



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

March 29, 2022

For Immediate Release

Hometowns to Connect at 2022 SUMA Convention

For the first time in more than two years, representatives from Saskatchewan's cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities are gathering in-person for SUMA's annual convention. The 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow is taking place April 3-6 in Regina.

Themed *Connect*, Convention 2022 focuses on networking with peers, SUMA, provincial decision makers, and the more than 150 tradeshow exhibitors making up the Municipal Marketplace sponsored by Kinetic GPO. The annual event is an opportunity for SUMA members to bring their challenges and successes before their peers, the provincial government, and the media. Convention is also a chance to learn about the innovative projects happening all around the province and celebrate the dedication of municipal officials.

The keynote address will be by Don Iveson, former City of Edmonton mayor and former chair of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Big City Mayors' Caucus. While in office, Don worked to continually bridge the urban/rural divide, both nationally on the board of FCM and locally in the Edmonton metropolitan region. In his keynote address, Don will use his own experiences to talk about leadership and the importance of regional collaboration.

Convention 2022 is a mask friendly event. All events are taking 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. Important events, including the Premier's Address and President's Address, are also available to the media via livestream on [SUMA's YouTube channel](#).

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Attachments:
Important Convention 2022 Events
SUMA 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 Saskatchewan's hometowns.



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Important Convention 2022 Events

* Sessions that will be livestreamed and available on [SUMA's YouTube channel](#).

Monday, April 4

Official Opening Ceremonies*
Premier's Address*
Resolutions*

8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
11:20 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Leader of the Official Opposition's Address*
Keynote Address – Don Iveson
Minister of Government Relations' Address*
Saskatchewan Municipal Awards*

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
1:35 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

President's Address*
Bear Pit with Provincial Cabinet*

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
10:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.



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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.

- Eric Bilanski, Town of Battleford — 30 years
- Murray Chalk, City of Swift Current — 21 years
- Judy Cooper, Town of Moosomin — 20 years
- Michael Cooper, Town of Moosomin — 29 years
- Darren Cronan, Village of Montemartre — 28 years
- Kathy Dand, City of Swift Current — 21 years
- Cindy Davis, Town of Creighton — 20 years
- Ken Dobra, Town of Grenfell — 31 years
- Gary Edom, Town of Davidson — 35 years
- Larry Gabruch, Town of Battleford — 41 years
- Ken Hamnett, Town of Grenfell — 29 years
- Les Herle, Town of Battleford — 28 years
- Noreen Hoffart, Town of Battleford — 32 years
- Susan Jabs, Town of Watrous — 39 years
- Clay Kardash, Town of Grenfell — 20 years



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- Michael Kardash, Town of Grenfell — 20 years
- Dalas King, Town of Outlook — 20 years
- Kendra Klassen, City of Swift Current — 20 years
- Shayne LaMontagne, Town of Regina Beach — 26 years
- Luke Lockhart, Town of Outlook — 20 years
- Joe Matichuk, Town of Moosomin — 35 years
- Blaine McDonald, Town of Grenfell — 20 years
- Robert Moran, Town of Moosomin — 50 years
- Alice Neufeld, City of Weyburn — 34 years
- Greg Nosterud, Town of Moosomin — 36 years
- Jim Pratt, Town of Grand Coulee — 31 years
- Susan Pyette, Town of Outlook — 20 years
- Wendall Runns, Town of Indian Head — 22 years
- Marty Salberg, City of Swift Current — 22 years
- Cameron Silzer, City of Swift Current — 21 years
- Greg Smith, Town of Grenfell — 37 years
- Dwayne Stone, Town of Grenfell — 35 years
- Jack Thompson, Town of Moosomin — 35 years

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.

- Edmund Collins, Town of Watrous — 32 years
- Barry Elderkin, Town of Maple Creek — 25 years
- Gail Erhart, Town of Asquith — 21 years
- Bernard Flynn, Town of Beechy — 29 years
- Kenneth Klemenz, Town of Ogema — 27 years
- Greg Linnen, Town of Wadena — 20 years
- Leonard Margolis, Town of Kinistino — 49 years
- Neil McDonald, Town of Watrous — 20 years
- Rod Wolfe, Town of Grenfell — 21 years



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Scoop Lewry Award

The Scoop Lewry Award recognizes outstanding service 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. The 2021 recipient is Mike O’Donnell.

In 2006, Mike O’Donnell ran for council in the city of Regina to be a part of and influence the community, and to look after the people who call Regina home. Mike spent 14 years serving Regina as Ward 8 councillor, sitting four consecutive terms before electing not to seek re-election in 2020. During his time on council, there were many notable moments and accomplishments for the city, but two that Mike holds close are his opportunity to chair two national infrastructure summits, and chairing the host committee for the Olympic Torch Relay - an event that saw 10,000 attendees, including the president and CEO of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee, John Furlong.

Mike chaired the Infrastructure Summit when the federal government announced they would change the funding method for infrastructure and give money directly to municipalities. Everyone in municipal government understands the importance of having municipal voices at the table and for municipalities to have as much say as possible in the matters that affect them directly. Infrastructure is one of those matters.

Other notable accomplishments during Mike’s time at the City of Regina council table included coordinating the partnership and financing for Leibel Field, a state of the art facility for outdoor football and soccer currently valued at \$11 million; championing a review and change to school zone safety; chairing the Henry Baker Scholarship Committee, where Regina city council recognized 17 post-secondary students with \$2,000 scholarships; chairing the finance committee for development and construction of Mosaic stadium; chairing the Regina Planning Commission for nine years; championing the Smart Cities approach and being an early promoter of sustainable development for the City, and spending 12 years as a member of the Board for the Wascana Centre Authority.

Mike joined the SUMA Board of Directors in 2012, spending eight years in that role and serving on the Executive for a number of those. He was a well-known face at SUMA’s annual convention, moderating the Bear Pit with government officials for a few years before transitioning to chair the Resolutions committee, and therefore serving as a moderator at the Resolutions session.

With his federal experience, it was a natural transition for Mike to sit on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as well. He considered his five years experience on that board to be an excellent opportunity to bring back information to both his local



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council and the SUMA board, and in that way, ensure that municipalities in Saskatchewan had a say in what was going on at the federal level.

A lifelong volunteer, Mike began coaching neighbourhood teams at 18. Throughout his career as a teacher, he coached at the high school and university levels. For Mike, it was not about winning or losing, rather, giving the kids the experience of being a part of a team. He has received several awards relating to coaching, including the Saskatchewan Highschool's Athletic Association's Merit Award (x2), Prairie Thunder Football Club Community Award, Regina Rams coach.