



*119th Annual
SUMA Convention
April 14 – 17, 2024
Viterra ITC
Regina, SK*

Resolutions Committee:
Councillor Bob Hawkins (Chair)
Mayor Pat Jackson
Councillor Dawn Luhning
Councillor Don Cody
Councillor Kyle Bennett
Mayor Michelle McKenzie
Councillor Bev Dubois

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Presentation of resolutions:

- The Resolutions Committee 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.
- A Resolutions Committee member will read the action clause
- The Resolutions Committee Chair will move each resolution 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 Resolutions Committee Chair 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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2024-01: Anti-Harassment Support

Submitted by: Town of Asquith (motion passed by Council on November 8, 2023);

WHEREAS, municipalities in Saskatchewan are often vulnerable to harassment from the members of the public; and

WHEREAS, municipalities often lack the resources to deal with harassment from the public; and

WHEREAS, harassment from the public is harmful for municipal councils and administration and leads to high turnover and burnout and feelings of a lack of safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan for more resources to be available to municipalities so they can better deal with problematic harassment from members of the public.

Acts affected: NONE

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

Background: the Town of Asquith has been dealing with harassment from a member of the public for many years, which has escalated in recent months. It is difficult for councillors and administration to do their work and to feel safe while at work. The municipality has attempted to deal with the harassment, but it is difficult to continue these efforts, of which many have been met without success.

2024-02: Providing Infrastructure Funding for Fire Departments

Submitted by: Town of Strasbourg (motion passed by Council on November 22, 2023);

WHEREAS, municipalities trying to maintain a decent quality of life for their residents, as well as adhere to the safety and training requirements for firefighters recommended by the provincial government, do not have sufficient capital to maintain the most effective level of service with their fire departments and the cost of having specialized firefighting equipment, as well as the cost of construction for fire halls, has inflated beyond what most municipalities can afford; and

WHEREAS, fundamental municipal emergency services such as firefighting equipment (trucks, gear, etc.), and fire halls are always considered ineligible projects for the current federal and provincial grant funding, except for the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund, which lists fire halls as eligible expenses, but CCBF does not provide adequate funding to cover the cost of most firefighting equipment or fire hall projects; and

WHEREAS, having well-trained, well-equipped fire departments (volunteer or full time) for all municipalities is imperative for the safety and well-being of all citizens in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the provincial and federal government to include firefighting infrastructure, such as fire halls and firefighting equipment, as eligible projects for provincially- and/or federally-funded infrastructure grants, or create a separate funding stream/granting program for firefighting infrastructure entirely.

Acts affected: NONE
Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2024-03: Providing More Supports for Animal Control

Submitted by: Town of Strasbourg (motion passed by Council on November 22, 2023);

WHEREAS, municipalities do not always have the financial or personnel resources to have an animal control officer, trained employees, or adequate facilities to handle animal control issues; and

WHEREAS, various animal agencies such as the Humane Societies and various Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ie, SPCA) located in the cities are no longer helping small urban municipalities with animal control issues such as housing or surrendering, and if they are, there is a significant cost associated with it; and

WHEREAS, animal control issues, such as aggressive/dangerous dogs, are legislatively a grey area, whereby the municipality has to deal with the dogs until they attack or bite, at which point it becomes an RCMP issue and

WHEREAS, aggressive/dangerous dogs are a cause for concern for residents; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are not given enough authority or financial resources to deal with animal control issues appropriately or expediently; and

WHEREAS, animal control issues are divisive in many communities as viewpoints and solutions are on a broad spectrum and create no-win scenarios for municipalities to deal with;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the provincial government to amend legislation to provide municipalities with proper authority, resources, and funding to effectively deal with animal control issues.

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

2024-04: Adding Unpaid Fines to Tax Rolls

Submitted by: Village of Buchanan (motion #15:24 passed by Council on January 8, 2024);

WHEREAS municipalities, particularly those without bylaw enforcement officers, have limited resources to pursue bylaw infractions without the added considerable expense of legal advice and representation to court; and

WHEREAS the current *Municipalities Act* sections 373(1) and (2) restricts the legal force of an urban municipality's Bylaw Enforcement Officer to representing the municipality before a justice of the peace or provincial court for support in upholding local Bylaws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Province to amend legislation to allow constituent communities to add unpaid fines onto ratepayers tax rolls.

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

2024-05: Crop Spray Drift Notifications

Submitted by: Resort Village of Manitou Beach (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2023);

WHEREAS, residents of an urban municipality rely on administration for information; and

WHEREAS, individuals should have the right to protect themselves, or remove themselves from potential crop spray drift;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to establish necessary legislation and regulations requiring aerial spray applicators to give notice to neighbouring urban municipality when spraying is to take place within 2 miles of an urban municipal boundary.

Acts affected: *The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act; The Pest Control Products Regulations, 2015;*
Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2024-06: Increasing Numbers of Nurse Practitioners

Submitted by: City of Lloydminster (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2024);

WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of family physicians and nurse practitioners in the City of Lloydminster and the Province of Saskatchewan, particularly in secondary communities; and

WHEREAS, many communities are training Saskatchewan Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) physicians, however these professionals are not being placed in their chosen communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Saskatchewan Provincial Government to ensure the Ministry of Health increases the use of nurse practitioners in secondary centers away from tertiary centers, implement a fee for service for practicing nurse practitioners, and support the placement of Saskatchewan Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) trained physicians in their chosen communities.

Acts affected: NONE

Sectors/regions affected: ALL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Not all residents of Lloydminster and the surrounding area are able to find a family physician to deal with their medical issues and routine proactive medical appointments. Many of these residents end up in the Emergency room, costing the government and taxpayers increased costs as there is an inadequate number of physicians and/or nurse practitioners in our service area of 150,000 plus residents.

The City of Lloydminster along with other areas within Saskatchewan are experiencing an extreme shortage of family physicians and lack of utilization of nurse practitioners. Residents who have relocated to our community are unable to find a family practitioner and, in some cases, must travel back to their original community in which they moved from for general medical care.

The recruitment of physicians to the City of Lloydminster and throughout Saskatchewan would address this situation and lessen the burden on the Emergency Departments. As well as implementing the usage of Nurse Practitioners on a fee for service basis.

2024-07: Highway Closure Authorization

Submitted by: Town of Indian Head (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2024); WHEREAS, in the event of a storm or unsafe driving conditions the authority to close a Saskatchewan highway lies solely with the Ministry of Highways; and WHEREAS, once a highway has been closed by the Ministry of Highways, the travellers can only be made aware of the closure through media and the Highway Hotline or through the limited number of digital signs located at major urban centres; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an accident on a provincial highway yet to be closed by the Ministry due to the time it takes for Highway staff to patrol and make the determination on the condition of the road, first responders are required to attend to said accident putting themselves at risk;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Provincial Government to authorize the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in collaboration with the Ministry of Highways to determine if a Saskatchewan highway should be closed once it is no longer safe to travel, for the Provincial Government to install permanent activatable barriers and/or indicators of road closures at more points on provincial highways to ensure travellers are made aware of the road closures and in a manner that alleviates this responsibility from other less equipped local first responders, and to allow RCMP to fine drivers choosing to go around a blockade with an increased penalty.

Acts affected: *The Highway Traffic Safety Act*

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On April 19, 2023 a caravan of three coach buses were travelling from Edmonton to Winnipeg and were involved in an accident where one of the buses collided with a semi truck. First responders attended to the accident to both treat injuries and transport approximately 100 teenagers from the accident site near Sintaluta to Indian Head. Due to the nature of the accident first responders chose to assist.

During this storm, roads had been closed in areas across Southern Saskatchewan, including this particular stretch of the Number 1 Highway from Regina travelling east, however it was reported that the buses had left Regina when the highway was still open. The highway was closed at some point while they were travelling between Regina and the site of the accident, but the bus driver was not aware. The bus line operates out of Manitoba and it is possible both the driver and the passengers did not know where to look for road closure notices. In the case of the #1 Highway from Regina to the Manitoba border, the only digital sign to update traffic conditions is posted outside of Regina.

In a debriefing meeting, the RCMP reported that they do not have authority to close highways and once closed, they don't have adequate staff to man the closure. The Town

of Indian Head does have adequate volunteer firefighters, but they no longer receive authorization to block a closed highway using their trucks.

Other municipalities may not have the ability to safely man a highway closure, nor have physical blockades or signage installed on the surrounding highways indicating a road closure.

Another factor to consider is in the case of a lone traveller. It is potentially dangerous to pull over in low visibility when traffic is still travelling on an open highway. This makes it nearly impossible for a driver without passengers to check the Highway Hotline and the signs posted indicating radio stations that include road updates would not be visible in a storm.

If a highway is clearly marked as closed, it is safer to stop your vehicle and it is also more efficient to care for stranded travellers in one area at the point of a blockade than spread out across the stretch of highway.

It is of the opinion of the local RCMP Detachment and Fire Chief that they can in most situations assess the travel conditions earlier resulting in less travellers in bad conditions, reducing potential for accidents which then reduces the risk for all first responders including RCMP Officers, volunteer firefighters and EMS.

2024-08: Increased Financial Support for Fire Services

Submitted by: City of Prince Albert (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2024);

WHEREAS, Fire Services in Saskatchewan face increasing roles and responsibilities in addressing responses to health, social, and economic factors, such as challenges with mental health and addictions, a rise in homelessness, inadequate and unsafe housing, rise in overdose and discarded needles, and an aging population and lift assists; and

WHEREAS, roles and responsibilities are placing a strain on municipal resources and more support from the Province and Federal Government is needed; and

WHEREAS, greater support will enhance Saskatchewan Fire Service's ability to address response times and lead to improved outcomes and increased safety for our municipal residents and non-residents alike, will ease the financial burden on municipal ratepayers, and provide assistance in addressing the increased demand on municipal Fire Services to respond to new and existing health, social, and economic factors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Saskatchewan Government and Federal Government for increased financial support for Fire Services provision in Saskatchewan.

Acts affected: NONE
Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

Background:

Police and EMS have experienced additional funding from Provincial and in some cases Federal funding initiatives. In Manitoba, Fire Services have been funded in part by their Provincial Government for over a decade which has eased the financial strain felt by their respective municipalities in addressing these ever increasing conditions related to health, social, and economic factors.

2024-09: Funding for Saskatchewan Urban Parks

Submitted by: City of Prince Albert (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2024);

WHEREAS, Provincial Grant funding has been cut affecting urban parks throughout Saskatchewan, namely the Pehonan Parkway in Prince Albert, Wakamow in Moose Jaw, Chinook Parkway in Swift Current, Battleford River Valley in the Battlefords and Tatagwa in Weyburn; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have invested budgeted monies, grants and funding through strong community partnerships to build functional, beautiful urban park spaces for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, to maintain quality services in urban parks, a consistent response with staffing levels, infrastructure upgrades and capital improvements is necessary to continue growth and demand; and

WHEREAS, park spaces play an integral role in quality of life by offering free of charge public access to a barrier-free and inclusive environment, which promotes physical activity, reduces stress and improves overall mental health; and

WHEREAS, innovative programming, community outreach and improvements to the urban park systems and conservation areas continues to be an important offering for residents and visitors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate for the Provincial Government to re-establish grant funding and partner with Saskatchewan municipalities in order to sustain and grow our beautiful urban parkways and open spaces.

Acts affected: NONE
Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

Background:

Public Survey Results were published in July 16, 2020 “Park People – Canada’s City Park Network” magazine. The results showed that municipal leaders and the public had developed a much greater appreciation for parks and green spaces during the pandemic. Some notable findings are:

- Almost 70% of Canadians said their appreciation for parks and green spaces has increased during the pandemic;
- 94% of cities indicated they have seen increased awareness among municipal leadership of the value of parks to public health and crises resiliency during the pandemic;
- 83% of Canadians said that these spaces have become more important to mental health and social well-being.
- Over 55% of cities indicated park use increased during the pandemic
- 87% of Canadians support increased spending on parks.

2024-10: Supporting and Growing Our Public Library System

Submitted by: Town of Aberdeen (motion passed by Council on January 22, 2024);

WHEREAS, libraries have been central to communities for hundreds of years, creating a safe space for children and adults to read and learn regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, libraries can be counted on to provide the resources to answer many important questions; give access to reading materials for those who cannot afford to purchase them; and an internet connection for information, banking, communications, job searches, and accessing and filling out government forms; and

WHEREAS, libraries do much more than house books, libraries offer programs such as the Single Integrated Library System (SILS), preschool programs, reading programs, book clubs, story time, summer reading programs, and seniors’ programs to name a few.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Government of Saskatchewan adequately fund the public library system to keep pace with inflation, current trends and technologies, in addition to ensuring that both large and small community libraries can meet the programming and educational needs that are an integral part of library programming and services to their communities.

Acts affected: NONE

Sectors/Regions affected: ALL

2024-11: Greater Bylaw Enforcement Powers

Submitted by: Town of Willow Bunch (motion passed by Council on February 2, 2024);

WHEREAS, with authority granted by *The Municipalities Act*, municipalities in Saskatchewan have enacted bylaws concerning nuisance properties, zoning, and other bylaws within their communities. These bylaws have been put in place to maintain community standards and to make our communities safe and comfortable places to live; and

WHEREAS, these bylaws are difficult to enforce when payment of fines associated are voluntary and ratepayers who commit bylaw infractions need more motivation to take corrective action; and

WHEREAS small urban municipalities do not have the same monetary and administrative resources as larger urban municipalities to effectively collect fines issued for bylaw infractions, which includes spending general municipal funds for legal fees and making applications to the court, as outlined in Section 370 of *The Municipalities Act*; and the dollar amount of certain fines for bylaw infractions would be used up to pay for legal fees, defeating the purpose of fine issuance; and

WHEREAS in some cases attempts to enforce bylaws are met with legal actions. Enforcement via the courts is expensive. Councils, seeing the potential problems and expenses, become reluctant to enforce bylaws or avoid using bylaws all together to avoid the possibility of financial loss. Legal costs can wreak havoc on the limited budget of a small community. With little effort or expense, a resident can place his or her community in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS municipalities need a wider range of power and autonomy to enforce bylaws within their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SUMA advocate the Provincial Government to provide greater local autonomy for municipalities when enforcing bylaws and in performing governance and management duties/functions.

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

Background information:

In 2015 the Town of Willow Bunch was faced with legal proceedings as a result of an Order to Remedy for several nuisance properties (owned by one property owner) that was not completed by the property owner and for which the town proceeded with implementation of the requirements (clean up). These properties had been cited for violation of the Nuisance Abatement bylaw consistently from 2008 to 2015. Several

letters, registered letters, meetings with property owner (where we tried to work with them and offer assistance) and ultimately Orders to Remedy took place. Most of which were disregarded and over the years the different councils were reluctant to proceed. A significant amount of municipal time and money spent to no avail.

This changed in 2015 when the council at that time had had enough, and engaged a legal counsel to review the latest Order to Remedy, to ensure the Municipality had sufficient material within the Order to Remedy document, prior to issuing it. The order was ignored and council proceeded with engaging a contractor and 4 days of clean up took place. Clean up costs were in excess of \$30,000. This was added to the tax roll. Property owners filed a legal claim against the Town, the Town lost. The judge said our Order to Remedy was too broad. The Town appealed and lost the appeal. The \$30,000 invoice was absorbed by the Town and the property owners filed a second claim for punitive damages. This was finally settled in 2024.

The opportunity to have a little more autonomy or authority to control these situations could go a long way in preventing this from happening.