



Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMA Applauds Investment in Urban Governments

Urban governments in Saskatchewan are pleased with the provincial government's continued support for our cities, towns and villages in their efforts to help our province grow.

"Saskatchewan's villages, towns and cities are experiencing unprecedented growth," said Mayor Debra Button, SUMA President. "Urban governments across the province are on the frontline, providing the services and infrastructure we need to attract business and new residents. The government's investment in our communities will go a long way to helping us meet the demands of growth"

Today's budget includes increased funding to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency and the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. These organizations provide critical services to urban governments around property assessment and borrowing approval. Urban centres that provide transit for people with disabilities will also have access to increased capital funding to purchase necessary equipment to provide this service.

The government also announced a special fund aimed at developing regional planning authorities. These authorities will work collaboratively with urban and rural governments to co-ordinate regional planning and development.

SUMA will continue to work with the government on the creation of an infrastructure program to address the growing challenge of aging infrastructure and the need to build new infrastructure.

The Government of Saskatchewan announced on Monday an increase of \$27 million to revenue sharing for 2013-14, pushing the total pool up to \$264 million. Urban governments will receive \$170 million, and northern municipalities will receive \$19.7 million.

"The Government of Saskatchewan has acknowledged the challenges faced by the northern communities. The additional funding allocated through revenue sharing will help to address critical infrastructure in the north," said New North Chair Georgina Jolibois. "The north looks forward to strengthening our partnership with the government to build a strong future for our communities."

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For more information visit <http://www.suma.org/>, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Founded in 1905, SUMA is the voice of urban Saskatchewan. Collectively, our members represent 82 per cent of the people of Saskatchewan.