

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2015

# URBAN*Voice*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

## Public Safety and Health



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Convention Recap • Municipal Award Winners



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## PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

Public safety and health is one of those areas we all tend to take for granted. We assume that the water flowing from the taps is safe to drink and cook with. We trust that we will be able to stay fit and healthy in our home communities at any age. We believe that when we need the police they will be able to respond.

Yet everyone involved with an urban government knows it takes much behind-the-scenes effort to make all these services appear. We understand the frustration when things don't work the way they should, or are derailed by circumstances we simply can't control. (As an aside, Convention 2015 delegates may have seen what happens when this happens to SUMA, and I thank you for your patience during some of the struggles we ran into!)

So part of our struggle with the responsibilities entrusted to us is that we can never take anything for granted. It's exhausting, but constant vigilance is the name of the game. With that in mind, I encourage you to take a look into what we've prepared for you in this edition of *Urban Voice*. It's a reminder that we are examples and enforcers, but that we can also be good partners for the groups that work in our communities.

It's also a reminder to focus on those things we *can* control. That's part of the strength of SUMA membership. It allows us to focus on our own municipalities, our own residents. We are the ones responsible for fixing the cracks in the streets and sidewalks, but SUMA is there to push for long-term, predictable, and sustainable infrastructure funding. We maintain the landfills and transfer stations while SUMA reminds other orders of government that the regulations for solid waste must be attainable – both financially and practically. Our budgets pay for policing, and SUMA helps create the community safety officer program so police forces can focus on high-risk work, while municipalities get more options to keep our



*We are examples and enforcers, but we can also be good partners for the groups that work in our communities.*

communities safe. Our employees have more time to focus on local issues because SUMA administers group benefits and purchasing programs – which also allows us to stretch those dollars to pay for all those other responsibilities.

So thank you to all our members for another year of your support for SUMA.

We will continue to be there to support you by representing your interests, saving you money, and helping you build capacity. We know how much you love your town, village, or city – you wouldn't be doing this work otherwise – and we want to help you make it the best place it can be. Have a safe and healthy 2015. ■





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We want to keep you informed of our efforts and the actions you can take to assist with keeping communities safe.

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We will continue to work with Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call and industry partners to promote safe digging practices for contractors, landowners and homeowners, including the expansion of Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call's Safety Patrol program – the first of its kind in Canada.

As new challenges arise, SaskEnergy and TransGas will look for opportunities to improve procedures while working to adopt industry best practices. This includes service initiatives such as joint line locating and our extensive natural gas leak survey program.

## WORKING WITH YOU, FOR YOU

When buildings are being constructed, renovated or taken down, or you are planning to excavate, our team can help make job sites safer. With your support, we will be overseeing excavation projects near major natural gas pipelines. In addition, we will work with stakeholders to ensure the safe removal of natural gas service lines before buildings are taken down.

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# Public Safety and Health

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# Seniors' safety in age-friendly communities

## Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism



**T**he age-friendly community initiative is a global movement to make communities safer, healthier, more inclusive places for all people to live and thrive. Age-friendly communities are those where the physical and social environment (the structures, settings, services, and programs) support and enable active aging. They take into account obstacles citizens may face in day-to-day living as well as the ease of getting from place to place. Moreover, they consider how safe

the communities are for all citizens and what amenities are available. Urban governments have a host of considerations as they evaluate their communities to determine age-friendliness.

Isolation is a major concern for many older adults. Physical and mental limitations can reduce their ability to actively participate in community life. Isolation can create risks to personal safety, including increasing the risk of older adult abuse and neglect.

You can help reduce isolation by answering the following questions and addressing the concerns raised in those answers. Reducing isolation minimizes the incidence of abuse.

### **What would safety mean for an older adult?**

- Am I able to walk safely within my community in all seasons – including winter?
- Would I feel safe going out in my neighborhood at night?
- Would there be someone to help me if I had a mishap in my home?



*Isolation is a major concern for many older adults. Physical and mental limitations can reduce their ability to actively participate in the life of the community.*

- Am I able to access local, adequate health-care services?
- Are streets cleared reasonably soon after a snowstorm?
- Is there access to driving refresher courses?
- Can I get support from family, friends, or neighbors if I need someone to talk to or check on me?
- Are there various housing options available to suit changing needs as I age?
- Are there transportation options in my community if I am incapacitated or can no longer drive?
- Are there programs or services I can access if I am finding it difficult to leave my home due to my health or physical capabilities?
- Are my suggestions taken into consideration and important when decision-making processes happen in the community?

**What do urban governments need to consider and work on regarding these insights?** (*Keep in mind those people who may be in a wheelchair, use a wheeled walker or a cane; have trouble seeing; etc.*)

- Are sidewalks and roadways in good repair? Are they kept clear of debris, snow, and ice? Keep public spaces clean and well maintained during all seasons.
- Safety in outdoor spaces is promoted through good lighting, police patrols, or community watch programs and community education.
- Services are available to help seniors: in-home help or home/outdoor maintenance.
- Is the lettering on signs large enough and visible? Is anything blocking visibility of signs?
- Adequate seating is provided in outdoor spaces and buildings to allow a place to rest.

- Offer driver education/refresher education programming through the Saskatchewan Safety Council.
- What kind of accessible transportation can we offer our citizens? Are there individuals, groups, or organizations that could help with this? Could we develop a volunteer driving program?
- Are we attracting safe and affordable housing options for our seniors throughout life stages? Is there a personal care home or nursing home nearby?
- Engage older adults in decision-making processes. Citizen fingerprints on community building bring ownership and pride to what has been accomplished.

Remember to apply the 'age-friendly lens' to your strategic short-term and long-term planning. Actively involve your residents in decision-making processes – it keeps your community engaged, connected, and welcoming. Using the age-friendly lens creates vibrant communities that are safer, healthier, respectful, and barrier free. Join the global movement today! ■



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## Community safety officers in North Battleford

### City of North Battleford



In downtown North Battleford, two men in uniform are walking down the street saying hello to pedestrians. They look like police officers in their reflective yellow jackets, black pants with white stripes down the sides, fur-lined hats, and black shoes.

But the logo on the white car just up the street with the lights on the roof and blue markings clearly identify them as a new breed in Saskatchewan municipalities. These men are two of the five City of North Battleford community safety officers (CSOs), who are helping to bring down the crime rate in this community.

“Community safety officers are empowered by the province to enforce traffic laws within city limits and are a visible, uniformed presence in high-risk areas of our city, including school zones, parks and the downtown core,” says City of North Battleford Mayor **Ian Hamilton**. “The deployment of community safety officers gives members of the RCMP more time to attend to more serious calls for service.”

The move towards the use of CSOs in North Battleford is the result of a renewed emphasis on community safety that began when North Battleford hired City Manager, **Jim Puffalt**, in January 2014.

By April 2014, Puffalt’s team – with the full guidance and support of council – had identified a four-pronged approach to community safety. This proactive, holistic, and service-based approach is based on four pillars:

- Creating opportunities
- Helping individuals and families
- Coordinating existing programs and developing new opportunities
- Crime prevention and suppression strategies

It also included the creation of a community safety coordinator position to devote sufficient resources to this very pressing need in the community. An ad-hoc approach was not addressing the causes of these issues.

### Looking deeper

The City of North Battleford mayor and council are no strangers to helping people and coordinating existing programs, as they were very involved in the construction of a transitional pocket housing project that opened in mid-October last year.

That eight-unit apartment building was made possible by the cooperation of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. Together, they provided a grant of \$425,000 through an Investment in Affordable Housing deal. Another \$474,000 was provided by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs also gave financial assistance. The City of North Battleford provided the land and professional services to make this project a reality.

And very recently, North Battleford also saw the opening of the Lighthouse emergency shelter. Open to men, women and children, the Lighthouse is for people who either have no place to call home or their living situation is so unsafe that it is better for them to be in a shelter. The causes of homelessness vary – financial trouble, domestic violence, addictions, and struggles with mental health are just some of the issues these people may face. The emergency shelter gives people a safe place to sleep, a secure place to store belongings, and supports to help them find employment and long-term housing.



The result of cooperation between the federal government and the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Community Development Corporation (BATC CDC), the Lighthouse has enjoyed the strong support of the City of North Battleford, which sees it as an important tool in building a safer community.

“Supporting the development of healthy communities is the vision of BATC CDC and by providing financial support to the Lighthouse all those involved are making a difference for the Battlefords, surrounding communities, and our First Nations,” says Sweetgrass First Nation Chief **Lori Whitecalf**, a member of the BATC CDC board and tribal chair for the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs.

While the City of North Battleford continues to build a better community through social programs and the creation of opportunity, it also recognizes the need to fight crime and promote crime prevention.

## Where CSOs Fit In

CSOs are granted more authority under nine provincial statutes than traditional bylaw enforcement officers. These are just a few of their responsibilities:

- Provide assistance with lower-level, lower-risk tasks to free up regular RCMP officers from such tasks. This provides the detachment with a greater capacity to serve the community and maintain a high visibility by patrolling neighbourhoods, including regular foot patrols.

## CSOs — How to Apply

Is your community interested in hiring a Community Safety Officer? The first step is to develop a solid business plan, outlining what additional powers are needed, how they will be used, and what support and oversight will be made available to your CSO. You should include sections for any partnering municipalities to which you will be providing CSO services under an exchange of services agreement.

**Hugh McLaughlin**, a program manager with the Ministry of Justice, can guide your community through this process, and provide sample business cases to help you. You can reach him by phone at 306-798-3383, or by email at [hugh.mclaughlin@gov.sk.ca](mailto:hugh.mclaughlin@gov.sk.ca).

- Attend community and public events; provide a visible presence and promote safety and security, allowing the presence of the RCMP to be supplemented and/or reduced.
- Act as a liaison between the RCMP and the community to help the local detachment effectively serve residents.
- Help RCMP officers with various tasks, such as picking up statements, attending non-injury accidents, participating in parades and events, providing outside perimeter security, serving documents, and traffic duties.

“Community safety officers are an important component of the City of North Battleford’s fourth pillar to build a safer community as they allow the RCMP to spend their time on more serious crimes,” says Puffalt.

Under the direction of its fire chief, Albert Headrick, and in coordination and with the support of RCMP Detachment Inspector John Sutherland, the City of North Battleford spearheaded the move toward the use of CSOs last year.

“North Battleford community safety officers are available city-wide and work 10-hour shifts seven days a week during business hours, evenings and weekends for maximum coverage,” says the fire chief. “Since its inception on July 16, 2014, our Community Safety Officer Initiative has resulted in many positive outcomes including an enhanced community visibility and presence.”

The Province of Saskatchewan agrees. On December 1, 2014, Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing Christine Tell announced the provincial rollout of its Community Safety Officer Program, developed in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM). The program allows Saskatchewan municipalities to hire CSOs to meet the needs of traffic and liquor enforcement, bylaw enforcement, and serve as crime prevention community liaisons.

“Under this program, any Saskatchewan community can apply to hire Community Safety Officers,” said Tell. “This will allow communities to address low-risk to harm, high-priority policing needs.”

Mayor Hamilton says the province conducted its own evaluation of the program and found it exceeded the ministry’s expectations.

“We are the model and the vision that the province wants to see going forward and I’m sure we’re going to get a lot of interaction with other communities coming up and talking with us about it,” he said.

With the launch of the provincial program, a six-week curriculum for CSOs is now being offered at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The first graduates are expected to be working by mid-2015.

The presentation on CSOs from Convention 2015 is available on SUMA’s YouTube page. ■

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## 3 Ps of policing: planning, priorities and partnerships

### Royal Canadian Mounted Police

It's been said "a goal without a plan is just a wish," and this is certainly true in the world of policing. Planning is a critical component in how the RCMP meets our overall goal of a safe and secure Canada.

Planning must be a collaborative process with the communities we serve. We know policing works best when we engage with citizens, communities, leaders, government agencies, and policing partners to ensure active participation. We need to be unified to ensure we are positioned to develop and implement effective, collaborative plans and initiatives that will have a positive impact on preventing and reducing crime in communities.

We are committed to safe homes and safe communities for all Canadians, and to accomplish this we identified the following five national priorities critical to our goal:

1. Aboriginal communities
2. Economic security
3. National security
4. Serious and organized crime
5. Youth

With these national priorities firmly entrenched in how we do business, we set out to develop priorities at the provincial level. Here in Saskatchewan, the "F" Division RCMP priorities are identified through collaboration with the provincial government, and through

the assessment on the current environment within the province. In 2014-15, we identified the following priorities:

1. Aboriginal communities
2. Economics of community safety
3. Respectful workplace
4. Serious and organized crime
5. Traffic safety

As an organization, we develop strategies and objectives to support these priorities.

From here, we engage our Annual Performance Planning (APP) process to effectively plan, manage, and evaluate objectives and initiatives developed annually to support our priorities. The APP is a continuous process that involves consultation with communities and other key stakeholders to identify policing issues relevant to a community. From this list of issues, the Detachment Commander then identifies priority issues as an area of focus for the detachment for the next year. A tailor-made plan is established with objectives, related initiatives, and measures of success. The Detachment Commander provides quarterly progress updates to community partners, as well as the RCMP "F" Division senior management, to ensure we are on target with achieving our objectives. This allows us to identify best practices and communicate risks in order to find better solutions.

#### »»»» "F" DIVISION PRIORITIES



#### »»»» APP PLANNING CYCLE



\* Budget & Asset Management  
\*\* Legislative Session Initiative & Strategy  
Revised February 2015



Throughout communities in the province, there are many initiatives implemented under the APP process to meet our planned objectives. Some examples include: working with youth in a variety of capacities such as through the school liaison program, Aboriginal Cadet Corps groups, and the Positive Ticketing program; implementing prolific offender curfew checks on offenders with enforceable conditions; and increased traffic stop checks to help combat impaired driving. These are just a handful of examples of initiatives taking place in communities around the province.

As the provincial police service, we are also engaged with the provincial government's "Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime" strategy and we sit at many partner tables to carry out that strategy. A successful example of this is the Community Mobilization model that brings together a cross-section of agencies, municipal police services and RCMP to work together to address the root causes of crime, with the goal of preventing victimization and crime in our communities.

There are two key components within the Community Mobilization model. The first is the Hub. The Hub, or "situation table," is a regularly scheduled discussion between multiple agencies in the human service delivery sector (health, social services, education, local agencies, police services, First Nations, etc.). These groups meet on a regular basis to identify at-risk individuals in the community and reaching out to these individuals within 24-48 hours. What makes the model unique is the

*The Community Mobilization model has also taken root in Ontario and we anticipate it will expand into Manitoba and Alberta.*

transparency and unprecedented cooperation between agencies that, in the past, have traditionally worked in silos.

The Centre of Responsibility (COR) is the second component of Community Mobilization. The COR groups are responsible for analysing systemic issues, identifying service delivery gaps, and looking for long-term community goals and initiatives to address these issues.

We have seen tremendous success in this collaborative model. Currently, there are 13 communities with Hubs and two provincial CORs in Saskatchewan. The model has also taken root in Ontario and we anticipate it will expand into Manitoba and Alberta.

Yes, we play a very important role in public safety and the fight against crime, but it is important to recognize that we have partners in this role. Local governments and stakeholders, the provincial government, human services sector, municipal police services, First Nations, and citizens are instrumental in how we are working together in the proactive approach of ensuring a safe and secure Saskatchewan. ■



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# Building partnerships to reduce crime – the Hub model

Ministry of Justice



Identified as one of four cross-government strategies under the Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda, Building Partnership to Reduce Crime (BPRC) is the province's strategy directed toward building safer and healthier communities throughout the province by breaking down silos and bringing police and human service agencies together to work towards innovative, unique and research-based approaches.

The BPRC approach began in 2010. Nine ministries and the province's eight largest police services made a chartered commitment to the BPRC, a cross-government approach to crime reduction and safer, healthier communities.

Through the implementation of innovative projects across the province, the BPRC's goal is to work with communities to change the approach to crime and victimization: to look at it not just as a policing issue, but as a social wellness issue.

### Hub model

The Hub represents the strongest model under the BPRC approach. Hub implementation is based on the fact no single agency has the resources or expertise to effectively respond to the increasingly complex social issues facing many Saskatchewan individuals and families.

At the Hub, a team of designated staff from various community agencies and government ministries meet weekly. Together, they address specific situations of at-risk individuals. The Hub mobilizes resources for immediate, coordinated, and integrated responses.

The Hub does not deliver services. It is a new way of using and mobilizing existing systems and resources to address specific situations of elevated risk that require integrated approach. The Hub process operates from a proactive, risk-driven response rather than a reactive, incident-driven response.

The Hub does not perform case management, nor does it have cases. Its purpose is to mitigate risk within 24 to 48 hours and connect individuals and families with the services they need. Case management functions remain with the most appropriate agency.

### Privacy

Confidentiality is an important ethical consideration for all agencies involved in the Hub. The Interim Information Sharing Guidelines are in place to prevent the unnecessary sharing of identifiable information, support an integrated approach to service delivery, and enable effective mobilization of supports and services.

The following principles provide direction for sharing information at the Hub:

**Respect for Privacy** – Right to individual privacy must be respected. Only the minimum and necessary amount of information may be shared – and only with those service providers who must be engaged to effectively address the acutely elevated risk factors.

**Consent Based** – Consent to share personal information is a central component of access and privacy legislation. Cases of acutely elevated risk mean consent may be obtained later, as the risk means information needs to be shared quickly.

**Coordinated Services and Supports** – Clients are better served when services and supports are provided in an integrated way. Instead of isolated pockets of resources, this coordinated approach considers the needs and resources required across all the groups.

**"Need to Know"** – Agencies should only disclose and collect personal information on a "need to know" basis. A basic operating principle should be to only disclose or share the necessary information related to the risk factors.

**Clarity** – Children, youth, adults and families should understand why and



how their information will be shared, and how services will be provided as a result of the information being shared.

## Four-Filter Approach

The four-filter approach is applied in all Hub discussions to maintain privacy. This approach means discussing only situations of acutely elevated risk.

### Filter 1 – Agency Screening

Internal processes apply the first level of screening at individual agencies. Agencies consider the following:

- Are the risk factors beyond the agency's scope/mandate to mitigate risk?
- Were the agency's traditional options exhausted?
- Are the risk factors higher than the norm?
- If nothing is done, is there a reasonable expectation of probable harm?
- Would that harm constitute damage or detriment – not mere inconvenience to the individual?
- Is it reasonable to assume that disclosure to the Hub will help minimize or prevent the anticipated harm?

### Filter 2 – De-identified Discussion

The referring agency presents the discussion without identifying information. The Hub table then decides if the discussion meets the threshold of acutely elevated risk. Acutely elevated risk combines both how likely it is someone will be harmed in the situation, and by how much the risk factors cross multiple human service disciplines. If the discussion does not meet the threshold of acutely elevated risk then it ends without sharing identifying information.

### Filter 3 – Disclosure of Personal Information

The referring agency discloses minimal personal information of the individual or family. Personal information is limited to information relevant to the current risk factors. Agencies involved are identified and the Hub table determines if a connection to services exists. Only the involved agencies record personal information.

### Filter 4 – Offer of Supports

The agencies involved have a discussion following the Hub meeting to determine a plan for offering supports/services. The offer of supports comes within 24 to 48 hours and is most often done in person. Hub members go to the client's residence to

express their concern and ask how they can help. The main focus is determining how agencies can best meet the needs of the individual. Following the offer of supports, agencies decide if the acutely elevated risk has been mitigated. Once they are satisfied that the risk has been mitigated, the discussion ends and is closed at the Hub.

The Hub model has grown quickly over the past four years as communities

adopt a collaborative approach to connecting clients to services. Building relationships is one of the greatest impacts of the Hub model. Agencies are not only connecting with clients – they are connecting with each other. The BPRC approach is changing the way supports are offered to clients, but it is also changing the way government ministries and community agencies do business. ■



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# Avoiding liability by keeping communities safe

## Legal Services Voice

Steve Dribnenki, Policy and Legal Advisor – SUMA

*“Trees, being, by their very nature, things which can be climbed, and therefore fallen from, are potentially harmful.” Winters v Haldimand (County), 2015 ONCA 98*



Some court decisions, such as the case above, can make it seem like lawsuits can come from anywhere and anything. But while it may be impossible to avoid lawsuits altogether, the decision also serves as a reminder that the best way to avoid injuries and liability is by taking proactive steps to keep municipal spaces safe.

In *Winters*, the Ontario Court of Appeal denied the claim of a plaintiff injured after

falling out of a tree in a municipal park, in part because climbing trees can be dangerous. The plaintiff, 16 years old at the time of the fall, was rendered paraplegic.

The court noted that although the injury was tragic, the county had worked at keeping the park safe. Maintenance personnel monitored the park once a week and their work was supervised by a lead hand. The tree was normal and healthy, and there had been no prior complaints. In

other words: Although the injury occurred, the county had done what it could to prevent injuries.

While the law in Saskatchewan is different than Ontario, the essentials remain the same. The standard is not perfection, but a recognition of risks and action in providing remedies. Avoiding or limiting liability can be as easy these simple steps:

1. **Know what you own.** Make a list of all municipal properties and places; take



note of their status; and know what use, relationships, and agreements are in place when they are being operated.

2. **Put a policy in place.** Prepare and implement a solid maintenance, supervision, and complaints response policy. Then stick to it.
3. **Ensure you are insured.** Get proper coverage for all properties and regularly review your insurance policy so it is always up to date.

Knowing your legal duties is also important. These duties can be found in common law (such as occupier's liability for municipal properties like arenas) and municipal legislation (such as repair standards for streets and public works). While you should talk with your community's lawyer about the details of your municipal duties and building a plan, the cases below can get you thinking about what works for you.

In *Cisecki v Nipawin (Town)*, 2000 SKQB 119, the court reviewed the occupier's duty for municipal recreational facilities. The plaintiff was a volunteer goal judge and was injured when the arena's goal judge chair collapsed. The court held that the town, as the arena owner, was liable as it had a duty to inspect the chair – which needed some repairs.

Balancing the municipal duties for upkeep of public works and municipal budgets was considered in *Gosselin v Moose Jaw (City)*, 1997 CanLII 9816 (SK CA), where the court held that the city's sidewalk maintenance and monitoring policy was reasonable. The plaintiff had tripped on some loose concrete while walking on a municipal sidewalk. The court noted that the city's chief engineer had developed a comprehensive sidewalk inspection and repair program in line with municipal resources that could be committed for sidewalks.

In sum, keep people and your community safe. Devastating injuries carry burdens for the injured person and families as well as liable communities. Ensure your community has policies in place for all of its properties that are carried out and that your community is properly insured. ■

*The goal of SUMA Legal Services is to assist members on legal issues and keep members up to date on decisions and trends in municipal law. This service does not create a solicitor-client relationship. For legal advice about your specific situation, contact your community's lawyer.*



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## How secure are my electronic tips to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers?

### Crime Stoppers

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers

**T**he key principle of the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers program is the guarantee of 100 per cent anonymity. In February 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously decided that police do not have to reveal information that may identify a person who supplies them with information about criminal activity. This not only relates to all phone calls to Crime Stoppers, but all online tips and text tips that are received through Crime Stoppers.

When a tipster calls Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers, they are given a unique tip number that is known only by the caller. The tipster is asked to call back in a couple of weeks and ask for an update using their tip number. We can't call you back to give an update, as we don't have your name or phone number. If you use the pass on tip information electronically, we can have two-way communication, but we still don't have your email or IP address; there is no way of tracking you or knowing who you are.



**Scott Miller, P.Eng., Division Manager, Water: passionate about the environment and the communities he serves.**

A civil engineer with extensive water and environmental experience, Scott enjoys working with our public and private sector clients to plan, develop and maintain the infrastructure that supports their needs while protecting our environment. With his leadership and experience in design, project management and construction services, Scott brings a wealth of knowledge to his clients.

Scott says, "Working with staff and clients within the water supply and treatment industry is satisfying in the knowledge that we are supporting essential services and public health. New projects and challenges are always coming through the door, and this keeps our day to day work at Associated Engineering interesting and engaging."

Contact Scott at [millers@ae.ca](mailto:millers@ae.ca) or call him at 306-653-4969.



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*When a tipster calls Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers, they are given a unique tip number that is known only by the caller.*

## Online tips

When the information is transmitted over the Internet, it is encrypted with SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). This prevents the data from being intercepted and read between the browser and the server. The data is stored on a server in a secure, world-class data centre with restricted access. The server is protected by firewalls and is monitored 24 hours a day. This helps ensure the physical security of the server and the data on it.

The logs for the tip form do not include any reference to the user or the machine they connected from. Crime Stoppers' access to the data is limited to users with an authenticated ID and password. These are regularly changed and communicated securely. The tip system is stored on an area of the server that is separate from the public site. This prevents access to the system from the public site.

The email sent to the tipster when a tip is submitted doesn't contain any submitted information, just the generated tip number. Crime Stoppers uses IP masking on the secure information form. With IP masking, IP addresses cannot be stored, registered or tracked – again, ensuring your anonymity.

## Text tips

There are three main parts to a text message:

1. **The short code:** This is the actual number the tip is sent to rather than a seven-digit phone number. It is **274637**.
2. **The keyword:** These are used to ensure the tip is directed to the right area. The first time a tipster submits a text tip to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers, "**TIP206**" needs to be the first word in the body of the message. (After the first tip, the system knows where to route all subsequent traffic from that device.)
3. **The message body:** This section contains the keyword, followed by the tip. For example: **TIP206:** I know about a marijuana grow op at 123 Main St.

In a nutshell, a tipster sends the message, which is encrypted and includes the keyword "**TIP206**" plus their message to **CRIMES (274637)**. Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers then responds with a confirmation and a unique code number. The tipster may then respond back to Crime Stoppers simply by replying. No keyword or area ID or any other identifier is required for any subsequent replies and a maximum of 140 characters can be used. ■

To reach decision makers in Saskatchewan's urban governments through *Urban Voice* magazine and its targeted readership, contact Rod at your earliest convenience to discuss your company's promotional plans for 2015.



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# With power comes responsibility: public safety and SaskPower

## SaskPower

**S**askPower helps the residents and businesses of Saskatchewan live well every day by providing safe, reliable power. This is our commitment to you, and with that commitment comes a responsibility to help you stay safe around electricity. We work hard to ensure everyone – whether it's excavators, homeowners, or our own employees – is aware of the dangers of working near power lines and how to prevent incidents.

One common issue in urban settings is unsafe digging practices. Contractors and homeowners sometimes get busy or distracted, or simply ignore the need to be safe when digging, often with dangerous results. Coming into contact with a buried power line can cause costly damage to expensive digging equipment, or serious injury – even death in the worst-case scenario. Don't let that be you; educate yourself and follow safe digging practices.

One way to stay safe is to always contact Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call before you do any digging. Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call will create a request to locate underground lines so you know what's below the ground where you plan to dig. SaskPower is an active subscriber and promoter of the Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call service, as well as a sponsor of the seasonal Safety Patrol program. The Safety Patrol program involves experienced, qualified staff performing patrols in marked vehicles in urban areas (mainly new subdivisions). The safety patrols ensure contractors and homeowners doing work involving digging have first contacted Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call and had the lines marked. These safety patrollers were well received and contributed to a 25 per cent reduction in line contacts during the initial 2014 program duration.

In addition to these safety patrols, SaskPower sponsors the Know Before You Dig campaign. This campaign raises awareness through advertising and other activities of the importance of contacting Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call before you dig. You can learn more about Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call and the Know Before You Dig campaign by

*The safety patrols ensure contractors and homeowners doing work involving digging have first contacted Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call and had the lines marked.*



Whether you're digging with a shovel in your backyard or a backhoe on a construction site, always ensure you're following safe digging practices.



visiting [www.sask1stcall.com](http://www.sask1stcall.com) or calling 1-866-828-4888.

Another way for contractors to learn about safe digging practices is to attend a Contractor Breakfast hosted by the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA), of which SaskPower is a sponsor and avid user of SCGA's best practices. The SCGA Contractor Breakfasts are open to all excavators who want to learn about best practices in damage prevention while networking with colleagues over breakfast. Please contact the SCGA ([www.scga.ca](http://www.scga.ca)) for more details.

Lastly, even when focusing on digging safely remember that there are also power lines above. Large construction and digging equipment (or even something as small as a ladder) can easily snag a power line if you aren't paying attention. Remember to look up and live – plan your route in advance, take note of power lines and always use a spotter.

For more tips on staying safe around electricity please visit [www.saskpower.com/safety](http://www.saskpower.com/safety). ■



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# Health and Safety are part of doing business with SaskWater

*"We are focused on the quality of service that we provide to our customers, so we ensure that we have the professional expertise to maintain the rigid standards of the regulations governing water services."*



Saskwater Regina Office: Randonn Swan, Manager, Special Services (right) and Brent Stephansson, Technologist, at the SCADA Operations in Regina.

**H**ealth and safety are simply part of doing business in the water industry. Safe, healthy and reliable water sources, safe operation of water treatment plants, and safe disposal of wastewater that does not compromise the community or the environment's health are the cornerstones of a water utility. At SaskWater, health and safety are built right into the Crown corporation's mission, vision and values.

With 865 kilometres of pipeline, 140 kilometres of canal, eight water treatment plants, and three wastewater treatment facilities, SaskWater has to take health and safety seriously to provide reliable service to its customers.

"We state it right in our corporate values: 'We are committed to safety in all aspects of our operations.' And this is clearly a priority for us," says **Rynette Moore-Guillaume**, director of operations at

SaskWater. "We are focused on the quality of service that we provide to our customers, so we ensure that we have the professional expertise to maintain the rigid standards of the regulations governing water services."

SaskWater is involved in all aspects of water services from design to construction to operation around the province for customers varying from industry to municipalities to rural pipeline groups and individual homes and businesses. From construction to commissioning to serving the customers, each step requires the same commitment to providing safe, reliable water.

### At the tap

"Many people would be surprised at what it sometimes takes to provide clean, safe drinking water. Every community we serve has



different challenges such as source water and their infrastructure requirements. For many municipalities, it can also depend on what water services best serve their current needs as well as their plans for growth,” Moore-Guillaume says.

SaskWater currently provides potable water service – drinking water – to 72,000 people in Saskatchewan from as far north as La Ronge to Gravelbourg in the south. Each facility and operation comes with its own set of requirements.

## At the water treatment plants

“Providing safe potable water for our customers, which includes constant monitoring and testing in our water treatment plants, and providing safe treatment and disposal of wastewater in our wastewater treatment facilities, these are the biggest areas we concentrate on for health issues,” says **Randonn Swan**, SaskWater’s manager of special services.

“That begins with a staff culture appreciating and advocating health and safety every day in our operations. Our staff is well trained, certified in their roles, and professional in their work. Health and safety is part of doing our job,” she says.

In 2014, SaskWater delivered 6.8 billion litres of high-quality drinking water to its customers.

## Employee safety

SaskWater is a charter member of Safe Saskatchewan and is committed to a safety program that values its employees and a safe work environment. The corporation has three Occupational Health and Safety committees covering its offices and operations around the province.

In 2014, SaskWater implemented a new Safety Index that measures occupational health and safety within the corporation. Its first report on this index will appear in its 2014 annual report that will be released in early April.

“We are expanding our reporting on safety even after the first year. It’s an area that we see evolving,” says **Chuck Sherburne**, manager of occupational health and safety at SaskWater.

Training is another area that focuses on health and safety. In addition to maintaining certifications, staff regularly takes additional training to develop their expertise in the water utility industry.

## On the worksite

“Safety on the work site as we construct new facilities and refurbish existing infrastructure is also a priority for our staff as well as for the contractors who work with us,” Sherburne says.

Sherburne and the three Occupational Health and Safety committees coordinated the development of Safe Work Practices and Safe Job Procedures for each aspect of the corporation. These documents were developed with the safety of their workforce as the priority. They also ensure that SaskWater is meeting all legislated occupational health and safety requirements.

“We have a lot of different activities taking place in many different locations at any one time. There is a team approach to safety as well as each individual is taking responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others. We’re always advocating to people, have a safe day,” says Sherburne.

## Peace of mind

We turn the tap and there is clean, healthy water. As consumers, it is easy to take that for granted, to assume that the water is safe



Inside the water treatment plant at the Town of Cupar.



Brian Sibley, Project Engineer, at a work site.

and drinkable. For the service provider, ensuring that customers have that peace of mind is the ultimate test.

“Our customers place their trust in us. That is a big responsibility,” Moore-Guillaume says. It comes back to safety being one of SaskWater’s core values. It is reflected in every aspect of the corporation’s operations.

“There are strict regulations in place for providing clean, safe drinking water. There are strict regulations for running a safe work site. We are committed to meeting those regulations. We take pride in doing that job very well,” she concludes. ■

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# A partnership in health

## Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association



*Researchers suggest that 90 per cent of type 2 diabetes and 80 per cent of coronary heart disease could be avoided by maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating healthy foods, avoiding smoking, and drinking in moderation.*

**G**ood health is a shared responsibility, so it makes sense that the health and recreation sector would work together towards a common goal of a healthy, active Saskatchewan.

Here's why and how these sectors are working together, toward a better tomorrow!

### The recreation and health connection

Here are facts and statistics that show how working together is a logical choice for the health and recreation sectors!

- At least 50 per cent of cancers are preventable through healthier lifestyle choices such as eating healthy foods,

staying physically active, keeping a healthy body weight, practicing sun safety, avoiding the use of tobacco, and limiting alcohol intake.

- Researchers suggest that 90 per cent of type 2 diabetes and 80 per cent of coronary heart disease could be

*Recreation can also contribute to improved mental health by reducing stress and depression and enhancing emotional and psychological wellbeing.*



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avoided by maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating healthy foods, avoiding smoking, and drinking in moderation.

- Each additional kilometer walked per day reduces the likelihood of becoming obese by nearly five per cent.
- After spending time outdoors, hospital patients and visitors report feeling more relaxed (79 per cent), and better able to think/cope (22 per cent).
- Physical activity helps to reduce the risk of falls and fractures, and prevents further bone loss from osteoporosis.
- Recreation, as part of a healthy, active lifestyle, can reduce the incidence and severity of illness and disease, resulting in lower health-care costs.
- Recreation can also contribute to improved mental health by reducing stress and depression and enhancing emotional and psychological wellbeing.

## From the field

Here are some examples of how recreation and health are working together right here in Saskatchewan!

### FlashKids (Food, Literacy, and Activity Strategy for Healthy Kids)

*Partnership:* Parkland Valley Sport, Culture and Recreation District, Sunrise Health Region, Parkland Regional Library, Yorkton & Regional Kids First, Ministry of Education, and the Southeast Regional Intersectoral Committee

*Program Description:* FlashKids supports communities and parents in providing opportunities for preschool children to engage in active play, learn language and communication skills, and develop healthy eating habits.

### Forever...in motion Grant Partnerships

*Partnership:* South West District for Culture, Recreation and Sport Inc., SPRA, Cypress Health Region, and Five Hills Health Region

*Program Description:* Participants from Cypress and Five Hills Health Regions used their existing fitness back-grounds as the foundation to learn to facilitate training for older adult exercise application and technique. The South West District for Culture, Recreation



and Sport in partnership with SPRA and the Cypress and Five Hills Health Regions hosted the training. The South West District for Culture, Recreation and Sport reconnected with these leaders to offer two older adult training programs in the fall of 2014.

*Partnership:* Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and SPRA

*Program description:* RQHR coordinates and implements the **Forever... in motion** program to address physical activity for the older adult, as identified in the population health promotion plan and aligning with the objectives of population health promotion. Funding will pay for a staff member to deliver and monitor **Forever... in motion** program within the region. Currently there are more than 30 sites offering the program in Regina.

## Leadership for Older Adult Fitness Training

*Partnership:* The Saskatoon Health Region and Prairie Central District

*Program Description:*

- Leadership training for older adults **Forever...in motion** was implemented in Wynyard, and a one-day workshop for current **Forever...in motion** leaders was held in Humboldt.
- Kereen Lazurko was contracted to implement and support **Forever... in motion** training and programs for rural communities within the Saskatoon Health Region and Prairie Central District boundaries.

## iWALK October and May is Northern Physical Activity Month (NPAM)

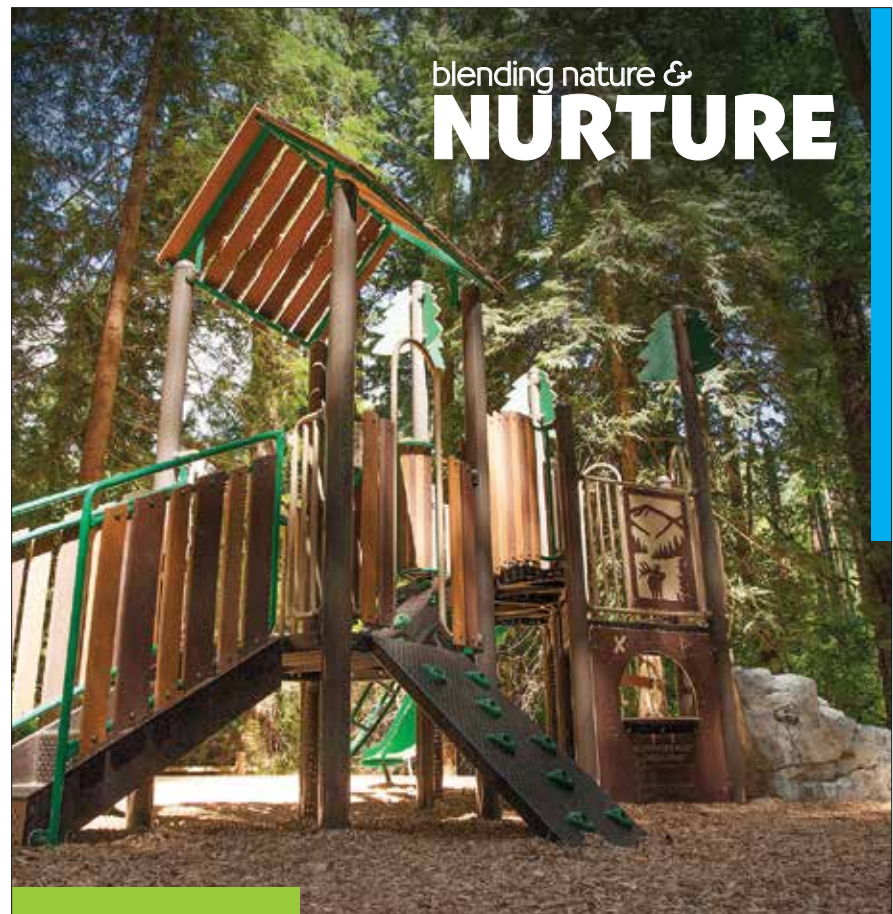
*Partnership:* Northern Healthy Communities Partnership and Northern District

*Program Description:* Northerners promote and track physical activity during these months for the chance to win a treadmill or fitness equipment.

More articles on how recreation and health are working together are featured in our September edition of *DIRECTION* entitled "The Health and Recreation Connection." Access this and other editions of *DIRECTION* online at [www.spra.sk.ca/publications/news-magazine](http://www.spra.sk.ca/publications/news-magazine). Also don't forget to subscribe to our blog at [www.spra.sk.ca/Blog](http://www.spra.sk.ca/Blog). ■



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# The Urban Heartbeat





## 2015 Convention Recap

This year marked SUMA's 110th Convention. The event kicked off at Saskatoon's TCU Place on Sunday, February 1 with a series of valuable education sessions. There was a skit on the fictional town of Cat River as part of the discussion around age-friendly communities in sessions E1 and E8. SUMA and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association debuted our paper on inter-municipal cooperation for recreation at sessions E2 and E9. In E3 and E10, attendees heard about how to manage insurance claims, while those at E4 and E11 learned plenty about procurement. The sessions on emergency preparedness (E5 and E12) were full of people *and* questions. There was a focus on public safety in the remaining sessions – community safety officers were the subject of E6 and E13, while in E7 and E14 they focused on reducing crime with regional hubs. (See pages 12 and 16, respectively, for articles on these subjects.)

The day capped off with a Welcome Reception in the evening. Stephen Maguire and the Memory Lane Band had people hopping on the dance floor, and the trip giveaway began with quick rounds of tic-tac-toe, but the prize ultimately came down to who won at rock-paper-scissors.

### Monday, February 2, 2015

On Monday, the Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow got underway at 7:45 a.m. on the main floor. Shortly after, upstairs in the Grand Salon, Convention Chair (Prince Albert Councillor)




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**Ted Zurakowski** served as emcee for the Opening Ceremonies and called proceedings to order. **Don Atchison**, Mayor of Saskatoon, then brought greetings to delegates. On behalf of sponsor ISC, **Matt St. Amand** then provided greetings. **Kimberly Jonathan**, Interim Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, followed Amand. She said the province needed its people to feel inclusion, compassion and understanding – and this could be accomplished through love and prayer.

SUMA President **Debra Button** then addressed delegates. She made note of two SUMA hires in 2014: a procurement consultant and a legal services advisor. Mayor Button then touted Saskatchewan for the many economic gains in recent years, but cautioned that we needed increased immigration to fill many of the new jobs that were created by this growth. She concluded her presentation by saying that Saskatchewan is a partnership and revenue sharing is part of that partnership.





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Federation of Canadian Municipalities President **Brad Woodside**, Mayor of Fredericton, NB, then took the stage. He noted that SUMA was an active member of FCM, especially in the areas of International Programs and the FCM Green Program. He said, to date, Saskatchewan was a shining example of a provincial government ceding funds to municipalities for infrastructure and construction needs. Other areas requiring funding from senior levels of government were disaster mitigation and policing. President Woodside said FCM would be talking with political parties ahead of the upcoming federal election and informing them that when municipalities are strong, the provinces and Ottawa are strong!

SUMA Director for the East Central Region, Councillor **Randy Goulden**, followed President Woodside and spoke on FCM's Election Readiness Working Group and its new *Amplifying the Municipal Message*. This new approach emphasizes solutions rather than problems and focuses on five major themes:

1. Local jobs and economic growth;
2. Livable hometowns;
3. Safe neighbourhoods;
4. Environmental sustainability; and
5. Global cooperation.

Following Councillor Goulden's presentation, there was 45 minutes of Dedicated Tradeshow Viewing.

The next speaker was SaskPower's Acting President and CEO **Mike Marsh**, who gave a brief history of power in the province beginning in the 1880s with a string of independent companies. Mr. Marsh stated an interesting fact: SaskPower serves the same population as does Nova Scotia Power – spread over an area twelve times larger in size. While admitting future rate increases are inevitable, he identified four priorities for SaskPower:

- Customer service
- Managing capital project delivery systems
- Procurement process
- Managing assets while limiting liability

The morning session wrapped up with the much-anticipated address by Premier **Brad Wall**. Anxious municipal representatives who were hoping for a preview of the upcoming provincial budget were disappointed when the Premier said, "all options were still on the table." This past year saw a five-to-seven per cent drop in provincial revenue (\$600-\$800 million), and Premier Wall said balancing the budget will be a tough task as his government will try to avoid the temptation of a deficit budget. He said thanks to Saskatchewan's diversified economy, the plunge in oil prices didn't have as devastating an effect as it might have (and did in neighbouring Alberta). He emphasized that his government wants to keep taxes low and, in fact, give incentives to business. The Province will continue to invest in infrastructure, including P3s, through SaskBuilds. There will be a focus on training (Nominee Program), as well as on competitiveness (by cutting red tape for businesses).

Monday afternoon was devoted to sector meetings followed by a break for dedicated tradeshow viewing, and more education sessions. In E15, attendees heard the personal experiences of three councils engaging youth, and how FCM's Jack Layton fellows worked on retaining youth in municipal government. Attendees learned how to deal with conflict in E16, and there was plenty of interaction – including a mock council meeting – in E17 as they discussed how to build an effective council.

The evening festivities featured a Hospitality Night at the Radisson Hotel.



## Tuesday, February 3, 2015

While the Tradeshow was humming along on the main floor, Tuesday had a rockier start up in the Grand Salon. Weather and technology combined to play a cruel trick on SUMA and member delegates. Keynote speaker, noted Canadian journalist and author **Chantal Hébert**, could not make her flight to Saskatoon due to a snowstorm pounding the Montreal area. SUMA officials were determined to make the best of a bad situation and went to 'Plan B' – having Hébert give her presentation via Skype. Early into her address, the audio began cutting out, even when using a landline phone connection. Through the difficulties, delegates did get a few nuggets of wisdom from Hébert. She said the next federal election is going to be fascinating thanks to a volatile electorate. She also said the national public purse is in trouble due to the impending mass retirement of public workers, and rising security costs will mean less funds for other programs. Unfortunately, the audio problems continued – despite best efforts by Hébert, SUMA staff, and the audio-visual team – and the keynote session ended early. Delegates went off for an extended tradeshow viewing break.

Next up was the presentation of certificates for the Municipal Leadership Development Program and SUMA's Annual General Meeting. There, President Button emphasized the organization's strategic plan and its three core functions:

1. Representing/defending members' interests
  2. Helping members save money
  3. Giving members access to resources
- Sector reports were next up. Including



(L-R) Roger Anderson, Chair of FCM's Standing Committee on International Relations; Laurent Mougeot, SUMA CEO; and Brad Woodside, President of FCM

## International Development Week

Convention 2015 overlapped with International Development Week, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – International was presenting 10 individual awards. SUMA's CEO, **Laurent Mougeot**, received one of the coveted awards in recognition of his work with FCM International.

Laurent is widely recognized as FCM's 'go-to' municipal expert on association capacity building, assisting local-government associations in other countries develop their association capacities and functions. He has participated in missions to Ukraine, Haiti, Peru, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Namibia, and Burkina Faso.

FCM International staff had plenty of praise for Laurent's involvement, calling him "unfailingly generous with his time and expertise," and praising his passion for the work. He was nominated for the award by a number of the FCM International staff, to recognize and thank him for his outstanding volunteer work.



briefings from Towns, then Villages, Resorts and Northern Communities, and finally Cities.

Following lunch, Minister of Government Relations **Jim Reiter** reiterated Premier Wall's message that no decision had yet been made on revenue sharing for the upcoming budget. The Minister said he and his government favoured fair taxes that were acceptable to both business and municipalities. He also discussed last year's flooding and emphasized the cooperation shown between neighbouring towns and between the Province and municipalities. This spirit of cooperation continued, he said, in meetings on amalgamation compensation disputes, where a set of proposed principles were developed.



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## Long-Service Award Winners



Front Row (L-R): Kathy Wolfe (Meritorious Service), Lonnie Kaal (Meritorious Service), President Debra Button, Sandra MacArthur (Meritorious Service), Minister Jim Reiter, Chris Wiens (Meritorious Service), Sandra Pauli (Meritorious Service)

Row 2: Heather Audette (Meritorious Service), Sheila McCombs (Meritorious Service), Dave Hill (Meritorious Service), Les Kroeger (Meritorious Service), Rolly Zimmer (Life Membership), Morris Hartman (Honorary Membership), Allan Hettrick (Meritorious Service), Jennifer Hoesgen (Meritorious Service), Ellaine Hawrylak (Honorary Membership)

Row 3: Albert Venne (Meritorious Service), Denis Pilon (Meritorious Service), Barry Metivier (Meritorious Service), Richard Ludwig (Meritorious Service), Jerry Wiens (Meritorious Service), Rick Kindrachuk (Meritorious Service)

Row 4: Bill McCombs (Meritorious Service), Earl Braun (Meritorious Service), Gene Markowsky (Meritorious Service), Trevor Braun (Meritorious Service)

Back Row: Roy Ludwig (Honorary Membership), Norman Prentice (Meritorious Service), Tim Cox (Meritorious Service), Ron Wik (Meritorious Service), Bruce Fidler (Honorary Membership), Gerald Gilmore (Meritorious Service)

Missing: Ken Broccolo (Meritorious Service), Kerry Holoiien (Meritorious Service), Robert Leach (Meritorious Service), Herb Marshall (Meritorious Service), Joan Mills (Meritorious Service), Ken Oliver (Meritorious Service), Chris Pool (Meritorious Service), Donnie Puryk (Meritorious Service), Lloyd Sinclair (Meritorious Service), Wayne Strong (Meritorious Service), Craig Unrau (Meritorious Service), Dana Zacharuk (Meritorious Service), Keith Dale (Honorary Membership)

Next on the agenda was the presentation of the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, sponsored by Affinity Credit Union. For a complete list of recipients and their projects, please see page 40.

After a prize giveaway, Breakout Sessions were next. The city sector heard about the need for a national infrastructure plan (via conference call as another speaker was unable to make it in person). Towns and villages with a population over 500 packed the room to hear from Neil Robertson, Q.C., on how council can stay out of legal trouble. A panel for the towns and villages with populations under 500 concentrated on how to maximize capacity and ensure compliance.

Tuesday afternoon wrapped up with resolutions. All 13 resolutions passed. A highlight of the session, however, was when the Board's resolution on revenue sharing passed unanimously, sending a strong message to Premier Wall and his government.

The evening fun featured the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Homegrown talent was on display and included slam poetry from Saskatoon's Isaac Bond and the vocal-centric stylings of FOGDOG. Delegates embraced the new format of the banquet, with Bond receiving a standing ovation, and the dance floor was full until the very end of the night.

## Wednesday, February 4, 2015

The final day started with six separate 'Dialogue with Ministers' sessions, where delegates could ask questions of eight ministers and a representative from the RCMP. This was followed by the Bear Pit, which saw every Cabinet Minister in attendance.

The day and the Convention concluded with Closing Ceremonies and Prize Giveaway.

Thanks to all our delegates for attending Convention 2015. We'll see everyone in 2016 for our 111<sup>th</sup> Convention! ■



Our concern for the environment



## is more than just talk

As we continue to deliver valuable information through the pages of this magazine, in a printed format that is appealing, reader-friendly and not lost in the proliferation of electronic messages that are bombarding our senses, we are also well aware of the need to be respectful of our environment. That is why we are committed to publishing the magazine in the most environmentally-friendly process possible. Here is what we mean:

- We use lighter publication stock that consists of recycled paper. This paper has been certified to meet the environmental and social standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and comes from responsibly managed forests, and verified recycled sources making this a RENEWABLE and SUSTAINABLE resource.
- Our computer-to-plate technology reduces the amount of chemistry required to create plates for the printing process. The resulting chemistry is neutralized to the extent that it can be safely discharged to the drain.
- We use vegetable oil-based inks to print the magazine. This means that we are not using resource-depleting petroleum-based ink products and that the subsequent recycling of the paper in this magazine is much more environment friendly.
- During the printing process, we use a solvent recycling system that separates the water from the recovered solvents and leaves only about 5% residue. This results in reduced solvent usage, handling and hazardous hauling.
- We ensure that an efficient recycling program is used for all printing plates and all waste paper.
- Within the pages of each issue, we actively encourage our readers to REUSE and RECYCLE.
- In order to reduce our carbon footprint on the planet, we utilize a carbon offset program in conjunction with any air travel we undertake related to our publishing responsibilities for the magazine.

*So enjoy this magazine...and **KEEP THINKING GREEN.***

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- SAMA's will be hosting its Annual Meeting on **April 15, 2015** at the **Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina**. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for local governments to meet and discuss assessment policy and consider strategies for the future. New for 2015, SAMA has partnered with the Province of Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations to offer a half day training session specifically geared to administrators on April 14, the day before SAMA's Annual Meeting. The training session will include an "Assessment 101" by SAMA about the assessment system, and the Ministry will detail provincial tax tools and how municipalities can apply them to meet their local needs. Check SAMA's website ([www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca)) for more information on SAMA's Annual Meeting.
- SAMA has implemented a 2014-2017 funding plan that focuses on building new capacities in the assessment system by employing new technologies and improved business processes. As part of our funding plan, SAMA introduced a \$20 maintenance fee-for-service charge beginning in 2015. This fee was introduced in response to stakeholder feedback to mitigate requisition increases by having municipalities with more growth pay for a portion of the extra assessment services they need relative to similar municipalities with less growth.
- For more information on SAMA or Saskatchewan's assessment system, or to view individual property assessments on SAMAView, please visit our website at [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca).

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# Presenting: Saskatchewan Municipal Award Winners

Tiffany Wolf, SUMA

**I**t's time, once again, to reflect on a year of municipal success with the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards. The program is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA),

the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, and the provincial ministry of Government Relations.

This was the eight annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, and we are getting into the swing of our new award presentations at the SUMA and SARM conventions. What a

wonderful opportunity to celebrate the innovation and excellence in Saskatchewan municipalities, surrounded by colleagues and peers.

This year, the awards program received 10 nominations representing 33 municipalities, which must have made for a big job for the selection committee. For the eighth Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, the selection committee was made up of:

## First Place

*Regional Municipal Plaza (RMs of Baidon, Hillsborough, Rodgers, Moose Jaw, and Caron)*

A jointly owned building, allowing member municipalities to share space and resources, and facilitate future cooperation.



## Second Place

*Revitalization of Merchants Bank of Canada Building (City of Humboldt)*

Turning an under-utilized, municipally owned building in the downtown into Humboldt's first and only public art gallery.



## Third Place

*Water Conservation Measures Bylaw (Town of Lumsden)*

A bylaw regulating new builds to reduce water usage and alleviate pressure on the existing wastewater treatment system.





- **Keith Schneider:** former Executive Director of SUMA and Principal with ADVOCO Consulting;
- **Ken Engel:** former Executive Director of SARM;
- **Jim Scarrow:** former mayor of Prince Albert and former Vice-President of Cities for SUMA;
- **Gordon Barnhardt:** President of the University of Saskatchewan and former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan;
- **Neal Hardy:** former President of SARM;

and

- **Jeff Mulligan:** managing partner of AHHA Moments Inc. and former mayor of Lloydminster.

Thank you to the entire committee for their work celebrating local governments in Saskatchewan.

It's very exciting to see the excellent work that happens in municipalities all around the province, and the SMAs were a great chance to celebrate those municipalities who are going the

extra mile. Everyone benefits when municipalities do well, so we offer inspiration in the form of the winning projects. Maybe you can turn that inspiration into innovation in your own municipality, and it could be your project on these pages next year!

You can see all the details on the winning projects, including videos with project and community leaders talking about their projects, on the SMA website at [www.municipalawards.ca](http://www.municipalawards.ca). ■



## Regional Cooperation

*Moose Jaw – Regina Industrial Corridor Committee Inc.  
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The Connect Energy team

Connect Energy's Managing Partner **Kelly Blanch** says the company can currently provide customers with a one-year fixed rate saving approaching 20 per cent lower than SaskEnergy's current rate, but cautions that the market is volatile and those low prices cannot go much lower before starting to rise once again. "We are in a low margin/high volume business. Realities, including prices, are changing daily. We would be happy to discuss your municipality's needs with you and help you choose the plan that is best for your ratepayers."

Connect Energy prides itself on customer service. **E.J. Babey**, Marketing Manager, says, "We have a dedicated Operations Manager who is there for our customers. Our SUMA clients are local people and so are those of us at Connect Energy. We are proud to serve the people of Saskatchewan – and to serve them to the best of our abilities."

If there are readers who have not heard of Connect Energy, that isn't a surprise to Babey. He says, "We definitely fly under the radar. You can't touch or feel natural gas. We provide a service that isn't tactile. Those who have knowledge of the natural gas industry know who we are and are aware of our reputation. Companies who spend a lot of money on advertising simply pass those costs back on to their clients. Connect Energy is devoted to keeping our clients costs as low as possible, so that would go against our beliefs."

For more information on Connect Energy, contact E.J. Babey:  
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Following is a list of our SUMA Advantage programs by category. To learn more about a program, visit the SUMA website.

If you need additional information, please contact SUMA's Event and Corporate Services Manager, **Tania Meier**, at 306-525-4379 or email [tmeier@suma.org](mailto:tmeier@suma.org)

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Municipal Tires	Kal Tire	Contact nearest location	<a href="http://www.kaltire.com">www.kaltire.com</a>
Municipal Tires	Michelin	Purchase through Kal Tire, Saskatoon Wholesale Tire or Graham's Tire.	
Natural Gas	Connect Energy Partnership	866-934-6918	<a href="http://www.connectenergy.ca">www.connectenergy.ca</a>
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Regina Hotel	Travelodge Regina	306-586-3443	<a href="http://www.travelodgeregina.com">www.travelodgeregina.com</a>
Saskatoon Hotel	Park Town (Saskatoon)	800-667-3999	<a href="http://www.parktownhotel.com">www.parktownhotel.com</a>
Saskatoon Hotel	Travelodge Saskatoon	888-278-4209	<a href="http://www.travelodgesaskatoon.com">www.travelodgesaskatoon.com</a>

### FINANCIAL

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