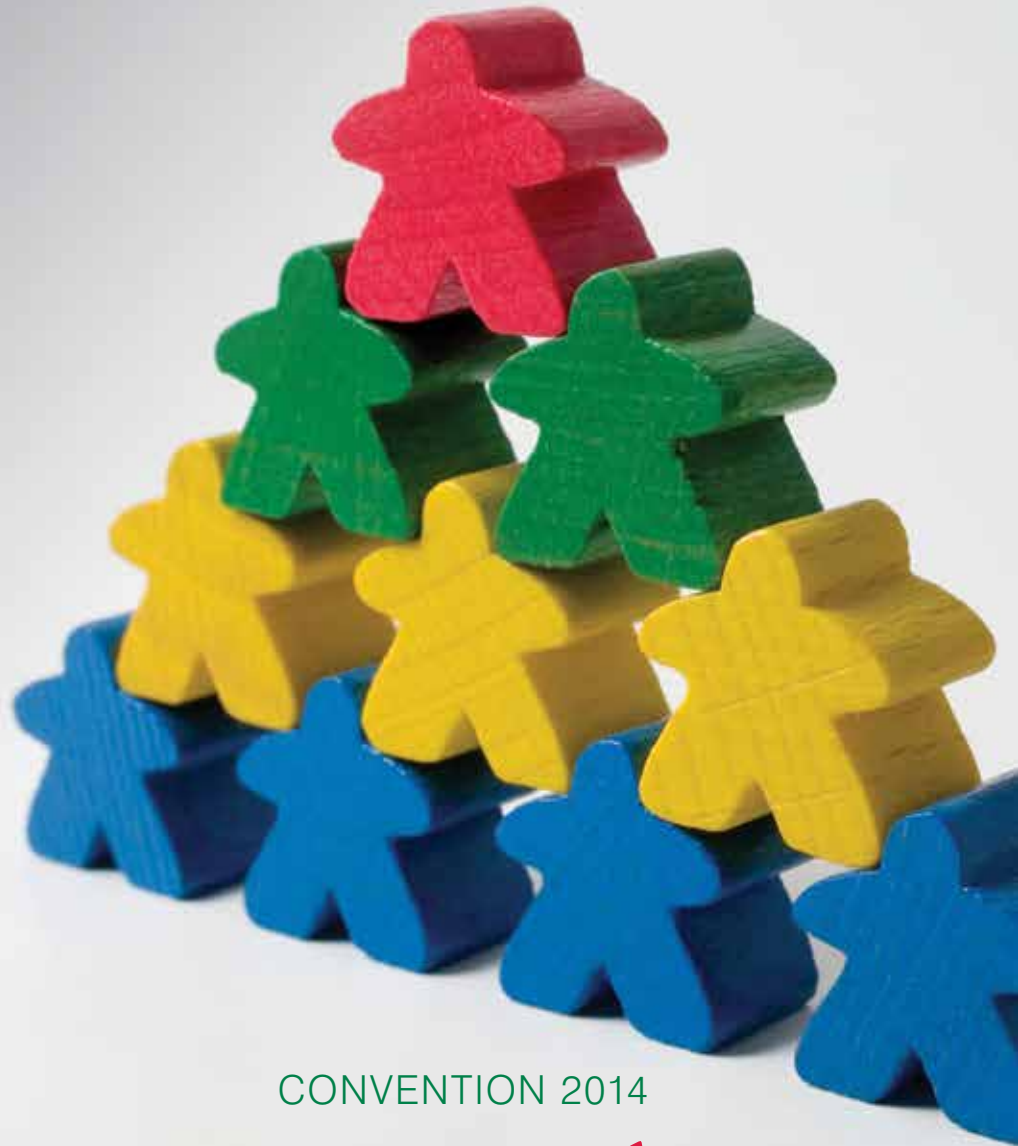


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URBAN*Voice*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION



CONVENTION 2014

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New Legislation Protects Foreign Workers

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced new legislation to ensure Saskatchewan continues to be a destination of choice for immigrants seeking a good place to live and work.

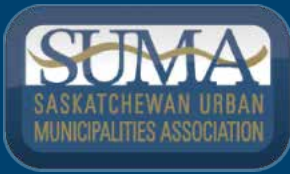
The *Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*, proclaimed October 11, 2013, protects foreign workers from exploitation and mistreatment during the immigration and recruitment process. Employers also benefit from greater transparency in services provided by recruiters and immigration consultants.

Under the Act, recruiters and immigration consultants must be licensed by the Government of Saskatchewan before providing services to Saskatchewan employers or immigrants moving to the province. Both employers and foreign workers must give their signed consent in advance to all services and fees. Only employers pay costs associated with recruitment. Neither recruiters nor employers can charge recruitment fees to foreign workers.

As of November 12, 2013, Saskatchewan employers are required to register with the provincial government before making a job offer to a foreign worker – whether through a federal or provincial immigration program. There is no cost, and the registration remains valid for up to two years. Employers already registered through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program are automatically registered under the new Act.

Providing better protection for foreign workers means more skilled immigrants will come here to live and work. That's good for employers and good for our growing economy.

For more information on the Act and how to register, go to www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca or email immigration@gov.sk.ca.



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CONVENTION THEME AN INSPIRATION

Mayor Debra Button, President

MULTIS E GENTIBUS VIRES. It's our provincial motto, and for those of us who didn't take Latin, I'll tell you it translates to "From Many Peoples Strength." That phrase may seem familiar these days, since it was the inspiration for the Convention 2014 theme: *Strength From Many Peoples*.

The provincial motto was inspired by multiculturalism, and we continue that link with the importance of immigration to today's Saskatchewan. The province is growing like never before, and immigration is playing a huge role in that growth. It's about other Canadians deciding that Saskatchewan is the place to be, but it's also about making newcomers from around the globe feel at home in urban Saskatchewan. More than 77 per cent of immigrants choose to live in our urban Saskatchewan, and we play a huge role in making our communities the best choice for those who want to call Saskatchewan their new home.

Strength From Many Peoples is also about the relationships urban municipalities build and maintain. The message from the provincial government was loud and clear at Convention 2013: we must work together, and embrace regional co-operation. Saskatchewan was built on the spirit of people coming together to help one another, and we need to remember that. We work best as allies, not as adversaries. The Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) is one of the best tools you can find to help facilitate co-operation with other municipalities, both urban and rural. Their article, "Together We Can Do So Much" details how they can help you create and build a team to support regional co-operation, and they will have staff available to talk to you at Convention. In the spirit of strong relationships, I encourage you to seek them out in the next several months to see how they can help you make the connections that will strengthen your municipality.

MCDP is just one organization that SUMA partners with to

help our members. Many of those partners have contributed to this issue of *Urban Voice*, because we work together to keep you updated on issues, trends, education opportunities, and chances to celebrate your successes. We have information from the Municipal Leadership Development Program, as they mark 20 years of strengthening leadership in local governments across Saskatchewan. This program is an essential part of educating yourself about how to make your urban government solid and vibrant.

We also celebrate the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, one of several partnerships involving SUMA, SARM, and the Ministry of Government Relationships. These awards recognize what Saskatchewan municipalities are doing right, and provide strong examples of how our communities can excel, and make innovative changes and decisions. Congratulations to all the winners; I look forward to celebrating with you at the President's Banquet.

At the annual general meeting held each year at convention, we also hear about the successes SUMA has made through advocacy in the past year. Many of those successes are the result of strong relationships with other orders of government. SUMA staff work with public servants, and share an especially strong relationship with staff in various provincial ministries. At SUMA, we pride ourselves on doing relationship-based work, because we know it's effective. Along with the rest of the SUMA Board of Directors, I regularly meet with Ministers and other elected officials. You also have the chance to meet provincial decision makers at Convention, during the dialogues with Ministers and Bear Pit, and on the Convention floor with many MLAs also attending. Let's take the time to make our government-to-government relationship a fruitful one for all of us.

And of course, there are the relationships that we make as SUMA members, and with SUMA itself. In Saskatchewan, we have a fairly unique definition of urban. It encompasses more than 82 per cent of Saskatchewan's population, from our small resort villages to the cities numbering in the hundreds of thousands. We stretch from the northern municipalities to towns and villages within spitting distance of the United States border. Although we may vary in size, we share common challenges, and that's exactly why SUMA is here. We serve all our members, and we create a unified voice. It's through that unity that we can advocate on behalf of urban Saskatchewan, to make sure legislation works for you, and to make our voice louder, and stronger. We want to improve quality of life in every urban municipality within the easy-to-draw borders of Saskatchewan.

In the spirit of working together and building a better Saskatchewan through stronger partnerships, please take the time to read this issue of *Urban Voice*, and all the lessons it has to share. Then register for Convention 2014, and join us to bring Saskatchewan *Strength From Many Peoples*. ■



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Amanda Parkinson, Municipal Capacity Development Program

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

These wise words from Henry Ford illustrate the importance of co-operation. Municipalities coming together as a region can be a great way to achieve short- and long-term development, social, and economic goals. The Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) can help municipalities with the beginning stages of co-operation, then continue to work with them to provide enhanced services, share costs and resources, and plan for growth in their communities.

Coming together is the beginning, and MCDP can motivate municipalities to stay together to make progress. When municipalities are willing to come together, MCDP helps ensure the co-operation is built on a solid agreement that is fair to all parties. Through facilitation, MCDP helps communities recognize their common interests in order to develop clear goals, objectives, and processes. This will keep the group moving forward and making progress. MCDP provides a variety of unbiased and customized services that

help municipalities gain traction on regional projects.

Topic-specific research and educational opportunities from MCDP keep communities up to date with best practices and ensure municipal services, policy, and plans are effective, efficient, and sustainable. MCDP also develops workshops, presents at conferences, and hosts an annual inter-municipal conference. This conference is meant to be a beginning for urban and rural municipalities to explore regional opportunities and develop skills to keep moving forward. We thank everyone who attended the 2nd Annual MCDP Inter-Municipal Conference and expressed interest in working together!

Several successful groups have formed with the help of MCDP. These groups are receiving funding for projects, sharing costs and resources, and effectively planning for their regions. The Twin Lakes Community Planning Association (TLCPA) is a great

example of how working together can lead to success.

About two and a half years ago, the RM of Nipawin approached the Town of Nipawin to develop a Community Plan to standardize some policies and processes, and outline proper land uses for the area. The RM and the town sent out additional invitations to surrounding communities to see if others were interested in working together.

Eventually, nine communities joined together to start planning for the region. They soon discovered that zoning bylaw issues were a common theme across all communities, and they wanted to make improvements. It can be challenging to keep a large group together and focused, but those involved with the TLCPA understood the benefits of inter-municipal co-operation and the benefits that come with increased economic activity and a growing community. All members believed they could get more done together.

Working together produced tangible benefits early on for the group; the Resort Village of Tobin Lake needed some culverts for their community, but the procurement costs were very high. The RM of Torch River told the resort village they could buy some from them as they had a supply and a cheaper rate. Group buying of equipment quickly revealed the benefits of working together and keeping the costs down. This only solidified their motivation to continue regional co-operation.

The Twin Lakes Community Planning Association has been a very effective group. They have a District Official Community Plan in place with all the original partners signed on, and zoning bylaws are the same across the region, making it easier to get things done. The group has also developed a website,



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hired employees, and achieved District Planning Commission status.

MCDP started with the Twin Lakes Community Planning Association in the early stages of their development and we are so excited to see them flourish into such a strong inter-municipal group. MCDP facilitated meetings with the group to help them form a structure and set goals. Now that the group is well established, MCDP meets with them once a

year to make sure they are on track and meeting objectives. **Lewis Robin**, the Chairman of TLCPA, tells us “MCDP has been very supportive.”

Co-operating with your neighbours can be an efficient way to lessen the workload, ensure services and costs aren't duplicated, and increase the success of a region. However, co-operation does not mean that communities will lose their individual identity.

Robin found that as individual communities it can be hard to succeed, but when working together all can be

successful. He praised their approach of “working collectively to be individual municipalities. Each of the regions has their own identity, but we work together to ensure individual success. If the Resort Village of Tobin Lake is successful, then the region is successful; if the RM of Nipawin is successful, then the region is successful and so on.”

When asked if he could give any advice to other communities thinking about inter-municipal co-operation, Robin had this advice: “Don't be afraid! Put past grievances behind you because we all have to move forward.” ■

The Benefits of Inter-municipal Co-operation

Enhanced service delivery

The planning involved with inter-municipal co-operation helps you to determine the human and financial resource capacity in your area. It provides you with the framework to use resources more efficiently. For example, you could hire shared staff (perhaps an economic development officer or building inspector) or explore joint buying. Instead of everyone working and paying for the same thing, resources and services can be shared and this can reduce the cost.

Strong region

Build on the opportunities, services, and assets of your municipality and neighbouring regions to build prosperity. You limit competition and make it easier to attract economic development, funding, and attention from others when you are part of a larger body with one strong voice.

Certainty of investment

When costs are shared, so are the risks. If an unexpected situation occurs (like going over budget) at least the ramifications are smaller when shared with others.

Knowledge sharing

One of the greatest benefits of working together is simply the ability to share knowledge and experience. You can share what is working and what has not worked in the past for your community, and gain valuable insight and perspective from neighbours.

Increase the quality of life

Combining ideas and resources can help resolve local issues and solve area-wide problems. Inter-municipal co-operation can position communities to better understand the problems they face together, and come up with innovative solutions.

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SaskPower is no different. Partnerships are essential to taking the steps that will ensure Saskatchewan has reliable, affordable and sustainable power today and into the future. Going at it alone is not an option.

One recent example of how SaskPower is working with the communities it serves is a power line project known as I1K (Island Falls to Key Lake), which will improve reliability and accommodate increased electricity demand in northern Saskatchewan.

I1K – the facts

The 230 kilovolt (kV) line will run approximately 300 kilometers from Island Falls to Key Lake. Phase one of the project is underway now, which will see a 177-kilometer line going north to Key Lake from the SaskPower switching station at Lindsay Lake.

The first phase of the \$380 million project will see 475-510 steel towers raised, each up to of 42.6 meters tall. It takes 3,422 metric tonnes of steel to get these towers built, and about 576 kilometers of power cable. That's enough cable to reach from Regina to Winnipeg.

The north section of the line is planned to be in service in June 2014, with the south section due to be in service in June 2015.

Working together

A project the size of I1K doesn't come together without a lot of help. The northern part of the province has historically dealt with frequent outages, primarily due to weather. The project's goal is to provide improved reliability and job opportunities for people in the area.

Improving reliability also brings opportunity hand in hand. At peak construction, the project will add about 200 jobs, and better electrical service is beneficial to increased economic expansion and jobs in the area in the future. Once the line is complete, industrial mining customers will have the electricity they need to grow and expand.

But before the project could ever take its first step, SaskPower needed to ensure the people of the area were not only in agreement with the project itself, but were willing to help with the various phases required to construct the project. The support of northern communities was critical to the project – without it, I1K could not move forward, and establishing those partnerships were key.

Before the line can be built, several thousand hectares of land along and adjacent to the construction area right-of-way need to be cleared. This land will be used to house the steel towers and other components, and provide an area to assemble the transmission towers. Last June, SaskPower held an open house in Brabant Lake to provide members of that community with information about securing 32 hectares, or the equivalent of 32 football fields, of land near their community. This was also an opportunity for members of the SaskPower team to hear any concerns raised by members of Brabant Lake.

SaskPower is documenting its journey as the I1K project moves forward in a new online magazine. You can find it at <http://www.saskpower.com/our-power-future/powering-the-north-chapter-1/>.

Powering the future

I1K is a great example of one of the many ways in which SaskPower is drawing its strength from the people of Saskatchewan. It takes power to grow, and SaskPower is moving forward on a number of projects that will benefit the entire province.

Most of the province's current electrical system is 30-50 years old and requires rebuilding, replacement or renewal. Aging assets are increasingly expensive to maintain and operate, and may be less efficient than newer technologies. At the same time, demand continues to grow – demand for electricity is estimated to rise eight per cent in 2013-2014.

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Creating a

STRONG RELATIONSHIP

Between Administration and Council

Rodney Audette, UMAAS President

The relationship between council and administration is dynamic and should be strong, yet needs to be flexible and accommodating to allow both sides to discuss difficult issues and complex matters, or deal with the most inconsequential of issues. A successful relationship requires communication and commitment to put decisions and policies in motion effectively and efficiently. It is so very important for the good governance of municipal government that a good, open relationship exists between council and administrators/CAOs.

How do we ensure this happens? First, the elected and administration should have a clear understanding of their roles in the governance of the municipality. Further, and perhaps more importantly, each should have a clear understanding of the other party's role in the governance of the municipality.

Elected officials should have a clear understanding of what function they have within the governance structure: setting policy, making strategic decisions on community development and setting future financial and development goals for the municipality. For this to happen, the administration must always do their part to ensure the elected are well informed about matters; provide legislated parameters in which decisions may be made, and provide reports and information to allow the elected officials to make the most productive decisions.

Second, for the relationship to be successful there must be a very good avenue of communication. Communication, communication, communication. It really cannot be said enough, and applies to all relationships – personal or corporate. If a council has a certain target or vision of what development or planning they would like to see happen in their municipality, they should communicate this to the administration. The elected then should be open to ideas, planning models and other information that administration may provide to achieve council's goals. By working hand in hand to establish priorities and goals, each party knows what the outcomes should or could be.

Fostering good relationships and a co-operative approach to good governance is sometimes not as easy as it seems. Very complex issues may lead to divisive councils, heated debate and questioning what information administration provides to the elected. Remember, it is essential for both council and administration to seek and provide as much information as is available so good decisions can be made.

Knowing the expectations, and sometimes limitations, of council and administration is more than just reading a few notes in a handbook or policy manual. Everyone must be willing to build mutual respect for each other and the jobs we do. Administration must acknowledge and understand the stresses council

is subjected to under the eye of those who put them in office. Council in turn must have confidence in the administration to manage, implement policy, and report back to council on issues.

Of course this is a very simple and subjective view of the relationship between council and administration. Like any relationship it needs to be worked on, as it needs roles, responsibilities, communication, and co-operation to be successful.

It is always a good practice to research materials for information on this topic as there are numerous publications and materials available. For my own benefit I often refer to two slide presentations that George B. Cuff has made in the past. One was made at the AAMDC Convention in the fall of 2010 and the other at the SUMA convention earlier this year. They are very informative and a great tool for council and administration officials, old and new. I would highly recommend researching the documents to read and engage. ■

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IMMIGRATION HELPING GROW SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMY

Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of the Economy

In Saskatchewan, we are fortunate to have living skies, plenty of lakes, a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a great quality of life. To that list you can also add a diverse population, as the result of immigration to our province.

Although immigration is currently a popular topic of discussion in the province, it is not a new concept. In many ways, Saskatchewan was built on the pioneering spirit of people who primarily emigrated from Western and Eastern Europe in the early 1900s. Spurred on by homesteading policies that encouraged immigration, these people were in search of opportunities and a better way of life.

Flash forward 100 years and the situation is similar – people from abroad are again seeking opportunities in Saskatchewan, helping our province and our economy grow. This time the opportunities come in the form of jobs, a high quality of

life, and a welcoming environment.

From 2007 to 2012, nearly 43,000 immigrants settled in Saskatchewan communities. In 2012 alone, immigration accounted for 65 per cent of the population growth in Saskatchewan, with 11,177 new immigrants arriving in the province.

Rather than originating from one primary area, such as Europe in the early 1900s, Saskatchewan's newest residents come from approximately 180 different countries. The top four countries for Saskatchewan immigrants from 2007 to 2012 were the Philippines (33 per cent), China (8.8 per cent), India (6.6 per cent), and Pakistan (6.3 per cent).

Newcomers to the province have settled in more than 350 communities, with the majority landing in Saskatchewan's larger urban centres. However, immigrants are also living in smaller communities, as more than 5,700 newcomers arrived in

communities outside Saskatchewan's 10 largest urban centres from 2007 to 2012.

In 2009, the Government of Saskatchewan implemented a new settlement and integration model as part of a larger Immigration Strategy for the province. With a focus on economic growth, labour market development, community orientation, language training, and skills/credential recognition, this strategy is helping Saskatchewan become an even more attractive destination for immigrant families.

Saskatchewan has a lot to offer newcomers to the province and it all starts with the strong provincial economy.

Behind the strength of the agriculture, mining, oil and gas, and manufacturing sectors, Saskatchewan's economy ranks amongst the best in the nation. Ultimately, this leads to employment and earnings opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan.

The population of the province is now at an all-time high, with more than 1.1 million people calling Saskatchewan home. In the past year, the province has grown by more than 20,700 people. Saskatchewan has not seen this type of growth since the province's early days.

While many areas of the economy are growing, unemployment is not. Saskatchewan's unemployment rate currently stands at 3.8 per cent – the lowest in Canada and well below the national rate of 6.4 per cent.

However, due to the realities of our demographics and the abundant opportunities available in the province, labour shortages are the primary barrier to continued economic growth in Saskatchewan.

Newcomers to the province are helping fill this labour void. Immigrant families are playing an important role in enriching Saskatchewan's economic prosperity. Yet their contributions don't stop there, as these families are also enhancing our cultural and social fabric. They are also revitalizing our communities, as 31 per cent of new immigrants last year were 18 years of age or younger.

One of the primary ways of getting newcomers into the province is through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). A made-in-Saskatchewan immigration program, the SINP began as a pilot in 1998 and has become the largest source of immigration into the province, accounting for 81 per cent of the immigrants that arrived in 2012.

The SINP is a provincial program under a federal-provincial agreement. Through this program, Saskatchewan nominates applicants to the Government of Canada for permanent resident status. Entry prerequisites and selection criteria vary by category and are based on several variables, including language ability, education and skill level, and employment history.

Saskatchewan currently has the third largest provincial nominee program in the country. Through the SINP, Saskatchewan will nominate 4,450 skilled workers in 2013, along with their spouses and dependents. Only Alberta and Manitoba have a higher allocation with 5,500 and 5,000, respectively.

Recently, the provincial and federal governments announced improvements to the program for 2014 following stakeholder consultations. Among the changes are an increase in Saskatchewan's nominee allocation for next year, which will increase to 4,725.

IMMIGRATION WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO ADD 60,000 MORE WORKERS TO THE PROVINCE BY 2020.

In 2012, 93 per cent of economic immigration to Saskatchewan was through the SINP. This compares to 42 per cent for Alberta and 27 per cent for British Columbia. In addition to SINP nominated immigrants, other sources of economic immigration are federal skilled workers, Canadian experience class immigrants, and federal business immigrants.

Besides the economic advantages, the SINP has made Saskatchewan communities well-known and attractive destinations for immigrant families. In 2012, Saskatoon (13) and Regina (14) were among the top-15 immigrant receiving communities in Canada.

Based on the Provincial Nominee Evaluation Report released by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the SINP has benefited Saskatchewan in other ways as well:

- Ninety-five per cent of Saskatchewan's nominees report employment/self-employment earnings within one year of arriving.
- SINP nominees have higher earnings and income than other immigrants.
- More than 75 per cent of SINP nominees have jobs at a skill level equal to, or higher than, the skill level of their intended occupation within their first year of arrival. Nearly 90 per cent have met or exceeded that skill level within three years.

It's clear that provincial nominees are having a positive impact on the

Saskatchewan labour market. It's not a short-term impact either.

From 2000 to 2010, 87 per cent of SINP immigrants stayed in Saskatchewan – the third-highest retention rate among the provinces. Recent studies indicate that newcomers are more likely to stay in Saskatchewan if:

- they have a job;
- they believe there are opportunities where they live; and
- they have a network of family and friends nearby.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is targeting an additional 60,000 workers by 2020 to help sustain the momentum of our provincial economy. In addition to attracting skilled workers from across the country and around the world, the Government of Saskatchewan is making a record investment in post-secondary education and skills training, with significant support for First Nations and Métis peoples.

Immigration will have a significant impact on our ability to add 60,000 more workers to the province by 2020. However, we will need to work together to reach that goal.

Municipalities throughout the province are already doing a great job in helping newcomers settle and integrate into their new communities. Together we need to build on those efforts and continue to help immigrant families build their futures here in Saskatchewan – just as thousands of other families did a century ago. ■



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Engage volunteers and embrace diversity through recreation

Christian Bates-Hardy, Communications Consultant,
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

How do we reach out to newcomers and young people and get them engaged in recreation and sport as our communities grow and become more diverse? This is a question many communities in Saskatchewan face as the province's population continues to increase at an unprecedented rate. The City of Yorkton's recent success with their local Cricket Club can be used as a case study of how one community took an existing recreation program, and used it to engage young people and newcomers.

In 2011, the City of Yorkton did an environmental scan of existing sport and recreation programs in their community and identified some gaps. According to **Lisa Washington**, Community Development Manager for the City of Yorkton, the process used by the city was implemented with several sports, including boxing, wrestling and cricket. "The major difference with the sport of cricket," Washington noted, "was the volunteer desire and commitment to move it forward."

During *June is Recreation and Parks Month* in 2011, Urban Youth Sport Coordinator **Stephanie Lockhart** arranged for the Cavalier Sports and Social Club to come to Yorkton from Regina and hold an indoor cricket clinic. Volunteer members from the Club came to Yorkton with equipment, conducted clinics, and demonstrated how to play the sport.

Since the clinic in 2011, the key person responsible for developing cricket in Yorkton has been **Faisal Anwar**, Economic Development Officer for the City of Yorkton, and captain of the newly established Yorkton Yorkers cricket team. Washington describes him as, "our local volunteer champion of this sport."

With the help of community volunteers, Anwar has hosted indoor and outdoor clinics, worked with student groups, promoted the sport, and developed the city's first cricket team, the Yorkton Yorkers. The city had not had a cricket team since the 1950s.

Working closely with the City of Yorkton's Community Development, Parks and Recreation Department, Anwar applied for funding through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program. The Community Grant Program is a partnership among Sask Sport Inc., SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. to help with in the development of sport, culture and recreation programs by providing funds to non-profit community organizations operated by volunteers. Anwar used the grant money to cover the cost of equipment and renting a facility.

The challenge at the earliest stage, says Anwar, "was to let residents know about cricket and get those residents engaged who already knew the sport or recently migrated from those countries where cricket is one of the most popular sports (such as) Pakistan, India, and Jamaica."

The city organized another cricket clinic to promote the sport as a part of Sports Day in Canada on September 29, 2012. It was at this point that several new volunteers and players, many of them recent immigrants from Southeast Asian countries, joined Anwar. "Ice hockey, curling, baseball or soccer may not be attractive

for those immigrants who grew up playing cricket. The Yorkton Cricket Club tried to take these immigrants out of their isolated shells into Yorkton's mainstream," says Anwar.

The key to Anwar's success, says Washington, is that he wants "everyone, not just new Canadians, to be involved and enjoy a sport that he grew up with and loves."

Anwar agrees. His next goal is to make cricket more attractive and engage local residents in the sport. He believes that sport and recreation "can overcome language and cultural barriers to bridge gaps between newcomers and local residents."

"We are designing several programs to introduce cricket in schools to promote it at the grassroots level," said Anwar. He is currently working with the city to develop a cricket pitch, and start a local youth league. A weekly cricket clinic is also in its planning stages, to be launched in January 2014.

"Ice hockey, curling, baseball or soccer may not be attractive for those immigrants who grew up playing cricket. The Yorkton Cricket Club tried to take these immigrants out of their isolated shells into Yorkton's mainstream," says Anwar.

The success of the Yorkton Cricket club shows how recreation and sport can meet the needs of youth and newcomers to the province by engaging volunteers, embracing the diversity of their growing community, accessing available funding through provincially sponsored grant programs, and planning at the municipal and grassroots level.

SPRA offers free resources and tools for planning and developing physical activity and recreation opportunities in your community. For more information on how to engage volunteers, access funding, or develop recreation programming in your community, visit our website at www.spra.sk.ca or call 306-780-9231 to speak with an SPRA Consultant. ■

For more information:

Saskatchewan Cricket Association • www.saskcricket.com

Saskatchewan Lotteries – Community Grant Program • www.sasklotteries.ca/about-us/community-grant-program.htm

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association –
June is Recreation and Parks Month • spra.sk.ca/news-events/june-is-recreation-parks-month/

The City of Yorkton • www.yorkton.ca

Yorkton Yorkers • www.facebook.com/YorktonYorkersCricket

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

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Emergency Prepare Checklist

THEME:

EMERGENCY PLANNING



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Strengthening Local Government Leadership for More than a Decade

Teresa Edwards, MLDP Administrator

This fall marked the 10th anniversary of the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) and despite the warm and sunny fall weather, we were hard at work on a few projects that we're really excited about!

A redesigned MLDP website was launched on September 13. The new site has a clean and fresh look featuring updated content, and an improved design layout that's easy to navigate. Online registration for the program modules is now also available through the site.

In addition to relaunching the website, a new program logo was unveiled in September. We kept the traditional lettering and colors of the MLDP and updated it with a graphic element. The leaves that extend from the "L" (for Leadership) represent growth in leadership skills, and the "L" is in the forefront and prominent, like a leader. All of the printed and online materials for the program have been updated with the new logo.

The MLDP is currently structured around six modules or workshops tailored to the specific issues of urban, rural and northern municipalities. The program provides current and essential information on a wide range of topics, all relevant and designed exclusively for Saskatchewan municipalities. Mayors, councillors, and municipal staff can benefit from a program designed to strengthen local government leadership.

The first modules rolled out in October of 2003. Since that time, there have been 277 MLDP workshops held at various locations throughout Saskatchewan with more than 3,600 municipal leaders attending at least one. Of those attendees, 334 have been recognized with Certificates of Completion. Participants are from all areas of the province with varying levels of experience in municipal government. Some have been on council for more than 20 years, while others are fresh from the LGA Program.

We're doing our best to reach all corners of the province, and no matter where you live, the MLDP has either held, or will hold, a module near you making the program easily accessible. Additionally, modules are held in conjunction with both the SUMA and the

SARM annual conventions so that delegates have an opportunity to take in a module prior to convention.

More information about the MLDP is available on the program website at www.mldp.ca. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Teresa Edwards, MLDP Administrator, at 306-761-3725 or send an email to mldp@sasktel.net.

Thank you to everyone who has attended a module for your support and we encourage those who haven't to attend one soon! ■



Municipal Leadership
Development Program

2014 Winter Modules

Make plans now to attend an MLDP module on Saturday, February 1, before SUMA's 109th Annual Convention, or Monday, March 10, ahead of SARM's convention. All of the 2014 winter modules will be held at the Queensbury Convention Centre – Evraz Place in Regina from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Five modules are scheduled:

- Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities
- Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals
- Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace
- Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities
- Community and Land Use Planning

Visit www.mldp.ca for registration information.

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Convention Chair's Voice

Councillor Randy Goulden, Director, East Central Region

Another winter begins with preparations well underway for the 109th SUMA Convention. I've been to a lot of SUMA conventions in my time on Yorkton City Council, and I never fail to get excited. But as Chair for Convention 2014, it's all the more exciting. I'm looking forward to all there is to see and do this February in Regina.

When our Convention Planning Committee was choosing a theme for Convention, the concept of *Strength From Many Peoples* came to the top because of all the things it represents. Saskatchewan was built by the hard work of so many, and it will grow and thrive in the hands of so many more. Immigration is a huge trend, and is helping our population and our economy grow. The relationships that we build with people in and around our communities are an integral part to making sure urban Saskatchewan is the best place to live, work, and play.

One of the most important opportunities to make new connections and strengthen our existing relationships is at the annual SUMA Convention. It's the one time a year elected officials and senior municipal staff get to gather in one place to meet, discuss our issues, learn how to serve our communities better, and be inspired to act. Convention 2014 is no exception.

I want to stress how important networking at Convention can be. Urban municipalities of all sizes have the opportunity to learn from each other in informal settings, so please take the time to have conversations at the various social activities offered at Convention. Sunday night's Urban Discovery event is a great time to learn about the surface tension that allows bubbles to form, but also to talk to other urban leaders about how they broke the tension with neighbouring municipalities. Get together on Monday night to enjoy the hospitality event, and see how other urban municipalities are making sure their communities are hospitable to newcomers. Spend Tuesday evening at the President's Banquet to be inspired by long-serving staff and



elected officials, and to celebrate award winners who show dedication to their jobs and communities.

Let's not forget, however, what a big part education plays at every convention. You get an opportunity to gather with similarly sized communities at your sector meetings, and our education sessions are there to help villages, towns, northern municipalities, resort villages, and cities. We are all facing similar issues, and so we gather to learn together. There's no shortage of education sessions this year; take advantage of the jam-packed schedule.

Convention 2014 will not be short on inspiration either. The reputation of our keynote speaker, Ted Jaleta, precedes him. Ted will talk about the difficulties he's faced, first in his home country of Ethiopia, then in his early days as a refugee new to Canadian culture. His story is truly inspiring, and you can get a sneak peek on him in "Inspiration from Strength" on page 22.

With so many opportunities available in one place, I encourage you to join us in Regina this February. Convention 2013 was one of our busiest ever, and I hope to see all those faces and more at Convention 2014. Let's gather, and show how strong we can make urban Saskatchewan, together. ■



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Strength From Many Peoples

2014 Convention Agenda

Queensbury Convention Centre, Regina, SK

Sunday, February 2, 2014

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Education Sessions E1: Today's Saskatchewan E2: Regional Recreation Collaboration E3: The Urban Environment E4: Privacy Legislation and Council E5: Managing Roadway Risk – Getting people from here to there safely
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	E6: City Dialogue Session
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Education Sessions (repeated) E7: Today's Saskatchewan E8: Regional Recreation Collaboration E9: The Urban Environment E10: Privacy Legislation and Council E11: Managing Roadway Risk – Getting people from here to there safely
4:20 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	SUMAssure Registration & AGM
8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Urban Discovery Saskatchewan Science Centre

Monday, February 3, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Light Continental Breakfast & Tradeshow Viewing
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Official Opening Ceremonies
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	President's Address
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address – Ted Jaleta
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Break – Dedicated Tradeshow Viewing
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Premier's Address
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Delegate Luncheon
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Education Sessions E12: Planning and Development E13: Mission: Zero E14: The Importance of Communication
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break – Dedicated Tradeshow Viewing
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Sector Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • Towns • Villages, Resort Villages & Northern Municipalities
8:00 p.m.	Hospitality Night, Ramada Plaza Regina

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Light Continental Breakfast & Tradeshow Viewing
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • Towns & Villages – Populations over 500 • Towns & Villages – Populations under 500 • Northern Regional Meeting
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break – Dedicated Tradeshow Viewing
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Minister of Government Relations
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	FCM Address
11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	SaskPower Presentation
11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Sector Reports
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Resolutions
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Presentation
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	AGM
7:00 p.m.	President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony
9:00 p.m.	Entertainment – Darrin Rose, Comedian

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Dialogue with Ministers
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Bear Pit with Cabinet
12:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies

AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE





Inspiration from Strength

Meet Convention 2014 keynote speaker, Ted Jaleta

Tiffany Wolf, SUMA

It's hard not to be completely captivated by **Ted Jaleta**. He's friendly, with kind eyes, a ready laugh, and an underlying strength that draws you in. His story is just as compelling. It's a story of challenge, adversity, and ultimately triumph.

You'll hear more about it during his keynote, but here are the broad strokes of Jaleta's journey:

He grew up in Ethiopia, where he developed a passion for education and long-distance running, but the political climate eventually meant he had to flee his home country for the sake of his and his family's safety. He went first to Sudan, then on to Kenya before he came to Saskatchewan in 1982. His early days here included discrimination and harassment, but eventually he rediscovered his love of running. Finding his passion again helped him create and build a new life in Regina.

Deana Driver tells the full story much more deftly in Jaleta's biography, *Never Give Up: Ted Jaleta's Inspiring Story*. The two met in 2005 to begin working on the book. Driver knew a bit about Jaleta because of his success as a long-distance runner, but she learned much more as he shared his story with her over the next several months. She believes it was a cathartic experience for him.

"Sharing it like this released some of that (trauma) for him," she said, "and helped him to heal from some of that because he'd kept it inside for so long. It gave him confidence to talk about the good things inside of him, what made him succeed."

The book – written and published in Saskatchewan – has been very successful,

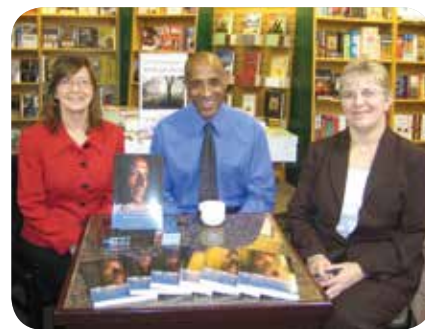
selling out its first and second print. The release of his biography increased Jaleta's profile, and caught the attention of then-Lieutenant Governor **Gordon Barnhardt**, and his wife **Naomi**. They invited Jaleta to Government House for tea.

The three struck up a friendship, and Naomi began training with Jaleta. Gordon also got involved in helping Jaleta with his public speaking. His advice? Don't get up there and read a canned speech. "You've got such a heart-warming emotional story," Gordon told him. "You just have to talk to people."

The advice paid off. By 2006, Jaleta was averaging 50 presentations a year, while working a full-time job, and doing coaching work in the mornings and evenings. These days he's doing about 20-30 presentations each year. Communities all around Saskatchewan have invited him to speak: Meadow Lake, Shaunavon, Melfort, Wolseley, Prince Albert, and more.

During his travels, he's noticed some parallels between communities in Ethiopia and Saskatchewan. "I've travelled to a few places in Canada," he noted, "but the great thing about Saskatchewan is the tight-knit communities. If something happens, they – right away – they tend to volunteer, and just work as one."

Driver sees similar qualities in communities across the province, and believes that's why Jaleta's message will resonate. "On the prairies, we are hardworking people who try to improve...our own health, our own community, everything around us. Ted teaches us, through his hard work, what is possible. And that gives us hope for how we can improve the things around us."



(L-R) Peggy Collins, Ted Jaleta, and Deana Driver

Though he's lived in Regina for more than 30 years, Jaleta still keenly remembers the difficulties in making a transition into a new culture. He says it's not just about learning the language, but also about learning to understand cultural and social norms, like body language. He says we can make our communities even more welcoming by providing support and resources to newcomers, and by being patient with them.

"I think we have a tendency to expect (newcomers) – right away – to immerse, to adapt, and just to make an easier transition," said Jaleta. "It's not that easy. Make them welcome, but (don't) judge them. You have to mentor them."

When asked what he wants to say to municipal leaders at Convention, he offered a simple, but powerful note. "They are in a position to do right, and to influence, to empower."

Hear Ted Jaleta deliver that message on Monday, February 3, 2014 during the Convention 2014 keynote address. ■



"He's one of the most amazing people I've ever met. He's a very kind man, and he has a depth to his personality that I've not met in anyone else. He has a deep wisdom about him."

– Deana Driver





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First-timer's Guide to Convention

Read on if this is your first time attending a SUMA convention or if you just need a quick refresher on the ins and outs of attending convention!

What does my registration fee include?

Your convention registration fee includes:

- admission to all of the education and breakout sessions (your choice of sessions);
- a seat at the keynote speaker presentation;
- tradeshow viewing times Monday and Tuesday;
- shuttle service to and from designated hotels;
- a light continental breakfast and lunch on Monday and Tuesday;
- refreshment breaks;
- a chance to mingle with fellow delegates during Monday's Hospitality Night (cash bar);
- the chance to dialogue with provincial cabinet ministers; and
- the opportunity to network with other municipal leaders.

The Sunday night event (Urban Discovery), the President's Banquet, and the Partners' Program all require additional fees.

How do I use the shuttle service that is provided to the Queensbury Convention Centre?

The short answer: Check the hotel lobby for approximate departure times and bus stop locations.

The long answer: For Sunday education sessions, there will be a continuous shuttle circuit beginning at noon. Service will also be available that evening for the Urban Discovery event.

Monday through Wednesday, shuttles will run to the Queensbury in the morning, and return to hotels in the afternoon. There will also be bussing for the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony Tuesday evening.

Please note that the shuttle will not run for the Hospitality Night on Monday evening, and service on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during the day is not continuous shuttle service.

The even longer answer: See page 36 for full details.

Where do I register at Queensbury Convention Centre?

When you get to Queensbury Convention Centre, come up the stairs/escalator and the registration desk will be set up in the foyer outside Salon ABC.

The Registration Desk is where you get your convention envelope (including your name tag, agenda card, voting information, pre-purchased event tickets, and Partners' Program packages). Your nametag is your admission ticket to the sessions and luncheons, so it is a must-wear item during convention. At the end of convention, these badges and holders will be collected by SUMA to reuse and your name will be entered into a draw for a prize.

Each registered delegate will also receive a bag with the convention handbook. This handbook is an invaluable resource for every delegate, containing transportation information, facility floor plans, session details, resolutions, and day-to-day agendas.

The registration desk will be open:

Sunday, February 2: 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday, February 3: 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5: 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Is there a mobile app available to download?

Yes! New to convention this year is a free mobile app that contains everything you need to know about Convention 2014.

The Eventbase app is available for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android users. All the details on the app are available on page 26.

What should I wear?

Casual business attire is recommended for daytime activities. The Sunday night event is casual attire, and the President's Banquet is business formal.

Please remember that you are representing your community, so put your best foot forward while at Convention.

You will be networking with urban governments from across the province, and will be in the presence of many provincial and national dignitaries. Avoid ball caps, sweatpants, ripped jeans, and other unprofessional attire.

Remember that it's winter in Saskatchewan so bring suitable outerwear for the trek to and from the hotel! A coat check will be available.

Tell me about the meals!

A light continental breakfast and lunch will be served in Salon ABC (Queensbury Convention Centre) Monday and Tuesday. Refreshments are available in the tradeshow area Monday and Tuesday morning and in the foyer of Salon ABC Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided at the Sunday night event, and a buffet dinner will be served at the President's Banquet. Tickets must be purchased in advance for these two events.

Breakfast and lunch are provided for those attending the Partners' Program on Monday, February 3.

What are sector meetings?

Sector meetings give delegates a chance to meet with colleagues from other municipalities in the same sector. This is the perfect opportunity to discuss current issues that are affecting your sector. The sector meetings will be held on Monday, February 3 at 3:30 p.m. and split into three groups:

- Cities
- Towns
- Villages, Resort Villages and Northern Municipalities

What are breakout sessions?

Breakout sessions are split into the below groups and focused on a topic of particular interest to each group:

- Cities
- Towns and Village with populations below 500



- Towns and Villages with populations above 500
 - Northern Regional Meeting
- Breakout sessions will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 8:45 a.m.

What is the deal with resolutions?

Resolutions will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 1:30 p.m.
 The resolutions will be summarized in your convention handbook (provided onsite when you register at Queensbury). Only those delegates with **blue** name badges (voting delegates) are able to vote on resolutions.

As per SUMA Bylaws, the number of voting delegates a municipality has been assigned is based on population. The Chair will move each resolution, and a member of the sponsoring council must second it (or it will fail). The seconder will be given three minutes to speak to the resolution. The chair will then ask for anyone who wishes to speak against the resolution. If there is no opposing view, then the question will be called. If someone wishes to speak against the resolution then normal debate occurs. Speakers are given two minutes. The seconder will then be allowed one minute to close debate.

Voting will be by a show of blue voting cards, unless 25 voting delegates request a vote by ballot. Any call for a ballot vote must come prior to the call for votes in favour. In the case of a ballot vote, the ballots from delegates from the Cities of Regina and Saskatoon will be counted as seven votes. Procedural challenges will be resolved through consultation with our parliamentary advisor(s).

What about the AGM?

The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday February 4 at 3:30 p.m. Any elected official from a SUMA member municipality can vote during the AGM.

What happens at the Dialogue with Ministers and the Bear Pit?

Only those delegates that have **blue** (voting delegate), **yellow** (delegate) or **orange** (municipal employee) badges are able to ask the ministers questions. You may ask only one question, and statements are prohibited. To allow as many questions as possible, you will be given 90 seconds to ask your question and you will be timed.

What is the Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow?

The Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow is held in conjunction with the annual convention. The tradeshow takes place in the Agribition Building. There will be more than 180 exhibitors offering products and services that are relevant to municipal needs on a daily basis. Time is set aside for you to visit the exhibitors. Remember to enter your name into the prize draws – SUMA

delegates are lucky people, and you never know what prizes you could take home! The ballot entry forms are contained within the handbook.

Anything else?

All SUMA staff members can be identified by the red nametags they will be wearing. Please don't hesitate to come over to say hello, or let us know how we can help you. We always love to hear from our members!



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Convention 2014 in the Palm of Your Hand

New to convention this year is a free mobile app that contains everything you need to know about Convention 2014. We are excited to make this exciting step into the digital world, and we're doing it with a little help.

The Eventbase app is available for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android users by downloading Eventbase (for free) in your device's app store. The app is used by conferences and festivals all over the world (like the London Olympics) and some closer to home (like the Yorkton Film Festival). Because we didn't commission or design the app, we also don't offer support for it. But we wanted

to give you a quick guide to the app so you could get started right away.

Once you've downloaded Eventbase, make sure you're connected to a wi-fi network, otherwise it won't work correctly. Then open the app and search for SUMA. Watch for the blue SUMA logo! When you tap the SUMA logo, you go to the basic information about Convention, including a short description and

the dates. Tap Launch Event Guide, and you're off to the races.

In the event guide you'll find a full schedule, which means you have the most up-to-date information about when and where events are happening at Convention. We will be adding information as soon as it's available, so even if you can't find the information now, it should appear soon.

To help you find what you're looking



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for, we've added a few logos. Look for these pictures to see what's happening when. These categories match up with the information in the agenda and the Convention brochure you received last month.

The schedule gives you basic information, but if you tap on an event, you'll get all the available information, from date and time to room number and a description of the session or event. Again, these sorts of things will be updated from now until Convention, so this is a perfect way to make sure you are always in the know.

As we confirm speakers, watch the Speakers section to read bios, and learn more about who will be speaking and leading sessions.

You can even select your own favourites by clicking the stars next to events. It gathers all your favourites in the (surprise, surprise!) Favourites section, so you can basically create your own personalized agenda.

We're looking forward to making this digital leap with our delegates, and helping you have the best information on Convention, available all day every day!



We will be adding information as soon as it's available, so even if you can't find the information now, it should appear soon.



Blue Imp's Canada-Wide Sale

Adventurous playgrounds at amazing prices, made right here in Western Canada with the quality you expect from Blue Imp.



Twisty Trails
Sale Price: Only \$15,910

For more sale options and details, visit www.blueimp.com or call your local Blue Imp play consultant 1-877-594-0541.





Registration: Before You Begin...

You'll need to gather the details for all the attendees from your municipality before you log in and begin the registration process. Most of this is information you needed to register in the past, but we wanted to give you a checklist to be sure you've gathered and confirmed everything before you start.

The Basics

- Who is attending from your municipality? Make sure you have the correct spelling of their names.
- What category will each attendee fall under?
 - Voting delegates
 - Non-voting delegates
 - Municipal employees
 - Award recipients (not attending Convention but attending the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony)
- What education sessions will each of your delegates attend? Education sessions are listed in the promotional brochure and available on the Convention 2014 page of our website.
- Do any of their partners want to attend the Partners' Program?
- Which activities will each partner attend? Full details on the Partners' Program are available on the website.
- How many voting delegates are allotted to your municipality?
- Which council members will be assigned voting privileges?
- How many Sunday night event (Urban Discovery) tickets will you buy? Remember to include spouses in your total, if necessary.
- How many President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony tickets will you buy? Remember to include spouses in your total, if necessary.
- Will you purchase a full table of eight at the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony? This is a new option available this year, which allows you to reserve a table by purchasing tickets for an entire table (eight people), rather than rush seating.
- What meals will attendees be eating at Convention? Breakfast and lunch for Monday and Tuesday are included in your registration fee, but not all delegates attend the meals. We are asking for this detail to get a more accurate meal count.

Custom Cases

- Does your municipality have to register a SUMA Board member? Did you receive the promotional code?
- Are any of your attendees receiving an award at the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony? (This would include Honorary Membership, Meritorious Service, or Scoop Lewry awards.)
- If you have any award recipients, did you receive the promotional code?

I Was Wondering...

You probably have questions, so we did our best to guess what they would be, and answer them here.

When is the deadline for registration?

Register before December 20, 2013 to receive the early bird fees and be entered into a draw for a free Convention registration.

What are the registration and ticket fees?

	Postmarked <i>before</i> December 20, 2013	Postmarked <i>after</i> December 20, 2013
Member	\$300	\$325
Non-Member	\$349	\$374
Partners' Program	\$90	\$115
President's Banquet	\$55	\$55
Sunday Evening	\$35	\$35

How and where do I pay?

Registration and ticket fees are payable to SUMA by cheque. Mail in your cheque to:

SUMA
200-2222 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0M7

The final step of the registration process also includes a payment page where you can find all the information regarding payments.

Where do I register?

The easiest way is to click on the link that we emailed to your municipality's main contact email address. Your other option is to use the link on the Convention 2014 page on the SUMA website under Events.

What email address do I use to log in?

Use your main contact email address (the one where you received the registration system link from SUMA), enter the name of your municipality, and log in. The municipality name and email must be entered EXACTLY as you have provided to SUMA in order to log in.

Example:

Email: *townofsomewhere@email.com*

Municipality Name: Somewhere



Why can't I open the registration link that SUMA emailed me?

You may need to update your browser; the system only works in Internet Explorer 8 or higher. It works best in Google Chrome, which you can also download for free.

Why is registration now online?

Online registration may seem like a big change, but it will make things easier on those registering, SUMA staff, and the environment. The new process allows us to make things more efficient.

Can I log back in to make changes after I submit my registration?

You can log back in to make these changes:

- Edit delegate names.
- Update delegate's choice of education sessions.
- Change Partners' Program activities.
- Add delegates or partners.
- Purchase additional event tickets.

You **cannot** make these changes:

- Cancel or delete delegates/partners. Please contact the SUMA office for cancellations.
- Return or cancel event tickets (Urban Discovery, and President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony). Once event tickets are selected the municipality is responsible for them; there are no refunds.

What is the cancellation policy?

Delegate and/or Partners' Program registration cancellations received on or before January 14, 2014 are subject to a \$50 cancellation fee per registrant. There are **no refunds for cancellations received after January 14, 2014** for any reason. Substitutions are allowed without penalty.

Refunds are not issued for Sunday evening event (Urban Discovery) or President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony tickets.

If you need to cancel a registration before January 14 please contact the SUMA office at 306-525-3727 or email registration@suma.org.

What is the difference between a voting delegate and non-voting delegate? How do I know how many voting delegates our municipality is allowed?

A voting delegate can vote on resolutions; a non-voting delegate cannot. Each municipality is designated an allotted number of voting delegates based on the 2011 Census.

Municipal Population	Maximum # of Voting Delegates
1-500	1
501-2,000	2
2,001-5,000	4
5,001-10,000	6
10,001-50,000	7
50,001-100,000	10
Greater than 100,000	11

What is a promotional code?

Some attendees – such as Board members and award recipients – have custom registration needs. SUMA staff will send out promotional codes to municipalities that need them so their delegates can be registered correctly.

How do I register a Meritorious Service and/or Honorary Membership award winner who is attending Convention as a delegate?

For award winners attending Convention as a delegate, determine if they are a voting delegate, non-voting delegate, or municipal employee. Add them in their appropriate category, and enter the promotional code that SUMA emailed to you. The registration system will then recognize them as an award winner, and if they are an Honorary Membership recipient, it will allot them two complimentary tickets to the banquet.

What about Meritorious Service and/or Honorary Membership award winners who are not attending Convention but want to attend the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony?

Add them under the award recipient category. You will then select whether they are a Meritorious Service or Honorary Membership award winner. Honorary Membership recipients receive two complimentary tickets to the banquet.

I have a SUMA Board Member from my municipality that I'm registering. What do I do?

If you are registering a SUMA Board Member a promotional code would have been sent to you in a separate email. Please enter this code in the 'Promotional Code' box when entering in the Board member's information.

Who should I contact if I have questions or am having trouble registering?

We are happy to help! Contact the SUMA office at 306-525-3727 or email registration@suma.org.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

First Place

Harvest for Hunger

Towns of Langenburg and Churchbridge
RMs of Churchbridge and Langenburg

A one-day event coordinated by more than 400 volunteers, attended by roughly 6,500 people, and which raised \$40,000 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank while raising awareness about the ongoing issue of global hunger.

Second Place

Anti-Bullying Bylaw

Town of Eston

An anti-bullying bylaw that can be used by the town, school, and local RCMP to educate, raise awareness, prevent bullying, and create concrete enforcement tools.

Third Place

Logan Green Water Management System

City of Yorkton

An innovative, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective new water treatment plant that created 210 acres of green space while ensuring a 25-year supply of water for the city.

Regional Cooperation Award

Twin Lakes Community Planning Association

Towns of Carrot River, Choiceland, and Nipawin
Villages of Codette and White Fox • Resort Village of Tobin Lake
RMs of Moose Range, Nipawin, and Torch River

A regional planning association that became a formal planning district, giving communities more opportunities to work together on issues of mutual interest and benefit.

A special thank you to this year's
title sponsor for the
Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

Affinity
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HEADSTART on a home benefits homeowners and municipalities

New home buyers can achieve their dream a lot faster and easier in Saskatchewan, thanks to HeadStart on a Home, a program aimed at increasing the province's entry-level housing supply by 1,500 units over five years. Announced in 2011 by the provincial government, HeadStart on a Home provides builders and developers with access to construction financing at a fixed interest rate of 4% for up to 90% of project costs with no pre-sale requirement. The units constructed must be sold at or below the MLS average sale price for a comparable unit in that area.

Recently, the Province announced an important revision to the program. While HeadStart on a Home was initially intended to only finance the construction of owner-occupied units, now, the lending parameters have been widened to allow developers to sell 25% of the units associated with any particular project to investors for the purpose of rental properties – beneficial for high-growth communities with low vacancy rates.

“A growing economy needs workers. To attract people to Saskatchewan, we need to build solid communities for them to live and raise their families in, and help them put a roof over their heads,” said Wanda Hunchak, Vice President of Westcap Mgt. Ltd., the fund manager selected to deliver the HeadStart on a Home Program. As Saskatchewan's largest private venture capital fund manager, Westcap Mgt. Ltd. has over \$500 million in capital under management, including the well-known Golden Opportunities Fund Inc.

To date, HeadStart on a Home has seen tremendous success with

over 34 projects approved in 13 Saskatchewan communities. As of October 31, over 900 homes have been completed or are under construction.

One of the most significant barriers to home ownership is the ability to provide the required down payment. Westcap Mgt. Ltd. has partnered with Saskatchewan's leading credit unions to help remove this barrier by offering a down payment loan for purchasers of HeadStart homes through the HeadStart Equity Builder Program™.

For municipalities that would like to get involved, HeadStart on a Home can provide introductions to land developers, builders, and organizations that can assist with the completion of housing strategies. HeadStart hosts builder information forums to connect municipalities with builders. The Town of Kindersley was featured at one such forum in June 2012, and has since proceeded through the planning process, selected a developer, and is now moving forward with new land development.

Commenting on the forum, former Mayor of the Town of Kindersley Wayne Foster said, “There was a lot of interest shown from developers, and we're booking follow up meetings. Bernie (Morton, Town of Kindersley CAO) says his phone has been ringing steady. They're arranging meetings, they want to come right away and see what the community is like. I think, depending on where they are with their other projects, it could happen fairly quickly.”

For more information, visit headstartonahome.ca or contact Rhonda Young at 306-477-7328 or info@headstartonahome.ca.



Working Together to **Build Saskatchewan**

Now in 13 communities across Saskatchewan!

HeadStart on a Home offers construction financing for Builders of entry-level homes

Fixed rate of 4%
Minimum 10% equity requirement
No pre-sales required

75% of units must be owner-occupied

Units must have target price at or below the average MLS sale price in area

Project applications are submitted by Municipalities in collaboration with Builders.

In partnership with our Community Champions, which offer down payment assistance for purchasers of HeadStart homes:



headstartonahome.ca

Managed by Saskatchewan's largest private venture capital fund manager.



A \$200 million initiative to build homes in Saskatchewan by:





Education at Convention

Training and learning are a huge component of every SUMA convention, and you'll have no shortage of opportunities at Convention 2014. We begin with a full slate of education sessions on Sunday, plus another three on Monday. Then, on Tuesday we have the sector breakout sessions.

Sunday, February 2

Today's Saskatchewan

People are coming to Saskatchewan from across Canada and around the world. Do you know how many newcomers Saskatchewan welcomes every year? Do you see new faces in your local restaurants and coffee shops?

This session will showcase Saskatchewan's changing demographics, from overall trends to individual communities' experiences. Get the latest statistics from the Ministry of Economy – Immigration Services and hear about the Government of Saskatchewan's plan for population growth. You will also hear from urban centres on the front lines of growth. The panel will share what their communities are doing to position themselves for newcomers, and their experiences building welcoming communities.

Regional Recreation Collaboration

Recreation is a key factor in quality of life. On average, urban governments spend 18 per cent of their annual operating budgets to provide recreation and leisure services to their residents. Some urban governments directly provide these services; others work with community volunteers.

Working together is becoming the model for many urban governments to provide municipal services. Attend this panel discussion to hear about how local governments can work together, with an expert moderator provided by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. The panel will include elected officials and practitioners from Saskatchewan and across Canada. Hear why local governments are moving toward collaborative and regional models to provide services, insight on collaborative ideas, lessons learned, and

recommendations for anyone exploring regional models.

The Urban Environment

2013 was a big year for environmental issues in Saskatchewan. This session is a must-attend for urban governments interested in the future of solid waste regulations in Saskatchewan. You will hear directly from the Ministry of Environment about the Environmental Code, a combination of several regulations, including new regulations on landfills, transfers stations and septic haulers.

The Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW), the agency representing industry stewards, is also invited to discuss the Multi-Material Stewardship Program. The program plan for recycling in Saskatchewan was submitted to the Ministry of Environment in August.

Privacy Legislation and Council

Information is often released on a 'need to know' basis. But who needs to know?

Councils regularly handle information that could be considered private, and they must make decisions about how and when to allow that information to become public. This session will walk you through some of the privacy legislation that applies to municipal governments, and how to avoid accidentally breaching privacy laws.

Managing Roadway Risk – Getting people from here to there safely

This session will cover how lawsuits claiming negligence in the design, construction, and maintenance of roadways affect municipal road authorities. See an overview of legal obligations in common law, and learn how to identify and manage risks in your municipality – proactively and in hindsight –from a practical point of view.

Topics will include how insurance can, and cannot, help you manage risk. Finally, you will be asked to consider your own biases in identifying and evaluating risks.

City Dialogue Session

This session is for delegates from cities only. This is a chance for the Saskatchewan City Mayors' Caucus (CMC) to review its work from the previous year. At this session you will hear a report from the CMC, and have a chance to identify high-priority items for the coming year's work.

Monday, February 3

Planning and Development

Urban municipalities all around the province are experiencing continued population and economic growth. Now there is demand for commercial and residential developments. Urban governments are on the front lines, dealing with developers. Be aware of your responsibilities and what you can ask from developers to ensure due process is followed.

The Ministry of Government Relations – Community Planning Branch will explain urban governments' roles and responsibilities in the development process. Plus, hear about personal experiences from someone in the development industry, and what urban governments can do to ensure the process goes smoothly.

Mission: Zero

Mission: Zero embraces the philosophy that the only acceptable number of preventable injuries is zero. This session will walk you through the Business Case for Injury Prevention, providing the context for the province's unintentional injury epidemic, and defining how



it affects the health care system, communities, industry and individuals in Saskatchewan.

See how following the Mission: Zero philosophy can help you improve your employees' life, enhance the economic environment for business, and save millions of dollars in health and social costs.

The Importance of Communication

Communicating with your residents is a major part of urban government. At this session, we will discuss how to ensure your residents get the information they need from the most reliable source – you. Learn about the tools available to communicate, when and how to use them, and see examples of how other urban municipalities are using them effectively.

Tuesday, February 4

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Cities

Saskatchewan cities play a critical role in helping our province grow. Cities invest \$1.2 billion per year in the economy; they attract more than 77 per cent of all new immigrants, and 60 per cent of the province's population lives in our cities. At this breakout session, the city sector will get to hear from Mario Lefebvre, Director of the Centre for Municipal Studies at the Conference Board of Canada. Mario brings extensive knowledge and understanding of the economic and financial situations of Canada's cities.

Towns and Villages with Population over 500

The Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) invites you to join them to discuss debt limits, borrowing applications, and when you need approval to borrow more. This breakout session will help you better understand the SMB application review process, and how an application gets approved.

Towns and Villages with Population below 500

Councils will mark the halfway point of their terms in 2014. How has your experience on council been? What have you learned about governance and administration?

This session is about governance, council and administration from the council's point of view. Get involved in an open forum for councillors and mayors to share your best practices and experiences. Participate in peer-to-peer learning, where the Ministry of Government Relations – Advisory Services will be on hand to answer any questions.

North

This session acts as the regional meeting for SUMA's Northern members. See a brief presentation from SUMA on current activities, followed by a dialogue session covering issues that are important to northern municipalities. These issues will be determined through consultation with Northern members.

Solaris Water Inc. offers solar water systems that use the heat energy of the sun to purify water through a process of solar distillation.

Designed to provide the water needs of cities, towns, and green communities, Solaris solar distilled water systems offer a lower cost, environmentally friendly alternative to both expensive RO and energy intensive ordinary distillation systems.

This is possible by using the heat energy of the sun, which is free. By using the sun's energy, we mimic what happens in nature to provide pure drinking water.

We quite often hear of "Boil Water" orders due to breakdown of existing mechanical/chemical systems. With solar distilled water, there are no treatment pumps to break down, and the supply is sterilized as it is produced.

Please visit our website at www.solariswater.com or contact us at solariswater@gmail.com

Solar Water System

How does it work?

- 1 The solar arrays concentrate sunlight to harvest the sun's energy for distilled water production.
- 2 Heat energy is collected by a Heat Receiver.
- 3 This heat energy is fed into a Distillation System.
- 4 Purified water is then stored for later consumption.

The diagram illustrates a solar water system. It features a long array of solar collectors (1) that concentrate sunlight. A heat receiver (2) is connected to the array. A distillation system (3) is connected to the heat receiver. Purified water is then stored in a storage tank (4). A water supply line is also shown entering the distillation system. ©Copyright 2013 Solaris Water Inc.



President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony

It is important to take a moment to celebrate accomplishments and recognize achievements of those around us. Each year, elected urban officials and municipal employees are awarded for their dedication and outstanding service during the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony. This year's banquet is being held at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Salon ABC on Tuesday, February 4.

Award recipients are nominated by their municipalities, who feel these individuals have improved the quality of life in their community and have demonstrated outstanding loyalty to local government in our province.

The **Meritorious Service** awards are presented to municipal employees with 20 or more years of service. We wish to honour the careers and commitment of the following 2014 Meritorious Service nominees:

- Rick Anderson, City of Swift Current
- Neil Bolton, Town of Macklin
- Bruce Brown, Town of Creighton
- Warren Bymoan, City of Swift Current
- Greg Campbell, City of Swift Current
- Terry Cooke, City of Swift Current
- Wyatt Evans, City of Swift Current
- Jerry Funk, City of Swift Current
- Kim Gartner, Town of Macklin
- Georges Hebert, Town of Gravelbourg
- Joan Janzen, City of Swift Current
- Tracy Klapatiuk, Town of Kamsack
- Barry Kowbel, City of Swift Current
- Dan Lamarre, Town of Gravelbourg
- Amedee Lorrain, Town of Gravelbourg
- Mitch Lorrain, Town of Gravelbourg
- Lorne Oystriek, City of Yorkton
- Robert Paluck, Town of Kamsack
- Cyril Poirier, Town of Gravelbourg
- Joan Popoff, Town of Springside
- Steve Shtuka,
- Northern Village of Denare Beach
- Rod Smith, City of Swift Current
- Robert Verville, Town of Gravelbourg
- Clint Wiebe, City of Swift Current
- Richard Winton, City of Estevan
- Veronica Wolski, Village of Invermay

The **Honorary Membership** awards are presented to past or current elected officials who have given their communities 20 or more years of service. We wish to honour the careers and commitment of the following 2014 Honorary Membership nominees:

- Patrick Doetzel, Town of Macklin
- Henri Lepage, Town of Gravelbourg
- Howard Parr, Town of Carnduff

The SUMA Board of Directors presents the **Life Member** award to an elected

official whose career exemplifies outstanding commitment and dedication to community and urban government. We wish to honour the career and commitment of the following 2014 Life Member award recipient:

- Allan Earle, Town of Dalmeny

We wish to congratulate all award recipients and above all else, say 'thank you' for your contribution to urban municipalities.



Darrin Rose

After we enjoy a great meal and honour our award recipients, get ready to laugh! This year **Darrin Rose** will be joining us for after-dinner entertainment.

A familiar face on television, Darrin Rose is the host of *Match Game* on the Comedy Network, plays Bill the bartender on the hit CBC sitcom *Mr. D*, and is a regular cast member on *MuchMusic's Video On Trial*. A four-time Canadian Comedy Award nominee – including Best Male Stand-Up in 2011 – he has appeared three times at the Just for Laughs festival.

His one man show 'What's Potpourri?' was selected Best of the Fest and received four stars at the Edinburgh

Comedy Festival in 2010. He has appeared twice on CBC's Halifax Comedy Festival show and his half hour stand-up special on CTV was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Performance in a Variety/Comedy Series in 2013.

Darrin won a 2012 Canadian Screenwriting Award for comedy, following nominations in 2009 and 2010. He tours across Canada and the United Kingdom.



Tradeshow Exhibitors

20/20 Geomatics Ltd.	Guardian Traffic Services	Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA)
ACP Applied Products	Hamilton Kent Inc.	Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals
ADVOCO Consulting Ltd.	HeadStart on a Home/Westcap Mgt. Ltd.	Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers
Airmaster Signs	Henderson Recreation	Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation
Anderson Pump House	Heritage Conservation Branch, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport	Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association
APEGS	Heritage Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Queen's Printer
Assiniboia Rubber Recycling Inc.	HiQual Engineered Structures Ltd.	Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC)
ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd.	Hudson Bay Route Association	Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
Badger Water Meter Inc.	iCompass Technologies	SaskCulture
BILN Holdings Inc.	Information Services Corporation	Saskdocs
BMO - Bank of Montreal	Jet Ice Ltd.	SaskPower
BRITESPAN Building Supplies	KAP CITY Construction Ltd.	SaskTel
Bullée Consulting Ltd.	Konica Minolta Business Solutions	SaskWater
Canadian Arena Products	Lafrentz Road Marking a division of Canadian Road Builders Inc.	Scantron Robotics
Canadian Cancer Society	Laurie Artiss Ltd. - The Pin People	SCGA and Sask1stCall
Canadian Clean Water Service Inc.	Lexcom Systems Group Inc.	Schulte Industries Ltd.
Canadian Dewatering	Michelin North America (Canada) Inc.	Shercom Industries Inc.
Canadian Labour Congress	Ministry of Government Relations	SIAST
Castle Rock Metal Buildings Ltd.	Ministry of the Economy	Signal Industries (1998) Ltd.
Catterall & Wright Consulting Engineers	Modular Housing Association Prairie Provinces	Sprung Structures
Centaur Products	Mountainview Systems Ltd.	St. John Ambulance
Century Environmental Services	MPE Engineering Ltd.	Staging Canadell
Chatterson Janitorial Supplies Ltd.	Municipal Employees' Pension Plan	STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society)
Cimco Refrigeration	Municipal Utilities Central Ltd.	Stevenson Industrial Refrigeration Ltd.
Clifton Associates Ltd.	Municipal World	SUCCESS Office Systems
CN	MuniCode Services Ltd.	SUMA
Collett Transport Inc./ Eco Solutions Distributor	MuniSoft	SUMAssure
Colya J Fire Services	Musco Sports Lighting	Suncorp Valuations
Commissionaires South Saskatchewan	Museums Association of Saskatchewan	Superior Truck Equipment Inc.
Communities in Bloom	North Fringe Industrial Technologies	Supreme Office Products Ltd.
Community Initiatives Fund	Northern Strands Ltd.	TAXervice
CommVault Systems	Operator Certification Board	The Water Clinic
Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan	Paradise LeisureScapes	Tiger Calcium Services Inc.
DCM Enterprises Ltd.	Park N Play Design Co Ltd.	Top Shot Concrete Inc.
Diamond Municipal Solutions	PINTER & Associates Ltd.	Transport Canada - Rail Safety
Dynamic Construction Ltd.	Playgrounds-R-Us	Triple S Industries
Ministry of Government Relations - EMFS	PlayWorks	Walker Projects Inc.
Easi File Canada	Pounder Emulsions a division of Husky Oil Limited	Waste Advisory Council of Saskatchewan
Emterra Environmental	Prairie Mapping Services	Western Municipal Tax Solutions Inc.
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.	Precision Concrete Cutting Inc.	Western Recreation & Development
Environment Canada	Provincial Pothole & Paving	Wolseley Engineered Pipe
Enviroway	Python Manufacturing Inc.	Wolseley Water Works
Equinox Environmental	Rainwater Management	WorkSafe Saskatchewan
Expocrete Concrete Products Ltd.	Road Boss Grader	WSP
Fer-Marc Equipment	Roy & Sons Dredging Services	Xlyem Water Solutions
Fire and Auto Enterprises	Royal Hotel Group	YourLink Inc.
Fort Gary Industries	SaskAlta Environmental Solutions Inc.	
Friesens Corporation - History Book Division		
FRS Canada		
Genco Generators		



Urban Discovery

Get ready for an evening of imagination and exploration. The Saskatchewan Science Centre will host SUMA on Sunday, February 2 starting at 8:00 p.m. for a night of discovery. There is so much to do, see, touch, smell, and experience with more than 150 interactive and unique exhibits because, yes, adults like to play too!

Along with catching up with friends from other urban municipalities, you can enjoy stage shows, live demonstrations, indulge in food and drink stations, and browse the tables (and purchase goodies) to support Saskatchewan's local entrepreneurs. We are also lucky enough to have the traveling exhibit, *Amazing Butterflies*, on display at the Science Centre while we're there.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$35 each. There is limited room, so if you are interested, be sure to get your tickets soon. Those in attendance will have the chance to win a trip to the destination of their choice, and there will be draws for many other great prizes. Look forward to spending an evening of science with award-winning catering in an environment that fosters creativity and exploration.



Transportation Information



We are pleased to provide shuttle bus service for SUMA delegates at Convention 2014.

Information with approximate departure times and bus stop locations will be posted in the following hotel lobbies:

Downtown

- Ramada • Delta • Double Tree by Hilton • Hotel Saskatchewan
- Wingate Inn • Quality Hotels

East

- Sandman Hotel Suites and Spa • Chateau Regina

South

- Travelodge • Executive Royal Hotel

For those attending Sunday education sessions, a continuous shuttle circuit from hotels will begin at noon and continue as required.

Monday through Wednesday, shuttles will run delegates to the Queensbury Convention Centre in the morning and return them to hotels in the afternoon. Bussing will be provided for the Sunday evening Urban Discovery event and Tuesday evening's President's Banquet.

There will *not* be continuous shuttle service during the day Monday-Wednesday, nor for the Hospitality night at the Ramada.

Parking is available at the Queensbury Convention Centre free of charge for those wishing to drive. **Please do not park along the barricades where the bus drops off; you could be ticketed and/or towed.**



Partners' Program

While Convention delegates are getting down to business, the Partners' Program will be in full swing on Monday, February 3. The day will start with breakfast for all partners at the Ramada. There will also be the chance to shop at the local crafters boutique. After breakfast, partners can choose how they spend the rest of their day depending on their interests.

You can take part in a jewellery design class where you can make and take your own personalized piece of jewellery to add to your collection. If that's not up your alley, you can see what goes on behind the scenes at the *Leader Post* newsroom, where they write, edit, and produce the paper. Indulge in a sumptuous lunch at the funky Crave Kitchen + Wine Bar in the heart of downtown Regina. Partners will then be whisked away to Casino Regina where they will have the rare opportunity for a behind the scenes tour of the Casino. This is the chance to wander where the general public does not go – the underground tunnels and halls, backstage at the Casino Lounge, and even the Green Room where many great performers have stood.

The other option is perfect for anyone who wants to imagine what life might be like in a Bollywood movie. A day of experimenting with East Indian clothing, spices, jewellery, clothing, food, dance, and of course, henna tattoos. The day will be an incredible opportunity to have a look at one of the many diverse cultures in Saskatchewan.



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Fred Clipsham – Chair of WUQWATR (Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Taking Responsibility) and Director of SAW (Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds)

In the recent debate over Regina's wastewater treatment plant – to P3 or not to P3 – an even more important question went unanswered: Why was there no federal/provincial infrastructure funding available for such an important project?

In June 2006, the newly-elected Prime Minister, **Stephen Harper**, gave the delegates at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference in Montreal a short and simple message "If municipal leaders have any issues, don't come to me...talk to your province." He hasn't been seen at an FCM conference since.

Insofar as Section 92 of *The British North America Act* assigns jurisdiction over municipalities to the provinces, the Prime Minister was correct. But federal jurisdiction over water gave Harper's Minister of the Environment the power to amend wastewater treatment regulations to require lower emissions of nitrogen and phosphorus. No money was announced to help with the cost of meeting those regulations. As a result, municipalities from coast to coast need to make expensive upgrades to their facilities with the cost borne entirely by local utility ratepayers.

In the first decade of this century FCM had considerable success convincing the federal government of the need for an infrastructure fund. A highlight was the release of a FCM study that said the national municipal infrastructure deficit totaled \$126 billion. (This amount was based on required maintenance, but did not include new infrastructure needed to accommodate growth, changes to regulatory requirements or the impacts of climate change. Today's number would be much, much higher.) Another key argument was that municipalities own and operate 63 per cent of the infrastructure in Canada.

The Chretien and Martin governments responded with a variety of short-term infrastructure programs, all of which required provinces to match the federal funds. Some of the programs targeted 'green' infrastructure while others had few restrictions. FCM responded by saying *ad hoc* programs did not give municipalities the confidence to plan for future investments. To its credit, the Harper government introduced the Building Canada Fund (BCF) that would provide a predictable annual allotment from 2007-2008 to 2013-2014.

But then the financial meltdown of 2008 happened. Everyone remembers the term 'shovel-ready.' Municipalities had the need; the engineering had been done, and infrastructure projects were ready to go. The consequence was that future years' allotments were brought forward so that there were new jobs, and money would stimulate the economy.

Instead, the result was that by 2011 federal/provincial investment in municipal infrastructure began to slow, and by 2013 became only a trickle. (A look at the 2013 federal or provincial budgets shows money for the BCF, but this is a repayment of money already spent.) As a result, Regina City Council had nowhere to look for financial assistance other than the federal government's P3 Fund.

The recent federal Throne Speech confirmed what was promised in Harper's 2013 budget – there will be new money

in the BCF starting in 2014-2015. The Saskatchewan government has committed to matching the funds once they are announced.

For communities facing upgrades to their wastewater treatment facilities, however, some important questions remain unanswered. Will the funding be at the 2007-2008 level, or will there be more to account for inflation and ever-increasing need? With the flood damage in many Canadian municipalities highlighting the urgent need for upgrades to floodwater infrastructure plus the FCM calls for money to remove railways from urban centres, will the new BCF be targeted to these types of projects? And will the federal government loosen its requirement that all projects be approved in Ottawa, which can mean overriding the investment decisions made by local councils and provincial governments?

Again, 63 per cent of infrastructure is owned and maintained by local governments that depend on only the property tax and utility payments to fund the upkeep. The very nature of vibrant communities means that infrastructure is required to provide for the health and safety of residents and the efficient operation of local economies. It is certainly in the interest of federal and provincial politicians to invest in a sufficient and predictable infrastructure fund to help local Councils achieve their goals, especially the all-important priorities of safe water and cleansed wastewater. ■

AN UPDATE ON THE SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

Che-Wei Chung, Policy Advisor, SUMA

In the past several months, many of you have called SUMA wondering about the 'new' regulations on landfills and transfer stations, and the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Some of you have heard about this from neighbouring municipalities, and others have heard it from your local environmental protection officers. Well, the truth is that the Code has been in the works for a while now. SUMA, as the urban voice of Saskatchewan, has been following and working with the Ministry of Environment since the beginning. Our story on the Saskatchewan Environmental Code is pretty long, but we will give you the *Reader's Digest* version; so this article ends before Convention 2014.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away – well, it was more like in 2009 in Regina – the Ministry of Environment initiated a regulatory review, aimed at moving toward a more results-based model for environmental regulations. This is a new way of thinking about regulations.

Traditionally, environmental regulations are often step-by-step instructions on what applicants *have* to do. The results-based approach is to develop regulations based on outcomes and objectives. Applicants are free to choose the best methods to achieve these environmental objectives, as long as a qualified person signs off on the proposed methods. In most cases, qualified persons are engineers and specialists. The key benefits of the results-based model are flexibility and innovation, because applicants are not restricted to what is in the regulations.

After one year of consultation, the Ministry introduced *Bill 121 - The Management and Protection of the Environment Act 2009*. The centerpiece of the new Act is the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Essentially, the Code is the consolidation of several existing regulations into one single document.

In 2010, the Ministry established the Saskatchewan Environmental Code Development Committee. Dorian Wandzura from the City of Regina carried SUMA's voice on the committee. Under the main committee were several content committees, each responsible for developing a chapter of the Code.

From 2010 onward, SUMA sat on the Municipal, Industrial, and Climate Change

content committees. The most relevant committee to SUMA members was the Municipal content committee, which oversaw the development of water and wastewater systems for serving 5,000 people or more, and new regulations for landfills and transfer stations.

By 2011, the Ministry had drafted the Landfill and Transfer Chapters with SUMA's collaboration. The public consultation on the chapters started in March 2012. SUMA sent a letter to the Minister of Environment outlining our concerns. In our letter, we outlined to the Minister the three questions SUMA uses to evaluate proposed regulatory changes:

1. Are these proposed changes necessary?
2. Are these changes reasonably achievable by urban governments?
3. Are these changes cost neutral for urban governments?

Our letter went on to explain that these questions are not to stop changes, but rather to encourage a balanced dialogue between our two orders of governments. Higher standards do not protect our environment unless they are attainable and applicable. Most importantly, our goal is to find achievable solutions that help us all to achieve our desired environmental outcomes.

By looking at these chapters through this lens, SUMA proposed several changes to the Landfill and Transfer Station Chapters. Our focus was on how to transition smaller facilities. We asked for possible changes for small facilities to decommission, elimination of financial assurance for regional waste authorities, a template developed by the Ministry

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Most importantly, our goal is to find achievable solutions that help us all to achieve our desired environmental outcomes.

to help urban governments that cannot afford to hire qualified person, and that the Ministry and SUMA work together to develop an implementation plan.

On the Liquid Domestic Waste Disposal Chapter, we informed the Minister that we did not support the new changes, because we believe not enough research has been done on the current availability of disposal facilities and without knowing the information, the changes will only lead to unnecessary burdens for urban governments.

We also praised the Ministry for incorporating our suggestion of a five-year transitional period to ensure that urban governments will have adequate time to prepare, and applauded his staff for including SUMA in the Code's development.

SUMA subsequently launched an advocacy campaign aimed at highlighting these concerns with your Members of the Legislative Assembly, and updating you about the proposed changes. We also met with the Minister, his senior staff, and the MLAs on the regulatory review committee to ensure that they understood the impacts these changes would have on local governments.

This year, the Ministry shared with SUMA several amendments they are considering. For example, the Liquid Domestic Waste Disposal Chapter will now allow land spreading, but winter spreading will require approval of a qualified person. Septic haulers still need to follow accepted best management practices for land spraying.

The Ministry will allow different transitional periods based on tonnes of waste received per year. For example, municipal facilities (landfills and transfer stations) with proper permits, and which receive 2,500 tonnes or less per year will have 10 years to transition. Larger facilities will follow the five-year transitional timeframe.

On the qualified person requirements,

changes are being considered for municipal facilities that receive 750 tonnes or less per year. They will now not require a qualified person to sign a technical investigation report, site suitability report, design plan, operating plan, monitoring plan, closure report or post-closure care plan. These facilities will work with the Ministry to develop these plans.

Please note, any landfills and transfer stations **without a valid permit** will have one year to transition. The revised chapters have yet to be released by the Ministry. SUMA will notify you once the final drafts are public.

SUMA is pleased to see these amendments to the chapters; however, we see that there is still much work to be done.

First, once the Code is proclaimed, SUMA wants to work with the Ministry to ensure that you know the requirements. We want to bring you together with the Ministry and engineers to make sure that all parties understand the regulatory expectations of the chapters. Not all engineers would know the results-based approach and education sessions would be helpful.

Second, SUMA has proposed to the Minister that during this transitional period, some urban governments will be exploring alternative ways to provide solid waste management. It is a perfect time for the Ministry to encourage regional co-operation through financial and regulatory incentives. That being said, a regional waste authority is an option for some, but not for all urban governments.

Last, SUMA is organizing an environmental education session for Convention 2014. (See page 32 for a description of the session: The Urban Environment.) It will be a great opportunity to continue learning about the saga of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. ■



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Following is a list of our SUMA Advantage programs by category. To learn more about a program, visit the SUMA website.

If you need additional information, please contact SUMA's Event and Corporate Services Manager, **Tania Meier**, at 306-525-4379 or email tmeier@suma.org

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