



Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
Unit 305 4741 Parliament Avenue
Regina, SK S4W 0T9
306-525-3727

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatchewan's Urban Municipalities Benefit from Provincial Investment

Provincial investments are vital to improving the quality of life in Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities. With the release of the 2025-26 provincial budget, SUMA supports the province's effort to improve the lives of Saskatchewan's residents, particularly through increased funding for public safety, infrastructure, and health services. However, we would like to see additional investments around solving the mental health and addictions crisis being experienced throughout the province.

With many members in Saskatchewan's north, SUMA is aware of the unique challenges faced by municipalities in this area, particularly around transportation. As such, we are very pleased to see an investment of \$122.3 million to build, operate, and maintain roads and airports in northern Saskatchewan. The preservation and maintenance of northern roads to support the province's forestry industry will also help support economic development in Saskatchewan's northern communities.

We are satisfied with a \$17 million increase in capital for highways throughout the province, including a \$25.4 million investment in important safety infrastructure such as guardrails and lighting.

We are extremely pleased to see the province investing in municipal bylaw courts. SUMA has been advocating for more options for bylaw prosecution for many years; these courts are an important step in addressing the issue of backlogs in provincial courts leading to bylaw infractions going unaddressed.

We are also pleased with funding for the 14 new SCAN officers. However, the funding earmarked for municipal policing does not fully consider the increased costs for police officers or the infrastructure required to house them and will end up downloading costs back onto Saskatchewan's municipalities.

We are continually grateful for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. All of Saskatchewan's municipalities will benefit from the record investment of more than \$361.8 million in the program, an increase of 6.3 per cent from last year. We are very appreciative of the Government's continued commitment to the formula cooperatively developed with Saskatchewan's communities in mind.

"This is a time of substantial economic uncertainty, and many municipalities are contemplating increases to their mill rates to make up for the inflationary increases to the costs of things their residents depend on," said SUMA president Randy Goulden. "The Municipal Revenue Sharing program is key to ensuring these increases can stay as low as possible."

With SUMA's cornerstone advocacy issue being mental health and addictions, we are encouraged by the Government's ongoing commitment to funding addictions treatment options.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Government on addressing the root causes of the mental health and addictions crisis.

We are heartened by the additional nine-million-dollar investment into repairing and renovating existing units to be used for social housing in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. We recognize that the first step in addressing the mental health and addictions crisis is providing safe and stable housing for Saskatchewan's citizens.

"We look forward to working with the Government on continued engagement around the mental health and addictions and homelessness crisis faced by our province, including needed improvements to income support programs. We recognize there is still much work to do around solving these issues, which impacts all of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities," stated President Goulden.

While health is a provincial responsibility, SUMA is pleased to see the efforts made in recruitment and retention of physicians and nurses in the province. The announcement of 65 new and enhanced permanent full-time nursing positions, increased funding for physician services in the province, and the addition of 10 in-province physician training seats for family medicine are positive steps in addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals throughout our province.

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

Roxanne Korpan
Manager of Communications
SUMA
Telephone: 306-525-4396
communications@suma.org

Founded in 1905, SUMA is the voice of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities.