

MUNICIPAL Update

August 12, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 14

Candidate School -
Northern Municipalities

August 16

SUMA Golf Tournament hosted
by the Town of Maple Creek

September 11

Candidate School - Municipal
Governance 101: Cities, Towns,
and Villages

September 12

Northern Members' Meeting

September 17

Candidate School - Town Hall

September 18

Candidate School - Village Hall

September 19

Candidate School - City Hall

September 23

Procurement Bootcamp for
Urban Municipal Administrators

See all [upcoming events](#).



At home, in the office, or on the go, listen to MuniCast on all major podcast platforms!

MuniCast is the podcast that discusses municipal leadership and unique perspectives on local governance. Previous episodes have included conversations with individuals and organizations to explore the core principles and challenges municipal leaders face. Episodes from the last six seasons cover topics including mental health and addictions, lessons in leadership, truth and reconciliation for municipalities, getting to know SUMA, and more.

All episodes are available to be listened to at any time.

[Listen to MuniCast!](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Election 2024: Key Issues

As we approach the provincial election, SUMA has been creating an advocacy strategy aimed at the

next Government. This strategy will be the focus of our advocacy efforts for the next few months as it outlines the changes we want to see the next government take action on:

Municipal Revenues

Municipalities are the governments closest to and most accessed by the public. Urban municipalities own 60% of public infrastructure, such as roads, water, wastewater treatment, recreation, green spaces and fire halls, to name a few. To maintain these systems, municipalities must run balanced operating budgets. **Despite ever-increasing responsibilities, streams of funding available to municipalities have not increased;** they have only property taxes and grants from other orders of government for streams of income.

SUMA has been asking for access to more revenue streams and substantial changes to our assessment and revenue systems to better meet needs. Municipalities want to see **simplified tax structures when it comes to assessments, more funding for next generation infrastructure**, such as landfills, hospitals, and green infrastructure, and **support for municipal growth with opportunities to help retain newcomers.**

Municipal Responsibilities

Municipalities work under regulations over which they have little control. For example, many of our communities are governed by the Police Act, which doesn't fit the needs of our modern world. We want to see **holistic changes to the act that will allow police to focus on enforcement, while including other professionals in cases where necessary to provide wrap-around care.**

Future governments can also help municipalities with **bylaw enforcement and prosecution through supports for education and by increasing what municipalities can add to tax rules.**

We also want to see **support for new technology and education concerning landfill closures, and support for the Municipal Eco-Action Centre**, which will help municipalities across the province navigate climate change and resilience plans through grassroots support and knowledge. Municipalities need programs and investments which will attract newcomers and help them settle and continue to live, work, and play in our communities.

Provincial Downloading

Municipalities do not have the fiscal capacity to handle social services, housing, and shelters, nor should they be responsible for providing these basic needs. However, time and again, despite the lack of funds, municipalities keep having to step in to relieve the stress their communities feel directly. The province must step up and provide better help to residents, or it will continue to cost municipalities more money. We have expressed our concerns over **mental health and addictions, and housing issues** regularly. In particular, **SIS and SAID need drastic improvements to be helpful to the people who must access these services.**

Future governments must also take a firm stance on **climate change**, and provide **environmental leadership**. Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces in Canada without a wetland policy, and one is necessary to ensure sustainable water management practices.

We are URBAN.



Participate in the **We are URBAN.** campaign by **submitting a photo and description of landmarks, buildings, or events from your community that you want to highlight.**

We are URBAN. shines a spotlight on all the ways urban municipalities—from the smallest villages to the largest cities—serve their population. Whether it's the new skating rink, water and sewer services, parks, or libraries, these are just some examples of facilities that make our cities, towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities urban hubs bringing people together.

Throughout the campaign we are using memoryKPR to collect submissions. All we need you to do is submit a picture and a brief explanation of what you choose to highlight! If you have them, include your social media tags and information. We'll tag you to draw more traffic to your pages!

Learn more about We are URBAN.

As you travel across Saskatchewan, you'll see billboards of communities proudly declaring, **We are URBAN.** Have you found all the participating municipalities? Keep an eye out for billboards of these communities:

- Balgonie
- Bethune
- Birch Hills
- Bredenbury
- Chaplin
- Codette
- Davidson
- Delisle
- Foam Lake
- Hanley
- Langham
- Marshall
- Paynton
- Radisson
- Watson

Help us highlight your community as part of the urban family! **Let us know if you have a community operated billboard and would like to see your municipality's name on it.** Participate and be an even bigger part of the **We are URBAN.** campaign. Contact us at communications@suma.org.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the **We Are URBAN. billboard contest! Congratulations to our winners:**

- Carly Hess: Fun in the Sun
- Jason Stonehouse: Backyard Blast
- Carly Hess: Summer Reads
- Yvonne Jess: Grand Prize

Please continue to follow our socials on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

SUMA CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Learn about being an elected official in this virtual session for potential municipal election candidates.



Check www.suma.org/events/candidate-school for more information and to register.

Candidate School is a **FREE virtual opportunity** for potential municipal election candidates to learn about being an elected official.

SUMA is seeking your support in sharing these events to potential elected officials in your municipality. Please share information about the event in your community and on social media using the resources provided by SUMA. Resources including a printable poster, social media graphic, and text for emails and social media posts are available on our [website](#).

Candidate School sessions consist of two parts, Municipal Governance 101 and a "Hall" session specific to your sector. During Municipal Governance 101 participants learn how democracy works, the roles and responsibilities of council, ways to navigate conflicts of interest, and challenges unique to their sector. The "Hall" session is a question and answer period where attendees can ask their municipal governance questions.

[Access promotional resources here.](#)



On **Monday September 23** from **9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** join us online for a **Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators**.

Step into this comprehensive workshop on urban municipal procurement where you will be guided through a wide array of procurement essentials. From uncovering best practices to understanding mandatory requirements, policies, and cooperative buying groups, this workshop has you covered. This workshop will explore topics including INCO terms, competitive bidding laws, and truth and reconciliation actions. Facilitator Larry Berglund will also address illegal supplier practices, service level agreements, working effectively with elected officials, and more! Join us for a practical and engaging journey into procurement excellence.

This event will be held virtually and is open to administrators from SUMA member municipalities only. Space is limited so register soon to secure your spot.

Please note: a recording of the session will not be available. This event will be held again in 2025.

Webinar Recordings Available on SUMA's Member Portal

All webinar recordings are available on the **SUMA member portal** at suma.org/member-login. During the summer months, there will be no new webinars, however, we'll return to our regular schedule in the fall.

If you missed any webinars that you would like to revisit or share with other staff or elected officials in your municipality, they can be accessed on the member portal. Each municipality has one shared login for the member portal that can be distributed to all staff and members of council.

If you are unsure of your login information, please contact communications2@suma.org for assistance.

OTHER UPDATES

2024 Municipal Election Information from SUMA

SUMA began offering election supplies and ballot printing during the 1997 election year. Members can take advantage of our bulk purchasing savings and friendly customer service when preparing for their municipal elections/byelections.

Member Advantages

- Substantial cost savings, based on bulk purchasing of supplies and bulk processing of ballots.
- Supplies shipped using the most cost effective method for each individual municipality (usually within 3-5 business days of order receipt).
- When the order is received by the SUMA office within **15 business days prior to the advance poll date**, guaranteed processing of ballot orders to meet the limited turn-around time between close of nominations, advance poll, and election dates. Orders received less than 15 business days prior to the advance poll date cannot be guaranteed.
- Members will be invoiced directly from SUMA.

Election Supplies and Ballot Order Forms

- [Election supplies and ballots](#) *SUMA MEMBERS ONLY* (PDF document)
- **SARM Members only:** [Election supplies](#) (PDF document)

Contact Information

Please scan and email forms to suma@suma.org

Handy References & Links

- Electoral Forms - Print Your Own : Visit the [Publications Saskatchewan](#) to download and print your own Election Forms.
- Can't find what you're looking for? Forms may also be found at [the King's Printer](#).
- [The Local Government Election Act, 2015](#)
- [The Local Government Election Regulations, 2015](#)
- [Election Procedures for Municipalities](#)

Municipal Administrator's Corner – Elections Resources

2024 is a general election year for all municipalities in Saskatchewan. **Cities, towns, villages, and northern municipalities will hold their general elections on November 13.** Election day for **resort villages is July 27**. (Northern municipalities may move their election date earlier by decision of council).

To learn about amendments to [The Local Government Election Act, 2015](#) and [The Local Government Election Regulations, 2015](#), please check out the document [Information Bulletin: Amendments to The Local Government Election Act, 2015](#).

The Advisory Services and Municipal Relations branch has also updated several resources to assist election officials in carrying out their municipal election. [The Election-Byelection Scheduling Tool](#) is a great resource to map out the municipal election process and become familiar with the legislated dates and publishing requirements. [The Local Government Election Guide](#) for Saskatchewan municipalities has also been updated and is available to help municipal election officials understand the municipal election process and perform their duties.

For additional questions regarding municipal election legislation or these resources, please contact the Advisory Services and Municipal Relations branch at **306-787-2680** or by email at muninfo@gov.sk.ca.

Election Resources for Citizens Running for Council

The Ministry of Government Relations, in consultation with the municipal associations (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan and Rural Municipal Administrators' Association), developed the following **resources geared toward citizens who are thinking about running for municipal council**:

- [Guide – Consider Running for Municipal Council](#) – A citizen's guide for candidacy in municipal elections.
- [Videos](#) – Four pre-recorded videos that break down the guide content into shorter video clips by topic.
- [Poster](#) – A poster that contains a QR code that the public can use to go to saskatchewan.ca where the new resources are located.
-

As an administrator, you're encouraged to communicate the availability of these resources to the public by:

- Displaying the poster in the municipal office and/or public spaces frequented by your citizens.
- Printing copies of the poster and/or guide to have available in the office.
- Including the poster on the municipality's website.
- Including information in upcoming mailouts of the municipality.

Changes to the Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulations

Saskatchewan is considering changes to [The Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulations](#). The Ministry of Environment completed a review of the regulations in 2023 and wants to understand how proposed changes may impact your municipality, business or organization.

We invite you to review the Ministry of Environment's [Summary of Proposed Changes](#) and **provide written feedback to advocacy1@suma.org by September 3, 2024**.

Thank you for participating in the engagement process. Your feedback is appreciated and will provide insight into the ministry's proposed changes to The Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulations.

Legal Opinion: R v Greater Sudbury (City)

On November 10, 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision in *R v Greater Sudbury (City)*, which discussed the **current status of municipal liability when it comes to relationships with contractors**. In this case, the City of Sudbury contracted with a construction company to complete road maintenance. Unfortunately, a piece of construction equipment on the job site fatally struck a pedestrian. There were various safety procedures and protocols which were not being followed by the contractor.

Typically, **municipalities have been able to limit or avoid liability by “contracting out” of responsibility for following and enforcing construction safety rules and regulations, by designating the contractor as the party ultimately responsible for following such governing legislation** (in Ontario, this was the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*; in Saskatchewan, it would be *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* and its *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*). However, in this case, the contractor *and* the City of Sudbury were both found liable for the failure to comply with governing health and safety legislation. The Court also found that the defense of due diligence may still exist for municipalities, depending on the facts of the case.

While this case has not yet been applied in Saskatchewan, it is an area of the law to monitor, as **it will change how municipalities should conduct business with contractors**. In particular, **municipalities will likely need to take a more collaborative approach with contracting companies and be more involved in ensuring health and safety procedures and rules are actually being followed**, in order to demonstrate the defense of due diligence and protect themselves from liability.

ADVERTISEMENTS



United Rental is the largest equipment company in the world, and one of **Kinetic GPO's approved suppliers**. Their offering is quite vast and covers thousands of pieces of equipment that can be rented by a Municipality and their Public Works Department. In addition to traditional rentals, United Rentals Fluid Specialty team also offers Service.

The team at United Rentals is quite experienced and can help guide you with any project at hand.

To contact the closest United Rentals branch, please visit www.ur.com.

To contact their full catalogue, feel free to view this link: <https://view.publitas.com/ur-fr/full/>

For additional information please contact Jason Korinetz, Territory Manager at 306-203-6993 or jkorinetz@ur.com.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS





Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Cabri: *Town Foreman* (August 12)
- Town of Lampman: *Maintenance and Equipment Operator* (August 13)
- City of Flin Flon: *Works and Operations Foreman* (August 16)
- Town of Wynyard: *Assistant Administrator* (August 16)
- Town of Davidson: *Operations Manager* (August 16)
- City of Moose Jaw: *Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis* (August 21)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? **Submit your ad** on our website.

Find the latest listings by visiting the **classifieds** section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- *Regional Recreation Practitioner Pilot Program* (August 14)
- *Saskatchewan Legion: Veteran Service Club Grant* (August 31)

For a full listing of grants, check the **Grants** section of our website under the Resources tab.

SUMA | suma.org

Join Our Mailing List

