



Keeping you informed

President's Update



June 30, 2014

Notes From the Board Meeting

On June 21, the SUMA Board of Directors gathered for our regular June meeting, spending the day working to amplify our voice. The action started first thing in the morning as the Convention Planning Committee gathered to work on **Convention 2015**.

- The first decision was on the theme: **The Urban Heartbeat** will be the theme for next year's convention. The theme echoes how important urban municipalities are to Saskatchewan, from the majority of the population living in our towns, villages, cities, resort villages, and northern municipalities, to the economic activity generated there. It also reflects the elected officials as leaders in their communities and the province, and the future and progression available through youth engagement and succession planning.
- Entertainment at convention will also see some changes in 2015. Sunday night delegates will have the chance to attend **a more low key welcome reception**, with tickets sold for only \$15. **The President's Banquet** on Tuesday night will see exciting changes to the evening's entertainment; watch for more details as registration approaches.
- Due to declining participation and ever-increasing costs, the committee decided to **cancel the Partners' Program**. Partners will be able to get information on the host city's attractions in the convention handbook.

After the full Board gathered, there was a **delegation from Government Relations** on the multi-ministry Rapid Growth Communities working group.

The rest of the day was spent on Board business. Here are some of the highlights:

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- We voted in favour of supporting **SAMA's proposed 2015 Business and Financial Plan.**
- The Board voiced our support for the **proposed Fire Safety Act.** The changes will modernize the legislation around fire services, and provide new tools for fire departments to fulfill their mandate.
- We approved clearer, improved **policies for member resolutions** and the internal mechanics around bringing them forward to the membership for consideration.
- Mayor Al Heron and Councillor Tiffany Paulsen will sit on **the advisory committee for the MMSW multi-material recycling program.** The committee will be a forum for us to learn more of the program activities, and provide feedback and advice.
- The Board considered proposed **amendments to The Local Government Elections Act.** The changes will harmonize rural and urban elections procedure, introduce further requirements for candidates and councillors, and clarify petition and referendum processes.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 19.