

MUNICIPAL Update

November 4, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 20

MuniCast - Leadership Development with the Municipal Leadership Development Program

See all [upcoming events](#).

MMSW Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Survey

The provincial government has approved the MMSW Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Plan, which marks a transition to a full extended producer responsibility (EPR) model.

SUMA welcomes this model and appreciates the excellent work that MMSW is doing regarding the EPR program. However, we have been advocating for an extension of the EPR timeline to 2029, or funding support for municipalities that may not be able to adjust their existing contracts by 2027.

To help shape the conversation and our advocacy plan, respond to the survey below.

[Take the survey.](#)

ADVOCACY UPDATE

New Bylaw Templates Available

SUMA has created new bylaw templates and other informational resources for the use of its member municipalities. Some of these documents include: Buildings Code Bylaw Template; Nuisance Bylaw Template; Unsightly Properties Bylaw Template; Facility Rental Agreement Template; and more. These can all be found on the SUMA wiki member portal, which you can access by logging in [here](#), and selecting the wiki page in the menu. If you are unsure of your login information, please contact communications2@suma.org for assistance.

SUMA's 2024 Post-Election Advocacy

Congratulations to both the returning provincial government (the Saskatchewan Party), and the official opposition (the Saskatchewan New Democrats), on their wins during the 2024

Saskatchewan General Election. SUMA looks forward to the post-election advocacy work ahead, which will be based on the platform shared during the election. As a reminder, here are the items SUMA plans to focus on:

Municipal Revenues

Municipal governments are the orders of government 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 to rely on for income.

Municipalities also 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 1991*, which no longer fits the needs or perception of public safety in the 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**.

Municipalities are also seeking support with **bylaw enforcement and prosecution through supports for education and by increasing the scope of fines that municipalities can add to tax rolls**.

SUMA wants 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 in urban 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, which fall inside the provincial government purview. However, time and again, municipalities are required 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 time and resources they simply do not have. We have expressed our concerns over current **mental health and addictions policies and housing issues** regularly. In particular, **SIS and SAID need drastic improvements in order to be helpful to the people who require these services**.

The government 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 looks forward to the work in the coming months, and will keep you up to date on progress. If you would like to view SUMA's policies in brief, which addresses these issues and more, you can read them [here](#).

Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF)

The federal government announced the launch of the first call for proposals for Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF). The fund will invest \$150 million over 3 years to **help municipalities and Indigenous communities deal with mental health and addictions crises in their communities**.

The ETF will provide **short-term support to rapidly mobilize and build capacity for enhanced access to trauma-informed, evidence-based substance use treatment, harm reduction and integrated services**, such as naloxone distribution and drug checking equipment. Funding may also be used to hire a support worker to help residents navigate housing options, as often housing

insecurity and mental health and addictions are inextricably linked.

The intention behind the ETF is for to be responsive and adaptive, allowing communities to address their urgent needs in a way that best addresses their unique situation. **Applications will be accepted until November 8 at 2:00 p.m. EST.** Further information for prospective applicants can be found in the [Applicant Guide](#).

Read Health Canada's news release about the call for applications [here](#).

2025 Resolutions Policy

Resolutions are one way SUMA members can get their issues to the forefront of our advocacy efforts, and it's never too early to start thinking of those you might submit. Now is a good time to review the guidelines in the 2025 Resolutions Policy. You can access the document [here](#).

As is our policy, **only those resolutions that are absolutely critical and could not possibly have been included in the Convention package will be brought forward after the January 31 deadline**, and only then with justification for why it is both urgent and emergent. Any other late resolutions will be considered by the SUMA Board after Convention.

To read past resolutions visit our website [here](#).

We are URBAN.



Highlight your community and **be part of the We are URBAN. campaign!**

Share photos and videos spotlighting your municipality. Don't forget to include a description, your location, and the name of your municipality.

Over the summer, many communities featured billboards proudly declaring, **We are URBAN.** If you're from one of the below municipalities, please send us a billboard photo. **We need your help to collect pictures from each location.**

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

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

code provided.

Let's celebrate our municipalities and everything that makes them unique! We are URBAN.



Learn more about We are URBAN.

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES



Episode 3 Now Available!

In episode 3, *Local Government Administration with the University of Regina*, we discuss the Local Government Administration certificate program offered by the University of Regina. This program covers the fundamental concepts of society, democracy and principles of local government administration in Saskatchewan including an introduction to Saskatchewan legislation relevant to municipal government processes. Students have the opportunity to further their learning by completing the advanced certificate.

The Certificate and the Advanced Certificate satisfy requirements for local government administrator certification through the Rural Municipalities Administrators' Association (RMAA) and Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS).

Listen to S7:E3 here

Need to Catch Up On a Webinar?

All webinar recordings are available on the [SUMA member portal](#).

Each municipality has one shared login for the member portal that can be distributed to all staff and members of council. We encourage you to revisit or share previous webinars 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.

SUMA Service Awards

Annually, the Board of Directors recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to outstanding service in the municipal field. SUMA is proud to honour individuals for their outstanding contributions to the development and prosperity of our communities and urban governments in Saskatchewan.



The [Meritorious Service Award](#) is granted to municipal employees in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 years or more of employment. It recognizes their career success, dedication, and involvement in their local community.

The [Honorary Service Award](#) recognizes elected officials in Saskatchewan urban municipalities who have served 20 or more years on municipal council. It recognizes their long-term dedication to, and involvement in, their local communities.

Nominations will remain open until 12:01 a.m. on **January 6, 2025**.

Submit Your Nominations for the 2024 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

The **Saskatchewan Municipal Awards (SMAs)** celebrate the excellent and innovative practices of Saskatchewan's municipal governments. The program also aims to share knowledge amongst municipalities by sharing best practices, promote cooperation and synergies between urban and rural municipalities, and award municipal driven projects.

Why nominate your municipality?

Winning a municipal award can elevate your municipalities profile, and get eyes on your project from key people and organizations that can support the continued success of your initiative.

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



SASKATCHEWAN
MUNICIPAL
AWARDS

“
This award elevated our profile so we were successful in attracting high profile visitors, spokespeople, policy makers for the launch and tours.
”

Sponsored by
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2021 winner
Village of Riverhurst

[Learn more here.](#)

MLDP: Registration for fall modules is now open!

Fall 2024 Modules of the **Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP)** are now open for registration. Mayors, reeves, councillors, elected officials, administrators, and municipal staff who want to strengthen leadership in their local government are encouraged to register.

This program is especially beneficial for newly elected municipal officials.

Modules Include:

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities

December 5 - *Virtual, hosted by SARM*

January 21 - *City of Prince Albert, hosted by SUMA*

January 23 - *City of Moose Jaw, hosted by SUMA*



Municipal Leadership
Development Program

Strategic Communications for Municipalities

November 27 - *Town of Herbert*

Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

December 10 - *Virtual*

Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

December 16 and 17 - *Virtual*

Community and Land Use Planning

Offered virtually through Southeast College.

For more information, please visit the MLDP [website](#) or direct questions to the MLDP Administrator, Christina Berry, at cberry@sarm.ca.

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.

Grants Available for Facilitating Independence

Facilitating Independence is a process that focuses on supporting older adults to live as independently as they wish to, in their location of choice. The goal is to provide supportive services and options which allow older adults to live a meaningful and freely chosen life, in their home and community.

Grant funding was provided to 10 organizations in 2023 for projects that will be carried out in 2024. Based on the success of the first Facilitating Independence grant programs, the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) has another **approximately \$200K in 2025 available for one-time funding for micro-grants/seed money** to organizations that serve older adults, community groups, or other interested organizations to develop/pilot new approaches for providing supportive services to older adults. Additional information on this opportunity including the application process, eligibility criteria, and timelines, is available on the SSM Website at: <https://skseniorsmechanism.ca>

Grant applications will be accepted by SSM until **December 10**. For information read this [document](#).

Equal Voice Saskatchewan Chapter - Save the Date!

Join the [Equal Voice Saskatchewan Chapter](#) (EV SK Chapter) as they celebrate the courageous women who are running for public office in 2024.

The free reception is in Regina, SK, on the evening of Monday, November 25, [during Canadian Western Agribition \(CWA\)](#). This event aims to recognize and thank all the women who took the step to stand for elected office, whether for a school board, municipal or rural municipal position, or a seat in the provincial legislature.

Many elections are taking place throughout the province this summer and fall. While the outcomes in many cases are still unknown, Equal Voice wants to ensure they recognize every woman who has stepped forward and put their name on a ballot!

Mark your calendars to celebrate these remarkable individuals and their supporters. [RSVP today](#) to receive further details as the event approaches.

Rail Safety: Operation Life Saver Canada

Operation Lifesaver is a not for profit organization that is dedicated to preventing collisions and other incidents around railway property, trains and especially railway crossings. They believe in achieving this goal by promoting public awareness and public education.

Whether you are on foot, in a car, or riding a bike or recreational vehicle, staying safe around railway tracks and property is all about knowing the rules. You can **learn more about Operation Lifesaver and rules around railways** [here](#).

If you would like more information about Rail Safety Week please do not hesitate to contact Peter Dubrowolski at olprairielead@gmail.com.

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CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Wilkie: *Public Works Manager* (Nov 12)
- Village of Mankota: *Foreman and Water Works Operator* (Nov 19)
- Town of Biggar: *Chief Administrative Officer* (Nov 27)
- Town of Hepburn: *Chief Administrative Officer* (Nov 29)
- City of Melfort: *Municipal Project Manager* (Nov 30)
- Town of Blaine Lake: *Chief Administrative Officer* (open until filled)

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:

- Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism: *Grants for Facilitating Independence* (Dec 10)
- 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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