



President's Update

December 10, 2020

Notes from the December Board Meeting

The Municipalities of Saskatchewan Board of Directors gathered online December 4, with new faces joining our meeting.

Municipalities of Saskatchewan's Board of Directors is **excited to welcome new Central Regional Director Bryan Matheson, West Central Regional Director Rod Perkins, Southwest Regional Director Michelle McKenzie, Northeast Regional Director April Phillips, and City of Regina Director Lori Bresciani.**

Our new regional directors were elected, appointed, and acclaimed during our annual Regional Meetings held December 1 and 2. Our city representatives are appointed by their respective councils.

Elections for three positions on Municipalities of Saskatchewan's Executive Committee - President, Vice-President of Towns, and Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities - will **happen at Convention 2021**. All elected officials from Municipalities of Saskatchewan member municipalities are **eligible to vote** in the election for president. Elected officials from the town and village, resort village, and northern municipal sectors also have the opportunity to vote for their sector vice-presidents. However, you must be in attendance at Convention and be a registered Convention delegate.

Following introductions on Friday, the Board got down to business, discussing topics including courses of action for municipalities dealing with **harassment in the workplace**, results of our **provincial election advocacy campaign**, and of course, **Convention 2021**.

During the meeting the Board directed Municipalities of Saskatchewan staff to gather resources and outline courses of action available to municipalities encountering harassment in the workplace. This is in addition to the **Harassment Prevention Policy Template** launched by Municipalities of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities in 2019 and the **Respect in the Workplace certification program**. The harassment prevention template is designed to help municipalities develop a policy to respond appropriately and promptly to any allegations of harassment that arise. The Respect in the Workplace Program, developed by **Respect Group Inc.**, is designed to provide communities of all sizes with a tool to prevent bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination in the workplace. Municipalities of Saskatchewan staff will present a full list of resources and steps available at the next Board of Directors meeting.

We also reviewed our provincial election advocacy campaign. The campaign, which ran during the month of October leading up to the provincial election, highlighted the **Municipal Economic Enhancement Program** and **stable Municipal Revenue**

Sharing - programs that help ensure the sustainability of Saskatchewan's municipalities.

To help share Municipalities of Saskatchewan's message with not only provincial candidates but also the public, a series of short videos and still images were released on social media. In total, our posts **reached a total of 482,881 people**, and had a total of nearly **3.13 million impressions**. Thank you to everyone that shared the images and videos.

With less than two months until Convention 2021, the Board of Directors also discussed components of the event. We have so much in store for you, including a **virtual ceremony** to celebrate those who are strengthening our local



governments and the innovative municipalities who are bettering Saskatchewan. We know 2020 has been a difficult year, and we didn't want to miss an opportunity to **celebrate the innovation and outstanding dedication in our hometowns**.

Based on recommendations from the Convention Planning Committee, we approved the recipients of the 2021 Scoop Lewry Award and Life Membership Award. Be sure to tune in to our awards ceremony on February 9 to recognize Meritorious, Honorary, Scoop Lewry, and Life Member award winners along with the winners of the 2020 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.

You can secure your spot for convention now; registration for Convention 2021 opened in November. The early-bird rate of \$185 per delegate for members is available until **December 22**. We did the math and at that rate, you can send seven representatives to the virtual convention and tradeshow for the same cost as sending one delegate to the in-person event. I hope you will take advantage of this reduced rate and join us online for education, networking, and more.

I wish everyone a very merry holiday season, and I hope to see you online in February.

Our next Municipalities of Saskatchewan Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **March 5**.

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