



Keeping you informed

President's Update



September 29, 2014

Notes From the Board Meeting

Once again, the SUMA Board came together for our quarterly meeting. September 19 we spent the day in Regina working to amplify our voice.

The conversation began in the morning with **Convention 2015** details for the Convention Planning Committee.

- The committee ratified the decision to have Chantal Hébert as the **keynote speaker**. You may recognize her as a Toronto Star national affairs reporter, or as a political panelist on CBC's The National.
- They decided on 2015 **registration categories and fees**. The member early-bird fee will remain at \$300; member late registration will be \$400. As we mentioned before, the Sunday evening event tickets will only cost \$15. Tickets for Tuesday's banquet will be \$60.
- **Education and breakout session topics** were finalized, along with **entertainment** for the evening events, and the **agenda**. Watch for more details in coming weeks when we open registration.

The full Board gathered mid-morning to get down to Board business. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Board discussed the Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) **Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP)**. The MMRP will begin on January 1, 2015, and in the first year may provide up to an estimated \$5,800,000 in funding to municipalities for recycling collection. Though there may be funding reductions based on final industry participation numbers, we are working with MMSW, industry groups, the province, and our partner organizations to

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ensure the MMRP has full industry participation and funding.

- We heard about a **potential climate change pilot project** in which two cities would be partnered with the province and Crown corporations to measure greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations. This project should prove useful in determining municipal obligations with the upcoming Saskatchewan Environmental Code.
- The Board received an update on the **landfill operations and costs study** undertaken by Dr. Ian Fleming for SUMA. We encourage all urban municipalities to participate in the survey portion of this important study so we can understand the municipal cost of complying with the upcoming Saskatchewan Environmental Code
- We had an update on the progress of the new **SUMA Legal Services program**. Members have been actively participating. Our Policy and Legal Services Advisor, Steven Dribnenki, has provided articles for the last two issues of *Urban Voice*, and made a presentation at Mayor's Summer School - with more to come at Regional Meetings.
- There was a report on the **New West Trade Agreement and its bid-protest mechanism**. The agreement means municipalities must treat companies throughout British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan equally during the procurement process. A bid-protest mechanism in which companies can directly challenge municipalities is being developed and will be an important consideration for municipal procurements.
- The Board received a project status on **SUMA's Central Municipal Procurement Services program** from Mike Dundas, Municipal Procurement Consultant. More information on the program can be found on page 40 of the [fall 2014 issue of Urban Voice](#).
- The Board of Directors ratified a **formal partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM)**. The SSM is a non-profit, volunteer organization that works with all Saskatchewan seniors' organizations to contribute to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan's older adults. SSM is recognized for its leadership, integrity, and service in addressing older adults' issues in Saskatchewan. The agreement will establish the basis for a long-term collaborative relationship between SUMA, and SSM and an operational framework that

will advance their individual and common goals and objectives. Both organizations will work toward greater public awareness of urban government roles in building healthy, safe, and age-friendly communities; and establish a working and research partnership to improve the knowledge of older adults' issues in Saskatchewan.

- The Board received an update on the development of the **Community Safety Officer program**, aimed at providing an additional bylaw and traffic enforcement option for municipalities. The first training class is anticipated for January 2015.
- We heard about the initial meeting of the **Task Force on Policing and the Administration of Justice**, who will be looking at the annual increases to RCMP per capita rates for municipalities covered under the provincial policing contract.
- The Board also heard about the release of **the Lac Mégantic disaster report**, and discussed rail safety and dangerous goods transportation.
- We also discussed current **fire department compensation rates for attendance at motor vehicle collisions**, as well as the need to address the definitions and applications of productive and non-productive calls.
- The Board received an update on **the Urban Highway Connector Program**, noting that the Ministry of Highways will be trying to alleviate some of the backlog in highway rehabilitation projects through better coordinated planning of adjacent highway work.
- We reviewed the first draft of the **Provincial Disability Strategy's Transport Working Group**.
- We also discussed the current status of the **SUMA/SPRA joint research initiative** focused on recreation collaboration.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 5.