

# Urban Update



The bi-weekly e-newsletter from the Voice of Urban Saskatchewan

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## Last Few Days on Consultation

Deadline for submission on the Ministry of Government Relations' review and consultation on local property tax tools is July 31, 2013. The Ministry is consulting with business and municipal-sector stakeholders to develop a long-term policy for limiting local property tax tools, to take effect in 2014. More information on the consultation is available in a letter from Minister Reiter, and in an email SUMA sent you in late June.

SUMA encourages you to send your comments and suggestions to the Ministry or to SUMA. If you wish to send comments directly to SUMA via email, please send them to [Libbey Morin](#).

## Inter-Municipal Business Licensing

When Saskatchewan's three municipal acts were amended in May, they gave local governments the power to establish an Inter-Municipal Business Licence (IMBL) with other municipalities. This type of licensing allows businesses to buy one business licence that would allow them to operate across multiple local jurisdictions.

The Ministry of Government Relations has developed [a guide to establishing IMBLs](#). It includes information on the IMBL concept, the recent amendments enabling IMBL in Saskatchewan, key benefits, common misconceptions and IMBL arrangements in place in other jurisdictions, including

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### FAQ on Municipal Governance

#### Question:

When paying their property taxes, can a taxpayer specify that they are only paying the municipal portion of their taxes, but not their education taxes?

#### Answer:

No. ([Read the full answer.](#))

### SUMA Classifieds

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

data and analysis on a particular British Columbia region's experience. It also contains information on how to get started, and sample bylaws and agreements.

## Don't Forget to RSVP for the Forum

Are you a mayor, reeve, councillors, Administrator, CAO, City Manager, or member of your municipality's Board of Police Commissioners? Invitations went out to those individuals earlier this month for SUMA's Municipal Policing Forum, happening September 26-27 in Regina. The fee to register is \$136.50 (including GST) per person.

If you're an invited guest, [register now](#) for the chance to talk about the policing issues affecting your community.

## Great Golfing in Shaunavon!

A big thank you goes out to Mayor Sharon Dickie, Jay Meyer, and the Town of Shaunavon for hosting the 2013 SUMA Golf Tournament that took place on July 11-12.

The organizing committee did an outstanding job in putting on a successful tournament. Thank you to all those who played a part in planning this great event as well as all those who attended.

Full coverage, including photos, is coming up in the fall issue of Urban Voice, and [on our website](#).

See you next year in White City!

## Make Sure You Get Your Bonus Payment

Submit now for the 2013 Municipal Recycling Bridge Funding Program to make sure you get your \$150 bonus payment! The deadline for both new applicants and current participants to submit is **Wednesday, August 14, 2013**.

*Town of Springside: Administrator*  
(July 31)

*Town of Turtleford: Public Works Employee* (August 2)

*Town of Coronach: Administrator*  
(August 9)

*Town of Big River: Administrator*  
(August 12)

*Town of Wolseley: Administrator*  
(August 16)

*Village of Buena Vista: Administrative Assistant* (August 16)

*RM of Lumsden: Manager of Public Works* (August 16)

*Town of Maple Creek: Public Works Foreman* (August 23)

*District of Katepwa: Bylaw Officer*  
(September 30)

*Town of Arcola: Town Foreman*  
(When Filled)

*City of Vancouver: Director, Departmental Services* (When Filled)

*Village of Lebret: Town Foreman*  
(When Filled)

*Town of Kamsack: Recreation Director* (When Filled)

For a full listing of ads, visit the *SUMA*

If you want to join the program, send in a completed application form (available in [PDF](#) and [Word](#) versions). If you already participate in the program, please remember that you must submit your receipts and the appropriate forms by August 14 to be eligible to receive the new bonus payment. Submissions received August 15 or later are *not eligible* to receive the first bonus payment.

Visit [the program website](#) for more details. Don't miss out on the chance to get paid for the paper and cardboard recycled in your community!

## SUMA's Response to Amendments to *The Municipalities Act*

The Ministry of Government Relations recently consulted SUMA regarding amendments to The Municipalities Act. The amendments are intended to: impose minimum criteria for the establishment of organized hamlets, villages, and resort villages; enable the voluntary restructuring of urban and rural municipalities into a municipal district; require corporate dissolution if a municipality is non-compliant with statutory requirements for two or more years and fails to meet minimum population criteria; enable citizens to petition their municipal council to conduct and release the results of a forensic financial audit; and give the minister the authority to limit the use and application of minimum and base tax, and to set conditions respecting tax abatements.

SUMA reviewed and provided support for the proposed amendments, with the exception of the financial audit amendment, which may cause an undue administrative and financial burden on urban governments, and the tax amendments, which would restrict municipal tax autonomy. SUMA's support for the other amendments was in line with its commitment toward sustainable urban governments, and was contingent on being included in the development of the new regulations.

[Classifieds](#) under the Urban Marketplace tab.

## Office Closure: Friday, August 2

Please note that the SUMA office will be closed this Friday, August 2. All emails and phone messages will be dealt with when staff return to the office beginning Tuesday, August 6.

Have a great long weekend!



### About Us

We'd like to thank you for reading the Urban Update this week and we welcome your comments.

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### Did You Know...

The holiday observed the first Monday of August, Saskatchewan Day, is intended to be a celebration of our province's history in culture, similar to the celebration of Canada held each July 1.