

Municipal Infrastructure and Funding

Issue

Municipalities have the greatest responsibility for public infrastructure in Canada, developing and operating 60 percent of it, despite having the least fiscal capacity of any order of government. Infrastructure investments by other levels of government, including cost-shared infrastructure grant programs and federal/provincial broadband development, are absolutely essential to the ongoing viability of communities in Saskatchewan, particularly given our diffuse population.

Areas of Focus

- Funding for municipal infrastructure
- Broadband connectivity
- Municipal development costs

Ask/Key Messages

SUMA is calling on the next Federal Government to:

1. Introduce a permanent infrastructure program that increases the overall amount of funding available and ensures funding is long-term, sustainable, and predictable. This allows communities to adequately plan for the future and use asset management practices that ensure the strong stewardship of public resources.
2. Expand access to reliable high-speed internet for every Canadian and business in every community that meets or exceeds the CRTC's national standard for broadband connectivity of 50/10 Mbps. This can be accomplished by moving beyond funding broadband based on a percentage of population, and releasing the ISED \$37M Investment in Saskatchewan Broadband for local ISPs to continue with vital investment in broadband infrastructure.
3. Recognize that municipalities, in addition to private developers, play an integral role in smart, sustainable growth, which includes building/development permits, zoning, and infrastructure development. While communities can, and should, ensure that their systems are running as efficiently as possible, the federal government needs to understand and appreciate that these systems and the tools they employ, are essential to intelligent community planning.