



GOVERNANCE Update

March 30, 2026

Message from the President

Welcome to the latest edition of Governance Update!

As you read this, SUMA's staff and the Board are busy preparing for Convention 2026, to be held **April 12-15 in Regina**. We are very excited to welcome municipal members from all over the province for four days of advocacy, education, and networking.



Convention is also an opportunity for you to get to know the Board and staff at SUMA. We do our best to be available and encourage you to approach us to ask questions, make comments, or just have a conversation about what's been going on in your municipality.

Registration for Convention remains open until April 2. The main contact of your municipality would have received an email with instructions to register in January. If you did not receive that email and would like to register, please contact registration@suma.org as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Regina soon,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Goulden".

Randy Goulden
SUMA President

Notes from the Board

SUMA's Board of Directors met twice in March - an emergent meeting was held on **March 9** to discuss an advocacy plan for the announced changes to the Communities in Transition (CiT) Program and to approve resolutions to bring forward to Convention, and a regular board meeting was held virtually on **March 19**.

During the March 9th meeting, an advocacy strategy on CiT was approved, including a form letter template for individual members to have their voice heard on this matter. The letter template is available on the Member Portal, and we encourage all SUMA members to use it to write directly to their local MLA and the Minister of Government Relations. An

email was also sent to members on March 26 with additional details on CiT advocacy. At this meeting, the Board also approved 11 resolutions that will be brought to the floor at Convention for members to discuss and vote on.

During the March 19th regular Board meeting, several items were discussed in depth, including new requirements at airports to accommodate air ambulances, SK Recycles' Extended Producer Responsibility Program, and feedback on the caucus model one year in. SUMA's advocacy team has taken these items back to work on over the coming weeks.

CAUCUS UPDATES

All of SUMA's Caucuses held meetings in February or March.

At each meeting, Caucus members reviewed and approved resolutions to go forward to the Board of Directors to be presented at Convention 2026. Each caucus selected two resolutions from those that were submitted.

The Board of Directors approved 11 resolutions in total. 10 of the 11 originated with the Caucuses. The Board chose to co-sponsor one of the City Caucus resolutions (2026-04 Enhanced Municipal Revenue Tools and Fiscal Fairness) and one of the Village and Resort Village Caucus resolutions from the Village of Borden (2026-01 Regional Cost Sharing). This created space for additional resolutions from those Caucuses to be forwarded to the Board to total two each per Caucus. Of the 11 resolutions to be debated at Convention, eight are solely sponsored by the Caucuses, two are co-sponsored by Caucuses and the Board, and one is brought forward solely from the Board.

You can download the Resolutions package [here](#).

Northern Caucus

Two northern-specific concerns were addressed – the removal of a Justice of the Peace in the Northern Village of Green Lake, and an order from the Ministry of Health for closure of a store in a remote northern community. SUMA took the removal of the JP to our meeting with the new Minister of Community Safety in mid-March, outlining the negative impacts this removal has had on northern communities who rely on JPs to fill gaps in large, under-serviced RCMP coverage areas, and we will follow up with the Ministry of Health and/or Northern Municipal Services to determine next steps for the store closure.

An informative overview of the proposed change in funding model for the Communities in Transition program was discussed, and particular challenges relating to the North were highlighted – namely that cities and northern municipalities have no direct interest in transitions that involve dissolving small urban municipalities into RMs. SUMA's advocacy team will continue to work with the Government of Saskatchewan to defend our members interests in this matter.

Two resolutions were brought forth and approved to go to the Board of Directors for Convention 2026. A number of other advocacy areas were also identified, mostly relating to infrastructure and environmental concerns.

Village and Resort Village Caucus

Topics discussed at the Village and Resort Village meeting included alignment with the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS), and the possibility of including them as a non-voting member of the Caucus. This was approved.

The Caucus discussed and identified their top two priorities for resolutions for the 2026 annual Convention, which were approved to go forward to the Board of Directors.

The Caucus also received a presentation on the Target Sector Support Initiative (TSS), and discussed the Communities in Transition program.

Town Caucus

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Joanne Fedyk of the SWRC presented on the significant gaps in the current HHW management, noting that existing programs only cover 32 to 68% of hazardous materials. This leaves municipalities to bear the high cost of managing excluded items.

The SWRC formally requested that SUMA coordinate a unified submission once the provincial government opens its upcoming program consultation to advocate for broader eligibility and full producer responsibility.

Caucus representatives commended this work and emphasized the need for clear communication and collaborative efforts to improve waste management while reducing municipal costs.

Hoarding

Municipalities are facing unsustainable legal and financial burdens from “hoarding houses,” where severe mental health crises create significant biohazards and public safety risks.

Current frameworks, such as the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Act*, are ineffective as they target criminal activity rather than non-criminal hoarding, while health inspectors lack the authority to enter private property without consent even in high-risk scenarios.

SUMA will engage the Minister of Community Safety and provincial health officials this month to advocate for a legislative mechanism that allows for early intervention and ensures the province shares the financial risk of these complex mental health cases.

Other

The Town Caucus agreed to meet during the Convention to provide members with an opportunity for face-to-face networking and to strengthen sectoral relationships.

For maximum efficiency, it was agreed that town-specific issues be handled via written submission.

City Caucus

The SUMA City Caucus meeting focused primarily on discussing and selecting resolutions to be submitted for consideration at the annual Convention in April. Cities from across Saskatchewan submitted resolutions, which were then debated and voted on by Caucus members. Key resolution topics included housing, fiscal fairness, and support for first responders.

Caucus members received a report from SUMA administration outlining recent changes to the Communities in Transition funding model. The report also highlighted actions SUMA has already taken in response to these changes, as well as upcoming consultations with the provincial government.

Gerald Aalbers, Mayor of Lloydminster and Chair of the SUMA City Mayors' Caucus, joined the meeting to speak about the role of the City Mayors Caucus and opportunities for collaboration under the new governance structure.

As part of its standing agenda, the City Caucus held its first roundtable of the year, providing members an opportunity to share updates on successes, priorities, challenges,

and emerging issues within their municipalities.

OTHER UPDATES

Call for Caucus Representative Nominations: Village and Resort Village Caucus West Central Representative

The **Village and Resort Village caucus** is currently seeking nominations for **one vacant position: a West Central representative**.

Unsure which region you're located in? Search for your municipality [here](#).

The core mandate of the Village and Resort Village Caucus is to provide a forum for the management of advocacy topics considered relevant to Saskatchewan towns and villages and resort villages, respectively.

The Caucus role includes the following responsibilities:

- Facilitating the meeting of the Caucus
- Identifying and providing advisory input on advocacy topics relevant to member urban municipalities in your sector
- Prioritizing advocacy topics and contributing to the setting of strategies required to advance the advocacy interests of the Caucus
- Providing input on provincial, federal, and/or collective advocacy topics
- Contributing to SUMA's communication efforts with the interest of keeping sector members informed and engaged

The Village and Resort Village Caucus meets virtually for approximately 90 minutes on a quarterly basis. Additional participation in events such as the Regional Roadshow and Caucus meetings at Convention are also strongly encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted to suma@suma.org.

Please read the governing policy [here](#).

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Want to connect with your representatives? Find their contact details on the [Municipal Directory](#).

Unsure which region you're located in? Search for your municipality [here](#).

Northern Caucus



Mayor Lyle Herman
Northern Village of La Loche

Vice-Chair, Councillor Abby Besharah, Northern Town of La Ronge

Mayor Rick Laliberte, Northern Village of Beauval

Mayor Bruce Fidler, Northern Town of Creighton

Councillor Sandra Hansen, Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids

Village and Resort Village Caucus



Mayor Nora McLearn
Village of Neville

Village and Resort Village
Caucus Chair, Southwest
Region
Vice President of Villages and
Resort Villages

Central Region: Mayor Corey Fernets, Resort
Village of Thode

East Central Region: Mayor Linda Restau, Resort
Village of Westend

Northeast Region: Councillor David Duhaime,
Village of Bjorkdale

Northwest Region: Councillor Ken Huber, Village of
Goodsoil

Southeast Region: Mayor Josh Vass, Village of
Pangman

West Central Region: Vacant

Town Caucus



Mayor Michelle McKenzie
Town of Maple Creek

Town Caucus Chair, Southwest
Region
Vice President of Towns

Central Region: Councillor Lamatia Robinson,
Town of Colonsay

East Central Region: Councillor Gina Rakochy,
Town of Canora

Northeast Region: Councillor Kathy Evans, Town of
Birch Hills

Northwest Region: Mayor Dennis Helmuth, Town of
Rosthern

Southeast Region: Councillor Greg Wall, Town of
Carnduff

West Central Region: Mayor Deb Winder, Town of
Delisle

City Caucus



Councillor Dawn Kilmer
City of Prince Albert

City Caucus Chair
Vice President of Cities

Councillor Kirsten Walliser, City of Estevan

Councillor Dave Rowe, City of Humboldt

Councillor Jason Whiting, City of Lloydminster

Councillor Spencer Nikkel, City of Martensville

Councillor Tom Harrison, City of Meadow Lake

Councillor Tara Muntain, City of Melfort

Councillor Doug Mark, City of Melville

Councillor Jamey Logan, City of Moose Jaw

Councillor Greg Lightfoot, City of North Battleford

Councillor Victoria Flores, City of Regina

Councillor Bev Dubois, City of Saskatoon

Councillor Leanne Tuntland-Wiebe, City of Swift
Current

Deputy Mayor and Councillor Kevin Tooley, City of
Warman

Mayor Jeff Richards, City of Weyburn

Councillor Dustin Brears, City of Yorkton



Councillor Randy Donauer
City of Saskatoon

Vice President - City of Saskatoon



Councillor Shanon Zachidniak
City of Regina

Vice President - City of Regina



Mayor Gerald Aalbers
City of Lloydminster



CAO Barry Elliott
Town of Maple Creek

Ex-Officio Board Member
City Mayors Caucus Chair

Ex-Officio Board Member
UMAAS President

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