

MUNICIPAL Update

September 9, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10

Webinar - Personal Information Management for Urban Municipalities

September 11

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

September 12

SUMA Northern Members Meeting

September 17

Candidate School - Town Hall

September 18

Candidate School - Village Hall

September 18

MuniCast - E1: Municipal Management with Southeast College

September 19

Candidate School - City Hall

September 23

Procurement Bootcamp for Urban Municipal Administrators

October 9

MuniCast - E2: Municipal Administration Specialty with Saskatchewan Polytechnic

See all [upcoming events](#).



The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are sponsored by
Affinity
Clean Water

Nominations Open

September 10 - November 26



Nominations for the 18th Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Open September 10!

Established in 2006, the **Saskatchewan Municipal Awards (SMAs)** recognize the innovation and excellence of Saskatchewan's municipal governments by celebrating and sharing these achievements and providing provincial exposure to both the municipality and the initiative.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are awarded for:

- Top municipal led initiative (rural, urban, or cooperative)
- Top rural municipal led initiative
- Top urban municipal led initiative
- Regional cooperation (a joint initiative with at least one rural and one urban municipality working collaboratively to lead the project)

Nominations for the 2024 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are open from **September 10 to November 26**. Learn more about project categories and eligibility, and access the nomination form at municipalawards.ca.

SUMA's 2024 Election Hub

To learn more about **SUMA's advocacy campaign for the upcoming provincial election**, you can **visit the [2024 election hub](#)**, where we outline our approach as well as provide helpful resources for our members to 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.

New Public Safety Initiatives Announced

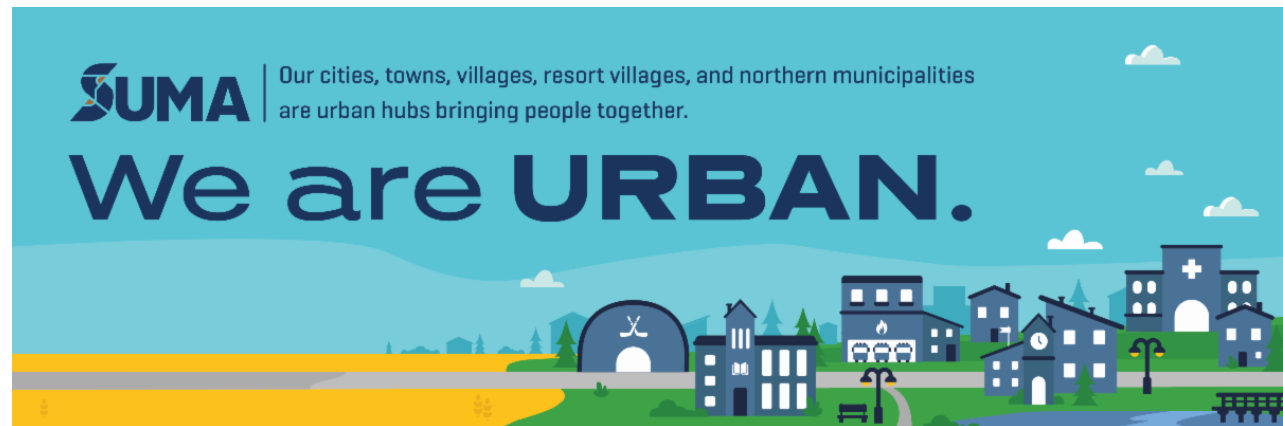
Recently, the Government of Saskatchewan announced new options for **bylaw enforcement and more funding for municipal officers and training**. For years, SUMA has been advocating for changes to bylaw prosecution, and **we're pleased to see the province finally working towards it**.

The new public safety initiatives will include a **community bylaw court hub model** based off the existing system in Kindersley, **new ways for traffic courts to function more efficiently**, and a way to **boost the fine option program**. Bylaw enforcement has been a longstanding issue within our member municipalities and we are pleased with these developments which will alleviate some of the pressures our communities face. These changes will also free up space in the provincial court system.

In addition to these promised updates the province has dedicated **\$17.1 million for new municipal officers and training while keeping a focus on social support**, including the complex needs emergency shelters in Saskatoon and Regina.

Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck also pledged that she will work with community leaders to improve public safety, housing, and social supports. There are many items on the NDP's election platform that align with SUMA's asks, such as plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, suspend the fuel tax, and increase healthcare staff across the province. Most significant is the commitment to use evidence-based methods in fighting the mental health and addictions crisis. For SUMA, mental health and addictions has long been a cornerstone issue, and we've advocated for many changes over the past few years. Our efforts and advocacy are non-partisan and so we appreciate the interest that both the provincial government and their opposition has taken in these issues. We hope to continue seeing improvements.

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.



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

Season 7 of MuniCast will focus on education available to municipal staff and elected officials. Starting this September, join us for conversations about municipal leadership development, post-secondary training for administrators, and ways to engage with municipal peers.

On **September 18** tune in to episode 1, ***Municipal Management with Southeast College***, to learn more about their Municipal Management MicroCredential and how it can help you improve your municipal leadership skills.

On **October 9** we'll be sharing our conversation with Saskatchewan Polytechnic about the new Municipal Administration Specialty offered through their business diploma program.

[Listen to MuniCast here.](#)



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

Happening next week!

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. Municipal Governance 101: Cities, Towns, and Villages will be taking place on **September 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Participants will 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 specific to their sector.

[Access promotional resources here.](#)



The banner features a dark blue header with a laptop icon and the word "Webinar" on the left. On the right, the SUMA logo is displayed next to the date "09.10.24" and time "10:00-11:00 a.m.". Below the header, the main title "Personal Information Management for Urban Municipalities" is overlaid on a background image of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The phone screen shows a login form with fields for "USER NAME" and a password (represented by asterisks), along with a "Remember me" checkbox and a "Forgot password" link. The SUMAssure logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Join us on **Tuesday September 10 at 10:00 a.m.** for the webinar ***Personal Information Management for Urban Municipalities*** presented by INQ Consulting. Attendees can expect to learn what inherent risks exist to municipalities in today's day and age, an overview of public and private sector laws, and a high-level guide of what to do in a privacy program portfolio to meet compliance.

Attendees will walk away with practical notes for managing their privacy programs and overseeing vendors to ensure that risks to personal information are effectively mitigated.

[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.

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

- [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 – 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

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.
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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](#).

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 Arborfield: *Urban*



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Nutrien: *Building Stronger*

Administrator (September 17)

- Town of Arborfield: *Assistant Foreman (September 17)*
- City of Melfort: *Municipal Project Manager (September 18)*
- Regina's Warehouse District: *Executive Director (October 31)*

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.

Communities Grant (September 30)

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

