

## Community Safety and Well-Being

### Issue

Many municipalities in Saskatchewan face serious challenges to community safety and well-being due to choices made by the provincial and federal governments, negatively affecting their ability to attract people to live, work, and visit. A lack of funding and resources for our RCMP and emergency services, decades of underfunding for social housing, and a slow reaction to a burgeoning mental health crisis have effectively downloaded these difficulties to municipalities, stretching already strained budgets and leading to greater costs in the long run.

### Areas of Focus

- RCMP resourcing
- Funding for municipal emergency services
- Non-market housing support
- Changes to the *Canada Health Act* to support mental health, addictions, and homelessness

### Ask/Key Messages

SUMA is calling on the next Federal Government to:

1. Provide significant investment increases to incentivize recruitment and improve retention of RCMP members.
2. Maintain contract policing with the RCMP to provide police services to municipalities, up to and after the expiration of the current contract in 2032.
3. Increase engagement with municipalities regarding policing services and other public safety measures under the Federal purview.
4. Reinvest in municipal emergency services to ensure municipal fire departments and other emergency responders have access to the training and equipment required to respond to emergencies as safely and effectively as possible.
5. Substantially increase investment into non-market housing, which is an early and critical component of addressing homelessness challenges that many communities across the country continue to face.
6. Amend the *Canada Health Act* to provide greater focus and Federal leadership on mental health and addictions, with a focus on early intervention and access to services;

7. Lead comprehensive changes to licensing for health care practitioners—and particularly doctors—to allow them to work across Canada without seeking additional provincial licenses.