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**For Immediate Release**

### **Partnership Agreement Will Advance Innovation in Municipal Infrastructure**

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and Communities of Tomorrow have signed a partnership agreement, paving the way for closer collaboration and co-operation between the two organizations.

Communities of Tomorrow (CT) is a public-private organization created to facilitate the development of innovative infrastructure products and services and to work with the public and private sectors to further enhance infrastructure development that will support continued economic growth in the province.

SUMA has been a long-term supporter of this work, and has helped CT develop its Municipal Innovation Network, which has resulted in fifteen Saskatchewan municipalities signing memorandums of understanding to collaborate with CT.

“Our members see value in the work of Communities of Tomorrow, in terms of assisting them to develop new infrastructure design and management processes that enhance value for tax dollars invested,” said SUMA Chief Executive Officer Laurent Mougeot. “We look forward to working closely with CT to advance innovation in municipal infrastructure across Saskatchewan.”

“SUMA is the provincial voice of urban governments, and key driving force in helping communities share their successes and gains in this field,” said CT President John Lee. “The better our level of collaboration with municipalities, the better we understand their key priorities and challenges for innovation in infrastructure. SUMA is an essential partner to get that done.”

Through the Communities of Tomorrow Leveraged Municipal Innovation Fund, more than \$700,000 has been contributed by CT and urban governments to fund applied technology projects focused on local infrastructure. The fund has helped produce reports on best practices in such areas as pothole patching and provincial standards for cold mix asphalt recycling.

SUMA and CT will continue with regular meetings and information exchanges to maximize the value of this agreement for municipalities.

**For more information, contact:**

Michael Zaplitny, Communities of Tomorrow  
(306)522-6691  
mzaplitny@communitiesoftomorrow.ca

Sean McEachern, SUMA  
(306) 525-4394  
smceachern@suma.org