale
Village of Weldon
Village of White Fox
Village of Zenon Park



West Central Region

Director:

Rod Perkins

Director Alternate

David Gillan

Cities

City of North Battleford

Resort Villages

Resort Village of
Coteau Beach

Towns

Town of Asquith
Town of Battleford
Town of Biggar
Town of Cut Knife
Town of Delisle
Town of Eatonia
Town of Elrose
Town of Eston
Town of Kerrobert
Town of Kindersley

Town of Kyle
Town of Luseland
Town of Macklin
Town of Outlook
Town of Rosetown
Town of Scott
Town of Unity
Town of Wilkie
Town of Zealandia

Villages

Village of Beechy
Village of Brock
Village of Broderick
Village of Coleville
Village of Conquest
Village of Denzil
Village of Dinsmore

Village of Dodsland
Village of Flaxcombe
Village of Glenside
Village of Harris
Village of Kinley
Village of Landis
Village of Lucky Lake
Village of Macrorie
Village of Major
Village of Milden
Village of Netherhill
Village of Perdue
Village of Plenty
Village of Smiley
Village of Tessier
Village of
Tramping Lake
Village of Vanscoy



Central Region

Director:

Bryan Matheson

Director Alternate

Brian Strong

Resort Villages

Resort Village of Alice Beach
Resort Village of B-Say-Tah
Resort Village of Chorney Beach
Resort Village of District of Katepwa
Resort Village of Etters Beach
Resort Village of Fort San
Resort Village of Glen Harbour
Resort Village of Grandview Beach
Resort Village of Island View
Resort Village of Kannata Valley
Resort Village of Manitou Beach
Resort Village of Mistusinne
Resort Village of Saskatchewan Beach
Resort Village of Shields
Resort Village of Sunset Cove
Resort Village of Thode
Resort Village of Wee Too Beach

Towns

Town of Allan
Town of Balcarres
Town of Balgonie
Town of Colonsay

Town of Craik
Town of Cupar
Town of Davidson
Town of Dundurn
Town of Foam Lake
Town of Fort Qu'Appelle
Town of Govan
Town of Hanley
Town of Imperial
Town of Ituna
Town of Lanigan
Town of Lumsden
Town of Nokomis
Town of Pilot Butte
Town of Raymore
Town of Regina Beach
Town of Southey
Town of Strasbourg
Town of Wadena
Town of Watrous
Town of White City
Town of Wynyard

Villages

Village of Abernethy
Village of Aylesbury
Village of Bethune
Village of Bladworth
Village of Brownlee
Village of Buena Vista
Village of Bulyea
Village of Chamberlain
Village of Clavet

Village of Craven
Village of Dilke
Village of Disley
Village of Drake
Village of Dysart
Village of Earl Grey
Village of Edenwold
Village of Elbow
Village of Elfros
Village of Eyebrow
Village of Hawarden
Village of Holdfast
Village of Jansen
Village of Kelliher
Village of Kenaston
Village of Lebret
Village of Leross
Village of Liberty
Village of Lipton
Village of Loreburn
Village of Markinch
Village of Meacham
Village of Punnichy
Village of Quinton
Village of Semans
Village of Silton
Village of Simpson
Village of Strongfield
Village of Tugaske
Village of Viscount
Village of Young
Village of Zelma



East Central Region

Director:

Jim Gallant

Director Alternate

Nancy Brunt

Cities

City of Melville
City of Yorkton

Resort Villages

Resort Village of
Bird's Point
Resort Village of
Melville Beach
Resort Village of
West End

Towns

Town of Bredenbury
Town of Canora
Town of Churchbridge
Town of Esterhazy
Town of Kamsack
Town of Langenburg

Town of Lemberg
Town of Norquay
Town of Preeceville
Town of Saltcoats
Town of Springside
Town of Sturgis

Villages

Village of Arran
Village of Atwater
Village of Bangor
Village of Buchanan
Village of Calder
Village of Dubuc
Village of Ebenezer
Village of Endeavour
Village of Fenwood
Village of Gerald
Village of Grayson

Village of Hyas
Village of Invermay
Village of Killaly
Village of Lintlaw
Village of MacNutt
Village of Neudorf
Village of Pelly
Village of Rama
Village of Rhein
Village of Sheho
Village of Spy Hill
Village of Stenen
Village of Stockholm
Village of Tantallon
Village of Theodore
Village of Togo
Village of Yarbo



Southwest Region

Director:

Kyle Bennett

Director Alternate

Vacant

Cities

City of Swift Current

Resort Villages

Resort Village of Beaver Flat
Resort Village of North Grove
Resort Village of South Lake
Resort Village of Sun Valley

Towns

Town of Assiniboia
Town of Burstall
Town of Cabri
Town of Central Butte
Town of Eastend
Town of Gravelbourg
Town of Gull Lake

Town of Herbert
Town of Lafleche
Town of Leader
Town of Maple Creek
Town of Morse
Town of Mossbank
Town of Ponteix
Town of Rockglen
Town of Shaunavon
Town of Willow Bunch

Villages

Village of Abbey
Village of Bracken
Village of Cadillac
Village of Caronport
Village of Chaplin
Village of Climax
Village of Consul
Village of Fox Valley
Village of Frontier

Village of Golden Prairie
Village of Hazenmore
Village of Hazlet
Village of Hodgeville
Village of Kincaid
Village of Limerick
Village of Mankota
Village of Mendham
Village of Mortlach
Village of Neville
Village of Pennant
Village of Prelate
Village of Richmond
Village of Riverhurst
Village of Rush Lake
Village of Tompkins
Village of Tuxford
Village of Vanguard
Village of Waldeck
Village of Webb



Southeast Region

Director:

Patricia Jackson

Director Alternate

Marcel Roy

Cities

City of Estevan
City of Weyburn

Towns

Town of Alameda
Town of Arcola
Town of Bengough
Town of Bienfait
Town of Broadview
Town of Carlyle
Town of Carnduff
Town of Coronach
Town of Fleming
Town of Francis
Town of Grand Coulee
Town of Grenfell
Town of Indian Head
Town of Kipling
Town of Lampman
Town of Midale
Town of Milestone
Town of Moosomin
Town of Ogema
Town of Oxbow
Town of Pense

Town of Qu'Appelle
Town of Radville
Town of Redvers
Town of Rocanville
Town of Rouleau
Town of Sintaluta
Town of Stoughton
Town of Wapella
Town of Wawota
Town of Whitewood
Town of Wolseley
Town of Yellow Grass

Villages

Village of Alida
Village of Belle Plaine
Village of Briercrest
Village of Carievale
Village of Ceylon
Village of Creelman
Village of Drinkwater
Village of Fairlight
Village of Fillmore
Village of Forget
Village of Frobisher
Village of Gainsborough

Village of Glenavon
Village of Glen Ewen
Village of Halbrite
Village of Heward
Village of Kendal
Village of Kennedy
Village of Kenosee Lake
Village of Kisbey
Village of Lang
Village of Macoun
Village of Manor
Village of Maryfield
Village of McLean
Village of McTaggart
Village of Minton
Village of Montmartre
Village of North Portal
Village of Odessa
Village of Osage
Village of Pangman
Village of Roche Percee
Village of Sedley
Village of Storthoaks
Village of Torquay
Village of Vibank
Village of Wilcox
Village of Windthorst

SUMA Staff

The staff at SUMA, under the direction of the CEO, are responsible for planning and delivering SUMA's annual convention, as well as developing and submitting a budget for approval. SUMA staff promote and protect the interests of urban governments, deliver group benefits, administer insurance and purchasing programs, and organize events, like the annual regional meetings and the municipal symposium.

The CEO acts as the liaison between the Board of Directors and the administrative staff at SUMA. The CEO is responsible for the curatorial aspects of the administration of policies, developing and fostering relationships with municipal organizations and government, and coordinating the overall activities and business affairs of SUMA.



Jean-Marc Nadeau,
MBA, LL.M, C.Mgr.,
Chief Executive Officer



Sean McKenzie,
Director, Advocacy Services



Lindsay Peel,
Director, Corporate Services



Stephanie Bourassa,
Education and Events
Advisor



Laurie Bryant,
Accountant



Katee Galandy,
Manager of Strategic
Member Engagement and
Events

SUMA Staff



Cheyenne Geysen,
Advocacy and
Communications Advisor



Catherine Holland,
Sponsorship and Marketing
Advisor



Tanisha Khan,
Communications Advisor



Kerri Martin,
Advocacy Advisor



Scott Meger,
Manager, Group Benefits



Augustina Osaseri,
Advocacy Advisor



Amanda Reid,
Group Benefits Administrator



Mason Stott,
Advocacy and Legal Advisor



Stephanie Wolos,
Administrative Assistant

SUMA Staff



Heather Vanderaa,
Executive Assistant



Kerri Ann Daniels,
Director of Operations and
Member Services,
Kinetic GPO



Carl McDonald,
Director of Contracting and
Compliance,
Kinetic GPO



Tania Wendling,
MBA
CEO, SUMAssure

Message from the President

It seems hard to believe we have reached the end of another year. While considering themes for this year's message from the President, the one that came up most frequently was continuity.

In many ways, 2023 was simply a continuation of the work SUMA has been doing. Our Governance review, which began in earnest at the beginning of 2022, is slated for an official vote at Convention 2024. Over the course of the last almost two years, we have been actively soliciting feedback from you as we look to shape the future of SUMA's governance structure. Using this feedback, and with the help of governance and parliamentary process experts, we have crafted a proposal for the AGM on what a modernized Board of Directors may look like, but ultimately, the final vote will rest with you, our members.

Following the vote, we will continue to move through the process as promised – nothing will be rushed. No changes will be made until Convention 2025.

That does not mean that 2024 won't be a big year for SUMA, however. This year will see both a provincial and municipal elections, so the political landscape in which we find ourselves may look very different by the end of the year. What will not change, however, is our commitment to representing the interests of Saskatchewan's hometowns.

For those of you who are planning on running in your local elections, SUMA has plenty of resources to help. From the elected officials' handbook, which lays out the responsibilities of a municipally-elected official, to plenty of election-specific educational content planned over the course of the year, to the Municipal Peer Network where you can connect with longstanding municipal official to answer any of your questions in a confidential one-on-one conversation, there are tools available to answer any questions you may have. If you are unsure where to begin, SUMA's friendly staff is available to lend a hand.

SUMA will also be putting out plenty of content around the provincial election to help you understand the full picture before heading to the polls. Keep an eye on both their social media and website for updated content as the year rolls on.

I look forward to remaining at the helm of SUMA's Board of Directors as President in 2024 as we continue on the transformative path we've walked for the past few years. As always, we thank you for placing your trust in us, both as an organization and as the Board of Directors responsible for ensuring the organization runs as effectively as possible.

We look forward to continuing to serve and engage with you in 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Randy Goulden,

Message from the CEO

2023 was a year spent laying the groundwork for the fresh new focus that 2024 and beyond will bring for our organization.

We looked at all areas of our work with fresh eyes and came up with several new strategies – member engagement, social media, and advocacy all got an overhaul that will serve both us and our members much better in the coming years.

The member engagement strategy is a project that comes directly from our strategic plan. It was drafted by our manager of strategic engagement with input from all areas of the organization, then honed and refined. In 2023, the final document was presented to, and approved by, SUMA's Board of Directors. This strategy will guide us as we look to become even more transparent and effective at communicating with you, our members.

Following last year's Communications Strategy, we took it a step further and formally implemented a social media strategy that will guide our use of all social networks going forward. Having strategies in place will allow our staff to be as efficient and effective as possible, maximizing the ways we can use the many tools at our disposal to communicate with our members and the public at large.

We also took a look at our advocacy, bringing in an outside firm to do an audit and suggest ways to improve. Martin Charlton reviewed our current practices and interviewed several stakeholders before delivering a plan for an enhanced advocacy strategy in the last quarter of 2023.

In that same vein, we were pleased to see progress on several of our files this year. The Provincial Government's Throne Speech focused on homelessness, mental health, and addictions – issues faced by communities of all sizes throughout the province – which was a direct result of SUMA's cornerstone advocacy work: bringing the aforementioned issues to each and every meeting we had with Government officials over the past two years. We were also pleased to see some action on the shortage of healthcare professionals in our province. While we know there is much more to be done, we celebrate these wins as we continue to move forward.

We have also been working tirelessly on a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre since a resolution was brought forward in 2020. This year, we solidified a partnership which will all but guarantee the development of the MCCAC and, as a result, create a better environmental future for Saskatchewan's hometowns.

We have entered into a partnership with Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise, the principle spokesperson for the French-speaking community in Saskatchewan. The role and influence of ACF is to see the ongoing development of the Fransaskois community.

ACF and SUMA will work in partnership to assist our Fransaskois members meet requirements to be considered officially bilingual, in order to secure grant funding available through the Government of Canada. This is just another way to ensure Saskatchewan's hometowns continue to thrive. Finally, we have implemented a Corporate Volunteer Policy that aligns with our cornerstone advocacy issue of mental health and addictions. Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission has been in operation since 1990.

Their mission statement is “To Rescue people from poverty and addiction by offering the Gospel message through emergency help, such as food, clothing and shelter, and Life Changing Recovery Programs”. Staff volunteer in the kitchen, helping prepare meals for Soul’s Harbour’s meal programs, in their clothing store, sorting and preparing items, or serving the supper meal. From June to September 2023, we provided 190 hours of volunteer time. Going forward, staff are allotted 25 hours per fiscal year. With 19 employees, we will provide 475 hours of volunteer time for Soul’s Harbour in the coming year. We look forward to the results that our fresh new focus will bring and are always thankful for the privilege of serving our members in 2024 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Nadeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jean-Marc Nadeau, MBA, LL.M., C.Mgr.
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Plan

After every municipal election, once the full Board is in place, SUMA creates a strategic plan. It is our guiding star, setting the priorities for our work on behalf of members and within the Association. The strategic plan is a critical part of SUMA's governance. This high-level view of our work helps us ensure that we are moving in the right direction.

In the 2021-25 Strategic Plan, we reiterated our core functions, tweaked our mission, vision and values, and set out five strategic priorities.

Core Functions

Advocacy – SUMA represents the interests of our members.

SUMA serves as the collective voice of urban government (cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities).

Group Programs – SUMA helps our members save money.

SUMA offers group benefits, insurance services, and purchasing programs that can reduce the costs of operations for municipal governments.

Capacity Building – SUMA provides our members access to resources.

SUMA provides information, connections, training, and tools to make local government operations more effective.

Our Strategic Priorities

1. Strategic Priority – SUMA is recognized as the collective voice of Saskatchewan's communities/ municipalities.

Outcome definition: SUMA is representing the collective strength of Saskatchewan communities in providing leadership in advocacy, education and service excellence.

2. Strategic Priority – Unified Compelling Advocacy

Outcome definition: Provide a strong, unified voice for issues that affect our members.

2023 Initiatives:

- Seek to develop and nurture a relationship with FSIN and Metis Nations SK
- Support and advance work from the mental health and addictions working group
- Saskatchewan Police Act renewal
- Develop a video-based advocacy strategy
- Landfill/transfer station advocacy
- Municipal Climate Change Action Centre
- Develop and implement a homelessness advocacy strategy
- Support the Home Support Initiative developed by the Saskatchewan Senior's Mechanism
- Hire an external expert to review and provide recommendations on SUMA's advocacy strategy

3. Strategic Priority – Provide Strategic Communication
Outcome definition: Ensure communications, marketing and partnerships are strategic.

2023 Initiatives:

- Increase SK media outlet relationship
- SUMA Social Media Strategy
- Build Federal influence
- Build and improve relationship with SK Premier and Cabinet Ministers

4. Strategic Priority – Champion Modern Governance
Outcome definition: Operate under an effective and modern governance structure.

2023 Initiatives:

- Governance Review

5. Strategic Priority – Promote Capacity Building
Outcome definition: Seek out new ways to help members build their capacity and augment the education portfolio.

2023 Initiatives:

- Municipal Economic Development Regional Cooperation
- Develop and implement a member engagement strategy
- Develop a marketing strategy
- Implement a member wiki
- Study the possibility of creating a research arm with SUMA
- Study the possibility of developing a SUMA staff position to support French communities in Saskatchewan

6. Strategic Priority – Ensure fiscal sustainability
Outcome definition: Seek organizational efficiencies, sources of revenue to fund projects, and options to leverage dollars.

2023 Initiatives:

- Expand Oliver subscriber portal to full capacity
- Study the possibility of renting floorspace at SUMA office

Internal Committees

The Board has created internal subcommittees to ensure membership priorities are met and initiatives completed, and to account for the various responsibilities and policy areas SUMA encounters daily.

Convention Planning:

Responsible for planning and delivering SUMA's annual convention, as well as developing and submitting a budget for approval.

Bylaw Review and Governance:

Responsible for reviewing the purpose, organization, and effectiveness of SUMA's bylaws and governance policies.

Resolutions:

Responsible for reviewing and reporting on all resolutions and developing resolutions procedures for approval by the Board of Directors.

City Mayors' Caucus:

SUMA's City Mayors' Caucus brings together representatives from Saskatchewan's 16 cities to discuss issues of common concern and project a strong, unified voice on the most pressing and important local and provincial issues facing Saskatchewan's cities.

Environment:

Responsible for environmental matters regarding landfills, recycling, water and wastewater treatment, and other environmental matters that affect urban governments.

Public Safety and Health:

Responsible for matters that involve police and justice, fire and emergency planning, bylaw enforcement, public health, and doctor recruitment.

Intergovernmental Affairs:

Responsible for matters that fall outside of the

scope of SUMA's other policy committees. Some of these responsibilities include reviewing and making recommendations regarding provincial or federal legislation, regulations and programs and services, participating in consultations, reviewing and providing recommendations on policy resolutions, and identifying potential issues and concerns.

Community and Economic Development:

Responsible for matters that involve transportation, parks and recreation, culture and heritage, immigration, and economic development.

Audit and Finance:

Responsible to: regularly report to the full Board about Committee activities, issues and related recommendations to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities regarding oversight of financial reporting processes; internal control systems; external audit; legal and ethical conduct; and accountability for the use of assets; assist the Board in setting the tone at the top by influencing corporate consciousness, communication and commitment to ethics and integrity; foster an environment in which management directs due diligence towards the control, accountability and financial reporting functions of the Association; monitor and, where necessary, direct corrective action to improve relations and communication among the Board, the Committee, external auditors and senior management; and promote the independence of the external auditors.

Human Resources:

Responsible in assisting the Board of Directors of SUMA in their oversight of: the appointment, performance evaluation, and compensation of the Chief Executive Officer; and succession planning and development.

External Committees

The external committees are independent of SUMA and the Board of Directors and handle issues that are not under SUMA's control. These committees consist of members throughout various organizations who bring expertise on the subject matter.

SUMA is represented on several external committees including:

1. Area Transportation Planning Committee
 - Central | East Central
 - West Central
 - North Central
 - Northeast
 - North/Northwest
 - South Central
 - Southeast
 - Southwest
2. College of Medicine Admission Committee – University of Saskatchewan
3. Communities in Transition
4. CPSP/SUMA/SARM Policing Committee
5. Electronic Product Recycling Association
6. Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors
7. Multi-Material Recycling Program
8. Municipal Employees' Pension Plan
9. Municipal Forum
10. Municipal Sector Strategic Plan Tables
11. New Deal Partnership Committee (Gas Tax) Board
12. New Horizons for Seniors Program
13. Nuclear Waste Management Organization Municipal Forum
14. Photo Speed Enforcement Provincial Committee
15. Practitioner Recruitment and Retention Advisory Panel
16. Prov/Terr Infrastructure Component Review Committee
17. RCMP Contract Management Committee – Fed/Prov/Terr
18. Rural Highway Advisory Committee
19. SAMA Board of Directors
20. SAMA City Advisory Committee
21. SAMA Urban Advisory Committee (At Large)
 - <30,000 - City
 - <30,000 - City
 - <30,000 - Town
 - <30,000 - Town
 - <30,000 - Village
 - <30,000 - Village
 - <30,000 - SUMA Board Rep
 - <30,000 – SUMA Admin (Observer)
22. Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation
23. Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Water Council
24. Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Board
25. Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee
26. Saskatchewan In Motion Advisory Council
27. Saskatchewan Municipal Board
28. Saskatchewan Paint Recycling Advisory Committee
29. SUMAssure Board
30. Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan
31. UMAAS Board of Examiners
32. University of Regina Senate
33. University of Saskatchewan Senate
34. Water Security Agency Operator Certification Board
35. Western Canada Municipal Associations

We Give You Access to Resources

Communications

To ensure that members are kept up-to-date on news and information, SUMA provides its members and stakeholders with the following resources and publications:

Municipal Voice

Municipal Voice is a partnership between SUMA and Craig Kelman and Associates and is the official print publication of SUMA. 3,800 copies of the 8.5x11" colour magazine are printed quarterly (extrapolated pass-along readership of nearly 11,400) and can also be downloaded on the SUMA website.

Municipal Update

A bi-weekly email bulletin that can also be downloaded on the SUMA website.

Social Media

SUMA has an X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook and Linked In page to communicate with members and to connect with the public and government officials to promote the interests of all members. On X, SUMA has 2,061 followers and on Facebook SUMA has 1207 followers and 1100 likes on the SUMA page. On LinkedIn, we have 560 followers.

Year in Review

SUMA's "Year in Review" has been drafted to provide members with a document chronicling SUMA's initiatives throughout the year.

Webinars

In 2023, SUMA hosted 20 webinars on various topics including governance, municipal budgeting and asset management, cybersecurity, and more. In late November, we held a SUMA-exclusive workshop, "Emerging Trends in Municipal Law", hosted by Brownlee LLP.

Recordings of all SUMA webinars can be found on the Member Portal of our website.

MuniCast

Whether you're an aspiring leader, or simply curious about municipal issues, MuniCast is the podcast for you. Each season discusses unique perspectives on local governance and includes conversations with individuals and organizations who can support your municipality. We've explored the core principles and challenges that municipal leaders face, delved into valuable lessons from seasoned officials, and examined the approaches municipal governments can consider in addressing issues that involve all levels of government such as mental health and addictions and truth and reconciliation. MuniCast is available on most podcast platforms.

Legal Services

SUMA has partnered with Brownlee LLP to provide members free access to Brownlee's Municipal Helpline. The helpline is an informal consultation service for municipalities and municipal-related entities (such as municipal corporations and authorities) that require brief and informal guidance or consultation. Founded in 1935, Brownlee LLP offers the largest municipal law team in Western Canada. Their in-depth knowledge in all aspects of municipal law provides dependable, practical, and clearly communicated legal and strategic advice.

The Municipal Helpline is an informal, no-strings-attached consultation service for municipalities and municipal-related entities (such as municipal corporations and authorities) that require brief and informal guidance or consultation.

The Municipal Helpline was created because experience has shown that a 10- to 15-minute discussion of a legal matter when it first arises can often help avoid costly discussion, conflict, and litigation down the road. In short, our Municipal Helpline provides clarity, guidance, and peace of mind; allowing our municipal clients to take a more strategic approach to their legal needs, and to incur the cost of legal services only when actually needed. It is no wonder that so many municipalities see the Brownlee Helpline as their first and most important step in addressing their legal questions and issues.

Member Events and Meetings

SUMA Virtual Sector Meeting – January 31, 2023

SUMA sector meetings are an annual opportunity to discuss sector specific issues with your peers and discover new ideas.

Municipal administration and elected officials from Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities joined us online for this virtual meeting.

In addition to sector-specific discussions, attendees took in a sector specific education session and participated in the second round of consultations on SUMA's governance review, updates from SUMA and a keynote address.

117th Annual SUMA Convention – April 16 - 18, 2023

SUMA has been bringing members together for an annual convention since 1906. The biggest SUMA event of the year, and one of the biggest conventions in the province, brings together delegates from across the province. This year, we gathered in Saskatoon for the 2023 Convention and the Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow.

Our keynote, Cody Demerais, presented us with an emotional telling of his own struggles with mental health and addictions, culminating in his triumphant recovery and subsequent successful entrepreneurial career. Cody was born and raised in Prince Albert and, in addition to being a business owner, is an author, motivational speaker, and community advocate.

As always, we offered a wide range of educational sessions at Convention. Topics included green technology, freedom of information, honouring treaty responsibilities, relating municipal well-being to community planning, disaster mitigation, and more.

We continued with the popular Dialogue with SUMA sessions introduced for the first time in 2022. This unique opportunity allowed our membership to have one-on-one time with each of SUMA's internal advocacy committees, to learn about what they are working on and voice their opinions on what could be advocated in the future.

On Sunday, attendees had the opportunity to attend one of two off-site excursions, to the Saskatoon Regional Waste Management Centre and STARS hangar, or Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

We were excited to bring the full range of social events back for 2023, starting with the Welcome Reception, held at the Remai Modern, on Sunday April 16. Attendees were able to visit two floors of the art gallery, while mingling and enjoying food and drink in the common areas. As always, on Tuesday evening we hosted the President's Banquet and awarded long-serving municipal officials and employees with SUMA service awards.

SUMA Mayors' Summit – August 17 and 18, 2023

SUMA was excited to host the SUMA Mayors' Summit exclusively for Saskatchewan mayors, at the Atlas° hotel and virtually via Zoom. This unique opportunity allows mayors from across the province to connect.

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

This two-day workshop included:

- 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).

Regional Meetings – October 10 – 18, 2023

Regional meetings are an excellent opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, give feedback and hear about the latest developments on several major policy issues. The 2023 regional meetings also continued consultations on SUMA's governance review and gave attendees a chance to share their successes in the popular "Hometown Proud" segment of discussion.

SUMA's Regional Meetings are a hybrid virtual/in-person event, making participation easier than ever.

October 10 – Northwest Region – Warman
October 11 – West Central Region – Kindersley
October 12 – East Central Region – Yorkton
October 13 – Northeast Region – Kinistino
October 16 – Central Region – Lumsden
October 17 – Southwest Region – Assiniboia
October 18 – Southeast Region – Kipling

A vote on the proposed changes will take place at Convention 2024.

SUMA's Governance Review

As part of SUMA's 2021-25 Strategic Plan, the SUMA Board of Directors commissioned a governance review of the organization.

The proposed changes would see SUMA's governance structure change to a caucus model, with representation for each sector. The caucus model provides for the establishment of specific member tables where peer-based representatives will come together to inform SUMA's advocacy efforts. The Board of Directors would reduce to either a seven or a ten-member Board, and have their responsibilities redirected to matters that directly impact the governance of the organization. In 2023, we continued to focus heavily on member engagement, offering several opportunities for members to give feedback on these proposed changes. Presentations were held at sector and regional meetings, and during Convention 2023 we held an Open House where members could come share opinions and ask questions.

A vote on the proposed changes will take place at Convention 2024.

We Help You Save Money

Kinetic GPO

In October 2020, SUMA transitioned its group purchasing to Kinetic GPO, a Canadian based group purchasing organization (GPO) with diverse contract offerings for the broader public sector and MASH entities across Canada. SUMA holds a percentage of ownership in Kinetic.

Kinetic GPO was established with the specific purpose of reducing procurement cost by leveraging the purchasing power of group buying and saving members time by simplifying steps to procure. Kinetic GPO makes cooperative purchasing as simple as possible. There is no charge to become a Kinetic GPO member, no volume commitments and membership is not an exclusive agreement.

By becoming a member of Kinetic GPO, SUMA members can benefit from:

- Increased purchasing power
- Decreased workload
- More spending dollars
- Improvement in best practices
- Lower purchasing risk
- Savings beyond price
- Continued growth

In addition to the legacy CentralSource contracts, Member municipalities can access an extensive list* of national contracts through Kinetic GPO which includes:

- Elevator Consulting Services: KJA Consultants and Solucore
- Pest Control and Related Services: Orkin
- School Supplies and Related Items: Wintergreen
- Learning Management System Software: Premergency
- Energy Conservation Solutions and Related Services: Greenwave Innovations
- Energy Consulting and Related Services: Tradition Energy
- Online Business Marketplace for Good and Services: Amazon Business
- Project Management: Colliers
- Equipment and Tool Rental: United Rentals, Herc Rentals, and Sunbelt Rentals
- Alarm and Security Monitoring: Johnson Controls
- Supply of Tires, Accessories and Related Services: KalTire
- Office Suppliers: Hamster, Grand & Toy and Staples
- Electrical Vehicle Charge Stations and Services: ChargePoint and Flo
- Furniture Installation and Related Products and Services: Grand & Toy, Steelcase, Fellows (ESI) and Trendway
- Traffic Control Products: ATS
- Tractors, Implements, Attachments and Accessories: ACGO
- Paper Products: Imperial Dade
- Information Technology Equipment and Hardware Products: CDW
- Print Services and Equipment: Canon, CDW and Xerox
- Transportation, Golf Vehicles and Related Accessories: ClubCar
- Roofing Supplies and Services: Garland and Tremco
- Building Supplies, Services and Walk-In Option: Home Depot
- HVAC Equipment and Services: Trane
- Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies: Staples and Imperial Dade

- Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO): Grainger, Lawson, and Fastenal

Grounds Keeping Equipment: Toro

- Surplus Auction and Related Services: GovDeals
- Automotive and Fleet, Parts, Accessories, Related Products, and services: Kent Automotive
- Sports Surfaces, Installation and Related Materials: Tarkett Sports Canada/Field Turf
- Rental of Uniforms, Mats, Mops, Towels and other Related Products and Services: Cintas
- Staffing Services and Related Services and Solutions: Insight Global and Manpower Group
- Fuel and Fleet Management and Related Products and Solutions: AssetWorks and Element
- Warehousing, Material Handling and Production Support Solutions: Global Industrial

*list as of December 13, 2023

What is a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO)?

Group purchasing organizations primarily exist for one simple reason: to help businesses interested in buying similar products gain leverage through combined purchasing power.

Beyond savings what other value add services are offered?

Kinetic GPO actively manages contracts throughout their term. Key performance indicators are monitored, and the Kinetic team provides ongoing education for suppliers to ensure they are operating in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

What is the advantage of buying through Kinetic GPO?

Kinetic makes cooperative purchasing as simple as possible, yet the compliant process provides the legally required competition for their contracts. They do the work, you save the time and money.

Additional advantages are as follows:

- Voluntary access to contracts, with no spend or volume commitment;
- Continuously increasing choice of a wide range of collaboratively-sourced and competitively-priced products and services available through the contract;
- A fair, open and transparent procurement process to ensure compliance with both National and Regional trade agreements.
- Cost-efficient and time-saving way to meet your municipality's procurement needs
- For additional information pertaining to group purchasing or on a Kinetic GPO or CentralSource contract, please reach out to a member of the Kinetic GPO Western Team at 306-525-4393

Group Benefits

SUMA is the benefit provider of choice when it comes to Saskatchewan municipalities. We insure over 300 municipalities which equates to providing coverage to 2,550 municipal employees and their dependents. Municipalities of Saskatchewan's Group Benefits program offers a full line of benefits and coverage can be extended to full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees, as well as elected officials. Coverage is completely customizable based on your employee's needs. Options include health, dental, vision, disability, life insurance, critical illness and accidental death and dismemberment benefits. Members also have access to Human Resources services and the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), which provides counseling services accessible anytime and anywhere, along with a wide range of work life and wellness services.

SUMAssure Insurance Reciprocal

SUMAssure is your trusted insurance and risk solutions partner, providing exceptional municipal expertise, service, and support to members in the areas of property and liability insurance. SUMAssure is owned by participating member communities, administrated in partnership with Aon, and governed by a Management Board comprised of elected officials and municipal administration.

The strength of SUMAssure lies in its 245 members, consisting of Saskatchewan cities, towns, villages, resort villages, northern communities, and municipal related entities.

At the core of SUMAssure's mission is an unwavering focus on proactive risk management, helping to keep Saskatchewan communities safe. In 2023, the organization intensified its efforts in this regard, delivering targeted resources to address the evolving challenges faced by its members. Key areas of emphasis included cybersecurity and banking security, facility inspection checklists, liability waivers, and a sidewalk inspection and maintenance toolkit designed to curb slip, trip, and fall incidents.

What truly sets SUMAssure apart is the resounding affirmation from its members themselves. One member said, "The work SUMAssure does to support members is admirable. They provide resources we can use to make our communities safer and reduce our risk, and it's reassuring to know there is somebody at the other end of the phone when we need them. Not only do they consistently respond quickly, if they don't have an answer, they will find it. And that's a resource that we just can't do without."

As SUMAssure reflects on its achievements in the past year, the organization remains committed to being a partner in keeping Saskatchewan communities safe.

For more information on SUMAssure, visit www.sumassure.ca.

We Represent Your Interests

In 2023, advocacy meetings were conducted with various cabinet ministers, both federal and provincial, to bring your issues and concerns to all levels of government. We met with both cabinet and oppositional/shadow ministers to make sure the full story was delivered.

We have continued with virtual initiatives developed last year, such as video advocacy, using our social media channels to push our messages to a wider audience and play our part in the wider political conversation throughout the province and country.

There were over 80 Board and Committee meetings held both internally and externally to further advance your interests, resulting in hundreds of reports and briefing packages written, and dozens of key decisions made.

Read about some of the successes that resulted from these meetings below.

SUMA Success Stories

Mental Health and Addictions Cornerstone Issue – We saw progress from this advocacy in the 2023 Throne Speech, which spoke directly to mental health and addictions, as well as the homelessness crisis. The Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions is a direct result of advocacy from SUMA and many other partners and NGOs throughout the province, and we are pleased to recognize the 500 new addictions treatment spaces across the province, as well as expanded mental health services for children and youth. We have also seen a response to our calls for changes to the outdated 28-day model for addictions treatment, with the government committing to providing a more robust service model, with wraparound community supports.

The implementation of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness is also a positive step and response to advocacy undertaken by SUMA and its partners. We have seen an expansion to housing for those with complex needs, expanded support for second stage housing to protect those suffering from interpersonal violence, and the previously-announced complex needs emergency shelter spaces. These projects will have a positive impact not only on the homelessness crisis but also mental health and addictions within our province. We welcome all these developments, but we encourage the Government to take this a step further and amend the SIS and SAID programs to make them more accessible and ensure that they provide sufficient funding to meet the minimum cost of living in Saskatchewan. This is an essential move toward addressing the continuing issues experienced by Saskatchewan's most vulnerable population.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Municipal Administrator Training Program

Last year, Saskatchewan Polytechnic launched its new municipal administration specialty program for the Business Diploma program. Graduates with the new specialty will be trained to successfully manage the day-to-day operations of a municipality in an administrative capacity. This specialty is operated virtually, making it even more accessible to students across the province.

There are currently five students in the program, scheduled to graduate in 2025.

The Municipal Administration specialty was developed in partnership with SUMA, SARM, UMAAS, CAMA, RMAA, the New North, and Government Relations. The Targeted Sector Support Program provided funding for the development of the curriculum of the municipal administrator training program. SUMA is proud to offer the Laurent Mougeot Scholarship, launched in April 2023, for students in the Municipal Administration program.

Golf Carts as Neighbourhood Small Vehicles – At Convention 2023, a resolution was brought forward to allow golf carts to be considered as neighbourhood small vehicles. Following Convention, SGI implemented a policy allowing municipalities to pass bylaws allowing golf carts on certain municipal roads. Municipalities retain the option as to whether or not to enact a golf cart bylaw.

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre – SUMA continues to advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to establish a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) to help municipalities be more resilient in addressing climate change issues and reduce carbon emissions. By providing resources, expertise, and financial support, the center will support municipalities to develop and implement climate action plans tailored to their unique circumstances. When established, an MCCAC would foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among urban municipalities in Saskatchewan. The center would serve as a hub for information exchange, best practices, and collaborative initiatives, allowing municipalities to learn from each other's experiences and collectively work towards common goals.

SUMA believes that climate change is a complex and interconnected issue that requires coordinated efforts at various levels of government. Empowering urban municipalities with necessary tools to address climate change and promote green infrastructure would help build sustainable hometowns in our province.

Early in 2024, SUMA entered into a partnership with Eco-West Canada, a company known for its expertise in promoting green initiatives within the municipal ecosystem, to help move this resolution forward.

Multi-Material Stewardship Western – In June, Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) released the Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Plan, which outlined three phases of implementation.

SUMA sent a letter to the Minister of Environment requesting that government provide full funding to our members who would be unable to adjust their existing contracts with current vendors, or extend the timeline to accommodate these members. SUMA also requested that the Ministry of Environment incorporate the concerns our members have shared with MMSW and that the Ministry engage stakeholders before rolling out the final implementation of the plan.

Early in 2024, the Ministry returned the plan to MMSW to review, taking into consideration feedback from stakeholders including SUMA. MMSW is working to provide updates on the program to municipalities.

SUMA is pleased to see this progress from the Ministry of Environment and MMSW.

Transfer Stations – Throughout 2022 and 2023, SUMA advocated the provincial government regarding their transfer station initiative. In March, the Ministry of Environment approved the Transfer Station Chapter of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code.

In response to concerns voiced by SUMA and our members, Environment Minister Dana Skoropad announced a commitment to streamline the process of opening transfer stations and enhance clarity regarding their operations. The minister expressed enthusiasm for these changes, emphasizing their goal to provide a low-risk and cost-effective alternative without the need for additional regulations.

Transfer stations play a crucial role in temporarily storing solid waste before its transport to treatment, recycling, recovery, or disposal facilities. They present a cost-effective solution for municipalities that either cannot or choose not to operate a full landfill, yet still seek to provide convenient waste disposal

options for their residents. Saskatchewan currently has 225 operational transfer stations, functioning at a significantly lower cost compared to municipal landfills.

Environmental Issues – SUMA is pleased to announce the successful completion and submission of the final report on “Environmental Issues Affecting Municipalities” by Thurber Engineering Ltd. This document addresses the pressing environmental challenges faced by urban municipalities, serving as a valuable resource for identifying, analyzing, and proactively addressing specific issues. The report aligns with our commitment to sustainable urban development, providing a foundation for strategic planning and informed decision-making.

The report also presents practical and innovative solutions. Thurber Engineering Ltd. has formulated an adaptable environmental policy, a toolkit for issue resolution, implementation plans, best practices, and strategic recommendations. These elements collectively empower municipalities to navigate and mitigate environmental impacts effectively, ensuring the well-being of local communities.

Moving forward, we are committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the report. Our focus will be on developing strategies to advocate with the provincial government for initiatives that align with the findings. By fostering meaningful and impactful change, we aim to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient urban landscape.

Municipal Nominee Program – In 2023, SUMA, in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, advocated the federal government regarding the municipal nominee program. Immigration functions as a crucial economic driver for municipalities, propelling growth by attracting diverse skill sets, fostering entrepreneurship, and stimulating increased consumer activity. With this in mind, SUMA continues to advocate the federal government to launch the Municipal Nominee Program (MNP). This program allows municipalities to play a direct role in nominating candidates who align with their specific economic needs and local priorities. This approach is especially crucial for addressing regional economic disparities and ensuring that immigration contributes meaningfully to the development of diverse communities. The MNP provides an avenue for fostering collaboration, empowering local communities to shape their demographic and economic landscape in conjunction with broader governmental strategies.

Urban municipalities in Saskatchewan, particularly smaller ones, struggle with retaining immigrants, which contributes to the decline of these localities. The persistence of this challenge is expected because municipalities currently lack the authority to nominate Permanent Residents to establish residence in their regions. The launch of the MNP provides municipalities with the opportunity to assess the labor requirements in their communities and actively attract individuals possessing the necessary skills to foster the growth of their hometowns.

SUMA will continue to work with various stakeholders to advocate the levels of government to launch the MNP and promote sustainable hometowns in Saskatchewan.

Economic Development – SUMA is pleased to announce the completion of a Regional Economic Development: Service Delivery Agreement Strategy report submitted by Praxis Consulting Ltd. This comprehensive document is now accessible on our member portal, serving as a valuable initiative for our members. The report offers essential resources and information to guide municipalities in fostering collaboration with neighboring regions, establishing sustainable service delivery agreements.

Established Regular Engagements with the Ministry of Environment – In 2023, SUMA's Environment Committee successfully organized quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Environment. This ongoing initiative has proven highly valuable, as it ensures the Ministry consistently provides timely updates to SUMA on a range of pertinent issues affecting municipalities.

Recognizing the importance of continuous engagement, SUMA is now actively involving the Ministry in hosting a webinar. This strategic effort aims to provide SUMA members with direct access to current updates on the Ministry's initiatives, allowing them to stay well-informed about ongoing projects and policies. This interactive platform will offer members the opportunity to pose questions, fostering a transparent and inclusive dialogue between municipalities and the Ministry of Environment.

Property Tax Assessment Legislation and Policy Working Group – A working group was formed to begin discussing changes to Property Tax Assessment in Saskatchewan. The group met several times in 2023 and has begun drafting potential changes to the Acts relating to property tax assessments in Saskatchewan.

Secured Regular Meetings with the Minister of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety – With a Cabinet shuffle in 2023, SUMA was faced with the challenge of continuing work on ongoing files, with new Ministers in charge of many areas those files covered. When Minister Paul Merriman was moved into the role of Minister of CPPS, we took the opportunity to brief him on our advocacy around The Police Act 1991 renewal, the financial challenges arising from the new RCMP contracts and the implementation of bodyworn cameras, and more. Minister Merriman agreed to quarterly meetings with SUMA's executive to ensure all these files continue to see progress in 2023 and beyond.

Resolutions

SUMA resolutions are cumulative, staying on our books for three years. In 2023, we had 39 active resolutions, stretching from 2021 to 2023. Resolutions advocated on during 2023 (by year of resolution):

2021

- Supplementary Assessments
 - SUMA has commissioned a study to look at the entire landscape of assessment in Saskatchewan, including the idea of supplementary assessments. The first draft of the study is expected in February 2022. Once the Board of Directors has had the opportunity to review the draft, we will begin our advocacy efforts to reform the system.
- Development of a Wetland Policy for Saskatchewan
 - SUMA continues to advocate the provincial government to establish a wetland policy. In 2023, the Water Security Agency (WSA) concluded the formal consultation process for the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy, with SUMA actively participating in the engagement. WSA has stated that currently, there are no plans to establish a wetland policy for Saskatchewan.
 - While commending WSA for the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy, SUMA strongly believes that the province requires a dedicated wetland policy, a feature present in other provinces but notably absent in Saskatchewan.
 - The significance of having a wetland policy in Saskatchewan cannot be overstated. SUMA will continue in its advocacy efforts, emphasizing the critical need for a wetland policy to address various challenges, including the conservation of wetlands, mitigation of adverse impacts stemming from droughts, flooding, diminished water quality, increased algal blooms, loss of biodiversity and habitat, and heightened concerns related to climate change.

2022

- Funding for Disposal and Demolition of Asbestos Debris
 - SUMA continues to advocate the provincial government to establish a separate funding program, different from municipal revenue sharing, to help municipalities demolish and properly dispose of asbestos in dilapidated buildings.
- Funding for Landfill Closures
 - In 2019, SUMA in partnership with the Ministry of Environment launched a Landfill Environmental Site Assessment (LESA) program to help municipalities in Saskatchewan conduct environmental site assessments for closed or closing landfills.
 - SUMA continues to call on the Provincial government to establish a grant program similar to LESA and advocate funds to ensure proper closure of landfills in our communities.

- Clean Up of Abandoned Hydro-Carbon Sites
 - SUMA has been actively urging the provincial government to address the cleanup of abandoned hydrocarbon sites. In response, the Ministry of Environment stated it is refining its enforcement policies. The objective is to ensure timely reporting of contamination discoveries to both the ministry and affected landowners within the regulated 30-day timeframe.
 - Furthermore, the ministry has introduced policies to guarantee the handling of off-site impacts or the registration of financial assurances for future remediation's off-site impacts before accepting a Notice of Site Condition for the source property.
 - The ministry is committed to maintaining a comprehensive database that ranks all reported impacted sites based on their relative risk to human health and the environment when site assessment information is available.
 - In 2022, the ministry launched the digital environmentally impacted Sites – Sask GeoHub.
 - This online map provides essential information for impacted sites, including the Case identification number, Location, Contaminant(s) of concern, and Status of the site (categories encompass notification, assessment, corrective actions, closure, or Notice of Site Condition).
 - Funding for impacted sites is also allocated for the cleanup of abandoned and environmentally impacted sites. In 2023, the town of Shaunavon was announced as the first recipient of the impacted site fund in Saskatchewan.
- RCMP Retroactive Salary Increases and Body Worn Camera Costs
 - SUMA continues to advocate for the Federal Government to absorb the full costs of the retroactive pay resulting from new contract negotiations in 2021, as well as the costs of Body Worn Cameras being implemented in 2024. The provincial Ministry of Justice has lent their support to this initiative.
- Healthcare Recruitment and Retention
 - During SUMA's November meeting with Premier Moe, healthcare recruitment and retention was a main topic of discussion. In December SUMA met with the Ministers of Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health to carry these conversations on, advocating for additional funding and training for nurses, better doctor remuneration, and improvements to ambulance services.
- Addictions and Homelessness
 - SUMA met with both the Ministers of Social Services and Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health to discuss the need for more treatment options in our province for both mental health and addictions issues, as well as better post-treatment follow up. We also discussed how both social housing and the Saskatchewan Income Support program affect both these issues.
- Changes to Revaluation Cycles for Cities
 - The City Mayors Caucus' and Assessment Policy and Legislation Working Group discussed the possibility of shortening the revaluation cycle from four to two years, and

that the Government would consider the request was received in response.

- Allowing Property-Subclasses for All Municipalities
 - The City Mayors Caucus' Legal & Legislative Working Group inquired with Government Relations if there was room to, in addition to the tax phase-in powers introduced in Fall 2023, expand other types of powers/authority enjoyed by cities to all urban and northern municipalities.

2023

- Homelessness and Liveable Social Support
 - SUMA met with both the Ministers of Social Services and Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health to discuss the need for reform to the social support program in Saskatchewan. We know that having a stable, reliable, and safe place to live is a foundational need and reduces the incidence of mental health problems and addictions; domestic violence; hospital
 - One of the first steps in solving the homelessness crisis being experienced by Saskatchewan's hometowns is to increase the amount of funding provided to those on social support programs.
 - Additionally there are approximately 3,000 vacant social housing units in the province. We requested these units be maintained, made fit for use, and made available to those that need them.
- PST on Municipal Construction
 - In 2017, the province removed a PST exemption for construction labour. As a publicly-funded sector that is responsible for more than 60 percent of the infrastructure in Canada, municipalities undertake an enormous number of construction projects each year. This single change to PST resulted in an additional \$29 million in costs for municipalities every year—all of which must be recouped from property taxes.
 - We have met several times with the Minister of Finance on this issue, but she has been unwilling to carve out any exemptions to the PST. We have instead begun to advocate for changes to Municipal Revenue Sharing that would make municipalities whole for the money lost to PST on construction services.
- Funding for Municipal Landfill Decommissioning and Reclamation
 - In 2023, SUMA met with the Minister of Environment who indicated that the Government of Saskatchewan was awaiting announcement from the Federal Government on a new funding agreement provided by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for local communities.
 - The Minister assured SUMA that landfill decommissioning and reclamation is a priority for his Ministry.
 - Additionally, the ministry pledged to collaborate with community members on a case-by-case basis to establish realistic timelines for addressing funding issues and complete decommissioning of landfills.
- Golf Carts as Neighbourhood Small Vehicles

- A pilot program has been created by/with SGI, allowing golf carts to be used on public roads by those municipalities wishing to opt in to the system through the passing of an enabling bylaw.
- Municipal Consent for Property Transfers
- SUMA administration has written a proposal to send to the Registrar of Titles/ Ministry of Justice, and is awaiting approval from SUMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee for the letter to be sent.

Partnerships

SUMA engages in partnerships that provide benefits to SUMA member municipalities. Among these partnerships are:

SUMA/SARM Policy Moots

The SARM and SUMA policy departments meet to: gain a common understanding of the issues among members of both associations; propose and facilitate partnership opportunities; develop tools and other initiatives that result in an improved legislative/ regulatory environment for Saskatchewan municipalities; improve communication and collaboration between urban and rural municipalities; and, to improve information sharing between the associations.

Saskatchewan Municipal Awards (SMAs)

Established in 2006, the SMAs celebrate the excellent and innovative practices of Saskatchewan's municipal governments. These awards are presented annually at the SUMA and SARM Annual Conventions.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards is a partnership between New North, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), and the Ministry of Government Relations (GR).

The 2022 winners were "Solar Power for New Infrastructure" (Town of Lumsden), "Biggar Revitalization Project" (Town of Biggar), and "Women in Government Program" (RM of Edenwold No. 158). The Regional Cooperation Award was given to the P4 Planning District (RM of Corman Park No. 344, Town of Osler, and Cities of Martensville, Saskatoon, and Warman).

For more information on the winners, visit municipal.awards.ca

Saskatchewan Municipal Asset Management

Asset management is a municipality's plan for how to manage municipal infrastructure in order to provide services to residents and other users in a way that meets their expectations and is financially sustainable into the future.

Saskatchewan Municipal Asset Management is Saskatchewan's first website dedicated to assisting

municipal stakeholders in improving the knowledge and abilities in municipal asset management. The website is managed through a collaborative effort of municipal associations such as the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Ministry of Government Relations, and individual municipalities that have participated in past asset management training activities and initiatives.

Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan

The seed for Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS) was planted in the 1950s when a group of town clerks got together to discuss items of mutual interest. The group formed officially in 1957 and has always had the support of SUMA.

Through the years, UMAAS has established a good working relationship with SUMA and various provincial ministries.

For more information, visit www.umaas.ca.

Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP)

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) is a series of modules or workshops developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. The modules target specific issues of importance to urban, rural and northern municipalities. Mayors, reeves, councillors and municipal staff are able to benefit from this program that is designed to strengthen local government leadership.

MLDP is presently structured around six one-day modules. There are two sessions of modules held each year, a fall session and a winter session. Modules can be taken in any order based on the dates and locations that best suit your schedule.

Multi-Material Stewardship Western

The Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) initiative was inaugurated in Saskatchewan on January 1, 2016. Consequently, businesses engaged in the sale or distribution of packaging and printed paper materials now bear a shared responsibility with municipalities for financing the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper.

This funding model, known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), mirrors the strategies adopted in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. MMSW, operating as a non-profit organization, was established to assist obligated businesses in fulfilling their obligations under the Recycling Regulation. Membership in MMSW encompasses a diverse range of entities, including retailers, restaurants, importers, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and any organization supplying packaged goods, paper, and flyers to residents of Saskatchewan.

Functioning as a legal entity within Saskatchewan, MMSW maintains its own local office and staff. Members of MMSW actively contribute to supporting Saskatchewan municipalities, ensuring the provision of recycling services for household packaging and paper to residents. MMSW is actively transitioning towards Full Producer Responsibility. SUMA has a seat on MMSW'S Board.

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. (SPRA) is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting, developing, and facilitating parks and recreation opportunities across the province.

Recognized as the provincial entity for parks and recreation in Saskatchewan, SPRA boasts active members from over 400 communities and partners throughout the province. Serving as a provincial voice, SPRA empowers its members to advocate for and facilitate parks, recreation, and leisure opportunities across Saskatchewan.

For more information visit www.spra.sk.ca

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Urban Municipal Water Best Management Projects

The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) is a non-profit organization that stands for nine watershed groups across the province. Its primary mandate is to safeguard both ground and surface water.

Functioning as the chief advocate, SAW represents the interests and concerns of the watershed groups at the senior government level. Each member watershed is represented by one board member on the SAW Board of Directors.

Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

WSA also serves as Saskatchewan's representative on transboundary water issues. Operating in various disciplines such as engineering, hydrology, hydrogeology, public policy, habitat protection, water resource allocation, and regulations, the agency is committed to ensuring the sustainability and quality of Saskatchewan's surface and groundwater supplies. This includes safeguarding drinking water from its source to the tap. By fostering sustainable water supplies, WSA contributes to the growth, environmental health, and overall quality of life for the residents of Saskatchewan.

Water Council for Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce)

The Water Council for Saskatchewan (WCS) functions as an advisory entity established by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce to serve as a water governance and management framework. Its membership comprises stakeholders from various sectors, including private businesses, water stewardship, conservation agencies, academia, and municipal associations.

Prairie Skies Integration Network

Prairie Skies Integration Network (Prairie Skies) is one of the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) initiatives in Saskatchewan, which operates in Moose Jaw and its surrounding region. LIPs are collaborative efforts at the municipal or regional level, aimed at enhancing local capabilities to attract newcomers and improve integration outcomes. These initiatives function through formal agreements, establishing comprehensive partnership councils tasked with devising and implementing strategies to foster more inclusive and welcoming communities.

Prairie Skies serves as a system that encourages increased engagement, both locally and more broadly, in the integration of newcomers. Comprising partnerships with varying types and levels of involvement, Prairie Skies includes stakeholders such as employers, school boards, health centers, boards of trade, government entities, professional associations, ethnocultural organizations, faith-based groups, community and social services sectors, established community members, and, notably, representatives of newcomers themselves.

SUMA is excited to be working with Prairie Skies.

The oversight of Prairie Skies is carried out by a Partnership Council, with guidance from the Immigrant Advisory Table.

Urban Highway Connector Program Partnership – Ministry of Highways

The Urban Highway Connector Program advocates for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods within Saskatchewan cities, offering a framework to support municipal management of these connectors.

Under provincial legislation and jurisdiction, Saskatchewan's 16 cities have control over Urban Highway Connectors within their boundaries. These connectors serve as roadways linking highways through the cities, playing a crucial role in both the national and provincial transportation system. Delays on these connectors can result in bottlenecks, incurring costs for shipping companies.

Cities receive annual grants for the operational and maintenance aspects of urban highway connectors. Furthermore, funding for rehabilitation and upgrade projects on these connectors is allocated based on project applications and available program funding.

The Community Airport Partnership (CAP) – Ministry of Highways

The Community Airport Partnership (CAP) is a funding program designed to support regional, community-owned airports in Saskatchewan.

This initiative provides financial assistance for the rehabilitation, construction, and capital improvement of airport infrastructure. Launched in 2007 by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, the CAP program aims to help publicly-registered airports offset capital costs through grants, which are cost-shared up to a maximum of \$275,000, with an annual budget of \$700,000. Municipalities contribute a minimum of 33% of the entire project cost when federal funding is available.

Since its inception in 2007, over \$7 million has been invested in community airports, resulting in approximately \$14 million in airport improvements through 50-50 matching community contributions. Thirty-six different communities have benefited from the program. Before CAP, small cities and towns could support local airport operations and maintenance but faced challenges in funding major capital improvements.

The program actively supports local and regional economic development, ensures general access to surrounding communities, promotes safe airport operations, facilitates general aviation operations and commercial air charters, and contributes to air ambulance and medevac operations.

CAP funding prioritizes safety-related air-side capital improvement projects, encompassing runways, taxiways, aprons, existing lighting, engineering services, and navigation/weather reporting systems.

SUMA has been actively engaged in the prioritization process, contributing to the recommendation of projects to the government.

Municipal Immigration Network:

In 2022, SUMA introduced the Municipal Immigration Network (network). This platform is accessible to municipal leaders, including elected officials and administration, from SUMA member municipalities.

The network is designed to function as a regional hub, offering municipalities the chance to gather insights into best practices for attracting, welcoming, retaining, and integrating immigrants within Saskatchewan hometowns. Furthermore, it aims to foster regional collaboration, emphasizing the advantages of diversity and inclusion. Additionally, the network will assist municipalities in recognizing and addressing barriers faced by immigrants, providing recommendations for overcoming them.

Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Association (SAISIA):

SAISIA, a non-profit organization, supports newcomers by offering settlement and integration agencies in Saskatchewan access to professional development, networking opportunities, and resources to strengthen their internal procedures, client programs, and services. Collaboration between SUMA and SAISIA extends to various issues, such as welcoming Ukrainian displaced persons and Afghan refugees.

Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise (ACF):

ACF is the principle spokesperson for the French-speaking community in Saskatchewan. The role and influence of ACF is to see the ongoing development of the Fransaskoise community.

SUMA is collaborating with ACF to assist our Fransaskoise members become recognized as officially bilingual by the Government of Canada.

Eco-West Canada:

Eco-West Canada is dedicated to advancing the sustainable economic development of Canada's rural municipalities. Its initiatives involve aiding both rural and urban municipalities, along with other clients, in the creation and execution of environmentally friendly projects. This is achieved by leveraging synergies through local and regional action planning.

SUMA is partnering with Eco-West to explore opportunities for funding in the establishment of a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre in Saskatchewan.



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