



Keeping you informed

President's Update



December 12, 2013

Notes From the Board Meeting

It was another busy Board meeting last week, as we gathered in Regina for the last time this year.

We heard about work of the Environment, Intergovernmental Affairs, Public Safety and Health, Community and Economic Development, and Convention Planning Committee.

Two potential **research projects** SUMA policy staff is currently developing were up for discussion.

- The first research project is to examine the proposed standards for landfills and transfer stations. SUMA is interested in hiring the University of Saskatchewan to look into the **potential costs for urban governments to meet the proposed standards outlined in the Landfill and Transfer Stations chapters of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code**. This generic research should help us learn the potential upgrading costs, the estimated decommission costs, and the projected new landfill costs.
- The second research project that SUMA is working on is with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA). The research will gather **province-wide information outlining the needs, rationales, and the best practices with regard to inter-municipal co-operation on recreation**. An inter-municipal collaboration guide would be developed as part of this research and it would be available for communities who want to start the dialogue with neighbouring municipalities.

We endorsed an **Immigration and Settlement Policy Position**. This new policy position will reflect the demographic changes in Saskatchewan and better position

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SUMA to communicate urban governments' needs on building welcoming and inclusive communities.

The Board reviewed **member resolutions** proposed for member discussion at Convention 2014. We approved 14 resolutions addressing a wide range of municipal issues from the creation of bylaws to regulate the use of golf carts within municipal boundaries, to the development of a reliable power grid or back-up system in northern municipalities. We look forward to lively discussion on the Convention floor.

We reviewed the Ministry of Government Relations' proposal on **guidelines for municipal annexation compensation** that would be used when the Saskatchewan Municipal Board is adjudicating land annexation between local governments. The proposal suggests annexation compensation is based on three components:

- the annual net revenue loss of the RM;
- the net expenditure increase of the annexing urban municipality (i.e., operating cost for municipal services and revenue due to annexing the land); and
- the remaining asset value (net book value) of the RMs municipal infrastructure being annexed (derived from PSAB 3150 Tangible Capital Asset Registers).

In addition, the methodology proposes that number of years of compensation be paid based on the percentage of net loss to the RM (if the net revenue loss to the RM is two per cent, then the payment is two years).

The Board passed a resolution supporting the direction of the Annexation Compensations Guidelines, however we want the Ministry to work with SUMA to conduct further work and consultation around years of compensation and the tax data being used, infrastructure compensation, and how to ensure the process is efficient. If you are interested in reading the discussion paper on the proposed guidelines you can view it on [the Ministry of Government Relations' website](#).