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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMA Signs MOU with Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

SUMA's advocacy is backed by research and data—things we hold in high regard when advocating on behalf of member municipalities. We're pleased to announce that SUMA is partnering with the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This partnership will facilitate a Mitacs-funded post-doctoral position that fosters Saskatchewan's municipal capacity to advance sustainability across the province cooperatively.

The MOU signing will take place on November 7, at the SUMA office, where SUMA's CEO, Jean-Marc Nadeau, and Dr. Jim Farney, Director and Professor at the JSGS U of R Campus, will be present. This new partnership and the resulting position will help innovate municipal governance and create a greater pool of research from which both organizations will benefit. The position is for three years and will employ a researcher with a strong background in municipal governance and finance.

"SUMA's primary focus is influencing government policies through advocacy based on member needs. Besides that, we also aim to arm municipalities with education grounded in data and research," said CEO Jean-Marc Nadeau. "Our best tools in municipal governance are well-informed people, and the path to that is having a continuous flow of good research and data from which they can learn. This partnership opens the doors to strengthening municipalities."

Dr. Stephanie Ortynsky, who SUMA is slated to hire through Mitacs funding and the JSGS partnership, is a researcher with an extensive background in municipal finance and governance. During the initial portion of her term with SUMA and JSGS, Dr. Ortynsky will focus her research on identifying best practices in inter-municipal cooperation to advance sustainability in Saskatchewan.

Mitacs is a not-for-profit organization that aims to help economies across Canada grow through innovation. Their decision to fund this position is a strong endorsement of the project Dr. Ortynsky is undertaking and the type of research it will elicit. SUMA is confident that this data will be insightful to municipalities and help bolster governance and growth in the long run.

Both SUMA and JSGS will be available to answer questions, and invite the media to attend the signing of the MOU at the SUMA office, on November 7, at 10 a.m.

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For more information visit www.suma.org, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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