



A MESSAGE FROM THE President

Notes from the December Board Meeting

For the first time in nearly two years, the SUMA Board of Directors gathered in-person on December 3 for a full Board of Directors Meeting, discussing everything from the 2022 Convention and Tradeshow to the municipal election date.

Masks and Vaccinations Mandatory at 2022 In-Person Convention

Convention was a focus as we discussed our plan for April. When we made the decision earlier this year to have an in-person event, the number of COVID-19 cases in the province was declining and the Government of Saskatchewan was removing restrictions. But then we were hit with the fourth wave of COVID-19.

During Friday's meeting, the Board discussed whether to move forward with in-person or pivot to a virtual event to ensure we can create the best virtual event possible. Based on your feedback - in a recent *Municipal Update* poll, 79 per cent of respondents said they would attend in person - the recent success of Agribition, and in consultation with our sister associations, we have made the decision to continue **moving forward with in-person**. The Board of Directors does not want to miss this opportunity to come together in-person and connect. However, if public health measures restrict gatherings, we will change our plans. Your safety is a top priority.

With that in mind, the Board has decided to introduce a number of measures at the 2022 Convention in April to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This includes **mandatory masking and proof of vaccinations**; a negative COVID-19 test will not be accepted. These measures will be in place even if the provincial health orders requiring mandatory masking and vaccinations have expired or been rescinded. Our goal with all of the precautions we will be taking is to make Convention a zero-spread event. We will be sharing more information in our emails about Convention.

Resolutions Being Accepted Until January 31

Resolutions at Convention are one way you can get your issues in front of the media, in front of provincial decision makers, and help shape SUMA's advocacy. With Convention moving to April, the Resolutions Committee has changed the resolutions deadline to **January 31** from November 1.

To get started with resolutions, check out the full **Call for Resolutions**, which includes a template you can use as a guide. You can also view SUMA's current **Resolutions Policy** and see **past resolutions** on SUMA's website.

Municipal Election Date

Speaking of SUMA's advocacy, on Friday we discussed our advocacy position regarding the municipal election date. The 2024 municipal election is currently scheduled for November 13, 2024. The provincial election is scheduled for October 28, 2024. Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer has suggested the municipal election date be changed to avoid voter confusion as experienced during the elections in 2020.

Through a SUMA survey, polls at regional meetings, and a discussion at the City Mayors' Caucus, we asked what date you would prefer for municipal elections. In the initial SUMA survey, the most popular responses were May and September 2024. When asked which date was preferred at regional meetings, 60 per cent of respondents were in favour of September. However, at the City Mayors' Caucus meeting, mayors and city managers said they prefer a spring election. Based on your feedback, SUMA will be advocating for a **May election date for cities** and a **September 2024 election date for towns, villages, resort villages, and northern municipalities**.

Election of Interim President on February 18

During the meeting, I also made an announcement of my own. **Effective February 18, I am resigning from the position of SUMA President.**

When I ran for SUMA President earlier this year, I said that Saskatchewan's hometowns deserve a champion dedicated to your needs. It is for this reason that I made the difficult decision to resign. I have been presented with an exciting job opportunity. However with this opportunity, I would not be able to dedicate the time that you deserve from your President.

I have been on the SUMA Board of Directors for more than 10 years, and I have valued every minute. I have enjoyed each conversation that I have had with you and it has been an honour to serve as your president over the last 10 months.

On **February 18**, the **SUMA Board of Directors will elect an interim President**. SUMA will also open **nominations for the position of President**, with an **election** to take place at the **2022 SUMA Convention** being held in Regina from April 3-6. Watch for more information about running for SUMA President on February 18.

While I have announced my resignation, I remain committed to representing your best interests at the Board table, in the media, and with other orders of government until February 18.

The **next SUMA Board of Directors Meeting** is taking place on **February 18**.

Wishing you all the best this holiday season and in the future.



Rodger Hayward
SUMA President