SUMA   City Mayors' Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Mayors Calling for Review of Social Housing Program

Mayors from Saskatchewan's cities are calling for a review of the province's social housing program, specifically eligibility criteria, as thousands of affordable housing units sit vacant.

"Stable housing is a basic need," Mayor Gerald Aalbers, Chair of SUMA's City Mayors' Caucus, said. "There are individuals in need of adequate, affordable shelter in our communities, yet we have more than 3,000 affordable housing units sitting vacant throughout the province, some chronically vacant."

The City Mayors' Caucus discussed the Social Housing Program at their meeting on June 24. Saskatchewan's Social Housing Program, administered by local housing authorities on behalf of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, is designed to provide safe and adequate housing to families and seniors with low incomes and people with disabilities. Housing is available in approximately 270 communities across Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's city mayors are calling on the Ministry of Social Services and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to review housing criteria, in partnership with municipalities, to ensure that the housing units are being appropriately used to improve housing stability.

"Mental health and addictions are a top concern for Saskatchewan's city mayors and for all of Saskatchewan's hometowns," said Mayor Aalbers, who also serves as Vice-President of Cities for SUMA. "Ensuring that those in need of housing have access to adequate, affordable, and stable accommodations is a first step to helping address the mental health and addictions crisis that we face within our province."

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

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