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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMA Urges Federal Government Action on Building Canada Fund

The 2014 federal budget is missing important details to support our cities, towns and villages in their efforts to help our province grow despite promises of action.

"Saskatchewan's villages, towns and cities have been repeatedly promised support by the federal government to meet the challenges posed by aging infrastructure," said Mayor Debra Button, SUMA President. "But despite the immediate need for infrastructure investment in our communities, we are still left waiting for details and risk missing an important construction season."

Yesterday's budget lacked details regarding the Building Canada Fund (BCF) despite the 10 year, $14 billion fund being announced in the 2013 federal budget. Instead, a handful of targeted investments were noted, such as funding for the Windsor-Detroit border crossing, bridges in the Greater Montreal Area, and projects located in national parks. In September 2013, a $660 million investment in Toronto subways was announced.

SUMA unanimously passed a resolution at its convention calling on the federal government to provide details for the BCF.

The budget also lacked any funding or a plan to address affordable housing in Canada. Saskatchewan communities are experiencing a housing crisis and there is a need for federal leadership and investment.

SUMA welcomed the investment in rural and Northern community access to broadband. The government announced $305 million in funding over 5 years to provide or improve internet access in rural and remote communities.

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To arrange an interview please contact:

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