



Keeping you informed

President's Update



March 7, 2016

Provincial Election Advocacy Wrap Up

On April 4, 2016, Saskatchewan voters re-elected a Saskatchewan Party majority government under Premier Brad Wall.

Since Convention 2016, SUMA had been working hard on our provincial election advocacy campaign, and I thank all of you for helping amplify our voice.

The campaign included engaging audiences on Facebook and Twitter, [paid advertising on television and online](#), and [an online hub](#) complete with a municipal issues backgrounder, pocket card, templates for letters to the editor and candidates, suggested questions for candidate debates, a platform grid outlining where provincial parties stood on our issues, and links to pertinent news articles.

We also issued three news releases around the campaign. We [launched the campaign](#), then called on the parties to commit to:

- [a permanent municipal revenue sharing agreement](#);
- and
- [a Made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure program](#) that is permanent, long-term, sustainable, and predictable.

We also engaged with all parties on Twitter, and received these responses to our advocacy from the Saskatchewan Party:

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Join Our Mailing List!



SUMA @SUMA_amplify · Mar 18

@saskparty Where do you stand on permanent #MunRevSharing? Read more here: ow.ly/ZuaUG #skvotes #skpoli #skmuni #cndmuni



Saskatchewan Party

@SaskParty




Following

For as long as we have the opportunity to serve in govt, we will commit to 1% of PST for SK municipalities. @SUMA_amplify #skvotes #skpoli



SUMA @SUMA_amplify · Mar 18

@SaskParty Does the Highways 2020 plan include funding for Urban Connectors? #skpoli #skvotes #infrastructure



INFRASTRUCTURE

FIX: Adequately fund the Urban Highway Connector Program (UHCP)

At present funding rates, it would take roughly 20 years to rehabilitate all the outstanding UHCP roadways.

We cannot wait that long; 71 kilometres of these roads are already in fair-poor to poor condition — the worst ratings given under the program.

SUMA AMPLIFY OUR VOICE



Saskatchewan Party

@SaskParty



Following

Hwys 2020 is commitment to global spending on programs in Hwys Min, would include Urban Hwy Connector Program @SUMA_amplify #skpoli #skvotes

I strongly believe our advocacy not only brought attention to municipal issues, but also raised awareness of what urban municipalities are and how we serve the people of

Saskatchewan.

We will engage with the new government and opposition quickly, including another round of **Advocacy Days** currently scheduled for June 14 and 15. We look forward to an ongoing government-to-government partnership with the Province. We will continue to push on the issues we raised during this campaign, along with the many other issues of great importance to our members.

Once again, thank you to everyone who shared our social media posts and video, and sent in letters to the editor and to your local candidates. Your work in amplifying our voice shows that SUMA is the voice of urban Saskatchewan, and that our communities are the heart and economic engines of this province.

Notes from the Board Meeting

The Convention Planning Committee got the day rolling by passing **Chair responsibilities** from Councillor Dawn Luhning to Councillor Randy Goulden; Mayor Bruce Fidler was named Vice-Chair.

The committee discussed the results of the **Convention 2016 evaluation**. Responses were very positive, with 97 per cent rating the convention overall as excellent or good and 97 per cent saying they believe the convention offers a reasonable or extremely good value for the cost to attend. There were a number of great comments about the educational content, keynote address, tradeshow, bussing service, and many other topics.

The full Board spent the rest of the day busy representing urban interests. We welcomed new Board member **Councillor Lee Atkinson** from the City of Prince Albert, welcomed back **Councillor Tiffany Paulsen** from the City of Saskatoon. **Mayor Dale Domeij** also attended his first full Board meeting since he became the new Southwest Regional Director in January.

We also welcomed the **Honourable Ralph Goodale**, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, as a delegation to discuss items of interest to Saskatchewan. We covered items such as infrastructure, public safety, water, and the recent changes to Employment Insurance.

Highlights from the agenda for the rest of the meeting:

- Briefing on **federal Bill C-7**, which will grant the RCMP the power to collectively bargain.
- Approved a campaign plan to promote the **2016 census** and encourage residents of urban municipalities to get counted.
- Endorsed proposed changes to the **incorporation criteria** for new organized hamlets, villages, and resort villages.
- Determined next steps on advocacy work to address **aquatic invasive species**, which can cause damage to water bodies and water treatment plants.
- Staff will develop an advocacy strategy on **household hazardous waste** to keep these materials out of landfills and avoid them leaching into water sources.
- A **solid waste management** policy is also in the works to take advantage of new information available through our landfill research project and other sources, and respond to the issues of waste management in urban municipalities.
- The **Saskatchewan Transportation Company's** continued operations were also considered for a future policy position.