



A MESSAGE FROM THE President

Notes from the June Board Meeting

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) Board of Directors gathered online **June 25** for a full day of virtual discussions, covering everything from our transition from Municipalities of Saskatchewan back to SUMA, Convention 2022, and of course, our advocacy.

During the meeting, the Board selected a **new logo to represent the Association**.



We are also going to **continue using the names *Municipal Update*, *Municipal Voice*, and *MuniCast*** for our publications and podcast, as the information is valuable to all of our hometowns as well as anyone who has an interest in municipal governance.

Convention 2022

We are excited to announce that for 2022, SUMA will be hosting a **full in-person event**. The **theme of the 2022 SUMA Convention** is **Connect** as the event is a chance for you to **connect with your council, connect with your peers, connect with SUMA, connect with vendors at our Municipal Marketplace, and connect with provincial leaders**.

During the Board meeting Friday, the Board of Directors also approved the Convention Planning Committee's plan to **move convention from February to April for 2022 and beyond**. Moving convention to the spring will allow for better weather and hopefully better travelling conditions. Traditionally convention in February has been one of the coldest times of the year. Hosting convention in the spring will also allow for a better delegate experience as we can provide different types of activities and there is greater opportunity to explore and enjoy the host city. For 2022, having convention in April also allows us more time to plan and prepare as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 SUMA Convention will take place **April 3-6, 2022 in Regina**. Watch your inbox Monday for more information, including details on the tradeshow and

accommodations.

During the meeting, we also discussed municipal issues including broadband, mental health, and policing.

Connectivity is at the forefront of our businesses and home lives, and the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the importance of being able to remain connected virtually. On Friday, the Board of Directors appointed **CEO Jean-Marc Nadeau to represent SUMA on the Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee**, a committee designed to advocate for greater broadband access in the province. SUMA is also supporting the initiative by contributing **\$5,000 from the SUMA Advocacy Reserve**.

Regarding mental health, we discussed resources. We support the provincial government's decision to support the Suicide Prevention Strategy and are committed to working with the government to promote the importance of accessible recreation and education resources. SUMA will also be sending a letter to the province outlining the **need for accessible mental health resources in our smaller communities and northern Saskatchewan**.

We have continued to hear concerns from our membership regarding policing. The concerns have included limits within *The Police Act, 1990*, as well as the increasing costs of policing. On Friday, the Board of Directors approved the **withdrawal of \$10,000 from the SUMA Advocacy Reserve** to cover the cost of a **white paper on policing** in Saskatchewan. The information from the white paper supports our advocacy efforts required to renew *The Police Act, 1990*.

To better represent our member municipalities, the Board also elected to increase the number of times we meet. **Starting October 1**, the **Board will host four in-person meetings as well as two virtual meetings annually** to discuss matters important to Saskatchewan's hometowns.

Our **next Board of Directors Meeting** will take place on **September 24**.

I hope to see all of our hometown mayors online for Virtual Mayors Summer School in August.

Enjoy your summer!



Rodger Hayward
SUMA President

Salary Survey

The Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance (SEDA) is conducting a **salary survey** to help better understand the **human resource needs of Saskatchewan communities**. The findings of the survey will be shared publicly later this summer.

Complete the survey by **July 6**. Those who participate will be entered for a chance to win a complimentary group registration to the virtual 2021 Saskatchewan Economic Development and Leadership Forum.

[Take the survey](#)

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

www.suma.org

