

MUNICIPAL Update

December 16, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10

Northern Members Meeting

January 21

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities - Prince Albert

January 23

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities - Moose Jaw

February 13

Virtual SUMA Summit

See all [upcoming events](#).

Newly Elected or Re-elected? Elevate Your Leadership with these Webinars

SUMA recently hosted two webinars for newly elected.

Start off with ***Council Table 101: Exercise governance basics and strong council meeting etiquette*** for a council meeting simulation demonstrating professional council meeting etiquette and respectful dialogue among officials. This webinar covers how diverse opinions add value to the decision-making process, considerations when participating during meetings with confidence and respect, ways to be more persuasive and effective council members, and how to recognize and address conflict at the council table.

Next, learn more about conflict of interest and how you can stay compliant in ***Ethical Leadership: Managing Conflicts of Interest***. For newly elected municipal mayors and councils, understanding conflict of interest rules are crucial to maintaining public trust and ensuring transparent decision-making.

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by [SUMAssure](#).

Visit the SUMA member portal.

All previous webinars are available on the [SUMA member portal](#). Contact your administrator for login information.

Important: Notice to Administration

SUMA does not have contact emails for all newly elected from your municipality. We ask that you

please share this newsletter and encourage them to subscribe to the **Municipal Update** by using this [link](#), clicking on the link at the very bottom of the newsletter, or emailing communications@suma.org. Thanks for your help.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Meetings with Ministers

Last week SUMA **met with Eric Schmalz, Minister of Government Relations**, who is new to the portfolio. Schmalz, a formerly a Reeve, brings some knowledge of the municipal sector to his new role. SUMA briefed Minister Schmalz about the We are URBAN. campaign and many of the priority issues urban municipalities have around autonomy and sustainability, regulations and requirements that affect municipal responsibility, and provincial downloading — as were featured in our provincial election advocacy.

On **December 18**, **SUMA will be meeting** with Premier Scott Moe, Minister of Finance Jim Reiter, Minister of Social Services Terry Jenson, and Minister of GR Eric Schmalz **to discuss the province's vision for municipalities** for the next several years, and the key municipal concerns noted in our election advocacy.

Resources for Newly Elected Officials

Congratulations to all those who have recently been elected or re-elected to serve as mayor or councillor in your community. It's an honour to be chosen by your fellow residents to serve your urban municipality, which comes with great responsibility. To those stepping away from municipal governance, thank you for your service, effort, and dedication to your community.

SUMA recognizes the unique challenges faced by urban municipalities, and is here to provide **tools and support to help ensure the next four years are as successful** as possible for you, your fellow council members, and your municipality as a whole.

To help you get started on the right foot, we have put together a **list of resources for elected officials**. These tools are useful whether it's your first term or tenth, so we encourage all elected officials to bookmark [this page](#) and revisit it often.

SUMA's Advocacy Following the 2024 Provincial Election

Congratulations to both the returning provincial government (the Saskatchewan Party), and the official opposition (the Saskatchewan New Democrats), on their wins during the 2024 Saskatchewan General Election. SUMA looks forward to the cooperative work ahead, and will soon be sitting down with Cabinet ministers to discuss matters important to our members. We will also continue to advocate on the issues brought forth during our provincial election campaign:

Municipal Revenues

Municipal governments are the orders of government closest to and most accessed by the public. Urban municipalities own 60 per cent of public infrastructure, such as roads, water, wastewater treatment, recreation, green spaces and fire halls, to name a few. To maintain these systems, municipalities must run balanced operating budgets. **Despite ever-increasing responsibilities, streams of funding available to municipalities have not increased**; municipalities still have only property taxes and grants from other orders of government to rely on for income.

Municipalities also want to see **simplified property assessments for property taxes, more funding for next generation infrastructure**, such as landfills, hospitals, and green infrastructure, and **support for municipal growth with opportunities to help retain newcomers**.

Municipal Responsibilities

Municipalities work under regulations over which they have little control. For example, many of our communities are governed by *The Police Act 1991*, which on longer fits the needs or perception of

public safety in the modern world. We want to see **holistic changes to the Act that will allow police to focus on enforcement, while including other professionals in cases where necessary to provide wrap-around care.**

Municipalities are also seeking support with **bylaw enforcement and prosecution through supports for education and by increasing the scope of fines that municipalities can add to tax rolls.**

SUMA wants to see **support for new technology and education concerning landfill closures**, and **support for the Municipal Eco-Action Centre**, which will help municipalities across the province navigate climate change and create resilience plans through grassroots support and knowledge. Municipalities need programs and investments which will attract newcomers and help them settle and continue to live in urban communities.

Provincial Downloading

Municipalities do not have the fiscal capacity to handle social services, housing, and shelters, nor should they be responsible for providing these basic needs, which fall inside the provincial government purview. However, time and again, municipalities are required to step in to relieve the stress their communities feel directly. The province must step up and provide better help to residents, or it will continue to cost municipalities time and resources they simply do not have. We have expressed our concerns over current **mental health and addictions policies and housing issues** regularly. In particular, **SIS and SAID need drastic improvements in order to be helpful to the people who require these services.**

The government must also take a firm stance on **climate change**, and provide **environmental leadership**. Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces in Canada without a wetland policy, which is necessary to ensure sustainable water management practices.

SUMA looks forward to the coming months, and will keep you up to date on progress on these files. If you would like to view SUMA's policies in brief, which addresses these issues and more, you can read them [here](#).

2025 Resolutions Policy

Resolutions are one way SUMA members can get their issues to the forefront of our advocacy efforts, and it's never too early to start thinking of those you might submit. Now is a good time to review the guidelines in the 2025 Resolutions Policy. You can access the document [here](#).

As is our policy, **only those resolutions that are absolutely critical and could not possibly have been included in the Convention package will be brought forward after the January 31 deadline**, and only then with justification for why it is both urgent and emergent. Any other late resolutions will be considered by the SUMA Board after Convention.

To read past resolutions visit our website [here](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



MuniCast S7:E5 Municipal Networking with the Municipal Peer Network

In the final episode of season 7, ***Municipal Networking with the Municipal Peer Network***, we have a conversation with former Peer Network chair Michelle Buechler and current Peer Network mentor Michelle McKenzie about how the program started, how mentors are selected, and the benefits of contacting a mentor.

The **Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network** is available to assist municipal leaders as they face diverse challenges in their role as an elected official or administrator. The Municipal Peer Network connects municipal officials and administrators with highly experienced mentors who can provide advice and suggest options to help resolve disputes. Mentors are veteran municipal administrators and elected officials who offer guidance and support from their own experiences to help resolve issues at a local level. There is no cost to the service and conversations between a mentor and peer are confidential.

Saskatchewan's Municipal Peer Network is a partnership between SARM, SUMA, RMAA, UMAAS, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

[Listen to S7:E5 here.](#)

MuniCast is available on all major podcast platforms including Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube.



SUMA

January 21 - Prince Albert
January 23 - Moose Jaw

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities

MLDP
Municipal Leadership Development Program

Sponsored by **SUMAssure** 10 YEARS

MLDP: Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities (MLRR) is a required module within the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP). These MLRR sessions are hosted by SUMA. This session will provide valuable information to newly elected officials about their roles and responsibilities as a council member. This session would also serve as a good refresher for returning elected officials. Participants will hear about the relationship between council and administration, running council meetings, municipal law, and the roles of SUMA and UMAAS.

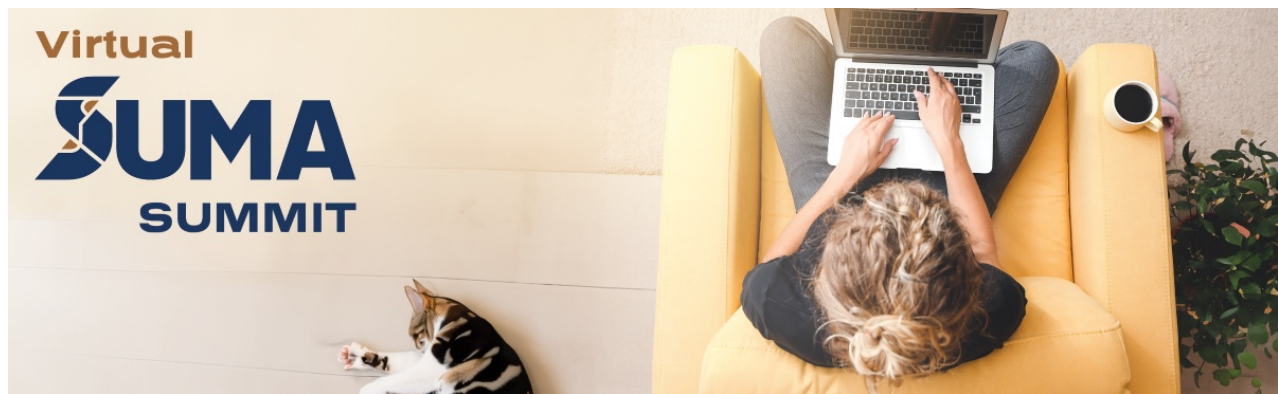
The registration fee is \$100 + GST, lunch will be provided.

January 21 Prince Albert
Art Hauser Centre
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

January 23 Moose Jaw
Moose Jaw Events Centre
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[Register here.](#)



Virtual SUMA Summit (formerly Sector Meetings)

The **Virtual SUMA Summit** (formerly *SUMA Sector Meetings*) will take place online on **February 13** from **9:00 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.**

SUMA member meetings are a great opportunity to get to know your peers, learn about successes and challenges experienced by other municipalities, and hear updates from SUMA and our partners. Towns and villages/resort villages will also participate in caucus elections. We encourage you to join and cast your vote for your caucus representative. [Learn more about SUMA's caucus elections here.](#)

All attendees will spend the morning together to hear an update on SUMA and our advocacy work, receive updates from SUMA partners, and take in a keynote presentation from community builder, Doug Griffiths. Doug's engaging keynote, *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, reveals why communities face certain challenges and provides tools to help you move forward. Feel inspired and motivated, and come discover a renewed sense of ownership and responsibility toward your community.

For the afternoon, we will break out into our sectors – cities, towns, northern municipalities, villages and resort villages – to share your successes during hometown proud, take in an education session specifically designed for your sector, and discuss sector relevant issues in an open forum. Towns and villages/resort villages will also participate in caucus elections.

Discussions at the **Virtual SUMA Summit** are driven by members. We encourage you to join us for a day of discussion and learning with your peers.

The **Virtual SUMA Summit** is open to representatives from all SUMA member municipalities. The cost to attend is \$40 + GST and PST per person.

Register here.

SUMA Service Awards

Annually, the Board of Directors recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to outstanding service in the municipal field. SUMA is proud to honour individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development and prosperity of our communities and urban governments in Saskatchewan.

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

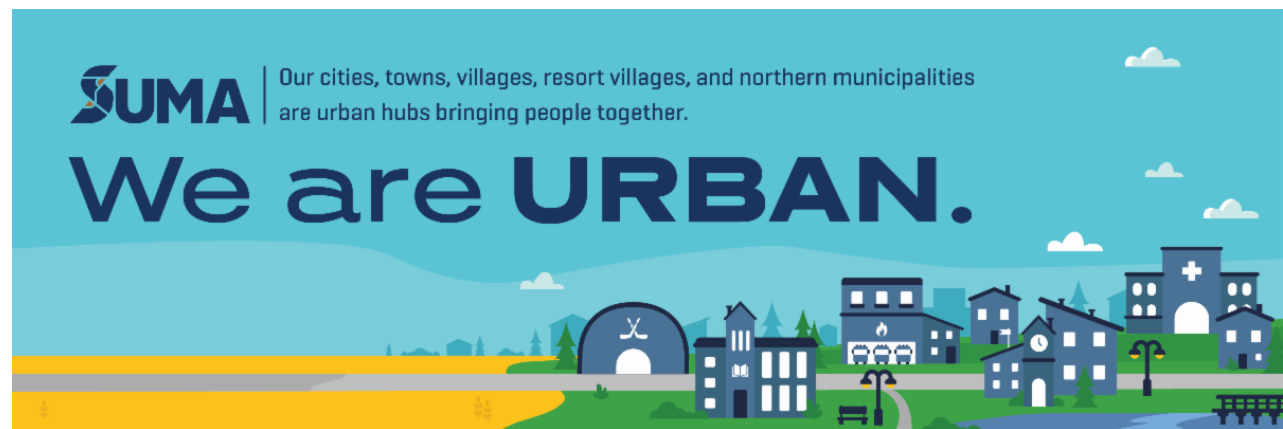


The **Honorary Service Award** recognizes elected officials in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 or more years on municipal council. It recognizes their long-term dedication to, and involvement in, their local communities.

Nominations will remain open until 12:01 a.m. on **January 6, 2025**.

[Submit a nomination here.](#)

We are URBAN.



Highlight your community and **be part of the We are URBAN. campaign!**

Share photos and videos spotlighting your municipality. Don't forget to include a description, your location, and the name of your municipality.

Follow us on **Instagram** at **@suma.connect**, and use the hashtag **#WeareURBAN** to share. You can also share directly on **memoryKPR** by using the QR code provided.

Let's celebrate our municipalities and everything that makes them unique! We are URBAN.



[Learn more about We are URBAN.](#)

OTHER UPDATES

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Moves to a Continuous Process

TSS will be moving to a continuous, rolling intake process. All completed applications in the application system will be reviewed on the **spring closing date of April 30**, and **fall**

Please view the [intake guide](#) and [fact sheet](#), both of which outline the changes and updates to the program. The online application portal can be accessed [here](#).

Micro-credential Course: Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms

SUMA is pleased to announce University of Saskatchewan's new **micro-credential course**, from the School of Public Health, called ***Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms***. This is a 40 hour, 8-week asynchronous online course. It is equivalent to 1 university credit unit. The class will be taught by **Dr. Barbara Fornssler**, an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Saskatchewan, and by **Jennifer Chouinard BA BSW MPP**, a PhD Candidate at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina.

The course addresses the following four topics:

1. The Substance Use and Addictions Continuum: The Role of Stigma in Health
2. Substance Use Interventions: Harm Reduction and Prevention; Health and Wellness Promotion; Treatment and Recovery
3. Evidence and Strategic Intervention: Municipal Leadership
4. Public Policy, Engagement, and Advocacy

This is a **policy-focused course**, ideal for professionals looking to:

- Refine their skills in articulating the complexities of substance use and stigma.
- Apply evidence-based strategies for reducing substance use
- harms including prevention, treatment and recovery services.
- Develop and evaluate policies in partnership with a range of health system and community stakeholders.
- Communicate effectively with the public to align health initiatives
- with local support services.

Course tuition is \$750 plus taxes and fees. It comes with a certificate and digital badge upon completion. If cost is a barrier to enrollment, please [email Dr. Fornssler](#) directly.

For more info and to register please visit the course registration page: [PUBH M01A Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)

SK Recycles: New Household and Paper Recycling Program

SK Recycles, in partnership with SARCAN, launched its new household packaging and paper recycling program in Saskatchewan, expanding recycling opportunities for residents. As part of the SK Recycles program, all **73 SARCAN Recycling depots will collect flexible plastics, foam packaging, and non-deposit glass bottles and jars, providing free and accessible options for residents** to recycle these materials. This partnership moves the collection of these materials from Phase 3 to Phase 1 of the transition. The partnership reflects efforts toward achieving efficient and sustainable packaging and paper recycling as the province transitions towards a full extended producer responsibility (EPR) model.

Newly accepted materials include:

1. **Flexible Plastics** (plastic bags; stand-up and zipper lock pouches; crinkly wrappers and bags; plastic net bags; plastic protective packaging).
2. **Foam Packaging** (foam take-out containers; foam trays for meat, seafood, or vegetables; foam protective packaging for electronics or appliances).
3. **Glass Bottles and Jars** (bottles and jars for olive oil, pickles, jam, etc.).

Glass will be recycled in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where it will be made into reflective glass beads for road marking paint and fibreglass insulation. Both flexible plastics and foam packaging will be recycled in British Columbia, where flexible plastics will be made into plastic pellets for manufacturing of new plastic products such as bins and buckets, and foam will be prepared to be

made into picture frames and crown moulding.

SK Recycles has launched a campaign to share the news about the new materials that will be accepted at SARCAN depots. For more information about our program, including producer reporting details, please visit [SKRecycles.ca](https://www.skrecycles.ca).

Provide Feedback on the General 2024 Municipal Elections

Now that the 2024 Municipal Elections are over, Government Relations wants municipalities across Saskatchewan to **provide feedback through this survey**.

The province wants to hear about how municipalities set up their elections, the ways in which voters cast their ballots, what difficulties municipalities encountered, and anything else that may be relevant to improving the local election system. The results will provide a starting point for discussions with stakeholders regarding potential legislative and regulatory improvements.

The survey will be open until **December 31**. If you have any questions, please email Regs@gov.sk.ca.

Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada has **launched its application intake for the \$1 billion direct delivery stream of the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)**.

They are now accepting proposals from eligible applicants, such as municipalities and Indigenous communities, for projects with total eligible costs ranging between \$1 million and \$100 million, under a continuous intake stream while the intake remains open, until **March 31 at 3:00 pm ET**.

Projects may be pulled for assessment at various times during the intake period, with projects being recommended for approval prior to the intake closing on **March 31** and on May 19 at 3:00 p.m. ET for Indigenous applicants.

In order to support Indigenous-led projects, at least 10 per cent of the funding envelope will be dedicated to eligible Indigenous recipients.

For more information, please consult these resources:

- [Applicant Guide](#)
- [Guide for Indigenous Applicants](#)
- [How to access the funding portal](#)
- [CHIF website](#)

Please feel free to direct any questions to the CHIF team at chif-fcil@infcc.gc.ca.

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's CAR Signage Incentive Project

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) CAR Signage Incentive Project **aims to provide assistance with the cost of road name and civic address signage** for Saskatchewan communities.

The Civic Address Registry (CAR) program works with communities to **improve identification of property locations for 9-1-1 operators, dispatch services and emergency responders**. Communities that join CAR can participate in free training and access resources that locate properties more quickly and accurately. The CAR Signage Incentive Project also hopes to increase use of physical signage to assist in emergency response. There is no cost to participate in the CAR program or to apply for the incentive. The application form will be **available for submission starting November 21**.

Encourage community leaders to send their name and community name advising their interest in the incentive project to car@gov.sk.ca by **December 31**. For more information on the CAR program, please visit saskpublicsafety.ca/communities/car.

To register for the CAR program and to complete the required training to qualify for the incentive, please go to: <https://www.saskaddress.ca/carloginrequest/home/signup>. For more information on the CAR Signage Incentive Project, please email car@gov.sk.ca or contact Lisa Hall at (306) 519-2659.

Municipal Revenue Sharing Declaration of Eligibility

Municipalities are required to annually report their compliance with eligibility requirements to receive their Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) grant by completing an online Declaration of Eligibility (declaration). The unique link and password for the online declaration was emailed to each municipality on November 15. If you have not received it, please email grcompliance@gov.sk.ca.

The deadline for submission of the declaration is **January 31**. Please ensure it is submitted by the deadline to Government Relations, even if the municipality does not meet all eligibility requirements.

Please watch the [Declaration of Eligibility recorded webinar](#) and/or download the [Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#) and this [Eligibility Requirements infographic](#) to learn more.

Community Rink Affordability Grant Announced

Applications for the **2024-25 Community Rink Affordability Grant will open on January 6, 2025**. Communities, First Nations, schools and non-profits are eligible and encouraged to register for the annual grant of \$2,500 per indoor ice surface. The grant helps offset the costs of operating indoor skating and curling rinks in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan government will double the program funding to \$3.2 million starting in 2025-26, increasing the grant to \$5,000 per rink.

The application period will run from January 6, 2025, until February 28, 2025, and the grant is set to be paid out by March 2025.

To learn more, visit [SPRA grants and funding site](#).

ADVERTISEMENTS

NAMS Canada Scholarship giveaway!

*Enter to win a seat in our course designed for Canadian elected officials!

Do you manage public assets?

This course is for you!

Infrastructure Asset Management Planning for Elected Officials

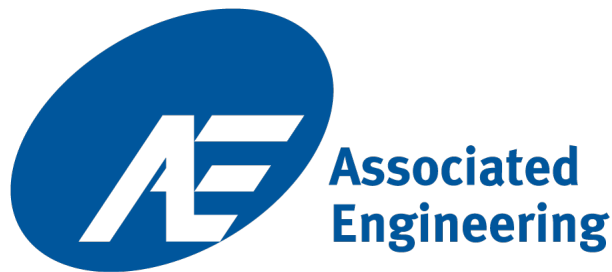
- ✓ Discuss the key success factors, drivers and benefits of sound asset management practice.
- ✓ Ensure the delivery of sustainable services to your community.
- ✓ Discuss the importance of infrastructure and the role it plays in economic development, public health and safety, and meeting the needs of the community.

Scan the QR code to enter →



NAMS Canada is a registered, Canadian not-for-profit organization.

namscanada.org



Meet one of **Kinetic GPO's newest program suppliers**, Associated Engineering.

Associated Engineering is a uniquely Canadian, employee-owned company passionate about building vibrant, healthy and resilient communities that support economic growth. Focused locally, they offer uncompromising service to their public sector clients across Canada and abroad. Associated Engineering has over 1,000 staff in 20 offices across Canada. They offer a broad range of services in urban planning, engineering, environmental science, and landscape architecture.

From Associated Engineering: "Through our relationship with Kinetic GPO, we are proud to offer the Canadian public sector and MASH entities a robust contract offering for all your engineering services needs."

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Business Development Manager Nicole Wieser at 825-747-6274 or nicole@kineticgpo.ca.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Qu'Appelle: *Chief Administrative Officer* (Dec 17)
- RM of Vanscoy No. 345: *Office Assistant* (Dec 20)
- SUMA: *Advocacy Advisor* (Jan 1)
- Town of White City: *Manager of Finance* (Jan 2)
- City of Portage la Prairie: *City Manager* (Jan 4)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.

Find the latest listings by visiting the [classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Office of the *Provincial Interlocutor: First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Seed Funding* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* (Year-round)
- CHIF Fund: *Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund* (March 31, 2025)
- TSS: *Targeted Sector Support Grant* (April 30, 2025)
- *Community Rink Affordability Grant* (February 28, 2025)

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

SUMA | suma.org

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



SUMA | Unit 305-4741 Parliament Ave. | Regina, SK S4W 0T9 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!