

Urban Update



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

Issue No. 13-25

December 2, 2013

Municipal Revenue Sharing Changes

SUMA recently learned of new accounting standards in the reporting of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST). This change will result in a reduction in Municipal Revenue Sharing for 2014-2015. The revenue sharing allocation for local governments is based on one point of the PST as reported by Public Accounts. In 2012-2013 the total amount collected in PST was \$1,284,893,000 - a decrease of \$37 million from 2011-2012.

The drop in revenue is mainly due to a requirement from the Public Sector Accounting Board on how the government must report the Saskatchewan Low Income Tax Credit. (This credit must be applied to PST revenue as it provides relief for that type of tax revenue.) Because of this change the revenue sharing allocation will decrease by \$7.453 million from the 2013-14 level of \$264, 432,200 to \$256,978,600 in 2014-15. The government estimates that without this change, the revenue sharing allocation to local governments would have increased by \$17 million.

Though the amount distributed has changed, the percentage distribution remains the same:

- Cities - \$123.0 million (estimated) or 47.945 per cent of total pool
- Towns and villages - \$42.0 million (estimated) or 16.345 per cent of total pool
- North - \$19.2 million (estimated) or 7.456 per cent of total

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FAQs On Municipal Governance

The next few questions will be multiple choice, and are pulled from the Ministry of Government Relations section of the [Ask an Expert panel at Convention 2013](#).

A council member purchased a piece of equipment for the

pool

- Rural Municipalities - \$72.6 million (estimated) or 28.254 per cent of total pool

SUMA's Executive Committee met with the Minister of Government Relations to discuss this change in reporting. Unfortunately, this is not great news for local governments and the executive expressed their concern with the reduction and the impact it will have on local governments. When the program was launched as being tied to the PST, SUMA accepted that the funding stream would fluctuate with the economy - sometimes up and sometimes down. Urban municipalities have been fortunate to realize significant increases over the past four years, at times in excess of 10 per cent annual increases. This change is not implemented by government, and therefore nothing can be done to reverse this outcome. Going forward, SUMA will continue to work with government to ensure the vitality of the municipal revenue sharing program.

If you have any specific questions regarding your communities allocation, please contact Sheri Gabel, Program and Policy Advisor, Grants Administration - Ministry of Government Relations. You can reach her at 306-787-3619 or sheri.gabel@gov.sk.ca.

Convention 2014: Urban Discovery Details

Enjoy a night of Urban Discovery at the Saskatchewan Science Centre on Sunday, February 2, 2014 before Convention officially kicks off the next morning. Along with catching up with friends from other urban municipalities, you can enjoy stage shows, browse interactive exhibits, watch live demonstrations, indulge in food and drink sampling stations from award-winning caterers, and peruse (and purchase!) the wares of local vendors. Make sure to bring cash for the drink stations and vendors. Vendors may also accept cheques, but it's cash only for drinks.

With so much to do and see we know you won't be interested in sitting, so seating will be limited. Purchase your \$35 tickets in advance, through the registration system. Get them soon;

municipality without authority and has presented the bill to council for reimbursement.

What can council do now?

- A.** Pass a resolution to reimburse the member.
- B.** Not approve the payment as it was not a council decision to purchase.
- C.** Pay the member and ask the CAO to sell it on Kijiji in hopes of recouping at least some of the cost.
- D.** All of the the above - council's decision.

Answer:

- D.** All of the the above - council's decision.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Community Rink Affordability Grant

(November 30)

Museum Grant Program

(November 30)

For a full listing of grants, check the Grants section on [our website](#) under the Events tab.

SUMA Classifieds

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Town of Canora: Community Development Officer (December 4)

Town of Langenburg: Administrator (December 6)

tickets are limited and you don't want to miss out!

Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Refocuses Grant Programs

Earlier this year the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation streamlined its granting programs to have the greatest impact in Saskatchewan's communities. For owners of designated Municipal or Provincial Heritage Property, their Built Heritage Grant provides hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to help stabilize and restore these important community assets. They also are proud to share that their On-Site Archeology and Paleontology Research Grant can help fund projects that result in new knowledge or a more in-depth interpretation of the site in question.

Need more information? [Check them out online](#) or call 306-787-2105. Also, please note their new deadlines: March 15 and September 1. (We'll be sure to remind you about the upcoming grant deadlines closer to those dates.)

RCMP Municipal Bylaw Enforcement

At the 2013 Municipal Policing Forum delegates had the opportunity to discuss their concerns on policing in their communities with the new Commanding Officer of F Division Chief Superintendent Brenda Butterworth-Carr. A common concern was the enforcement of municipal bylaws by the RCMP. As per the provincial policing agreement, **the RCMP will enforce municipal bylaws within the context of public safety.**

To ensure consistent practice across the province, SUMA asked the Commanding Officer if she would communicate this message to all detachments. The RCMP recently issued such a [letter to all detachments](#). SUMA is making the letter available to members so you can refer to it when you meet with your local detachment for the Annual Performance Plan consultation.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Sean McEachern, Director of Policy and Communications, at smceachern@suma.org.

Village of White Fox:

Administrator (December 10)

Town of Lashburn: Public Works and Utility Position (December 16)

Town of Rosthern: Public Works Operator (When Filled)

City of Lloydminster: Traffic Branch Manager (When Filled)

Village of Paynton: Administrator (When Filled)

Village of Prud'homme: Village Works Superintendent (When Filled)

FOR SALE

Garbage Truck (When Sold)

For a full listing of ads, visit the [SUMA Classifieds](#) under the Urban Marketplace tab.

Convention 2014: Registration Tip!

If you haven't registered for Convention 2014 yet, here is a piece of handy advice.

When logging into the online system **use only your municipality name - not the**

Winter MLDP Modules Now Open

MLDP is now accepting registrations for their winter sessions! Five workshops will be offered at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina on **Saturday, February 1, 2014** and again on **Monday, March 10, 2014**. The winter modules are scheduled around the annual SUMA convention and SARM's annual convention so delegates have the chance to participate in an MLDP module prior to convention. Please note that *registration is open to all municipalities* on both dates.

The winter modules tend to fill up quickly, so if you'd like to attend, register now! [A list of modules](#) and [registration information](#) can be found on the [MLDP website](#). If you have any questions about registration or the program in general, please contact Teresa Edwards at 306-761-3725 or mldp@sasktel.net.

SUMA's Got that Rider Pride

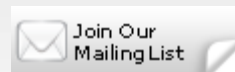
The SUMA staff took the opportunity to enjoy some of the Grey Cup celebrations as they were happening in our own back yard in downtown Regina. While we were there, we got to imagine what our lives might look like if we worked for TSN instead of SUMA.



Back row (l-r): Sean McEachern, Sean McKenzie, Scott Meger, Laurent Mougeot, Brenda Zimmerman, Che-Wei Chung
Front row: Tania Meier, Tiffany Wolf, Marlys Wasylyniuk

type. For example, the Town of SUMA would type only SUMA as their municipality, not Town of SUMA. Happy registering!

A detailed tutorial on registration is also available on the [Convention 2014 page](#) of the SUMA website. If you have any questions about registration, don't hesitate to email registration@suma.org.



About Us

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

SUMA

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Did You Know...

In the recent [Best of Saskatchewan poll from Prairies North magazine](#), the businesses in and around Maple Creek raked in no less than 14 awards, from Best New Restaurant to Best Women's Fashion Store.

Winners also came in from Rosetown (best gift store), Swift Current (best coffee

Sorely missed: Kelly Krupp, Laurie Bryant, Libbey Morin, Tammy Bryant

shop), and more!