

MUNICIPAL Update

October 5, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7

MuniCast: S11:E3

October 7

Webinar: From Evidence to Local Action: Supporting Municipalities to Address Substance Use

October 15

Virtual SUMA Advocacy Forum

October 21

Emerging Trends in Municipal Law

October 22

Webinar: Level Up Your Asset Management

October 28

Part 2: Virtual Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators

November 16 & 17

Treaty Learning Journey: Let's Talk Truth

January 20

Virtual SUMA Summit

See all [upcoming events](#).

Convention Education Sessions: Call for Submissions

SUMA is inviting proposals for education sessions during the 2027 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow at TCU Place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan April 4 to 7.

Being a presenter is an outstanding way to share your knowledge and expertise, leading to professional visibility, recognition, credibility, and influence in the future of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities. We encourage municipalities with established best practices or partnerships to consider submitting a presentation proposal. We also encourage you to share this call with your networks.

This call is open until October 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Learn more and submit a proposal [here](#).

Submit a Proposal Here



Is your entire council receiving *Municipal Update* emails? We encourage mayors, councillors, and administrators to **individually sign up to our newsletter** so our updates make it straight to your inbox. Please share this email with your colleagues and encourage them to sign up today!

Sign Up for Email Updates from SUMA

Reminder: Access to SUMA Member Portal

The **SUMA Member Portal** hosts valuable resources for members including meeting recordings, webinars, and more.

Each municipality has one shared login for the Member Portal that should be distributed to all staff and members of council. Please contact your Chief Administrative Officer for access. We encourage you to revisit or share previous webinars, Board and Caucus meeting minutes, and other relevant information with other staff or elected officials.

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

Visit the SUMA Member Portal

Advocacy Update

SUMA Presents at UMNAB Annual Conference

Last week, SUMA CEO Jean-Marc Nadeau presented on a panel at the Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick Annual Conference. The panel, "Property Tax: Fiscal Tools in Other Jurisdictions," was presented along with ABMunis and explored how municipalities across Canada use a range of fiscal tools to support local services, infrastructure, and long-term financial sustainability. CEO Nadeau shared insights from Saskatchewan, including changes SUMA has proposed to how SAMA conducts assessment and Municipal Revenue Sharing being used to offset municipal operating costs.

Meeting with MP Brad Redekopp

SUMA was pleased to meet with MP Brad Redekopp last week to discuss his proposed *Housing Cost Transparency Act (Bill C-287)*. The bill is intended to increase transparency in the development of national building code changes by requiring clearer public reporting on the costs, impacts, and assumptions associated with proposed code amendments. Municipal governments share an interest in ensuring that policies and regulations support the delivery of safe, affordable housing while balancing the financial realities facing communities across Canada.



Advocacy on Urban Highway Connector Program

SUMA recently submitted a letter to the Minister of Highways, the Honourable Kim Gartner, regarding the Urban Highway Connector Program (UHCP). SUMA is asking for increased funding to

the UHCP to ensure the program meets the growing needs of Saskatchewan's cities and requesting further engagement on the program.

Read the letter [here](#).

SUMA Attends 2026 PARCS Conference



Last week, SUMA attended the 2026 Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS) Conference. This year's program focused on practical, policy-relevant topics including water security, shoreline development, water distribution, council operations, Bill 43, and tax assessment. There were also educational sessions related to disaster preparedness and the Community Safety Officer program.

SUMA's Village Caucus includes representation from two resort villages. In 2026, PARCS also joined this caucus as an Ex-Officio. SUMA's continued engagement and collaboration with partners in this sector helps strengthen our advocacy.

Share Your Experience with Airport Runway Extensions

SUMA is looking to hear from communities with airports that have been in contact with officials from the Ministry of Highways and/or Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement in regards to the upgrading of the air ambulance fleet. There have been concerns that upgrading to larger airplanes may require extensions of some runways across the province. While nothing has been confirmed to date, we are looking to hear from individual communities regarding their experience.

Please contact Dustin Austman, Advocacy Advisor, at advocacy3@suma.org or 306-525-4321.

Seeking Feedback: Amendments to the *Planning and Development Act*

The Ministry of Government Relations is considering potential amendments to the *Planning and Development Act* and is inviting input over the coming months. The Ministry is seeking to further explore the following planning and development-related matters:

- Timelines
- Fee bylaws
- Enforcement
- Contract zoning
- General amendments that improve the clarity and efficiency of the legislation

If you would like to ensure your municipality's feedback is incorporated, please contact Dustin Austman, Advocacy Advisor, at advocacy3@suma.org or 306-525-4321.

Capacity Building Opportunities



MuniCast S11:E2 Women in Saskatchewan Municipal Leadership

What inspires women to put their names on the ballot, and what does it take to thrive in local government? In ***MuniCast S11:E2 Women in Saskatchewan Municipal Leadership***, join Mayor Pat Jackson of the Town of Kipling, Councillor Victoria Flores of the City of Regina, and Councillor Kathy Evans of the Town of Birch Hills as they share their journeys into municipal leadership. From family influences and community involvement to encouragement from mentors, they discuss what motivated them to run, what surprised them about serving on council, and why diverse voices are essential to building stronger communities. The conversation also explores the unique challenges women face in public office, the importance of mentorship and support networks, and what municipalities can do to encourage more women to step forward as candidates. Tune in for an honest discussion about leadership, representation, and creating a path toward greater gender parity in local government.

Learn more about the work being done to increase council parity by the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities Women in Local Leadership program](#) and [Equal Voice's research on women in politics](#).

MuniCast is available on all major podcast platforms, including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), and [YouTube](#). Keep an eye on member emails or subscribe to **MuniCast** on your platform of choice to be notified when the latest episodes are released.



Webinar

SUMA

10.07.26
10:00-11:00 a.m.

From Evidence to Local Action: Supporting Municipalities to Address Substance Use



From Evidence to Local Action: Supporting Municipalities to Address Substance Use

On **Wednesday, October 7** at **10:00 a.m.** join us for the webinar ***From Evidence to Local Action: Supporting Municipalities to Address Substance Use***. Small and mid-sized communities face distinct substance use challenges and are well positioned to lead locally tailored solutions. This webinar introduces the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's Small Cities Initiative and its Playbook for Action and Implementation Guide, which offers more than 50 evidence-based interventions and a step-by-step process for implementation. Participants will learn how municipalities can use their local levers, data and partnerships to select practical responses, strengthen community coordination, and improve health, safety and well-being.

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by SUMAssure. Webinars are free to all SUMA members, there is a fee of \$45 + GST and PST for non-members to attend.

[Register Now](#)

SUMA's webinar program is
sponsored by



SUMA Advocacy Forum

October 15
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Virtual SUMA Advocacy Forum: Make Your Voice Heard

Strong advocacy starts with direct conversations. The **SUMA Virtual Advocacy Forum** provides another opportunity for Saskatchewan's municipal leaders to engage directly with provincial Ministers outside of the annual SUMA Convention. Join SUMA on **Thursday, October 15**, from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for four interactive Dialogue with Minister sessions where you can ask questions, highlight local priorities, and help ensure urban municipal perspectives are heard at the provincial level.

Agenda:

8:00 a.m. Ministry of Social Services, RCMP

Honourable Terry Jenson, Minister of Social Services, and Robin McNeil, O.O.M., Assistant Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

9:00 a.m. Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, Ministry of Highways

Honourable Kim Gartner, Minister of Highways, and Honourable Sean Wilson, Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement

9:55 a.m. BREAK

10:05 a.m. Ministry of Environment

Honourable Darlene Rowden, Minister of Environment

11:00 a.m. Ministry of Government Relations

Honourable Eric Schmalz, Minister of Government Relations

This event is open to SUMA members only and will NOT be recorded. There is no cost to attend. If you are unable to attend the full event you can join for the sessions you are available for.

Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard and strengthen the collective advocacy of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities!

[Register Here!](#)



Emerging Trends in Municipal Law

Presented by  **BROWNLEE LLP**
Barristers & Solicitors

Virtual Workshop: Emerging Trends in Municipal Law

Join us online on **Wednesday, October 21** from **8:30 a.m.** to **12:15 p.m.** to learn about the latest legal insights and current issues relevant to municipalities across the province. Presented by lawyers from Brownlee LLP, the virtual workshop **Emerging Trends in Municipal Law** will provide municipal leaders with high level overview of key legal principles impacting governance and risk management strategies tailored to Saskatchewan's municipal landscape.

Topics include:

- Protecting municipalities from internal fraud
- Duty of care
- Regional governance
- Employer rights and obligations relating to off-duty misconduct

The morning will end with a Bearpit style session for attendees to ask presenters additional questions.

This event is exclusively for SUMA members. There is no cost to attend.

[Register Now](#)



Level up your Asset Management with the AM Prairie Support Program

Sponsored by

 **SUMAssure**

Webinar: Level Up Your Asset Management

Are your asset management practices stagnant? Do you need guidance or resources for ways to take action or improve asset management communication? Are you applying for grant funding and need to demonstrate climate adaptation, resilience or asset management considerations?

On **Thursday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m.**, join us for the webinar, **Level up your Asset Management with the AM Prairie Support Program**, to learn about the FREE support offered to eligible communities through the Asset Management Prairie Support Program. Learn how your organization can benefit from participating, register, and get started. If you already have a project in mind, this webinar will also cover how to apply to the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) to get paired with an expert and start working on an options report.

As a bonus, attendees will also get a preview of how to use the climate adaptation and resilience tools and library of resources that are FREE to everybody on the Climate Insight platform. Learn more about the program [here](#).

[Register Now](#)

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by



Virtual Workshop



November 16 and 17

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Treaty Learning Journey: Let's Talk Truth

Presented by



Strengthen Your Understanding of Treaty Relationships

You're invited to participate in the **Treaty Learning Journey: Let's Talk Truth (TLJ)** facilitated by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) on **November 16** and **17**. Tailored to SUMA members and municipalities in Saskatchewan, this two-day virtual training is designed to deepen participants' understanding of First Nations communities, Treaties, and our collective role in strengthening Treaty relationships.

Whether you are new to Treaty education or looking to deepen your understanding, the Treaty Learning Journey offers an important opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Mark your calendar for **November 16** and **17**, and join us for this valuable learning experience!

This event is exclusively for SUMA members and affiliate members.
There is no cost to attend.

[Register Now](#)



The Saskatchewan Municipal
Awards are sponsored by



Nominations Open
September 8 - November 24



Saskatchewan Municipal Awards: Nominations Open

Celebrate municipal innovation across Saskatchewan!

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards until **November 24 at 4:00 p.m.**

The awards shine a spotlight on municipally led projects that are enhancing communities through innovation, collaboration, and positive impact. Recognition is awarded for the province's top municipal, rural municipal, and urban municipal initiatives. The Regional Cooperation Award also honours successful partnerships between urban and rural municipalities working together to achieve shared goals.

Have a project worth celebrating? Submit your nomination and share your municipality's success story.

[Learn More and Nominate](#)

CONVENTION 2027

SUMA Impact Initiative: Call for Submissions

The SUMA Impact Initiative is designed to foster lasting impact through mutual support, community connection, and educational outreach.

This funding and outreach opportunity is exclusively available to registered non-profit and community-based organizations operating within Saskatchewan that are in need of additional financial and/or community support. Priority will be given to organizations with a province-wide mandate. Organizations such as professional associations, trade groups, or member-funded entities that do not rely primarily on external donations or grants for operational viability are not eligible.

This call is open until October 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Learn more and submit a proposal [here](#).

OTHER UPDATES

Canada's Rural and Remote Broadband Community Conference & Expo 2026 - Western Canada

Canada's Rural and Remote Broadband Community Conference & Expo is taking place in **Saskatoon** from **November 2 to 3**.

This year's conference theme is "The Infinite Build: Navigating the Perpetual Horizon of Connectivity." For a decade, the narrative across rural and remote Canada was clear: Connect the unconnected. We focused on the "finish line"—a specific speed, a specific map, a specific government target. But as foundational builds near completion, a new reality is setting in: In the digital age, there is no "done."



The Infinite Build is a call to action for the architects of Canada's remote economy. We are moving from the era of "Basic Access" into the era of "Infinite Demand." With the explosion of AI, the surge in satellite constellations, and the integration of remote sensing, the infrastructure we thought was the destination is actually just the first step.

If we remain complacent, we risk building tomorrow's bottlenecks today. This conference is where we stop chasing old targets and start defining the end game.

Learn more and register [here](#).

[Read more](#) about the role of the the **Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC)**, co-chaired by the CEOs of SUMA and SARM, in bringing this conference to Saskatchewan. The SBAC worked to move the conference to Saskatchewan to highlight the opportunities in our province.

FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference: Discounted Registration Available Now

Behind every community are leaders navigating complex challenges—from aging infrastructure and rising costs to more frequent forest fires and flooding. But you don't have to face today's challenges alone.

[FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference \(SCC\)](#) is returning on February 8-11, 2027, this time in Ottawa, Ontario. With world-class speakers, practical workshops and networking events, you'll find new ways to implement local priorities at speed and scale.

Special rates are available to members of small (population under 10,000), rural, Northern and Indigenous communities. We also offer promo codes for Via Rail, Air Canada, Porter Airlines, WestJet and The Westin Ottawa hotel.

[Register early and save.](#)

Heritage Conservation Webinars

The Heritage Conservation Branch is pleased to announce that registration is now open for two online workshops providing training in heritage conservation tools that will be of interest to anyone who owns, uses, manages, interprets, or regulates heritage buildings.

Statement of Significance

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A Statement of Significance is a document that explains why a historic place is important and identifies the features of the place that should be preserved. Using case-studies and a virtual exercise, workshop participants will learn how to assess a heritage building's heritage value, identify its character-defining elements, and communicate this information in a well-written Statement of Significance. Register [here](#).

Heritage Standards and Guidelines

Thursday, October 22, 2026 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

It is necessary to properly maintain heritage buildings, and sometimes to make changes to them. This workshop will discuss best practices for this work, including striking a balance between heritage requirements and economic feasibility. Participants will be introduced to the ***Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada***, a nationally recognized manual that guides decisions about alterations to heritage buildings and other historic places. Register [here](#).

The workshops qualify for professional learning credits from the Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance.

There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is required. **Registrations will be accepted until Friday, October 16, 2026.**

Community Care: Naloxone and Harm Reduction Training in Saskatoon

In partnership with University of Saskatchewan School of Public Health and Substance Use Research Group for Engagement (SURGE), this workshop provides practical, life-saving knowledge on how to recognize and respond to an overdose, alongside foundational principles of harm reduction. Participants will learn how substance use affects individuals and communities, and how compassionate, informed actions can reduce risks and save lives.

Through a combination of discussion, real-life scenarios, and hands-on practice, attendees will build confidence in identifying the signs of an overdose and responding effectively using naloxone. The workshop also explores key harm reduction strategies that promote safety, dignity, and respect for people who use substances.

Beyond individual response, this session highlights the power of community. Participants will reflect on how stigma can impact access to care and learn ways to foster supportive, non-judgmental communities. By strengthening awareness, connection, and shared responsibility, communities can play a vital role in preventing overdoses and supporting recovery and wellbeing.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Help Shape the Future of AI in Canadian Municipalities

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), with funding from the Future Skills Centre at Toronto Metropolitan University, is conducting a national study on **how municipalities with populations under 100,000 are adopting and preparing for artificial intelligence (AI)**. We want to hear from municipal staff and elected officials about how AI is being used, the opportunities and challenges they are seeing, and what support may be needed.



Canadian
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Institute

Institut
Urbain du
Canada

Take the short survey: [English](#) | [French](#)

Interested in a 30-minute interview? [Book a time with Rino Bortolin.](#)

Rental Development Program Now Accepting Applications

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) is excited to announce an intake to the **Rental Development Program (RDP)**.

The SHC is currently seeking applications for affordable rental housing projects being sponsored by non-profit, municipal entities, and/or Indigenous-led organizations with expertise in developing rental housing and providing support services for hard-to-house households.

For more information on this intake of the RDP and the application form, please visit:
www.saskatchewan.ca/business/housing-development-construction-and-property-management/developing-affordable-housing/rental-development-program.

SHC is accepting applications until **November 2, 2026**.

MEPP: Upcoming Learning Events

Join MEPP for upcoming learning events to understand how your pension can work for you in retirement.

Build Your Retirement Plan

This learning event will introduce you to your go to contacts at Plannera, explain some of the services Plannera offers, and set you on the path to creating and updating a financial plan. It will discuss other sources of income you will have in retirement and things you should consider when making investment decisions. It will also cover tax considerations and pension legislation around your marital status.

Prepare to Retire

This session will help you with your budget considerations in retirement and investigate in more detail the various sources of income you may have such as the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and other potential investments. It will provide you with information on tax planning considerations and ask you to reflect on other aspects of your financial picture. Topics will include wills and estates, powers of attorney and other topics to help get your financial house in order.

Both sessions will also provide an overview of how the MEPP pension works, explore your MEPP pension payment options, and help you understand how your MEPP pension fits into your broader retirement strategy.

Learn more [here](#).

2026 Paths to Prosperity Provincial Summit & Saskatchewan's Community Safety & Well-Being Forum

The **Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance (SEDA)** and partners will host the 2026 Provincial Summit on **October 27 and 28**.

The **2026 Paths to Prosperity Summit** "Connecting the Dots" turns promising ideas into realistic initiatives by linking communities, innovators, funders, and community builders.



Saskatchewan's Community Safety and Well-Being Forum will take place before the Summit on October 26.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Establish the RCMP Heritage Centre as a National Museum

The **RCMP Heritage Centre** in Regina is seeking support to become Canada's newest national museum. **The Centre has been working toward national museum status since 2020 and has launched a petition urging the Government of Canada to complete the transition**, creating a museum that explores the full breadth of the RCMP's history, celebrates service and contributions, and creates space for diverse perspectives, reflection, and reconciliation. National museum status would mark an important milestone for Regina and Saskatchewan, establishing only the second national museum in Western Canada.

[Learn more and sign the petition.](#)

Why the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Funding Grant Matters

Municipalities often face resource constraints, administrative hurdles, and governance complexities for starting new or costly initiatives beyond normal operations of the municipality. **Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Grant Funding** directly addresses these issues by reviewing applications to fund **75% of these costs** with the intent to:

- **Encourage Inter-Community Collaboration:** Projects must involve at least one partner municipality or community, fostering regional unity and shared solutions.
- **Enhance Governance and Capacity:** Funding supports training, restructuring, and strategic planning that elevates municipal leadership and administration.
- **Drive Innovation in Service Delivery:** From emergency management plans to regional land use strategies, TSS-funded projects improve efficiency and responsiveness.

Each project can receive up to **75% of eligible costs, capped at \$100,000 maximum funding**, making it a high-impact, low-barrier opportunity for municipalities to innovate and grow.

TSS is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5 million per fiscal year) used to encourage inter-community collaboration, help build capacity and promote good governance in all Saskatchewan municipalities. The funds are used to support projects that help municipalities strengthen their core governance and administration responsibilities

The TSS Steering Committee is now accepting applications for funding under this program.

Applications are accepted at any time of the year and will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

Please view the [intake guide](#) for details on the TSS initiative, project eligibility, and the application process. The online application portal can be accessed [here](#).

Learn About How TSS Can Support Your Community

Partnership with People First HR Provides Assistance to SUMA Members

Does the thought of HR make your head hurt? We get it.

HR issues can be complex and difficult to navigate. That's why SUMA has partnered with **People First HR** to provide group benefit members with HR On Call support and access to 100s of HR templates.

Approved callers can get HR On Call support for topics such as:

- Creating a respectful workplace
- Employee relations
- Managing leaves
- Performance management guidance including employee discipline
- Termination
- Disability management consultation (accommodations, return to work, doctor notes)
- Legislation and best practice
- Requirements for policy development and workplace procedures



Free up time with access to hundreds of HR templates

From recruitment to performance management, policies to respectful workplace (and so much more), with HR On Call you have access to hundreds of FREE HR templates to make supporting your team easier.

To learn more and access templates you need, email People First at hroncall@peoplefirsthr.com

ADVERTISEMENTS



Kinetic GPO

Kinetic GPO is pleased to announce a new competitively solicited and publicly awarded contract RFSO 25-13 for Equipment Rental and Services awarded to [Sunbelt Rentals](#) and [United Rentals of Canada](#). Whether you need equipment rentals or ongoing maintenance and services, our awarded supplier partners have you covered.

We are also pleased to announce a new competitively bid contract **RFSO 25-12** for Online Business Marketplace for Goods and Services awarded to [Amazon Business](#).

A new contract **RFSO 26-02** for **Electrical Mapping and Geographic Information (GIS) Services with Related Equipment** was awarded to [CircuitIQ](#) and [Coastal Resource Mapping](#).

Utilizing cooperative contracts simplifies the procurement process, saves time and money, ensures compliance, and makes purchasing seamless. **All of the contracts available through [Kinetic GPO](#) offer a variety of innovative, sustainable, and quality solutions for Canadian educators and public sector organizations.**

For additional information please contact your Kinetic GPO Vice President of Member Experience and Business Development **Dana MacDonald** at dana@kineticgpo.ca.

Write Clearer Municipal Documents, Faster

Our live **Effective Municipal Writing** webinar will cover how to write strong council reports, notices, bylaws, emails, and more. **Wordsmith Communications** has been teaching municipalities (big and small) across Canada for over 45 years. Join us to learn how to:

- write for different municipal audiences and purposes
- use a repeatable process that typically cuts writing time by 50% (without AI)
- identify and solve real problems related to municipal writing
- get the best (and avoid the worst) of AI



Course details

This is an interactive, three-part course for \$750.

- The first two modules are live November 24 and 26 from 9:00 to 12:30 MST.
- The last module is a self-paced workflow to create strong documents with the help of AI.
- Maximum 20 participants.
- You will get a 100-page reference manual and optional feedback on your writing.

Sign up [here](#).

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- [Town of Lumsden](#): *Corporate Services Coordinator* (October 9)
- [Village of Air Ronge](#): *Public Works Foreman* (until filled)

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Office of the Provincial Interlocutor: *First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Seed Funding* (Year-round)
- CMHC: *Affordable Rental Innovation Fund* (Year-round)

Find the latest listings by visiting the [classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.

For a full listing of grants, check the [Grants](#) section of our website under the Resources tab.

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Unit 305 - 4741 Parliament Ave., Regina SK
306-525-3727

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