

# MUNICIPAL Update

January 13, 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 13**  
Virtual SUMA Summit

**April 13 - 16**  
Convention 2025

See all [upcoming events](#).

## Convention 2025 and Registration

Registration for the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow will open **this afternoon, January 13**.

An email with the link to register will be sent to the main contact for your municipality.

Please make sure to add the email address [registration@suma.org](mailto:registration@suma.org) to your email's safe sender list.

## Important: Notice to Administration

SUMA does not have contact emails for all newly elected from your municipality. We ask that you **please share this newsletter and encourage them to subscribe** to the **Municipal Update** by using this [link](#), clicking on the link at the very bottom of the newsletter, or emailing [communications@suma.org](mailto:communications@suma.org).

## ADVOCACY UPDATE

### Meeting with Minister of Government Relations

On January 10, SUMA President Randy Goulden met with newly appointed Minister of **Government Relations, the Honourable Eric Schmalz**.

Our partnership with Government Relations is a key aspect of the work we do with the provincial government and we look forward to many more meetings with Minister Schmalz and the rest of the Cabinet to advance the interests of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities.



### Meeting with SARM

On January 7, SUMA President, Randy Goulden, and CEO, Jean-Marc Nadeau met with SARM's Acting President Bill Huber and Executive Director Laurel Feltin. They discussed various topics affecting both organizations, including **public safety**, the **Municipal Eco-**

**Action Centre**, and the potential of **tariffs being imposed by the U.S. government**, something that would impact industries in urban and rural municipalities throughout the province.

SUMA looks forward to continuing to work with SARM to address issues important to urban and rural municipalities across Saskatchewan.

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## Resources for Newly Elected Officials

Congratulations to all those who have been elected or re-elected to serve as mayor or councillor in their community.

SUMA recognizes the unique challenges faced by urban municipalities, and is here to provide **tools and support to help ensure the next four years are as successful** as possible for you, your fellow council members, and your municipality as a whole.

To help you get started on the right foot, we have put together a **list of resources for elected officials**. These tools are useful whether it's your first term or tenth, so we encourage all elected officials to bookmark [this page](#) and revisit it often.

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## FCM's Call for nominations: Vacancy for Saskatchewan representative on the Board of Directors

There are **three vacant seats in FCM's Prairies and Territories Caucus**. These roles **must be filled by Saskatchewan representatives**, who will serve until the end of the current board term in June 2025. The positions are as follows:

- at least one seat for three largest (by population) Municipal Members.
- one or two at-large seats, depending on the number of seats filled by the largest cities.

Eligible elected municipal representatives are invited to run for these Board positions. In accordance with FCM's bylaws, those who are eligible to serve as directors on FCM's Board must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an elected official of an FCM member municipality from Saskatchewan.
2. Complete and submit the [Consent and Board Profile Form](#).
3. Submit an official resolution ([see this example](#)) endorsed by their member municipality authorizing them to seek a position on FCM's Board of Directors and agreeing to cover the costs of their attendance at meetings.

Additional details, including information for submitting a bio and video, are available on the FCM [elections page](#).

The deadline for submitting all nomination materials to FCM is **Monday, February 17th at 5:00 pm EST**. You can find more details [here](#). If you have questions, please email [elections@fcm.ca](mailto:elections@fcm.ca).

## CONVENTION 2025



**SUMA** | 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow | April 13-16 Saskatoon, SK

As members from across Saskatchewan come together for the first time following the municipal election, SUMA looks forward to celebrating the strength of our communities as a part of the urban

family. This year, help us create an environment of inclusion and education by shining a light on all the ways urban municipalities — from the smallest villages to the largest cities — serve their population.

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## Convention Registration

Join us at the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow in Saskatoon. Registration for Convention 2025 opens today, January 13.

The main contact for each municipality will receive an email with the link to register. If your municipality does not receive your invitation to register, please check your junk mail. Not there? Email [registration@suma.org](mailto:registration@suma.org).



Convention 2025 promises to be a busy four days, from excursions and education sessions, to the Bear Pit. See the [agenda](#) for a list of times and sessions. For more detailed information, check out the [2025 Convention Brochure](#).

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## Hotel Booking

SUMA is once again using Resiada to book your hotels. With Resiada, you can view prices for each hotel, see where they are located, check their availability, and book your rooms, all through a single website. To ensure accurate availability, **all accommodations at participating Convention 2025 hotels must be booked through Resiada.**

A link to book your rooms will be sent out in a direct email to the main contact for your municipality at 1:00 p.m. today, January 13.

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## Free Tradeshow Access for Municipal Employees



Municipal employees have **free access** to the **2025 Municipal Marketplace** presented by Kinetic GPO at the annual SUMA Convention.

Municipalities can register their observers for the tradeshow at the same time they register their other convention delegates. The tradeshow is taking place **April 14 and 15.**

Join us for the Early Access Reception on **April 13 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.** to tour booths in advance of the tradeshow's official opening and enjoy light appetizers.

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## Winners of the 2025 Small Community Support Initiative

To help smaller communities attend convention, SUMA introduced the **Small Community Support Initiative**. Through the initiative, communities with populations of less than 150 people have the chance to win complimentary registration to our annual convention.

Applications for the 2025 Small Community Support Initiative closed January 7 and a draw of eligible applicants was held January 8.

We are pleased to announce the three communities that are recipients of two complimentary registrations to Convention 2025:

- Village of Rama;
- Village of North Portal; and
- Village of Consul.

Thanks to generous sponsorships from **SUMAssure** and **SaskWater** two complimentary registrations to Convention 2025 are being extended to three additional small communities:

- Village of Leross;
- Village of Killaly; and
- Village of Pleasantdale.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention 2025!

*Convention sponsors still have the opportunity to sponsor complimentary registrations for small communities and additional municipalities may be selected at a later date.*

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## Resolution Deadline is January 31



As the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow approaches, we encourage members to submit their resolutions. **The deadline to submit resolutions is January 31.**

Resolutions are a way to get municipal issues in front of provincial decision makers and the media, and help shape SUMA's advocacy. Before getting started, review the [Resolutions Policy](#), and see [past resolutions](#).

For more details and a template you can use as a guide, look at the [Call for Resolutions 2025](#) or login to the [member portal](#) for the same information.

[Learn more about Convention 2025 here.](#)

## CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



### Virtual SUMA Summit (formerly SUMA Sector Meetings)

The **Virtual SUMA Summit** (formerly SUMA Sector Meetings) will take place online on **February 13** from **9:00 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.**



SUMA member meetings are a great opportunity to get to know your peers, learn about successes and challenges experienced by other municipalities, and hear updates from SUMA and our partners. Towns and villages/resort villages will also participate in caucus elections. We encourage you to join and cast your vote for your caucus representative. [Learn more about SUMA's caucus elections here.](#)



All attendees will spend the morning together to hear the latest from SUMA and our advocacy work, receive updates from SUMA partners, and take in a keynote presentation from community builder, Doug Griffiths. Doug's engaging keynote, *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, reveals why communities face certain challenges and provides tools to help you move forward. Feel inspired and motivated, and come discover a renewed sense of ownership and responsibility toward your community.

For the afternoon, we will break out into our sectors – cities, towns, northern municipalities, villages and resort villages – to share your successes during hometown proud, take in an education session specifically designed for your sector, and discuss sector relevant issues in an open forum. Towns and villages/resort villages will also participate in caucus elections.

Discussions at the **Virtual SUMA Summit** are driven by members. We encourage you to bring your ideas to join us for a day of discussion and learning with your peers.

The **Virtual SUMA Summit** is open to representatives from all SUMA member municipalities. The cost to attend is \$40 + GST and PST per person.

[Register here.](#)

**The Virtual SUMA Summit is sponsored by**



**SaskWater**



## MuniCast

In the office, at home, or on the go, MuniCast brings you conversations on important municipal topics. If you haven't listened before, start with season 1! Each season focuses on a new topic relevant to municipal leaders:

- Season 1: Municipal Leadership
- Season 2: Lessons in Leadership
- Season 3: Leadership in Mental Health and Addictions
- Season 4: Tune In
- Season 5: Truth and Reconciliation for Municipalities
- Season 6: Who is SUMA?
- Season 7: Municipal Education

Season 8: SUMA's Advocacy (*coming March 2025*)

All episodes of MuniCast from seasons 1 through 7 are available on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Amazon music, and other podcasting platforms. Season 8 will begin in March, but stay tuned for bonus episodes coming soon!

**Listen to MuniCast here.**

MuniCast is available on **Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube.**

## Need to Catch Up On a Webinar?

All webinar recordings are available on the **SUMA member portal**.

Each municipality has one shared login for the member portal that can be distributed to all staff and members of council. We encourage you to revisit or share previous webinars with other staff or elected officials. If you are unsure of your login information, please contact [communications2@suma.org](mailto:communications2@suma.org) for assistance.

**Visit the SUMA member portal.**

## OTHER UPDATES

### Free Event at Hillman AV: Experience Televic Conference Microphones

Effective communication is essential for productive council meetings, especially in today's hybrid world. Join Hillman AV for a **free live demo** of **Televic Conference Microphones** and discover how they can:

- Ensure crystal-clear audio for in-person, video, and streamed meetings.
- Streamline discussions and improve decision-making.
- Seamlessly integrate with video conferencing platforms.

This demo is tailored specifically for municipalities and associations.

Dates: **January 15 or 16**

Location: Hillman AV - 1060 Winnipeg Street, Regina Saskatchewan

**Space is limited—register for free today to secure your spot!**

[Register here.](#)

For more information, contact [sales@hillmanav.com](mailto:sales@hillmanav.com) or [866-848-6111](tel:866-848-6111).

## Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Awards

The Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council is seeking nominations for the SK Waste Reduction Awards. Nominations are currently open and will be until **February 10**.

The SK Waste Reduction Awards recognize excellence in waste reduction in Saskatchewan. They are intended to **promote leadership and inspire all sectors to undertake waste reduction projects**. The SWRC hopes not only to provide well-deserved recognition to the winners, but to also highlight successes and best practices for others to follow.

To submit a nomination, visit this [site](#).

## Funding from Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada

The Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, Sean Fraser, announced the launch of **new capital project intakes under the Active Transportation Fund and the Rural Transit Solutions Fund**.

### Active Transportation Fund

The Active Transportation Fund supports the **development and enhancement of active transportation networks** to provide Canadians with the opportunity to safely and affordably reach destinations by active modes of transportation. A minimum of 10% of the Active Transportation Fund's funding will be allocated to projects that benefit Indigenous populations and communities.

Applications are currently being accepted through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Applicant Portal](#) until **February 26** (7:00 p.m. EST). Applicants are encouraged to review information provided on the [Active Transportation Fund website](#), [Applicant Guide](#) and [Step-by-Step Guide](#) prior to creating an application. More information can also be found on [the Active Transportation Online Hub](#).

### Rural Transit Solutions Fund

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund supports the **development and expansion of locally driven transit solutions, by helping residents of rural, remote, Indigenous and Northern communities** conduct their day-to-day activities, like accessing services, going to work, school, medical appointments, and visiting loved ones. A minimum of 10% of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund's funding will be allocated to projects that benefit Indigenous populations and communities

Applications for the Capital Projects stream are now being accepted through the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Applicant Portal](#). Applications will be accepted from all applicants until **March 4** (3:00 p.m. EST). Before applying, applicants are encouraged to review the information in the [Capital Projects stream Application Guide](#) and follow the [Capital Projects stream Step-by-Step Guide](#). The Rural Transit Solutions Fund [webpage](#) is also an excellent reference.

Applicant inquiries can be directed to the respective programs at [ATF-FTA@infc.gc.ca](mailto:ATF-FTA@infc.gc.ca) and [RTSF-FSTCR@infc.gc.ca](mailto:RTSF-FSTCR@infc.gc.ca).

## Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Moves to a Continuous Process

**TSS has moved to a continuous, rolling intake process.** All completed applications in the application system will be reviewed on the **spring closing date of April 30**, and **fall closing date of October 31**.

Please view the [intake guide](#) and [fact sheet](#), both of which outline the changes and updates to the program. The online application portal can be accessed [here](#).

## Micro-credential Course: Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms

SUMA is pleased to announce University of Saskatchewan's new **micro-credential course**, from the School of Public Health, called **Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms**. This is a 40 hour, 8-week asynchronous online course. It is equivalent to 1 university credit unit. The class will be taught by **Dr. Barbara Fornssler**, an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Saskatchewan, and by **Jennifer Chouinard, BA BSW MPP**, a PhD Candidate at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina.

The course addresses the following four topics:

1. The Substance Use and Addictions Continuum: The Role of Stigma in Health
2. Substance Use Interventions: Harm Reduction and Prevention; Health and Wellness

This is a **policy-focused course**, ideal for professionals looking to:

- Refine their skills in articulating the complexities of substance use and stigma.
- Apply evidence-based strategies for reducing substance use harms including prevention, treatment and recovery services.
- Develop and evaluate policies in partnership with a range of health system and community stakeholders.
- Communicate effectively with the public to align health initiatives with local support services.

Course tuition is \$750 plus taxes and fees and participants receive a certificate and digital badge upon completion. If cost is a barrier to enrollment, please [email Dr. Fornssler](#) directly.

For more info and to register please visit the course registration page: [PUBH M01A Municipal Leadership in Addressing Substance Use Harms | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)

## SK Recycles: New Household and Paper Recycling Program

SK Recycles, in partnership with SARCAN, launched its new household packaging and paper recycling program in Saskatchewan, expanding recycling opportunities for residents. As part of the SK Recycles program, all **73 SARCAN Recycling depots will collect flexible plastics, foam packaging, and non-deposit glass bottles and jars, providing free and accessible options for residents** to recycle these materials. This partnership moves the collection of these materials from Phase 3 to Phase 1 of the transition and reflects efforts toward achieving efficient and sustainable packaging and paper recycling as the province transitions towards a full extended producer responsibility (EPR) model.

Newly accepted materials include:

1. **Flexible Plastics** (plastic bags; stand-up and zipper lock pouches; crinkly wrappers and bags; plastic net bags; plastic protective packaging).
2. **Foam Packaging** (foam take-out containers; foam trays for meat, seafood, or vegetables; foam protective packaging for electronics or appliances).
3. **Glass Bottles and Jars** (bottles and jars for olive oil, pickles, jam, etc.).

Glass will be recycled in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where it will be made into reflective glass beads for road marking paint and fibreglass insulation. Both flexible plastics and foam packaging will be recycled in British Columbia, where flexible plastics will be made into plastic pellets for manufacturing of new plastic products such as bins and buckets, and foam will be prepared to be made into picture frames and crown moulding.

SK Recycles has launched a campaign to share the news about the new materials that will be accepted at SARCAN depots. For more information about the program, including producer reporting details, please visit [SKRecycles.ca](#).

## Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)

Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada **launched its application intake for the \$1 billion direct delivery stream of the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF)**.

They are now accepting proposals from eligible applicants, such as municipalities and Indigenous communities, for projects with total eligible costs ranging between \$1 million and \$100 million, under a continuous intake stream until **March 31 at 3:00 pm ET**.

Projects may be pulled for assessment at various times during the intake period, with projects being recommended for approval prior to the intake closing on **March 31** and on May 19 at 3:00 p.m. ET for Indigenous applicants.

In order to support Indigenous-led projects, at least 10 per cent of the funding envelope will be dedicated to eligible Indigenous recipients.



For more information, please consult these resources:

- [Applicant Guide](#)
- [Guide for Indigenous Applicants](#)
- [How to access the funding portal](#)
- [CHIF website](#)

Please direct any questions to the CHIF team at [chif-fcil@info.gc.ca](mailto:chif-fcil@info.gc.ca).

## Municipal Revenue Sharing Declaration of Eligibility

**Municipalities are required to annually report their compliance with eligibility requirements to receive their Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) grant** by completing an online Declaration of Eligibility (declaration). The unique link and password for the online declaration was emailed to each municipality on **November 15**. If you have not received it, please email [grcompliance@gov.sk.ca](mailto:grcompliance@gov.sk.ca).

The deadline for submission of the declaration is **January 31**. Please ensure your municipality's declaration is submitted by the deadline, even if the municipality does not meet all eligibility requirements.

Please watch the [Declaration of Eligibility recorded webinar](#) and/or download the [Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#) and this [Eligibility Requirements infographic](#) to learn more.

## Applications for the Community Rink Affordability Grant Now Open

Applications for the **2024-25 Community Rink Affordability Grant** opened on **January 6**. Communities, First Nations, schools and non-profits are eligible and encouraged to register for the annual grant of **\$2,500 per indoor ice surface**. The grant helps offset the costs of operating indoor skating and curling rinks in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan government will double the program funding to \$3.2 million starting in 2025-26, increasing the grant to \$5,000 per rink.

The application period closes **February 28** with the grant set to be paid out in March.

To learn more, visit [SPRA grants and funding site](#).

## ADVERTISEMENTS



# Kinetic GPO

**CDW Canada is pleased to be an Apple Authorized Reseller for Apple technology** through their awarded Kinetic GPO contract RFSO #21-12 catering to IT solutions and services.

CDW is your trusted technology partner for Apple products and services as well as other OEM solutions that complement the entire Apple ecosystem.

Whether you need to deploy devices with charging carts, ruggedized cases, deploy an MDM solution, leverage AppleCare+ for schools or refresh your Apple fleet, CDW offers personalized support.

Utilizing this agreement simplifies the procurement process, ensures compliance and puts technology solutions into action when you need them.

The Kinetic GPO contract spans CDW's full catalogue which now includes offerings from Apple Education.

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Business Development Manager **Michelle McCarthy** at [michelle@kineticgpo.ca](mailto:michelle@kineticgpo.ca).

# GFOA Alberta

## Not Just For Alberta Public Finance Officers

Partnerships, Webinars  
Networking & More...



### GFOA Alberta: Not just for Albertans

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of Alberta is well-known among finance officers across the province for supporting and promoting best practices in municipal finance. But it's not just for Alberta finance officers; GFOA Alberta offers diverse benefits that span professional development, networking, and career-enhancing opportunities that appeal to a broad range of public sector professionals. GFOA Alberta is proud to collaborate with esteemed organizations such as the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the US and Canada, headquartered in Chicago, and the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA). These partnerships strengthen our commitment to providing public finance professionals with unparalleled access to industry insights, resources, and networking opportunities on a national and international level. Become a member today and unlock the benefits for your municipality – Members Get More! *25% Discount for first-time attendees for Lethbridge Conference June 1-4th, 2025.*

Website: [gfoa.ab.ca](http://gfoa.ab.ca)

Email: [Programs@gfoa.ab.ca](mailto:Programs@gfoa.ab.ca)

## CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



## Classifieds

### Positions Available:

- For Sale: *HET-090 Culligan High Efficiency Twin Water Softener System* (Jan 17)
- Air Ronge: *Deputy CAO/Manager of Legislative Services* (Jan 19)
- Town of Kipling: *Chief Administrative Officer* (Jan 24)
- Town of Biggar: *Deputy Administrator* (Jan 24)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.

Find the latest listings by visiting the [classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.



## Grants

### Upcoming Deadlines:

- Office of the *Provincial Interlocutor: First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Seed Funding* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* (Year-round)
- CHIF Fund: *Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund* (March 31, 2025)
- TSS: *Targeted Sector Support Grant* (April 30)
- *Community Rink Affordability Grant* (February 28)

For a full listing of grants, check the [Grants](#) section of our website under the Resources tab.

**SUMA** | [suma.org](http://suma.org)  
Unit 305 - 4741 Parliament Ave., Regina SK  
306-525-3727

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