

MUNICIPAL Update

December 30, 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](#).

**Warmest Wishes over the Holidays,
and in the New Year**



SUMA wishes you a joyous holiday season and continued success in the new year.

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

SUMA's Advocacy in the New Year

As we approach 2025, here's a look ahead at SUMA's advocacy, which continues touching on the issues brought forth during the 2024 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 no 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](#).

Resources for Newly Elected Officials

Congratulations to all those who have been elected or re-elected to serve as mayor or councillor in their 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.

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



January 21 - Prince Albert
January 23 - Moose Jaw



Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities


Municipal Leadership Development Program

Sponsored by  

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.](#)

Register by January 7.

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

[Register here.](#)

Register by January 9.

MLRR sessions are sponsored by





Virtual SUMA Summit (formerly SUMA 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.](#)



MuniCast Season 7

All episodes from season 7 of MuniCast are now available on all major podcast platforms!

Episodes feature conversations about the municipal education programs available in Saskatchewan to municipal administration and elected officials. Episodes in season 7 included:

- E1 Municipal Management with Southeast College
- E2 Municipal Administration Specialty with Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- E3 Local Government Administration with the University of Regina
- E4 Leadership Development with the Municipal Leadership Development Program
- E5 Municipal Networking with the Municipal Peer Network

Listen to MuniCast here.

MuniCast is available on Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube.

Need to Catch Up On a Webinar?

All webinar recordings are available on the **SUMA member portal**.

Each municipality has one shared login for the member portal that can be distributed to all staff and members of council. We encourage you to revisit or share previous webinars with other staff or elected officials. If you are unsure of your login information, please contact communications2@suma.org for assistance.

Visit the SUMA member portal.

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.

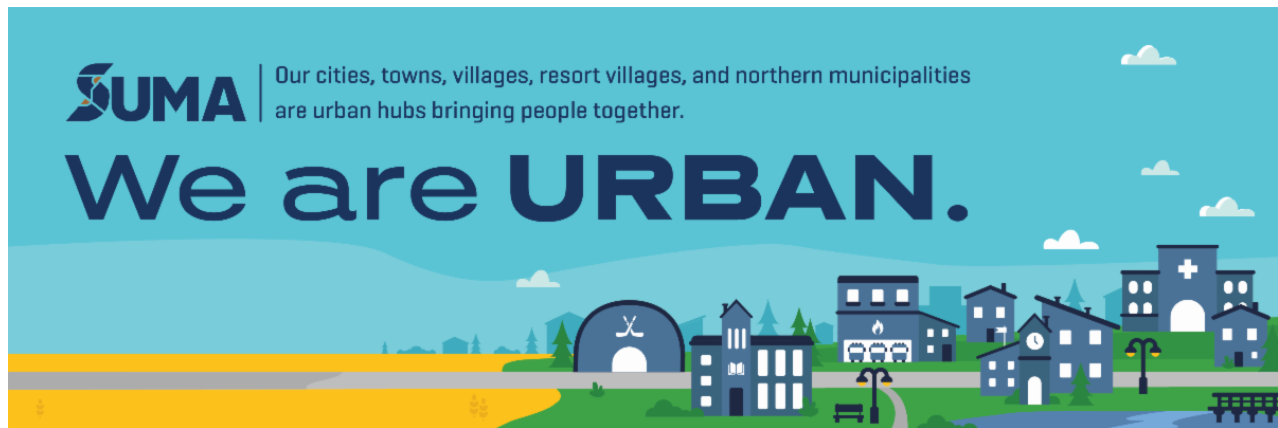
The **Honorary Service Award** recognizes elected officials in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 or more years on municipal council. It recognizes their long-term dedication to, and involvement in, their local communities.

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

Funding from Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada

The Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, Sean Fraser, announced the launch of **new capital project intakes under the Active Transportation Fund and the Rural Transit Solutions Fund**.

Active Transportation Fund

The Active Transportation Fund supports the **development and enhancement of active transportation networks** to provide Canadians with the opportunity to safely and affordably reach destinations by active modes of transportation. A minimum of 10% of the Active Transportation Fund's funding will be allocated to projects that benefit Indigenous populations and communities.

Applications are currently being accepted through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Applicant Portal](#) until **February 26**, 2025 (7:00 p.m. EST), while applications from eligible Indigenous applicants will continue to be accepted until **April 9**, 2025 (7:00 p.m. EST). Applicants are encouraged to review information provided on the [Active Transportation Fund website](#), [Applicant Guide](#) and [Step-by-Step Guide](#) prior to creating an application. More information can also be found on [the Active Transportation Online Hub](#).

Rural Transit Solutions Fund

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund supports the **development and expansion of locally driven transit solutions, by helping residents of rural, remote, Indigenous and Northern**

communities conduct their day-to-day activities, like access services, go to work, school, medical appointments, and visit loved ones. A minimum of 10% of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund's funding will be allocated to projects that benefit Indigenous populations and communities

As of December 16, 2024, applications for the Capital Projects stream are being accepted through the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Applicant Portal](#). Applications will be accepted from all applicants until **March 4, 2025** (3:00 p.m. EST), while applications from Indigenous recipients will be accepted until **April 8, 2025** (3:00 p.m. EST). Before applying, applicants are encouraged to review the information in the [Capital Projects stream Application Guide](#) and follow the [Capital Projects stream Step-by-Step Guide](#). The Rural Transit Solutions Fund [webpage](#) is also an excellent reference.

Applicant inquiries can be directed to the respective programs at ATF-FTA@infc.gc.ca and RTSF-FSTCR@infc.gc.ca.

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 closing date of October 31, 2025**.

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).

Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada **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@infoc.gc.ca.

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](#).

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Kinetic GPO

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS





Classifieds

Positions Available:

- SUMA: *Advocacy Advisor* (Dec 31)
- Town of White City: *Manager of Finance* (Jan 2)
- City of Portage la Prairie: *City Manager* (Jan 4)
- For Sale: *HET-090 Culligan High Efficiency Twin Water Softener System* (Jan 17)
- Air Ronge: *Deputy CAO/Manager of Legislative Services* (Jan 19)
- Town of Kipling: *Chief Administrative Officer* (Jan 24)
- Town of Biggar: *Deputy Administrator* (Jan 24)

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.

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