President's Update

Keeping you informed

SUMA SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

April 3, 2014

Notes From the Board Meeting

It's been a busy few months since the last SUMA Board meeting, and we gathered again in Regina last week. At this meeting, we had two **alternates at the Board table**: Councillor Gerald Roy representing the Northern Region in place of Bruce Fidler, and Councillor Eric Olauson representing the City of Saskatoon in place of Councillor Tiffany Paulsen.

- The meeting began with a visit from **Minister of Government Relations Jim Reiter**. We discussed the new Building Canada Fund, municipal asset management, and the work SUMA is doing with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association on regional recreation collaboration.
- We approved a policy statement on **rail safety**.
- The Board also approved the **delivery of legal services** to members through short consultations, legal resources available online, and through SUMA publications, and workshops/sessions on legal issues affecting urban governments. These services will be available thanks to our Policy and Legal Advisor Steven Dribnenki.
- Planning is underway for an **advocacy day** at the Legislature during the spring sitting.
- We heard a preliminary report on proposed **changes to the SUMA resolution process**. More details should be available after the June Board meeting.
- Staff provided updates on the Recycling Infrastructure Grant Program, the Town Urban Highway Program and the Urban Highway Connector Program.
- The **Convention Planning Committee Chair** baton was passed from Councillor Randy Goulden to Councillor Ted Zurakowski; Councillor Dawn Luhning was named Vice-Chair. Thanks to all who responded to

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the Convention 2014 evaluation. The feedback has been closely reviewed, and we are now looking to incorporate many of those suggestions into Convention 2015 in Saskatoon.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 20-21.