

MUNICIPAL Update

January 27, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 29

MuniCast: Revitalizing Your Community with Doug Griffiths

February 12

MuniCast: Trust and Deception with Pamela Barnum

February 13

Virtual SUMA Summit

April 13 - 16

2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow

See all [upcoming events](#).

Call for Venues: SUMA's Regional Roadshow

Want to see SUMA visit your community? Eager to invite your peers from throughout your region experience a day in your municipality? Submit your proposal to host a SUMA Regional Meeting!

The **SUMA Regional Roadshow** will be **touring Saskatchewan in June**, and we want to know where we should stop along the way. We will be meeting in one municipality in each of the 8 regions. The **SUMA Regional Roadshow** takes place annually, venues that are not selected for the 2025 Roadshow will be considered for future events.

[Submit your venue proposal here.](#)

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. Thanks for your help.

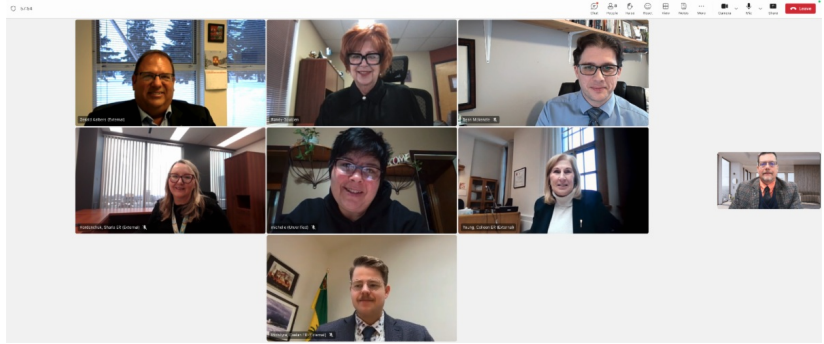
ADVOCACY UPDATE

Meeting with Minister of Energy and Resources

On Wednesday, SUMA's executive met with newly appointed Minister of Energy and Resources, the Honourable Colleen Young.

Discussions were held around tariffs, the PST on construction and the need for a new tri-party infrastructure agreement, and the potential for additional resource development in Saskatchewan — especially critical minerals in northern Saskatchewan.

We look forward to continuing these important conversations.



Introducing SUMA's new Directors

Please welcome the newest members of SUMA's Board of Directors following the 2024 municipal election.



George Tsiklis
Director - City of Regina



Shanon Zachidniak
Director - City of Regina



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.

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 **February 17 at 5:00 pm** EST. You can find more details [here](#). If you have questions, please email elections@fcm.ca.

CONVENTION 2025

We are URBAN.

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 would like to celebrate 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.

Convention Registration is Open!

Join us at the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow in Saskatoon. Registration for Convention 2025 opens today, January 13. To learn more, visit the SUMA [website](#).

The main contact for each municipality should have received an email with the link and password to register. If your municipality did not receive your invitation to register, please check your junk mail. Not there? Email registration@suma.org.



Delegates are responsible for arranging their own hotel accommodations. To book your room(s) for Convention 2024, simply click [here](#) to access our hotel booking system.

Convention 2024 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](#).

Early Bird Reminder

Register by **March 12** to take advantage of early-bird pricing. Everyone who registers by the early-bird deadline will be entered to **win a complimentary registration for Convention 2025**.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact the SUMA office by phone at 306-525-3727, or by email at registration@suma.org.

We look forward to seeing you!

Convention 2025: Keynote Speakers

We are pleased to announce that #SUMA2025 will feature not one, but two keynote speakers, each with presentations closely related to SUMA's advocacy work.



Pamela Barnum

Pamela Barnum is a nonverbal communication expert and trust strategist who teaches people negotiation and body language reading techniques often thought of as a “secret second language.”

She will share her expertise, **teaching delegates how to improve their communication skills to increase trust around their council tables** with humor, candor, and energy, blending actionable strategies with memorable stories.



Gabor Maté

Dr. Gabor Maté is a retired physician who, after 20 years of family practice and palliative care experience, worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness.

The bestselling author of five books published in 43 languages, including the award-winning *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*, Dr. Maté is an **internationally renowned speaker highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness.**

Dr Maté's presentation will be delivered virtually.



Meet #SUMA2025's Master of Ceremonies

We are pleased to announce the MC for Convention 2025, **Trevor Moore.**

Trevor is an **emcee, host, speaker, and corporate standup comedy magician with 17 years of experience** at the microphone and a knack for reading the room and matching the energy of his audience.

His intimate and interactive style, engaging attitude and refreshing, upbeat persona is sure to entertain delegates at this year's Convention.

Tradeshow and 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**. The Early Access Reception is being held on April 13 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Tour booths in advance of the tradeshow's official opening and enjoy light appetizers.



Last Chance for Resolutions: Deadline is January 31

As the 2024 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.

REASONS TO ATTEND

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

SHAPE POLICY

Convention is an opportunity to influence policy both locally and provincially. Shape SUMA's policy direction through round tables, sector meetings, and the dialogue with SUMA delegates. The annual board sit and dialogue with ministers provides delegates with the opportunity to put their municipal issues before the provincial government, as well as the media.

NETWORKING

There are plenty of people to meet and plenty of opportunities to network. Shine a spotlight on your community as you connect with delegates, peers, SUMA Board and staff members. Network with provincial and federal decision makers at the SUMA Convention, during the President's Gala, sessions, at breaks, and in your sector meeting.

MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE Presented by Kinetic GPO

- Sunday April 13, 9:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
- Monday April 14, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday April 15, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

One of the largest of its kind in Canada, SUMA's tradeshow features booths with products and services that municipalities use each day. Browse the booth world in person with exhibitors on April 14, and April 15. Tour the booths on Sunday, April 13 between 4:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. in advance of the official opening during the Early Access Reception.

SUMA CONVENTION APP

SUMA will once again be using the SUMA Convention app for 2025, meaning everything you need to know about Convention is available at your fingertips.

- Make your own schedule
- Participate in live polls
- Ask questions during education sessions from the comfort of your seat
- Show others what they're missing by posting in the event feed
- See what others are saying about Convention on the social wall
- Never get lost with the interactive maps

Convention Brochure

REGISTRATION FAQs FOR MEMBERS

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

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You'll need to gather the details for all attendees from your municipality before you begin the registration process. As soon as you enter a delegate in the registration system they are considered registered — even if you don't complete their registration. **Only enter delegates that have confirmed their attendance.**

Here is a list of details you'll need to gather and confirm before you start:

The Basics

- Who is in charge of registration? Your municipality will be registered as a group and not as individuals, so it is important to assign one person (such as a CAO, administrator, or clerk) to handle the registration process.
- Who is attending from your municipality? Make sure you have the correct spelling of their names and email addresses.
- What category will each attendee fall under?
 - Non-voting delegates
 - Municipal employees/tradeshow observers — municipal employees wishing to attend the tradeshow only. [Municipal employees are able to attend the tradeshow for free but must be registered as a tradeshow observer in the convention registration system.]
- How many voting delegates are allotted to your municipality and which council members will be assigned voting privileges?
- Will your council members be attending in-person or participating online? Make sure you know the preference of each council member you are registering.
- NDWA As a part of our We are Urban campaign, SUMA will be gifting a t-shirt to each in-person delegate to celebrate the strength of our communities and our unity as part of the urban family. Please check with your delegates and let us know their preferred t-shirt sizes.
- What education, breakout, and dialogue sessions will each of your delegates attend? See the promotional brochure for more details.
- Are your in-person delegates interested in participating in one of the two optional excursions? See the promotional brochure for details on the excursions.
- Will you need additional event tickets? One ticket to the Welcome Reception and President's Gala is included in each delegate registration. Additional tickets for the Welcome Reception can be purchased for \$75. President's Gala tickets can be purchased for \$200 per ticket.

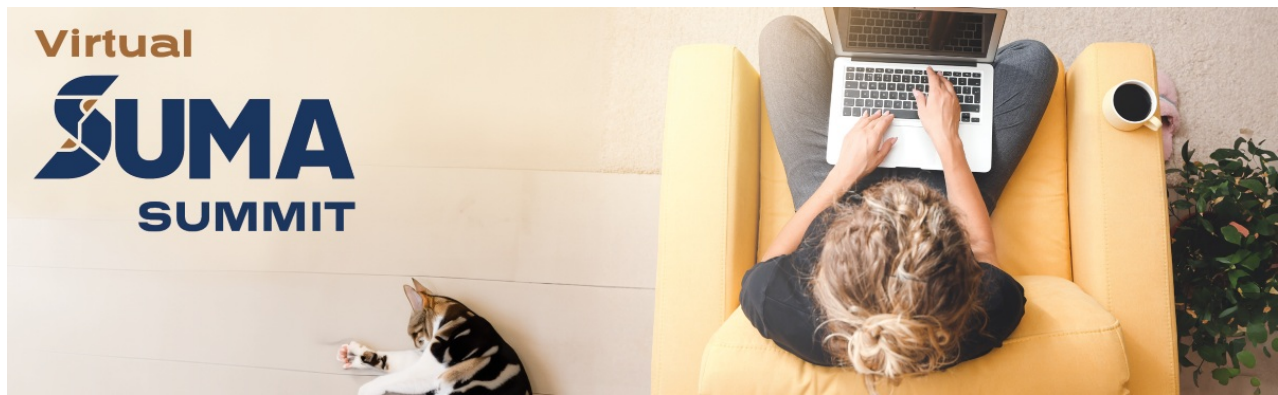
Special Circumstances

Does your municipality have to register a SUMA Board member? If yes, you should have received a promotional code. If not, please contact Heather Vanderaa at 306-525-4391 or executestart@suma.org.

Are any of your attendees receiving a service award? (This would include Honorary Service, Meritorious Service, Scoop Levey, and Life Membership awards.) If you have award recipients, you should have received a promotional code. If not, please contact Cherylene Geyzen at 306-525-4392 or communications@suma.org.

Member Registration FAQ

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



Virtual SUMA Summit (*formerly SUMA Sector Meetings*)

The **Virtual SUMA Summit** is SUMA's second largest annual member meeting. Join us online on **February 13** from **9:00 a.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** for this opportunity to get to know your peers ahead of Convention 2025!

All attendees will spend the morning together to hear the latest updates from SUMA and our advocacy work, hear from SUMA partners, and take in a keynote presentation from community builder, Doug Griffiths.

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.

[View the agenda.](#)

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.](#)

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.](#)

Education Sessions:

Each election brings fresh faces and unique talents to the council table. How do you transform this diverse group into a high-functioning team?

In the education sessions ***Unlocking Council Potential: Building a Cohesive Team*** participate in an insightful session where you'll discover the 8 key responsibilities of council members, understand the 5 dysfunctions of a team, and learn how fostering positive team dynamics can boost productivity. Each session will be tailored to your sector.

Sessions will be presented by Sheldon Green and Keith Comstock with the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS).



Bonus Episode: Revitalizing Your Community with Doug Griffiths

Interested in getting to know Doug Griffiths ahead of his keynote during the Virtual SUMA Summit? Tune in to this bonus episode being released on **Wednesday January 29!**

Doug Griffiths is a wildly popular community strategist and author of two best selling editions of his book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community". He has supported, guided and inspired hundreds of communities to create effective change. Doug grew up on a ranch outside a small town where he learned the value of hard work, critical thinking skills, and the value of community. That background led him into politics, which gave him a deep understanding about how to move people and to get things done. He deliberately retired from politics in January 2015, after serving for 13 years, to return to his passion for community building.

In this episode hear what audience members can expect to take away from his keynote presentation at the **Virtual SUMA Summit**, his experiences as a former elected official, the inspiration for his best-selling book, "13 Ways to Kill Your Community", and more.

Subscribe 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 for assistance.

Visit the SUMA member portal.

OTHER UPDATES

Participate in the Canadian Municipal Barometer Survey

The mission of the [Canadian Municipal Barometer](#) is to improve Canadian municipal democracy by conducting cutting-edge research. Every year, they conduct a survey of mayors and councillors from over 1,000 municipalities across Canada.. You can contribute to their research on representation, multi-level governance, and public opinion by participating in

this annual survey.

Emails inviting you to take the survey were sent on January 6, and the survey closes on **February 28**.

If you have any questions or would like to answer the survey but did not receive an invitation to do so, please email cmb@ucalgary.ca

Partnership with People First HR Provides Assistance to SUMA Members

Does the thought of HR make your head hurt? We get it. HR issues can be complex and difficult to navigate. That's why SUMA has partnered with People First HR to provide group benefit members with HR On Call support and access to 100s of HR templates.



Approved callers can get HR On Call support for topics such as:

- Creating a respectful workplace
- Employee relations
- Managing leaves
- Performance management guidance including employee discipline
- Termination
- Disability management consultation (accommodations, return to work, doctor notes)
- Legislation and best practice
- Requirements for policy development and workplace procedures

Free up time with access to Hundreds of HR templates

From recruitment to performance management, policies to respectful workplace (and so much more), with HR On Call you have access to hundreds of FREE HR templates to make supporting your team easier.

To learn more and access templates you need, email us at hroncall@peoplefirsthr.com

SK Waste Reduction Awards

The SWRC is seeking nominations/suggestions for our SK Waste Reduction Awards. Nominations are currently open and will be until February 10th, 2025.

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 also to highlight success stories for others to follow.

To submit a nomination, visit this [site](#).
For more information, 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**, 2025 (7:00 p.m. EST), while applications from eligible Indigenous applicants will continue to be accepted until **April 9**, 2025 (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 access services, go to work, school, medical appointments, and visit 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

As of December 16, 2024, applications for the Capital Projects stream are being accepted through the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's [Applicant Portal](#). Applications will be accepted from all applicants until **March 4**, 2025 (3:00 p.m. EST), while applications from Indigenous recipients will be accepted until **April 8**, 2025 (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@infcc.gc.ca and RTSF-FSTCR@infcc.gc.ca.

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Moves to a Continuous Process

TSS will be moving 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, 2025**.

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 Promotion; Treatment and Recovery
3. Evidence and Strategic Intervention: Municipal Leadership
4. Public Policy, Engagement, and Advocacy

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. It comes with 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 \(usask.ca\)](#)

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 while the intake remains open, 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 feel free to direct any questions to the CHIF team at chif-fcil@infcc.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.

The deadline for submission of the declaration is **January 31**. Please ensure it is submitted by the deadline to Government Relations, 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 will stay open until **February 28**, and the grant is set to be paid out by the following month.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Air Ronge: *Deputy CAO/Manager of Legislative Services* (Jan 19)
- RM of Kindersley No. 290: *Administrator* (Feb. 15)
- Town of Shaunovan: *Chief Administrative Officer* (until filled)



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Office of the *Provincial Interlocutor: First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Seed Funding* (Year-round)

- Town of Shaunovan: *Assistant to Chief Administrative Officer* (until filled)

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.

- CMHC: *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* (Year-round)
- *Community Rink Affordability Grant* (February 28)
- CHIF Fund: *Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund* (March 31)
- TSS: *Targeted Sector Support Grant* (April 30)

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

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