



*117<sup>th</sup> Annual  
SUMA Convention  
April 3 – 6, 2022  
Queensbury Convention Centre  
Regina*

***Resolutions Committee:***  
*Councillor Bob Hawkins (Chair)*  
*Councillor Ted Zurakowski*  
*Councillor Dawn Luhning*  
*Councillor Richard Beck*  
*Mayor Pat Jackson*  
*Mayor Michelle McKenzie*

# RESOLUTION PROCESS

## Presentation of resolutions:

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

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**2022-01. Allowing Property-Subclasses for All Municipalities**

Whereas there are inequities within classes of property between assessments and taxation; and

Whereas Section 254 of the Cities Act allows for subclasses of property for the purposes of establishing tax rates which is a useful tax tool; and

Whereas the Education Property Tax Regulations allow the Province and Separate School Divisions the authority to subclass property for taxation purposes; and

Whereas Cities and the Province have used this legislation to sub-class property for taxation purposes, as evidence that it is a useful and necessary tax tool; and

Whereas many municipalities struggle with mitigating the inequities within classes of property for Municipal Taxation;

Therefore be it Resolved the Municipalities Act be amended by adding under Division 7, Imposing and Calculating Tax:

Classes and sub-classes of property

(1) A council may establish classes and sub-classes of property for the purposes of establishing tax rates.

(2) The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency shall determine to which class or sub-class any property belongs.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Municipalities Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Towns, Villages, Resort Villages, Northern Municipalities

**2022-02. Public Sector Accounting Standards**

Whereas public sector accounting standards require that all controlled entities (including sub committees) of a municipality be consolidated into their financial statements, and government partnerships be proportionately consolidated into their financial statements; and

Whereas public sector accounting standards require that inter-company transactions between the above noted entities be eliminated upon consolidation; and

Whereas, for example: this means water utilities cannot be charged out to the Recreation Board facilities without the expense to the facility being reversed and the income for the Utility being reversed in the consolidated financial statements, even though logically the accounting of the expense should go to Recreation and Culture and the accounting of the income to Utilities - Water; and

Whereas these entities are often times small and the effort involved in combining them into our financial statements, reversing the transfers between entities, along with the additional costs in audit fees is disproportionate to the value in doing so; and

Whereas many of the municipalities themselves are small, and the cost of consolidation or proportionately consolidating entities for them outweighs the benefits.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA Advocate the Public Sector Accounting Board to amend the required Public Sector Accounting Standards (including PS 1300 and PS 3060) to make consolidation or proportionate consolidation an option; an accounting policy choice. If required, there could be stipulations such as the size of the municipality, or size of the controlled entity or governments partnership, in relation to the size of the municipality.

ACTS AFFECTED: Public Sector Accounting Standards  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-03. Emergency Vehicle Lights**

Whereas emergency vehicles are operated under conditions and circumstances when there is a danger to life and property; and

Whereas the skills, foresight, and judgement required to operate such vehicles, often under extremely hazardous conditions, and where a speedy response is vital, is far above that required of other types of drivers; and

Whereas a speed limit of 60km/hr is required when passing an emergency vehicle with the exemption of a) if the vehicle is being driven on a divided highway, or b) the vehicle is travelling on the opposite roadway from the emergency vehicle as per Section 204(1) of *The Traffic Safety Act*.

Whereas the lighting currently used on emergency vehicles creates low visibility of emergency vehicles and traffic users fail to slow down when passing a scene; and

Whereas blue lighting is being installed on tow trucks in the province and the lighting creates higher visibility than amber or red lighting when traffic users pass emergency vehicles;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) to have all emergency vehicles equipped with blue flashing lights when emergency vehicles are stopped on scene and that all emergency vehicles display flashing lights while on scene. This will ensure emergency vehicles are visible to all traffic users and ensure traffic users slow down when passing a scene.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Traffic Safety Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-04. Changes to Revaluation Cycles for Cities**

Whereas Section 12.1 of the *Assessment Management Agency Act* states that the minister must approve an order to establish a base date for determining the value of land and improvements for the purpose of establishing assessment rolls for the year in which the valuation or revaluation is to be effective and for each subsequent year preceding the year in which the next revaluation is to be effective; and,

Whereas Clause 2(o.1) of the *Assessment Management Agency Act* states that revaluation means the valuation of a property on which a valuation has already been performed, to reflect a new base date for valuation established by the agency; and,

Whereas Section 3 of the *Assessment Management Agency Regulations* states that one year is the minimum period and three years is the maximum period between the base date and the first year in which the valuation or revaluation is to be effective; and,

Whereas the current Board Order for the 2021 Revaluation Base Date determines assessed values of properties for the years 2021 to 2024 and during this period of time, significant market value evidence shifts may occur directly affecting the property owners; and,

Whereas the market evidence used for the 2021 Revaluation Base Date did cause significant valuation shifting for the larger cities resulting in substantial increases and/or decreases in property assessments; and,

Whereas applying a shorter base date timeline for the larger cities would eliminate the potential of significant shifting in property valuations and allow assessment information to be updated more frequently which would reflect more accurate property values.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to change the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency Board Orders that are approved by the Ministry of Government Relations to reflect the period of time for a revaluation to change from a four (4) year period to a two (2) year period for the sixteen (16) Saskatchewan cities only.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Assessment Management Agency Act & Regulations*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Cities

## **2022-05. Timelines for Amendments to the Local Government Elections Act**

Whereas the Local Government Elections Act and its Regulations require amendments to the procedures with respect to municipal and school board elections; and

Whereas the next municipal and school boards election is to be held on November 13, 2024; and

Whereas in order for municipalities to conduct a fair and equitable election process and provide information to the municipality's councils to consider options and recommendations, a minimum of one (1) year prior to the next election date is required to adequately review legislation and prepare project plans; and

Whereas the Act restricts the Returning Officer from conducting various procedural duties outlined in the Act in order to conduct an efficient and effective election, such as the authority to establish polling places and setting deadlines for voting procedures; and

Whereas the Act requires significant changes to address voting procedures when utilizing vote counting equipment, as most Saskatchewan cities are utilizing electronic vote counting in their municipal elections; and

Whereas the forms and templates in the Regulations are outdated and inconsistent with the Act; and

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Provincial Government to ensure that required legislated changes to the Local Government Elections Act and Regulations be completed at least one (1) year in advance of the scheduled local government elections.

Background

Amendments to the Local Government Election Act, 2015 (LGEA) were passed with Bill 134 and made effective on January 1, 2020. Many Cities started election planning more than one year in advance of the 2020 November Election, which was before the amendments to the LGEA were passed. In addition, changes to the Regulations were only in place by the end of February 2020, leaving only eight (8) months to prepare.

Most Cities also prepare their budgets in the summer/fall of the previous year, which means that Election budgets were required to be approved by Councils before the Act and Regulations were passed.

<b>The Local Government Election Act, 2015 Proposed Amendments</b>			
<b>Part</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Comments/Suggestions for Change</b>
<b>Part I - Preliminary Matters</b>	9	Posting of notices	Notices are required to be posted in conspicuous public location. 2d) indicates if divided into wards, must post in one or more locations in each ward and in one or more additional conspicuous locations. <i>Challenge:</i> At least one notice was posted in each ward, however, many public stores do not allow posting on their windows, most do not have a bulletin board and visibility is not ideal. There is a limited number of public areas to post, and this type of advertising is ineffective in comparison with other more effective ways to communicate the notices. <i>Recommendation:</i> Remove 2(d) completely, and revise 2(c) to remove the words "that is not divided into wards". This change would allow <b>all</b> municipalities to post in one or more conspicuous locations in addition to the required newspaper advertising, and provide better opportunities to post in public places where residents would likely see/read the posting.
<b>Part II - Proceedings Preliminary to Elections</b>	10	General Elections	The date of the election is currently on November 13, 2024, and every 4 years on the 2nd Wednesday of November. <i>Challenge:</i> The month of November is more likely to bring on unfavourable colder weather (as seen in 2020) decreasing voter turnout. Additionally, Cities approve their budgets at the end of each year, and this work is difficult to achieve when the election is so late in the year. Also, Councils generally appoint to their Boards & Committees so that work of those bodies can begin at the onset of a new year. Council members are overwhelmed with information and meetings in such a short period of time following their induction. <i>Recommendations:</i> Change the Election date to allow Cities to conduct their election in April/May rather than November; Ensure that federal, provincial and municipal elections are separated by at least two months, as there is too much confusion for the voter; Move Election day to Wednesday, as Monday will always create an additional unnecessary expense for staffing the day before and the Nov 11th Statutory holiday will also be an issue. This change would

			allow Cities to be able to hold the Election in April/May which better serves the voters, administration and the elected officials.
	15	Vacancy in year of a general election	This section outlines if a vacancy occurs on a council/board on or after January 1 in the year of a general election, the council/board may proceed to fill the vacancy or decide not to fill the vacancy. <u>Challenge:</u> If a vacancy occurs prior to January 1, the required election planning for a by-election in the same year as a general election creates additional pressure on the organizers and unnecessary costs on the municipalities for little return as the term for the by-election candidate which could only extend for six months or less term. <u>Recommendation:</u> Change the wording "on or after January 1 in the year of a general election" to "within one year prior to a general election". This change would assist in saving taxpayers money on an election where that elected official would serve less than 6-8 months before the general election.
<b>Part III - Polling Places</b>	22	Determination of polling areas and places	This section provides Council with authority to establish the polling areas and places for each polling area. <u>Challenge:</u> When Council is provided this authority, there is a misconception that the polling areas and places may be selected to benefit the constituency of council members. If there are any changes in the polling areas/locations, council is still required to approve which may create planning delays, and additional political interference in an event that should be arms length from the current council. <u>Recommendation:</u> Change the authority to establish polling areas and places to the returning officer, as this authority allows an un-biased approach in selecting the areas/places, and removes any political involvement. This change would be more consistent with legislation which currently allows the returning officer to establish advance polls (Sec.83) and change the polling place if required (Sec.26), and providing more flexibility in the polling locations.
			Section 22(4) indicates that polling areas be numbered consecutively by Council or Board. <u>Recommendation:</u> Take out the wording "by the council or public school board". <i>For our City, Ward Nos. were used as the same numbers for polling areas, since all polling areas were established by the boundaries of the wards.</i>
			Section 22(5) indicates that in the case of a school division, the board shall consult with council to ensure polling areas in division are numbered consecutively. <u>Recommendation:</u> Remove Section 22(5) as this is irrelevant to consult on consecutive numbering.



	25	Criteria for Polling Places	If wards are established each polling area is within only one ward. One polling place may be used as the polling place for two or more polling areas. Recommendation: Wards were established as the Polling areas, and a polling place in each area was established. However, in reviewing Subsection 2, clarification is required on if we are required to have a polling place in each area, or could we use less facilities and join two polling areas to use only 1 place.
	29	Hospitals and personal care facilities	A council/board may establish a polling place in a hospital, personal care facility or similar institution at which a voter who is receiving care may vote; <u>Recommendations:</u> Provide the RO with the authority to establish polling places rather than Council/Board, and staying consistent in legislation with the RO's authority to establish all polling places. Also, change the wording under this section to remove the words "who is receiving care" so that RO's can determine other similar polling places, such as senior complexes, and define the word "institutions" more clearly to include senior complexes.
			<i>Provide consideration for caregivers/nurses or other staff working in the facility on the day and time when the poll is open be given an opportunity to vote. The provision is currently allowed for a caregiver in a Mobile Poll application process.</i>
	30	Procedure for homebound voting	Section 30(4) indicates that an application made by a voter with a disability/limited mobility must be made in the manner and within the time prescribed by council or board Recommendation: Allow the RO with the authority to set the deadline(time) for the application process, as this is an administrative duty. Alternately, the procedure for Subsection 4 could be outlined in the City's Election Bylaw.
<b>Part IV - Voters and Candidates</b>	38	Voting in wards	Section 38(3) outlines that a voter who is the owner of assessable land in more than one ward in which the voter does not reside is eligible to vote only in the ward where the total assessment of the voter's land is highest shall obtain a certificate from the assessor and present the certificate to a DRO at the polls when voting. Recommendation: Remove this section, or change the word from "shall" to "may" as the voter is signing a declaration to vote, they have declared they are an assessed owner, and that declaration is sufficient to allow them to vote.
			<i>Regulations - Form needs to be adjusted so less confusing, as voters were checking both reside and owner of land, as they qualified for both.</i>
<b>Part V - Election Officials</b>	46	Returning Officer for elections in school divisions	Subsections 46(1) to (5) outlines that if a school division is situated wholly or substantially within a municipality, the returning officer for a general election is the administrator of the municipality with respect to both municipal and board elections. <u>Challenge:</u> The provision of allowing the School Boards to appoint their own returning officer and having a separate election will create mass confusion with voters, as the voter would be essentially voting in 2 separate elections on the same day, and possibility at different locations and with different voting processes. <u>Recommendation:</u> Remove any section/clause that allows a school division that resides within the boundaries of the City to be able to appoint a Returning Officer other than the Returning Officer for the City.

<b>Part VII - Nominations</b>	73	Nomination day	Nomination day is the 5th Wednesday before election day Recommendation: Request to change nomination day to the 7th Wednesday before Election day as there is limited time for a 2nd call for Nominations if that is required. In addition, obtaining ballots for sending out mail-in ballots to be returned would not be possible.
<b>Division 3 - Poll</b>	91	Form of ballot	Section 91(3) allows ballots to be printed in as many lots as there are candidates (rotated ballots) Recommendation: Request to remove Section 91(3) dealing with rotation, as this is not commonly used in any city except City of PA and creates issues and additional costs with ballot printing and verification of ballot testing relating to electronic vote counting equipment.
	100	Duration of poll - Hospitals and Personal Care Facilities	Section 100(3) indicates that council/board that is responsible for naming polling places may determine the times during which the polls in a polling places for hospitals and personal care facilities, are to be kept open, as long as the polls are kept open for at least one hour. Recommendations: Request that the RO be provided authority to determine the times for hospitals and personal care facilities. This is difficult for Council/Board to approve since the time is largely determined after consulting with the various facilities, and is subject to change depending on the particular facility and health concerns at that time. In addition, with respect to keeping the polls open for at least one hour, it is suggested to amend the wording to include "or when all possible voters in that facility have been given an opportunity to vote."
	110	Evidence of identity	Section 110 outlines the type of ID that is required to vote for all voters. <u>Recommendation:</u> Make an amendment to allow residents in long term care homes and personal care homes to be able to provide only one piece of identification, such as the Certificate of Identity and Residence completed by the Administrator of the home or a Vouching form that could be used for multiple residents, which would establish the voter's name and address, as most residents do not have access to their personal identification documents.
	142	Safekeeping of election materials	Section 142 outlines that after the 3 month period of retention, all election documents in the ballot boxes are to be destroyed in the presence of 2 witnesses. Recommendation: Request to amend this section to also allow the destruction of these records to be destroyed by an agency who provides confidential document destruction and issues a certification of destruction/shredding or in accordance with the Cities approved Retention Schedule.
<b>Part X - Recount of Votes</b>	158	Request to returning officer for recount	<u>Recommendation:</u> Suggest that there be a provision for withdrawal of application, an extra day to allow withdrawal and prohibits someone from withdrawing at the last minute incurring costs that are not necessary, and incurred by the municipality
	166	Procedure for recount	<u>Recommendation:</u> Suggest to clarify the recount procedure in the case of vote counting machines. Act should determine that the vote is ONLY to be recounted in the same manner it was counted for the election. Current procedure is only when paper counting.
		<b>Regulations</b>	
			Recommendation: That a thorough review of the current forms be undertaken, specifically with respect to Forms associated with electronic vote counting procedures and result statements.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Local Government Elections Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-06. Clean Up of Abandoned Hydro-Carbon Sites**

Whereas the existence of a number of abandoned hydro-carbon sites have become detrimental to the surrounding neighbourhood and act to inhibit physical development, economic growth, and attract dangerous and unwanted behaviour; and

Whereas it is desirable to have a number of privately-owned abandoned hydrocarbon sites properly decommissioned, remediated and sold; and

Whereas *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* contains provisions that allow the Minister to take appropriate action to ensure that abandoned hydrocarbon sites are properly decommissioned and remediated;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to take immediate action to more frequently and fully enforce *The Environmental Management and Protection Act* and Regulations to require owners of abandoned hydro-carbon sites in the province to:

1. Appropriately decommission any remaining infrastructure and remediate any contamination found on the site;
2. Ensure that any required decommissioning or remediation be completed in a timely manner;
3. Enforce the particular sections of the Act that allow the Minister to complete the necessary work if the owner does not do so in a timely manner; and,
4. Enforce the particular sections of the Act that require appropriate planning for the eventual decommissioning and remediation of a hydro-carbon site, to include the provision of Financial Assurance.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-07. Addictions and Homelessness**

Whereas drug and alcohol abuse and addiction rates are substantially increasing in communities, leading to increases in deaths, violent crime, property crime, drug offenses and homelessness, resulting in increased strain on Emergency Responders; and

Whereas it is difficult to combat the root causes of addictions, mental health, and homelessness; and

Whereas municipalities have limited resources and financial capacity to address the local consequences of these issues; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan is responsible for the disposition of justice, health, and social services resources; and

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide leadership in order to break the cycle of problematic drug, alcohol, addictions and homelessness issues by coordinating provincial ministries, police services, community agencies, and Indigenous organizations and governments in order to ensure effective, evidence-based responses that address all of these issues; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to increase drug, alcohol, addictions and homelessness funding for organizations and agencies in municipalities so as to ensure financial resources are in place to implement measures that will help to address this growing crisis.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-08. Removal of Administrative Fee on Funding Grants**

Whereas the Government of Canada offers funding to municipalities for various programs administered through the Government of Saskatchewan; and,

Whereas municipalities apply for funding to assist in costs for infrastructure and construction projects within the municipality; and

Whereas an administrative fee is charged by the Government of Saskatchewan to administer the funding programs on behalf of the Government of Canada, which includes completing an assessment of the applications; and

Whereas Provincial Sales Tax of 6% is charged to municipalities for supplies, services and projects, which cost is in addition to the administration fee; and

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to eliminate the administrative fee they charge for administering Government of Canada funding programs for all municipalities.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-09. Additional Administrative Fee for Assessment Appeals**

Whereas Section 196 of *The Cities Act* states that a council may set appeal fees payable by persons wishing to appeal their assessments and classify property according to type, value or any other criterion for the purposes of the payment of fees; and

Whereas Subsection 196(6) states that the fees established must not exceed any prescribed maximum fee or the appropriate amount set out in a prescribed schedule of maximum fees; and

Whereas most municipalities have established reasonable fees to allow all appellants to affordably appeal to the local Board; and

Whereas commercial appeals are becoming extremely time consuming and costly for municipalities and local Boards to administer due to varying complexity and professional legal expertise in many appeal cases; and

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to change The Cities Act to allow municipalities, who administer commercial and multi-residential appeals for local Boards of Revision, to charge an administrative fee, in addition to the required appeal fee, based on the assessed value of the property which fee would be non-refundable.

#### Background

The City of Prince Albert has incurred much higher costs for the 2021 Board of Revision. The time spent and costs of these appeals has increased due to the need for the City to engage legal counsel and a court reporter at the local Board of Revision level. The costs for these complex appeals are therefore paid for by all property taxpayers when only certain property types appeal on a yearly basis. The City will continue to incur costs due to the complex commercial appeals that are further filed to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board and the Court of Appeal.

The Board has also seen an increase in costs over the years due to a higher number of complex commercial appeals that are represented by tax agents and/or legal counsel. The costs are associated with the fact that hearings are longer and more complicated, the Board's requirement to read and understand documentation, long deliberations and writing complex decisions.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Cities Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Cities

### **2022-010. Disposal of Asbestos and Demolition Debris**

Whereas the number of old, abandoned, derelict houses and buildings are ever increasing and becoming the responsibility of the Municipality to dispose of in order to restore the safety of the area; and

Whereas these properties with the derelict buildings create a dangerous situation to the municipality as well as it becomes unsightly, a nuisance and a breeding ground for pests. Most of these structures are unsafe for entry by the time that a Municipality gains title to the property through Tax Enforcement Proceedings; and

Whereas the cost of demotion and disposal of materials is extremely high even with simple, straightforward demotion projects due to the high costs of transportation to a approved waste disposal site; and

Whereas older derelict buildings often contain hazardous materials, particularly asbestos, which requires specialized mediation and disposal under current provincial environmental regulations; and

Whereas municipalities had no say in either the allowance of asbestos and other hazardous materials in construction, or in the environmental regulations that control proper disposal; and

Whereas the Municipal Revenue Sharing funding formula was developed to address provincial interests in municipal daily operations, and not additional, unexpected expenses;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the provincial government to create a separate fund, outside of, and not drawing from, Municipal Revenue Sharing that municipalities can access to assist in the disposal of demolition materials, including asbestos, from derelict buildings.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-011. Vacant Business Properties**

Whereas derelict, vacant commercial properties can be an obstacle to the positive economic, social, and cultural development of a community; and

Whereas *The Municipalities Act* does not provide specific authority for municipalities to penalize owners who permit vacant, derelict properties to remain in a state of neglect; and

Whereas it is desirable to have *The Municipalities Act* amended to provide municipalities the option of introducing a Bylaw to motivate the owners of vacant, derelict properties to improve and maintain such properties to an acceptable standard;

Therefore, be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend *The Municipalities Act* to allow municipalities to create bylaws that:

1. Add an empty building fee onto vacant, derelict properties.
2. Allow for inspections of the exterior of vacant buildings without notice.
3. Establish mandatory maintenance standards for vacant buildings.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Municipalities Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Towns, Villages, Resort Villages

### **2022-012. Supporting the Public Library System**

Whereas Libraries have been central to communities for hundreds of years creating a passion for reading and learning; and

Whereas regardless of socio economic background libraries plug us into our communities and can be counted on to provide the resources needed to succeed, and answers to many important questions. Libraries assist patrons who require help, cannot afford to purchase books or do not have access to an internet connection for information, banking, communications, job searches, filling out of government forms, and or assistance with covid forms and information; and

Whereas libraries do much more than collect books offering programs for all ages. Programs such as the Single Integrated Library System (SILS), Pre-school programs, reading programs, book clubs, story time, mums and tots, summer reading programs, seniors' programs, to name just a few; and

Whereas the Provincial Public Library Sector Plan (2022-2027) does not address the concerns raised by Library Boards and Directors, or the implementation of recommendations related to the Government's provincial review. Rather the sector plan deals with a five-year research plan which could include the downloading of funding to municipalities as one of their recommendations to the Minister; and

Whereas after the Provincial government review Minister Morgan is quoted as stating "we heard from the people of Saskatchewan that equitable library services, resource sharing and a strong library system are a vital part of our infrastructure and important to our vision for the future of Saskatchewan."

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to adequately fund the public library system to keep pace with inflation. Including retroactive payment based on inflation rates for the past years where no increases, or minor increases, have been given, and continue to fund Saskatchewan library systems; and

Therefore be it further resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that funding is increased annually to improve and support library services in both large and small community libraries. Which would include, but not be limited to, access to current IT technology, programming and educational opportunities all of which are an integral part of library services in their communities; and

Therefore be it further resolved that SUMA participates fully in any government reviews, meetings or discussion, advocating for improved services and adequate funding for the development of a long term strategy for the continued growth and future of Saskatchewan libraries. That this participation includes engaging the library community, municipalities and the public to ensure support for our community library services, SILS, and programming for all ages and patrons regardless of socioeconomic status.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Public Libraries Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-013. Enhanced Policing Agreements**

Whereas policing in remote and northern communities is difficult due to the vast area with scattered population; and

Whereas some communities pay for enhanced policing with the commitment of 80% expanded policing within municipal boundaries; and

Whereas these additional resources provided by municipalities are used for surrounding areas; and

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the provincial Ministry of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety to enforce enhanced policing agreements, develop policy requiring the RCMP to adhere to specifications in the contract regarding the allotted amount of time policing occurs within municipal boundaries, and provide additional police officers for outlying areas; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate the ministries of Justice and Corrections, Policing and Public Safety to review of enhanced policing agreements, so that they may more accurately reflect the actual availability of police to northern and remote communities.

ACTS AFFECTED: *None*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

#### **2022-014. Costs of Landfill Decommissioning**

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan is working to reduce the number of small waste disposal sites and move to larger, regional landfills; and

Whereas 300 to 400 of these small waste disposal sites are in communities of less than 500 people, who cannot afford the \$300,000 to \$500,000 cost of decommissioning; and

Whereas the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment is pressuring small communities to apply for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to facilitate decommissioning of their waste disposal sites. With cost estimates for the final stages of decommissioning coming in at \$250,000 to \$350,000 the 25% the small communities need to supply is still \$75,000 plus. The Canada Community Building Fund cannot be used for this portion; and

Whereas while the majority of these landfills have small environmental footprints, having received less garbage than large communities will receive in a week's time, the Ministry of the Environment is expecting the same standards upheld for all landfills; and

Whereas the cost of complying with the environmental requirements in the short timespan given by the province, 2-4 years after completing the engineering report, will bankrupt otherwise viable, small communities.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide 25 year, interest free loans to small communities to facilitate compliance with the existing guidelines for landfill closure.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

#### **2022-015. Carbon Tax on Municipally-Owned Recreational and Cultural Facilities**

Whereas, urban municipalities across Saskatchewan operate recreational and cultural facilities with a deficit to ensure all members have access to the facilities; and

Whereas, many municipalities have taken initiatives to decrease the energy consumption in these facilities through equipment and lighting upgrades; and

Whereas, the carbon tax charged through SaskPower and SaskEnergy are creating increased operating costs to these facilities, which will continue to increase over the next several years; and



Whereas, municipalities will struggle to generate revenue to further improve energy consumption due to the increased costs associated with the carbon tax;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate for the provincial government to include municipalities in their Prairie Resilience Strategy by creating a section in the plan for municipally-owned recreational and cultural facilities. This addition to the Prairie Resilience Strategy will focus on keeping the money paid by municipalities for carbon to be reinvested back into the recreation and cultural facilities by means of provincial grant money or facility rebates.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-016. Health Care Recruitment and Retention**

Whereas emergent and acute health care is failing throughout Saskatchewan; and

Whereas the recruitment and retention of health care professionals like RN's and LPN's is difficult and has a dramatic effect on the ability to provide emergent and acute health care Province wide; and

Whereas S.H.A. does not allocate sufficient resources towards recruiting and retaining RN's and LPN's;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the ministers of Health and Rural and Remote Health to have the Saskatchewan Health Authority or independent firm immediately develop and implement a long term recruiting and retention plan to adequately provide and maintain emergent and acute health care throughout all Saskatchewan hospitals and health centers.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-017. Protecting a Safe Ground Water Supply**

Whereas every community requires their water supply be safe for drinking and use in living activities requiring safe water; and

Whereas water supplies are becoming contaminated by residual chemicals entering the ground water sources accessed by communities for their safe water source. The village of Sheho, and community of Margo are now on a continuous boil water advisory. The Village of Invermay is concerned that it might be just a short matter of time before they are faced with the same concern.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate with the Ministry of Environment to investigate the impact of the effects of residual chemicals (fertilizers mainly) used in the Farm industry on safe ground water supplies used by municipalities. And further, that appropriate action be initiated to reduce/prevent increased contamination of ground water sources.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

**2022-018. Payment by Animal Owner of Impoundment Fees for Animal Declared Dangerous**

Whereas Section 378 (1) (c) of *The Municipalities Act* permits a peace officer or a designated officer to impound an animal the officer believes to be dangerous; and

Whereas Section 375 (5) (a) of *The Municipalities Act* authorizes a judge who has declared an animal to be dangerous to make an order embodying any number of a series of defined requirements the judge considers appropriate; and

Whereas the defined requirements identified under Section 375 (5) (a) of *The Municipalities Act* are silent on the matter of the assignment of responsibility for payment of the associated impoundment fees; and

Whereas the absence of language in Section 375 (5) (a) of *The Municipalities Act* regarding the assignment of this responsibility for payment of the associated impoundment fees prevents the judge from giving due consideration to this matter; and

Whereas the inability of the judge to consider assigning responsibility for payment of the associated impoundment fees to the animal owner as a requirement of a dangerous animal order made under Section 375 (5) (a) of *The Municipalities Act*, results in the responsibility for payment of the impoundment fees defaulting to the municipality that is responsible for the impoundment of the animal.

Therefore, be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend Section 375 (5) (a) of *The Municipalities Act* to include language that permits a judge who has declared an animal to be dangerous to assign, at the judge's discretion, all fees related to impoundment of the dangerous animal to be paid by the animal's owner.

Background:

The Town of Nipawin, in conjunction with the RCMP, recently concluded an effort to have an animal declared dangerous through the Provincial Court system. This effort began with impoundment of the animal on approximately June 18, 2021 and concluded with the animal being euthanized under court order on January 13, 2022. The costs borne by the Town of Nipawin for this impoundment of 209 days @ \$30.00/day is approximately \$6,270.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Municipalities Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Towns, villages, resort villages

**2022-019. Taxes in Provincial Parks**

Whereas large residences are being built in provincial parks; and

Whereas provincial park land is leased from the province and not subject to property and education taxes; and

Whereas residents of provincial parks use the same educational system as other Saskatchewan residents and take advantage of services within surrounding urban municipalities without paying their fair share.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the provincial government to ensure that provincial park residents are paying their fair share of taxes for the services they are using.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Education Property Tax Act, The Assessment Management Agency Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-020. Provincial Resources for Internet Child Exploitation**

Whereas, from 2016 to 2020 inclusively, 2,321 incidents of sexual violence against children were recorded in Saskatchewan, including 304 incidents of possessing or accessing child pornography and an additional 552 incidents of making or distributing child pornography; and

Whereas there has been an 88% increase in online child exploitation reported to Cybertip.ca Canada since the pandemic began and nearly 1 in 4 parents in Canada have come across inappropriate online behaviour aimed Q+ their child; and

Whereas in the Province of Saskatchewan, child sexual exploitation as reported on December 21,2020, has seen a tripling of the cases with very limited resources to respond.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide additional funding to police services in cities that are currently working in this area so that they can increase unit investigators and expand resources undertaking child sexual exploitation.

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to undertake an initiative to expand into other communities across the province and that this urgent initiative includes cross-agency stakeholder engagement, a provincial-wide public awareness and education campaign focusing on prevention/ support and reporting.

ACTS AFFECTED: None  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-021. Appointing Elders to Council**

Whereas SUMA and its member municipalities advocate, serve, and represent *all* residents of Saskatchewan's urban and northern municipalities; and

Whereas we all have a moral duty to foster Truth and Reconciliation with members of our Indigenous peoples; and

Whereas members of Canada's indigenous peoples continue to be underrepresented in political discourse; and

Whereas the Elders of our communities are the keepers of much of our history, and can provide context to many of our current endeavours; and

Whereas the Elder population of our municipalities are among the most likely to feel disenfranchised in their home communities in an increasingly online society;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan for the legislated ability for municipal councils to appoint non-voting Elder advisors to their councils in any upcoming amendments to *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act*.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, *The Northern Municipalities Act*  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-022. RCMP Retroactive Salary Increases**

Whereas a first-ever collective bargaining agreement has been struck between the Government of Canada and the RCMP; and

Whereas that collective agreement contains five-years-worth of retroactive pay increases for RCMP members; and

Whereas municipalities had no part in the negotiations, and have no point been formally advised as to how large the increases are likely to be; and

Whereas municipalities have the least ability to pay of any level of government, and are legislatively incapable of running deficits; and

Whereas the costs of retroactive salary adjustments exceed \$1,000,000 in some of cities; and

Whereas municipalities are already midway through their budget cycle;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Canada to absorb all costs of the retroactive salary increases for RCMP officers.

ACTS AFFECTED: None  
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

### **2022-023. RCMP Body-Worn Camera Costs**

Whereas the Government of Canada has announced its intent to equip all front-line RCMP officers with body-worn cameras, to improve transparency and accountability; and

Whereas the Government of Canada has committed funding for the initial equipment costs, but intends to transfer responsibilities and costs for the cameras to provinces and municipalities in 2024/25; and

Whereas Public Safety Canada estimates the annual cost per unit to be \$2,000 to \$3,000, to account for ongoing hardware replacements, archival storage and administration; and

Whereas municipalities have had no say in the vendor procurement process and have received minimal communication from either Public Safety Canada or the RCMP on the project;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Canada to maintain responsibility for body-worn cameras and absorb all costs related to them; and

Further be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Canada and the RCMP to engage in meaningful engagement and consultation with municipalities when making decisions that will directly affect them.

ACTS AFFECTED: None

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All

#### **2022-024. Speed Limits When Passing Emergency Vehicles**

Whereas the scene of an emergency can contain multiple vehicles and first responders on and along the highway, which can create a disordered and chaotic environment; and

Whereas, on average in Saskatchewan, there are 57 vehicle crashes annually involving an emergency vehicle, resulting in approximately 19 injuries; and

Whereas failing to reduce speeds puts emergency workers and other motorists at risk of serious injury or even death; and

Whereas SGI research and data states that in most cases, a pedestrian hit by a vehicle travelling at 40 km/h or less survives, but will die if hit by a vehicle travelling at 60 km/h or more;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the provincial Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to further reduce the speed limit when passing emergency vehicles to 40 km/hr in order to ensure that drivers, passengers, and crew members can do their jobs safely.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Traffic Safety Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: All