



# A MESSAGE FROM THE President

## Notes from the January Board Meeting

On January 31, the Board of Directors met in Regina for the last time under the current governance structure to discuss matters important to SUMA and Saskatchewan's urban municipalities.

During the meeting, we touched on important topics such as the implementation of SUMA's new governance structure, to officially come online at the close of Convention 2025, and plans to ensure that each of SUMA's geographical regions have nominations for caucus directors. Draft Terms of Reference for each caucus have been completed and will be ready for review and discussion once the caucus members have been chosen.

We also had a presentation from Sask Polytechnic on the development of their Municipal Administrator Diploma and Certificate Program. This program will provide an additional administrator training/certification option to help promote the profession and address the shortage of CAOs, in addition to providing future CAOs a strong educational foundation to kickstart their career.

The meeting concluded with a discussion and reiteration of our commitment to advocacy issues such as changes to the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program, homelessness, and our cornerstone issue: mental health and addictions.

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## Convention 2025

During the January 31 meeting, the Board of Directors **approved recipients for the Lifetime Membership and Scoop Lewry Awards**, to be given out at the President's Gala at Convention.

In the coming weeks, **the Board will review submitted resolutions for approval prior to Convention 2025**. These will form the basis of our resolutions session. A package with all resolutions will be sent to the main contacts of each member municipality and posted on our website in advance of Convention. Once received, we **encourage you to review the package with your council** so you are fully prepared to debate and vote during the Resolutions session.

**Convention 2025 is scheduled for April 13-16 at TCU Place in Saskatoon .**

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## Virtual SUMA Summit (formerly SUMA Sector Meetings)

Join us on **February 13 from 9:00 am - 3:30 p.m.** for SUMA's second biggest event of the year!

SUMA member meetings are a great opportunity to get to know your peers, learn about successes and challenges experienced by other municipalities, and hear updates from SUMA and our partners.

We kick off the beginning of each year with the *Virtual SUMA Summit* (formerly SUMA Sector Meetings) where all members are invited to discuss priorities for their sector, hear from SUMA, and participate in learning opportunities.

This meeting is also where **elections for the towns and villages/resort villages caucus' will take place.**

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## Capacity Building Opportunity

### 2025 Revaluation: What Municipalities Need to Know

In the webinar titled *2025 Property Revaluation: What Municipalities Need to Know*, participants **received an update on the 2025 Revaluation process, learned about SAMA's diligent assessment work, and got the latest scoop on the governance aspects of SAMA's operations.**

Every four years, the provincial government mandates SAMA with the vital task of revaluating all properties across Saskatchewan. Once revaluation is completed, SAMA will provide updated property values to each of their client municipalities. **These new values are essential, as provincial legislation mandates municipalities to use them when determining taxes.**

If you missed the webinar, you can access it on SUMA's member portal within the next few days, accessible [here](#).

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## Webinar Recordings for New Council

While all of SUMA's webinars are geared toward educating municipal officials, there are two in particular I'd like to highlight that could be of particular use to the newly elected.

### *Ethical Leadership: Managing Conflicts of Interest*

Knowing and following conflict of interest rules are the key to ethically leading your community. For newly elected municipal mayors and councils, **understanding these guidelines is crucial to maintaining public trust and ensuring transparent decision-making.** In this webinar, Steven Dribnenki K.C. with the City of Regina, shares **best practices to avoid traps and deal with conflicts of interest.**

### *Council Table 101: Exercise Governance Basics and Strong Council Meeting Etiquette*

Presented by SAGE Analytics Inc. this webinar version of the SAGE Governance Workshop is educational and entertaining. See **pre-recorded videos of volunteers championing assigned profiles in a council meeting simulation demonstrating professional council meeting etiquette and respectful dialogue among officials.**

Skills learned in this workshop are **transferable to other board and committee appointments that officials hold.** The SAGE Governance Workshop reinforces good groundwork for governance deliberations, and it doubles as an excellent council orientation teambuilding opportunity.

You can access these recordings on the [SUMA member portal](#).

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I look forward to seeing everyone in Saskatoon at Convention 2025.

*Randy Goulden*

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SUMA President

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