



Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
200 2222 13th Avenue
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January 30, 2018

Media Advisory

The Power of Hometowns on Display at SUMA Convention 2018

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) is hosting its 113th Annual Convention from February 4 to 7. Nearly 1,000 representatives from Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, and northern municipalities will come together in Regina for Convention 2018.

The annual convention is a great chance to highlight the exciting things happening in Saskatchewan hometowns. SUMA members get to bring their challenges and successes forward to each other, the provincial government, and the media. This is a chance to learn about the innovative projects happening all around the province and celebrate the dedication of municipal officials.

The convention theme *The Power of Hometowns* highlights that SUMA members are the economic drivers of this province, home to almost 80 per cent of the population. When SUMA and our members work together for a common goal, we have a powerful voice; Convention 2018 is the perfect time to listen to those stories and that voice.

The keynote speaker this year will be Doug Griffiths, President of 13 Ways. His address will examine what makes or breaks a community, based on his popular book *13 Ways to Kill your Community*.

All events will take place at the Queensbury Convention Centre (see important events in the attached backgrounder). Media must check in at the registration desk to receive a name badge for admission. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Attachments:
Important Convention 2018 Events
SUMA Long-Service Awards

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 urban Saskatchewan, representing cities, towns, and villages.



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Important Convention 2018 Events

Monday, February 5

Official Opening Ceremonies	9:00–9:30 a.m.
President’s Address	9:30–9:45 a.m.
Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Address	9:45–10:00 a.m.
Premier’s Address	11:15–11:45 a.m.
Leader of the Official Opposition’s Address	1:00–1:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6

Keynote Address	8:30–9:45 a.m.
Minister of Government Relations’ Address	12:45–1:00 p.m.
Saskatchewan Municipal Awards	1:00–1:30 p.m.
Resolutions	3:00–4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7

Bear Pit with Provincial Cabinet	10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
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SUMA Service Awards

Every year at the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony, the SUMA Board of Directors recognizes individuals from across the province who have demonstrated a commitment to outstanding service in the municipal field.

Through the awards program, SUMA acknowledges the contribution of individuals in the municipal field to an improved quality of life in their communities and to the advancement of local government in our province.

The SUMA Board accepts nominations from communities and councils throughout the province. The individuals nominated are considered the most deserving of recognition for their outstanding service to their communities.

On behalf of all SUMA members, we are proud to honour these individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development and prosperity of our communities and urban governments in Saskatchewan.

Meritorious Service Award

Meritorious service awards are granted to municipal staff members with 20 or more years of service. It recognizes their career success, dedication, and involvement in their local communities.

These award recipients are outstanding individuals who have become role models in their communities. Through their long service, they have made a valuable contribution to the success of their municipalities. They strive for an improved quality of life through a strong local government.

- Allen Babyak, Town of Esterhazy — 31 years
- Claude Bissonnette, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Barry Brown, Town of Esterhazy — 31 years
- Kevin Ford, Town of Kelvington — 31 years
- Rory Hope, Town of Kelvington — 25 years
- Dale Jeannot, Town of Esterhazy — 33 years
- Marlene Johnson, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Darryl Kerr, Town of Strasbourg — 20 years
- Borden Kishalowich, Town of Esterhazy — 38 years
- Gary Kowalshen, City of Yorkton — 23 years
- Terry Lovestone, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Darren McClelland, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Darryl Pitt, Town of Kelvington — 20 years
- Kim Vogel, Town of Kindersley — 26 years
- Les Weibe, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Greg Yung, Town of Strasbourg — 21 years
- Jeff Yung, Town of Strasbourg — 20 years
- Angela Zuravloff, City of Yorkton — 20 years

SUMA Service Awards

Honorary Service Award

Honorary Service Awards are granted to elected officials throughout the province with 20 or more years of service. It recognizes their long-term dedication to, and involvement in, their local communities.

These award recipients are individuals who demonstrate leadership in their communities and who strive for an improved quality of life. Their generous contributions of time and talent have strengthened their local governments.

- Barb Caird, Town of Ogema — 25 years
- Connie Korsberg, Village of Frontier — 22 years
- Wayne Myren, Town of Ogema — 25 years
- Thomas Sangster, Town of Stoughton — 24 years

Life Membership Award

A SUMA Life Membership award recognizes a former Board member whose career exemplifies commitment and dedication to community, and significant contributions to urban government in Saskatchewan through SUMA. For 2018, the SUMA Board of Directors chose **former Mayor of Sun Valley Barry Gunther** to receive this award.

Barry was instrumental in getting Sun Valley incorporated as a resort village in 1985. He then served his new community as mayor nearly 32 years—30 of which he also spent on the SUMA Board of Directors. Barry was Southwest Regional Director from 1987 to 1998, then Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities until he retired from municipal politics in 2016. For his contributions to his community, SUMA and our members, Barry was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Barry committed to serving Sun Valley and other Saskatchewan hometowns with his whole heart, serving on countless boards and committees and making connections everywhere he went. He dedicated most of his adult life to public service and helping others, whether it was in his career in economic and community development, his work as an elected official, or in his many volunteer roles. Always focused on connecting with and helping people, Barry was there to consult, counsel, advise, build bridges, and help people resolve disputes.

Scoop Lewry Award

The Scoop Lewry Award recognizes outstanding services in municipal government or administration on a local, provincial, and national basis. This award is dedicated to the memory of L.H. "Scoop" Lewry, long-time Mayor of Moose Jaw and past SUMA President, who dedicated his career to improving his community with a kind and humanitarian spirit. In 2018, **past SUMA President Debra Button** will receive this award.

When Debra was elected SUMA's first female President in 2013, she was in her third term as Weyburn's mayor, her fifth on their council. In less than four years, she left an indelible mark

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on SUMA's history, profile, culture and spirit, and established a reputation with our partners as a strong, capable and respected municipal leader.

Her strong and charismatic leadership was obvious from the moment of her election as SUMA President, and she worked tirelessly on behalf of Saskatchewan hometowns. She travelled the province to engage with SUMA members, served on boards and committees on their behalf, and advocated for them in interviews, boardrooms, offices, and conferences all over Canada. She was an active member on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) board of directors, and participated in FCM's international work — particularly in Ukraine. She was a passionate advocate for many issues, but especially for gender diversity and equality in government.