

MUNICIPAL Update

September 23, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26

Webinar - Strategic Planning and Prioritization

October 9

MuniCast - E2: Municipal Administration Specialty with Saskatchewan Polytechnic

October 9

Provincial Election Forum

See all [upcoming events](#).



In season 7 of MuniCast we are discussing the educational opportunities available to municipal administration and elected officials in Saskatchewan.

In episode one ***Municipal Management with Southeast College*** we discuss the courses, costs, and delivery of the Municipal Management Microcredential offered by Southeast College. The Microcredential is an accessible opportunity available to participants across the province looking to increase their knowledge of municipal management. Partnerships with SARM, SUMA and Municipal Hail Insurance continue to support training opportunities at Southeast College that challenge and build on participants' core business, leadership, and management skills.

[Listen to MuniCast here.](#)

SUMA's 2024 Election Hub

Visit the [2024 election hub](#) to learn more about **SUMA's advocacy campaign for the upcoming provincial election**. On the hub, you'll find great resources to help you make the most informed decision possible when heading to the polls.

A summary of SUMA's advocacy campaign:

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 property assessments for property taxes, 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 the scope of fines that municipalities can add to tax rolls**.

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 require 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.

SUMA in the Media

Recently, **President Randy Goulden was on The 306 with Peter Mills and on the Cross Border Interview Podcast**, talking about SUMA's concerns heading into the provincial elections and the We are URBAN. campaign. She touched on the reason behind the campaign and the pride SUMA takes in representing over 80% of Saskatchewan. She also spoke about future governments needing to address provincial downloading, especially connected to revenue, and mental health and addictions.



SASK VOTES '24

SUMA PREPARES FOR PROVINCIAL ELECTION



Listen to the recording of President Goulden on **The 306 with Peter Mills** [here](#).

Watch President Goulden's appearance on the **Cross Border Interview Podcast** [here](#).

You can learn more about the concerns President Randy Goulden discussed by visiting the [2024 election hub](#), which will help you stay better informed about municipal issues in the upcoming election.

We are URBAN.



Thank you to everyone who shared photos throughout our campaign.

You can still **continue to highlight your community** and **be part of the We are URBAN. campaign!** **Share your photos and videos** highlighting your municipality. Don't forget to include the description, location, and name of your municipality.

Also, if you are out and about and notice one of our billboards proudly declaring **We are URBAN.** across Saskatchewan, please send us a photo. **We need your help** to collect a picture for each location. Keep an eye out for billboards of these communities:

Follow us on **Instagram** at [@suma.connect](#), and use the hashtag **#WeareURBAN** to share. You can also share directly with [memoryKPR](#) by using the QR code provided.

Let's celebrate our communities and all that they do! We are URBAN.



[Learn more about We are URBAN.](#)



The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are sponsored by



Nominations Open
September 10 - November 26

Submit Your Nominations for the 2024 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards!

The **Saskatchewan Municipal Awards (SMAs)** recognize the innovation and excellence of Saskatchewan's municipal governments. SMAs are awarded to the top municipal led initiative (rural, urban, or cooperative), the top rural municipal led initiative, the top urban municipal led initiative, and a regional cooperation award.

Why nominate your municipality?

Winners are provided with a professional video that highlights their winning project and can be used as a free marketing tool for your community. The video will be played at the SARM and SUMA Conventions in 2025 where they will be presented with an award that they can proudly display in their municipal office. Past winners have used their videos to highlight their municipal initiative for national and international awards.

Nominations are open until **November 26**. Learn more about project categories and eligibility, and access the nomination form at municipalawards.ca.

Learn more here.



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 Recordings now available!

Municipal Governance 101: Cities, Towns, and Villages is now available to be viewed and shared. We encourage you to share this resource with any potential municipal election candidates in your community. Please feel free to post the recording on your social media, website, or other communications.

Visit <https://suma.org/events/candidate-school> to access the recording of Municipal Governance 101: Cities, Towns, and Villages, and the hall session for your sector.

Access the recordings here.



Webinar

SUMA | 09.26.24
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Strategic Planning and Prioritization

Sponsored by
SUMAssure

On **Thursday September 26 at 10:00 a.m.** join us for the webinar ***Strategic Planning and Prioritization*** presented by Kelly Rudyk from It's Logical. This session will introduce participants to key points to consider to properly prioritize in times of constraint, and practical methods of strategic planning. Drawing inspiration from Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) and receiving an endorsement from its founder, Kelly uses PBB as a foundation to support municipalities through innovative strategic planning processes.

Register here!

SUMA's webinar program is sponsored by:



SUMA webinars are free for all SUMA members to attend. Non-members can attend for \$45 plus GST.

Webinar Recordings Available on SUMA's Member Portal

All webinar recordings are available on the **SUMA member portal** at suma.org/member-login.

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.



SUMA Provincial Election Forum

Open to members only, SUMA will be hosting a virtual provincial election forum with representatives from the Saskatchewan Party and New Democratic Party.

Join us on **October 9** from **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** to hear more about how each parties' platform supports urban municipalities. Bring your questions! Moderated by President Randy Goulden, the majority of this session will be question and answer.

[Register here!](#)

SUMA
CONVENTION AND TRADESHOW

2025 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
deadline **OCTOBER 17, 2024**

TCU Place - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
APRIL 13- 16

The banner includes a photograph of three men sitting on a stage for a panel discussion, with the Canadian and Saskatchewan flags in the background.

Call for Submissions - Education sessions at the 2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow

SUMA is inviting proposals for education sessions during the **2025 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow** in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan April 13 to 16. **This call is open from September 17 to October 17, 2024.** Being a presenter is an outstanding way to share your knowledge and expertise with Saskatchewan's urban municipalities. **We encourage municipalities with established best practices or partnerships to consider submitting a presentation proposal.** SUMA is looking for innovative and engaging presentations that will captivate the audience.

[Learn more here.](#)

OTHER UPDATES

Municipal Election Supplies 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

- **SUMA Members only:** [Election supplies and ballots](#) (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 – Election Resources

2024 is a general election year for all municipalities in Saskatchewan. **Cities, towns, and villages will hold their general elections on November 13. Northern municipalities have the option to choose from the second last Wednesday in September, the last Wednesday in September, or the first Wednesday in October.**

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.

Amendments to Municipal Acts and Regulations

This spring, with the passing of Bill 153, the following three acts were amended:

- The Cities Act
- The Municipalities Act
- The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010

The amendments improved key areas related to assessment appeals, conducting electronic meetings and improved existing processes to ensure consistency across all three acts. Additional changes were made to the regulations for each Act and were passed through Orders in Council 365/2024, 366/2024 and 367/2024 on July 11, 2024.

To view a summary of the legislative changes, download the information bulletins below:

- Information Bulletin: [Amendments to The Cities Act and Regulations \(Bill 153\)](#)
- Information Bulletin: [Amendments to The Municipalities Act and Regulations \(Bill 153\)](#)
- Information Bulletin: [Amendments to The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 and Regulations \(Bill 153\)](#)

When legislative changes occur, it is important to ensure you are viewing the most recent legislation. To download copies of the updated versions of the consolidated acts and regulations, visit the [Publications Centre](#).

Building Code Regulations Revisions

This year, ***The Building Code Regulations*** were published with revisions to the amendments of the National Building Code of Canada 2020 edition located in the Appendix. These revisions harmonize the intent for application of construction codes throughout Saskatchewan. Visit the Publications Centre to access the most recent version of [The Building Code Regulations](#).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please contact Building and Technical Standards at 306-787-4113 or btstandards@gov.sk.ca.

Tax Collection and Enforcement

Tax collection and enforcement must be completed according to authority set out in

legislation. [The Tax Enforcement Act](#) (TEA) and its [regulations](#) prescribes a method of tax enforcement that can ultimately lead to the municipality taking title to a person's property due to tax arrears.

The first step of tax enforcement under the TEA is for the administrator to present, in duplicate, **a list of lands in arrears** to the head of council (mayor or reeve) on or **before November 15**. This list must also be posted in the municipal office and advertised in a local newspaper.

The Advisory Services and Municipal Relations branch has several resources to assist municipal officials when proceeding with tax enforcement under the TEA. To access these resources, please click [here](#).

For additional questions regarding municipal tax enforcement legislation, please contact a municipal advisor at 306-787-2680 or by email at muninfo@gov.sk.ca.

Kinetic GPO's Innovative Contracts

SUMA's partnership with Kinetic GPO has allowed members to take advantage of cost benefits and value added services. From purchasing and refurbishing older buildings, equipping new builds with furnishings, to helping a First Nations Organization expand its operations, Kinetic GPO has assisted with many diverse projects across the province. The biggest advantage has been the organization's ability to provide its members with local services at volume discount pricing.

Recently, Municipal World wrote about the ways **Kinetic GPO is using innovating contracting to solve problems for municipalities across Canada**. You can **read the article** [here](#).

Guidance Standards for the Serviceability of a Fire Apparatus

The Fire Commissioner in Saskatchewan has recently confirmed that there are **no legislated requirements that put an expiry date on fire apparatus**. However, there are a few **guidance standards that have an impact on the serviceability of a fire apparatus** that should be taken into consideration when making a decision on the lifespan of fire apparatus. For details on considerations, please [read this document](#).

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Maple Creek: *Executive Assistant to CAO* (Sep 26)
- Town of Wynyard: *Equipment Operator/Labourer* (Oct 4)
- Town of Wynyard: *Waterworks Operator* (Oct 4)
- Town of Wynyard: *Landfill Operator* (Oct 10)
- Town of Grenfell: *Director of Recreation, Culture and Promotion*



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Nutrien: *Building Stronger Communities Grant* (September 30)
- SGI: *Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant* (September 30)
- Veteran Affairs: *Community War Memorial* (October 1)
- Veteran Affairs: *Community*

- (Oct 9)
- District of Katepwa: *Public Works Foreman* (Oct 18)
- Regina's Warehouse District: *Executive Director* (October 31)
- Village of Mankota: *Foreman and Water Works Operator* (Nov 19)

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.

- Engagement Partnership Fund* (October 1)
- 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)

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

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