



***120th Annual
SUMA Convention
April 13 – 16, 2025
TCU Place
Saskatoon, SK***

***Resolutions Committee:
Mayor Pat Jackson
Mayor Michelle McKenzie
Councillor Bev Dubois***

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Presentation of Resolutions:

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

2025-01 Funding for Dutch Elm Disease.....	1
2025-02 Assistance Addressing Dilapidated Buildings.....	2
2025-03 Additional Funding for Paratransit Vehicles.....	3
2025-04 PST on Construction to Fund Infrastructure Development.....	4
2025-05 Legislative Tax Sale Changes	5
2025-06 Emergency Shelter and Low-Barrier Supportive Housing Funding	6
2025-07 Sustainable Urban Development.....	6
2025-08 Additional Funding for Police Officers.....	8
2025-09 Funding for Mental Health and Social Services.....	9
2025-10 Funding for Open-Air Skating Rinks	10
2025-11 Level 1&2 Care Homes in Small Urban and Remote Municipalities.....	10
2025-12 Re-establish REDAs and Support EDOs in Saskatchewan	11
2025-13 Limiting Tax Exemptions for Municipal Properties.....	13
2025-14 Voting Ability for Non-Resident Business Owners.....	14
2025-15 The Appointment of Building Officials	14
2025-16 Expanding and Sustaining Home Supports for Seniors.....	15
2025-17 Climate Change Adaptation Support for Municipalities.....	16
2025-18 Enhancing Waste Diversion and Municipal Funding	17
2025-19 Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities	18

2025-01: Funding for Dutch Elm Disease

Town of Strasbourg

Whereas Saskatchewan municipalities are facing an onslaught of Dutch Elm Disease ridden trees resulting in the mass removal of old, well-established trees decimating municipal urban forests; and

Whereas Dutch Elm Disease has been present in Saskatchewan since the early 1980's and has been spread from east to west. Dutch Elm Disease is endemic across most of Southern Saskatchewan, with the current hot zones including the Carrot River area, South Saskatchewan River, Souris River, and Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle River Watersheds; and

Whereas Dutch Elm Disease is a fungus that grows in the tissues of elm trees blocking the flow of water and photosynthate, causing death of the tree in a year or less. The disease is spread from tree to tree by elm bark beetles moving the fungus during flights, from illegal elm firewood movement, and by using unsterilized pruning tools; and

Whereas the best way to manage Dutch Elm Disease spread in the province and within individual communities includes public education and engagement, completion of Dutch Elm Disease surveys, rapid removal and disposal of all Dutch Elm Disease infected elm trees, enforcement of elm wood violations, appointing a Dutch Elm Disease Municipal Inspector to enforce Dutch Elm Disease regulations, having a designated elm wood disposal site in the municipality, preventative anti-fungal tree injections, and the completion of a municipal tree inventory outlining elm tree locations; and

Whereas the costs of Dutch Elm Disease programs ranges in the tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars depending on the size of the community and how many elm trees are present. Many small communities are facing and have faced large financial costs dealing with the management of the disease in their urban forest; and

Whereas until 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan used to have a much more comprehensive Dutch Elm Disease management program in place for the province which included a cost share agreement with 44 different communities which bolstered local monitoring and management programs across the province. Since the program was reduced in 2010, the spread of the disease has increased and has become much more established in the South-Central region of the province; and

Whereas the benefits of elm trees, along with a robust urban forest, include mental health improvement, stress reduction when visiting and utilizing green spaces, water quality improvement, and reduction in the heat island effect, which reduces damage to pavement and lowers air conditioning dependence; and

Whereas Dutch Elm Disease will never be eradicated, but an increase in funding by all levels of government would allow for the enhancement of monitoring and management programs across the province. Very aggressive management programs are much more successful at reducing the spread of the disease in the communities.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide stable and ongoing funding towards education and prevention of Dutch Elm Disease, and for the removal of afflicted trees in Saskatchewan communities.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-02: Assistance Addressing Dilapidated Buildings

Town of Nipawin

Whereas dilapidated buildings of all types in municipalities threaten public safety by increasing fire risks, potential structural collapses, increased criminal activity, and health hazards from vermin or mold growth, while lowering property values, and diminishing the overall aesthetics and appeal of Saskatchewan communities; and

Whereas municipalities often lack the financial and technical resources needed for inspections, legal action, and demolitions to address these buildings promptly and affordably, resulting in prolonged community blight and frustration; and

Whereas municipalities are responsible for maintaining the health, safety, and well-being of their citizens and require adequate support from higher levels of government to address dilapidated buildings and related issues effectively.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to: provide financial assistance to municipalities for the assessment, maintenance, demolition, or repurposing of dilapidated buildings; amend legislation or provide additional regulatory frameworks to assist municipalities in enforcing property standards and expediting processes for dealing with abandoned or neglected buildings; and provide technical support to municipalities, such as developing standardized guidelines, offering expert consultation, and coordinating with municipal officials to create long-term strategies for addressing dilapidated properties.

Acts affected: The Municipalities Act; The Cities Act; The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-03: Additional Funding for Paratransit Vehicles

City of Prince Albert

Whereas accessible and safe transportation is one of the six publicly identified priority areas of the Saskatchewan Disability Strategy; and

Whereas paratransit provides a critical link for passengers across the province, who may have physical or mental disabilities and/or use a wheelchair, that requires the service to get to work, school, appointments and a wide range of other daily activities; and

Whereas the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Funding (TAPD) program directly supports this priority by helping Saskatchewan municipalities provide safe, available, public paratransit service which is foundational to citizens experiencing disability; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan's role under the TAPD program is to provide financial support to municipalities who offer paratransit services for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas municipalities that receive operating funding under the TAPD program may apply for capital funding for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for their paratransit service which is 75% of the cost of the vehicle to a maximum amount of \$55,000. The municipality is responsible for covering the remaining cost; and

Whereas the cost of paratransit vehicles has increased substantially, and the current maximum of \$55,000 equates to only 30% of a typical paratransit bus, leaving municipalities to take on the remaining 70%; and

Whereas the lack of appropriate funding for paratransit vehicles jeopardizes these vital transit services for those in need.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to increase the funding cap for paratransit vehicles to equal the actual 75% cost, and implement regulations that automatically index the cap to inflation.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-04 PST on Construction to Fund Infrastructure Development

Town of Maple Creek

Whereas prior to the 2017 provincial budget, municipal construction projects were exempt from paying provincial sales tax; and

Whereas both SUMA and SARM have carried previous resolutions requesting that the provincial government reinstate a PST exemption on municipal construction projects; and

Whereas the response from the provincial government to these resolutions is not clear and does not provide a definitive “yes” or “no” to the requests; and

Whereas municipalities continue to face a growing infrastructure deficit, as evidenced through a myriad of industry and quasi-government sponsored studies; and

Whereas SUMA supports the province in its efforts to develop new initiatives aimed at ensuring the infrastructure deficit is effectively reduced through the rehabilitation/ renewal of existing infrastructure.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to develop a Municipal Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Renewal Grant Program, to be funded from the PST collected by the Government of Saskatchewan through the payment of PST for labour on municipal construction projects.

Background:

Previous approaches by both SUMA and SARM to encourage the provincial government to provide specific financial relief from payment of provincial sales tax for municipalities in our continuing efforts to complete needed municipal construction projects have thus far been unsuccessful. The arguments made for this are, and continue to be, predicated on the challenges faced by all municipalities in our efforts to address the known infrastructure deficit.

This infrastructure deficit was previously highlighted in the 2019 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card within which the Canadian Public Works Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities were contributing sponsors.

This resolution seeks to continue SUMA’s advocacy of its previous initiative by focusing the ask on a reduced, and more tightly defined, construction cost component. In addition, this resolution encourages the provincial government to develop an immediately defensible and strategic opportunity to further showcase its support of municipal infrastructure renewal.

Acts affected: The Provincial Sales Tax Act

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-05 Legislative Tax Sale Changes

Town of Radisson

Whereas all municipalities in Saskatchewan must adhere to *The Tax Enforcement Act* to protect the municipality's interest in land within their jurisdiction and to collect arrears taxes; and

Whereas *The Tax Enforcement Act* is administratively onerous, expensive and time-consuming, making it so that often municipalities choose to retain TAXervice or another professional firm to undertake the legislatively required administrative steps to recover property taxes; and

Whereas the fees for such professional services are then charged back onto the property taxes and written off if the property is sold for a large loss, sometimes forcing the municipality into a deficit; and

Whereas in the Province of British Columbia, all municipalities have the authority under the Community Charter and Section 645 of *The Local Government Act* to conduct a public auction in Council's Chambers of each parcel of land on which taxes are delinquent at 10:00 a.m. on the last Monday of September; and

Whereas the benefits of these legislative powers are that it is efficient, as it is handled internally, and affordable, as only one advertisement is required in a local newspaper; and

Whereas the practice is predictable, as all buyers across the entire province know that if they wish to purchase any land going up for tax sale it will be available for sale on the last Monday of September, so no additional marketing is required.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend Saskatchewan's municipal acts to align with British Columbia's *Local Government Act* and give municipalities the power to conduct their own annual tax sale on the last Monday of September each year.

Acts affected: The Municipalities Act; The Cities Act; The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010
Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-06 Emergency Shelter and Low-Barrier Supportive Housing Funding

City of Moose Jaw

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan announced funding for a new Provincial Approach to Homelessness (PATH) in October 2023; and

Whereas the PATH program is investing \$40.2 million in 2024 and 2025 to create 155 new supportive housing spaces, 120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces, and enhance community safety and outreach responses that include 30 new complex needs emergency shelter spaces in Saskatchewan; and

Whereas 100% of the funding for new supportive housing spaces has been allocated entirely to Regina and Saskatoon; and

Whereas supportive housing is a critical component in an effective system to address homelessness, and provides a crucial step for individuals experiencing homelessness to cease using emergency shelters; and

Whereas supportive housing provides on-site and visiting support and connection to wrap-around services to help individuals with housing insecurity find stability; and

Whereas municipalities in Saskatchewan outside Regina and Saskatoon have performed Point in Time (PiT) counts in 2024 and are experiencing a major increase in homelessness.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide funding to all municipalities in Saskatchewan for both Emergency Shelter Spaces and Low-Barrier Supportive Housing Spaces.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-07 Sustainable Urban Development

Town of White City

Whereas urban municipalities in Saskatchewan require sufficient protection to accommodate and manage their future growth effectively, ensuring sustainable and strategic urban development; and

Whereas the current *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, lacks the necessary mechanisms for urban municipalities to safeguard their growth boundaries or regulate development on lands adjacent to their boundaries; and

Whereas unchecked and uncoordinated development in rural municipalities on the boundaries of urban municipalities undermines economic efficiency, hinders orderly growth, and exacerbates land-use conflicts; and

Whereas amending *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to provide growth protections will promote balanced, sustainable, and regionally coordinated development, benefiting both urban and rural communities.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to include enforceable provisions that:

1. Clearly define and protect designated urban growth boundaries;
2. Empower urban municipalities to establish and regulate development zones within a defined radius of their boundaries;
3. Mandate collaborative planning processes between urban and rural municipalities to align development priorities;
4. Ensure that the growth protections are equitable, legally binding, and reflective of the long term needs of Saskatchewan's urban municipal centers; and
5. Support a growth planning horizon of 25 to 35 years.

Background

The Town of White City and the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (RM) are experiencing sustained growth, necessitating coordinated land use planning and boundary management. A 2018 future growth study for White City estimated its population would reach 22,000 by 2045, requiring strategic planning for infrastructure, transportation, recreation, education, and municipal services. However, the Town's current land base is insufficient to support this growth without boundary adjustments. Without such changes, population density would need to rise to 2,600–3,990 people per square kilometer, far exceeding the City of Regina's projected 2,090 people per square kilometer for 2045.

White City's constraints are exacerbated by the RM's urban, residential, and commercial developments along its borders, currently encroaching on 55% of its perimeter and expected to reach 85%. The RM's 2020 Official Community Plan prioritizes development on White City's borders, a situation unprecedented in Saskatchewan, where the provincial average is 10% urban border development. White City argues that this encroachment undermines its sustainable growth and highlights a broader issue facing urban municipalities across the province.

In May 2018, White City proposed an "Integrated Full-Service Community" initiative to address these challenges, engaging public and RM feedback. However, mediation efforts through the Saskatchewan Dispute Resolution Office in 2019 revealed irreconcilable differences, prompting

White City to submit a boundary alteration application to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB). After hearings in 2022, the SMB dismissed the application in January 2023. The Town's subsequent appeal to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal was dismissed in December 2024, upholding the SMB's decision.

White City's case underscores the need for boundary alteration mechanisms that balance urban growth with rural interests. This issue is increasingly relevant as the Provincial Growth Plan anticipates similar challenges across Saskatchewan, highlighting the importance of equitable development, efficient services, and sustainable expansion.

Following the Court of Appeal's decision, White City's Council deliberated on strategies for addressing boundary issues and the broader challenges posed by contested applications and limited intermunicipal dialogue. The Council emphasized the importance of legislative reforms to guide boundary alteration processes and protect urban municipalities' growth capacity.

Acts affected: The Planning and Development Act, 2007

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-08 Additional Funding for Police Officers

City of Prince Albert

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan committed more than \$730 million to Community Safety in its 2024-25 Budget, including funding for municipal police positions; and

Whereas these investments include \$11.9 million for approximately 100 new municipal police officers; \$2.7 million to double the number of Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods officers from 14 to 28 and \$2.5 million for the Saskatchewan Police College over the next 3 years; and

Whereas, as part of the funding commitment, the City of Prince Albert will receive \$3.6 million for targeted Policing initiatives, including an additional funding boost of \$2 million to hire 17 new officers for the Police Service through its safer communities and neighbourhood initiatives; and

Whereas municipalities are expected to find additional revenue to supplement the hiring and onboarding of these new officers, as well as funding their clothing, supplies, equipment, benefits, and other expenses; and

Whereas municipalities continue to face financial constraints and challenges from year to year, with limited revenue streams, substantially increasing the burden on the property taxpayers.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to fully fund provincially-shared Police Officers, including training, equipment, supplies, clothing, benefits, and other work-related expenses.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: Cities

2025-09 Funding for Mental Health and Social Services

City of Estevan

Whereas mental health and social service needs in Saskatchewan communities are increasing at an unprecedented rate, placing significant strain on local resources; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan is increasingly downloading responsibilities for mental health and social services to municipalities, without providing adequate funding; and

Whereas municipal governments are not equipped with the financial capacity or specialized expertise to manage these essential services independently; and

Whereas insufficient provincial support for mental health and social services contributes to worsening social issues, including homelessness, addiction, crime, and strain on public safety resources.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to increase provincial funding for mental health supports and social services to alleviate the downloaded burden on local resources; and

Further be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to commit to ongoing collaboration with municipalities on the deployment of mental health and social services resources in communities, to ensure the delivery of these services is both sustainable and effective in addressing community needs.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-10 Funding for Open-Air Skating Rinks

Town of Osler

Whereas provincial and federal grant funding affecting recreational infrastructure that includes ice surfaces tends to target indoor arenas; and

Whereas ice rentals in small to medium municipalities appear to be at a premium and focused mainly on structured hockey and skating programs; and

Whereas physical activity during the winter is often focused around ice rinks, particularly in smaller centres; and

Whereas there is a need to ensure that there are adequate opportunities for recreational skating, unstructured hockey practice and “shinny” in communities that do not have access to arenas; and

Whereas there is limited access to recreational grant funding for the construction of outdoor rinks and improvements to existing ice rinks.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to provide additional grant funding to, and partner with, Saskatchewan municipalities to sustain and grow our community open-air skating rinks.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-11 Level 1 & 2 Care Homes in Small Urban and Remote Municipalities

Town of Coronach

Whereas there is a need for affordable Level 1 & 2 personal care home facilities in small urban and remote Saskatchewan communities; and

Whereas the long term sustainability of personal care homes in Saskatchewan, particularly in small urban and remote communities, is in jeopardy and that from 2016 to 2038, those age 55+ will rise from 42.5% to 56.8% in Saskatchewan (per Statistics Canada scenario M3); and

Whereas without change, the cost to live in existing facilities will become out of reach for the majority of seniors and the likelihood that new facilities will open in the future will be virtually eliminated; and

Whereas seniors in small urban and remote communities must drive far distances for Level 1 & 2 health care in bigger centres, enticing seniors to relocate, as these areas are more accessible with minimal driving, but are areas that do not keep seniors in their homes in small urban or remote areas; and

Whereas bigger centres have additional hours of operation, additional services, staff, and programs to keep seniors in their homes, but all of these are severely lacking or non-existent in some cases, in small urban and remote communities.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan for support in funding Level 1 & 2 care home facilities in small urban and remote municipalities in Saskatchewan.

Background

Private Level 1 & 2 facilities are not funded by the Provincial Government. Most individuals need some support but are not in a bad enough state to enter a Level 3 care home, when leaving their home. Because of this, there is a gap in the system. Many seniors are leaving smaller communities for bigger centres as that is where Level 1 or 2 facilities exist, which is decreasing populations in smaller communities. There have also been many incentives in cities or bigger centres for seniors, but these initiatives are not feasible or geared towards small urban or remote areas. Having Level 1 or 2 facilities in smaller areas would help retain the population and potentially bring seniors from other smaller communities near by, which could, in turn, increase population.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: Towns and Villages, North

2025-12 Re-establish Regional Economic Development Authorities and Support Economic Development Officers in Saskatchewan

Town of Coronach & SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas municipalities in Saskatchewan play a crucial role in economic development, yet many face limited capacity, financial constraints, and workforce shortages, which hinder their ability to attract investment, support local businesses, and drive regional prosperity; and

Whereas the 2021 Fostering Trading Area Economies Report by the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance (SEDA) highlights the need for stronger regional collaboration, investment attraction strategies, and resource-sharing among municipalities to enhance economic resilience and growth; and

Whereas Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan emphasizes a significant focus on “strong foundations for the next decade of growth” and highlights key goals such as “growing locally: growing small business and tourism” and “encouraging cooperation between municipalities on infrastructure investments”, all of which require strong regional economic development strategies; and

Whereas the Ministry of Government Relations 2024-25 Business Plan states that “Government Relations works to support local governments with investments and tools to serve their residents, stimulate the local and provincial economy, and partner with neighbouring communities, which leads to a vibrant and healthy Saskatchewan for all”, reinforcing the need for structured regional economic development initiatives; and

Whereas the globalization of markets, labour, and supply chains has significantly reduced economic stability for many municipalities, particularly smaller communities that are already stretched thin delivering core municipal services such as infrastructure, public safety, and recreation, leaving economic development as an afterthought; and

Whereas Regional Economic Development Authorities previously played a crucial role in supporting municipalities through investment attraction, business retention strategies, economic diversification efforts, and regional collaboration, but their effectiveness has been severely limited due to the loss of provincial funding; and

Whereas many small urban and remote municipalities lack funding to employ permanent Economic Development Officers or Community Development Officers, limiting their ability to drive local investment, business expansion, workforce development, and economic planning; and

Whereas Regional Economic Development Officers and Community Development Officers are critical for enhancing regional collaboration, improving infrastructure, increasing tax revenue, attracting investment, and addressing socio-economic challenges that affect local economies.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA seek the support of SARM and SEDA to advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to:

- Re-establish and provide stable, long-term funding for Regional Economic Development Authorities to ensure municipalities have the necessary financial and technical resources to:
 - develop and implement regional investment attraction strategies to promote business expansion and job creation;
 - enhance regional collaboration between municipalities, First Nations, industry, and economic development organizations to build sustainable regional economies; and

- support small urban and remote municipalities in hiring Economic Development Officers and Community Development Officers to lead local economic initiatives, improve business retention, and drive regional economic growth.

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate that any re-established economic development authority (or region) be locally driven and operated, ensuring that communities have a direct voice in economic activity and priorities to reflect local needs and aspirations.

Background:

Saskatchewan experimented with voluntary self-organized smaller development corporations during the 1980s. These were followed, in 1992, by 28 formal Regional Economic Development Authorities funded by the Province of Saskatchewan. In 2008, funding for Regional Economic Development Authorities was re-allocated to 13 economic regions. These geographic areas, called enterprise regions, were determined by the Province based on commuting patterns and labor distribution. In 2012, the enterprise region program was dissolved and provincial funding for regional economic development was terminated.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-13 Limiting Tax Exemptions for Municipal Properties in Neighbouring Communities

Town of Whitewood

Whereas Section 292 of *The Municipalities Act* exempts all municipal buildings from taxation; and

Whereas this provision was originally intended to apply to municipal offices—and particularly offices for rural municipalities that are often located in neighbouring urban municipalities; and

Whereas it is increasingly common for rural municipalities to own more than one building in an urban municipality, all of which benefit from a tax exemption while taking up land and requiring services from that urban municipality.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Ministry of Government Relations to amend *The Municipalities Act* to maintain an exemption for an RM's primary office, but to have any other properties/buildings be taxed or a grant-in-lieu agreement required.

Acts affected: The Municipalities Act

Sectors/Regions affected: Towns, Villages, North

2025-14 Voting Ability for Non-Resident Business Owners

Town of Whitewood

Whereas municipalities have business owners that live outside their boundaries, but are community members who contribute significant tax dollars to the community, as well as support local events and fundraisers; and

Whereas residents who live in a community and own land in a rural municipality can vote in both municipal elections.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend The Local Government Election Act to allow business owners that pay business property tax to a municipality to vote in their municipal election.

Acts affected: The Local Government Election Act

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-15 The Appointment of Building Officials

Town of Whitewood

Whereas Section 5 of The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act allows municipalities to appoint persons holding a building official's license as a building official; and

Whereas smaller municipalities frequently request the service of a building inspection business, rather than directly hiring building officials; and

Whereas turnover within building inspection companies require municipalities to regularly appoint new officials within the contracted company to provide services, despite having no direct human resource responsibilities within that company, causing unnecessary additional work for councils and CAOs;

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Ministry of Government Relations to amend *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* to allow appoints of qualified companies as building officials and put the onus on companies to ensure that their staff are suitably qualified for the position.

Acts affected: The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-16 Expanding and Sustaining Home Supports for Seniors

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas seniors in Saskatchewan overwhelmingly prefer to age in place, maintaining their independence in their own homes rather than transitioning to long-term care facilities; and

Whereas the 2021 Census reports that 17.5% of Saskatchewan's population is aged 65 and over, an increase from 15.5% in 2016, highlighting the growing need for enhanced senior support services; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan currently provides \$250,000 annually for community-based senior support projects, but this funding is limited, competitive, and does not provide direct financial assistance to seniors or municipalities for sustainable home support programs; and

Whereas there is a shortage of accessible home care services, including personal support workers, home maintenance programs, mental health services, and affordable home modifications, particularly in smaller communities; and

Whereas the cost of home supports, renovations for accessibility, and in-home medical care can be prohibitive for seniors on fixed incomes, increasing the risk of premature institutionalization; and

Whereas providing home care support for seniors offers financial and practical benefits, including lower healthcare costs by reducing hospitalization and long-term care admissions, healthier and more balanced nutrition for seniors, improved medication and healthcare management, better mental health outcomes through social engagement and reduced isolation, and safer living conditions that help prevent falls and injuries; and

Whereas expanding home support services would reduce healthcare system burdens, alleviate pressure on long-term care facilities, and improve the quality of life for older adults while keeping them engaged in their communities.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA collaborate with Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism to advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to:

- Expand and sustain long-term funding beyond the current \$250,000 grant program to support direct home care services for seniors, including personal care, housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation assistance, and mental health support services.

- Introduce dedicated financial assistance for home modifications to help seniors afford essential renovations such as wheelchair ramps, stairlifts, grab bars, and accessible bathrooms.
- Enhance funding for home care workers, personal support services, and senior mental health programs, to ensure that seniors in our communities have equitable access to care that supports their independence and well-being.
- Develop a comprehensive and permanent home support strategy while ensuring consultation with municipalities, the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, and healthcare providers to ensure stable, long-term solutions for aging in place, including provisions for mental health resources to address seniors' isolation and depression.

Background:

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism has identified home supports and independent living as a key priority, advocating for better services to help seniors stay in their homes safely. Expanding home support programs, financial assistance for home modifications, personal care services, and mental health resources will not only improve the quality of life for seniors but also reduce pressure on the healthcare system and help municipalities build age-friendly communities.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-17 Climate Change Adaptation Support for Municipalities

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas Saskatchewan municipalities are experiencing increasing climate-related challenges, including flooding, drought, wildfires, extreme weather events, and infrastructure degradation, which threaten public safety, local economies, and municipal budgets; and

Whereas Saskatchewan's municipalities require climate adaptation strategies, improved risk assessment tools, and funding to implement sustainable solutions that enhance community resilience and protect municipal infrastructure; and

Whereas many municipalities lack the technical expertise, financial resources, and regional data needed to develop effective climate adaptation policies and infrastructure projects; and

Whereas climate adaptation programs in other provinces, including Alberta's Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, have successfully supported municipalities in securing funding and technical support for climate resilience projects.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Ministry of Environment to:

- Provide financial support to SUMA to establish the Municipal Eco-Action Centre as a key resource for municipalities to access training, funding assistance and expert guidance on climate adaptation.
- Establish the Municipal Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund to support local governments in Saskatchewan in assessing climate risks, implementing adaptation measures, and upgrading infrastructure to withstand climate impacts.
- Provide municipalities with enhanced access to climate risk data, impact assessments, and technical support to improve decision-making, land-use planning, and disaster preparedness.
- Expand partnerships between the province, municipalities, and academic institutions to facilitate research, innovation, and capacity-building programs focused on climate adaptation for urban communities.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-18 Enhancing Waste Diversion and Municipal Funding

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas urban municipalities in Saskatchewan play a critical role in waste management and waste diversion efforts; and

Whereas strengthening waste diversion programs, increasing municipal funding, and improving policy alignment will help Saskatchewan achieve its waste reduction goals while ensuring environmental and economic sustainability;

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan has established waste reduction targets of 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2040, yet municipalities face numerous challenges in achieving these goals, including limited financial resources, low public participation, recycling market instability, logistic barriers, and regulatory challenges; and

Whereas Saskatchewan's waste diversion rate of 17.9% in 2022 falls below the national average of 27%, highlighting the need for stronger provincial support for municipalities in meeting their waste reduction commitments; and

Whereas municipalities face significant challenges in improving waste diversion, including financial constraints, fluctuating recycling markets, logistic barriers, inconsistent regulations, and low public participation in recycling and composting programs; and

Whereas municipalities require enhanced financial support, policy consistency, and expanded infrastructure to implement sustainable waste diversion programs effectively.

Therefore be it resolved that SUMA advocate the Ministry of Environment to:

- Expand the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program to include additional materials to ensure producers bear a greater share of waste management costs.
- Establish dedicated municipal funding programs to support the development and expansion of recycling, composting, and waste diversion infrastructure to reduce landfill dependency.
- Enhance municipal collaboration in the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Strategy by ensuring urban municipalities have a formal role in policy discussions, funding allocation, and enforcement planning.
- Develop a province-wide waste diversion tracking and benchmarking framework to allow municipalities to monitor waste reduction progress, identify inefficiencies, and align local strategies with provincial targets.

Acts affected: None

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2025-19 Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas municipalities in Saskatchewan are responsible for maintaining essential public infrastructure, including roads, water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and public buildings, which require significant investment to remain safe, resilient, and efficient; and

Whereas municipalities are at the forefront of addressing infrastructure and climate-related challenges, yet they lack the financial and technical resources needed to implement sustainable, long-term solutions. Sustainable infrastructure funding will help municipalities modernize public assets, reduce emissions, and improve resilience to future challenges; and

Whereas aging infrastructure, increasing population demands, and climate-related pressures have placed a growing financial burden on municipalities, requiring them to balance essential services with limited financial resources and unpredictable grant funding; and

Whereas the Ministry of Environment and the Government of Canada have established climate and sustainability targets that require municipalities to invest in energy-efficient infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and climate-resilient developments; and

Whereas existing funding programs such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) provide important resources but are often oversubscribed, complex, and insufficient to meet local infrastructure needs.

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

- Establish a dedicated, long-term municipal sustainable infrastructure funding program that provides predictable, multi-year funding for urban municipalities to support projects such as green buildings, sustainable transportation systems, water conservation infrastructure, and renewable energy integration.
- Expand eligibility for existing infrastructure programs to ensure urban municipalities have access to funding for climate resilience projects, disaster mitigation infrastructure, and emerging sustainability technologies that reduce long-term operational costs and environmental impacts.
- Streamline provincial and federal infrastructure grant application processes to reduce administrative burdens on municipalities and ensure equitable access to funding, particularly for small and mid-sized urban centers.
- Prioritize municipal-led infrastructure projects in government funding allocations to ensure that urban municipalities receive adequate support for critical community projects that contribute to long-term economic and environmental sustainability.