



Keeping you informed

President's Update



September 30, 2015

Update on our Federal Election Advocacy

We are now just over nine weeks into the 2015 federal election campaign. Election Day - **Monday, October 19** - is just a few weeks away.

SUMA launched our federal election advocacy campaign early this month, after the Labour Day weekend. So far, we've focused on public safety (disaster relief, rail safety, and climate change) and municipal infrastructure. In the next three weeks we will tackle quality of life and the mandatory long-form census.

Since we launched the campaign, it has garnered some positive recognition in both the press and by our federal counterparts at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. We received the following coverage through local and national media outlets:

Regina Leader Post, September 14, 2015

SUMA CEO Laurent Mougeot discussed the importance of the mandatory long-form census to municipalities for both planning and funding: [Bring census back, says SUMA](#)

Moose Jaw Times Herald, September 16, 2015

Moose Jaw Mayor Deb Higgins talked about how local issues are federal issues: [Mayor looking for more federal talk on infrastructure](#)

John Gormley Live, September 16, 2015

SUMA CEO Laurent Mougeot appeared on John Gormley Live to discuss the campaign and specifically SUMA's desire to see the mandatory long-form census reintroduced. Gormley was supportive of SUMA's position. [Listen to the interview.](#)

Maclean's Magazine, September 18, 2015

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A Maclean's investigation on the crisis in government data. This article opens with a spotlight on Melville Mayor Walter Streelasky and his experience watching his community being erased from the "statistical map" of Canada following the demise of the mandatory long-form census: [Vanishing Canada](#)

CJWW/CKRM, September 22, 2015

[SUMA Waiting for Affordable Housing Promise in Election Campaign](#)

Media Release

Last week, we issued a news release outlining the need for a permanent, long-term, sustainable, and predictable infrastructure program that increases the overall amount of funding available for municipal infrastructure projects. Thank you to the Village of Earl Grey for sharing your story about the costs and challenges you are facing in expanding your lagoon. We were able to highlight this issue in our release: [New Building Canada Fund is inadequate and hinders growth: SUMA](#)

During this campaign, we are using a variety of tools to amplify your voice and to ensure important municipal issues are at the forefront of public discussion in Saskatchewan this federal election.

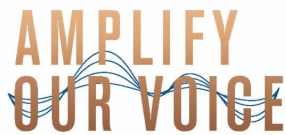
SUMA's [Federal Election Advocacy Hub](#) on our website features a variety of tools and materials to assist our members speak about all of the important issues we are championing. The tools available to you include:

- 1. a municipal issues backgrounder that covers the key issues, messages, and background on themes above;**
- 2. letters to the editor for you to send to your local newspaper(s);**
- 3. a letter to local candidates in your constituency;**
- 4. online resources;**
- 5. SUMA and FCM's social media platforms;**
- 6. recent media articles relating to the issues we are championing; and,**
- 7. a platform grid that outlines the position of each party on the issues important to our communities.**

We are also sharing these stories via our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. We encourage all members to continue to

share and re-tweet our content and further Amplify Our Voice by spreading the message that municipal issues must be an important part of any national agenda following this federal election.

We look forward to using these last three weeks of the campaign to bring attention to quality of life issues, and the need to reinstate the mandatory long-form census. We appreciate your support, and encourage you to help us keep our voice amplified as we wrap up this advocacy campaign.



Notes From the Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors also gathered last Friday for our quarterly Board meeting. Here are a few items of note from our day.

Convention Planning Committee

- Convention 2016 rates were confirmed: \$300 for early bird member registration, \$400 after the early bird deadline, \$35 for the Sunday's welcome reception, and \$60 for the President's Banquet.
- The Welcome Reception will take place at Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field and include the chance to tour the Green and White Lounge, Alumni Room, and Saskatchewan Roughrider dressing room. The committee decided on Amy Nelson and the Rider Pep Band as the entertainment for this event.
- The entertainment has been confirmed for the President's Banquet. Jeffery Straker will perform during dinner finishing off the evening with a great show from The Dead South.
- The education and breakout session topics were finalized along with the agenda. Watch for more details in the coming weeks when we open registration.

Board Meeting

- We heard about the revisions to the Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP), introduced by Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) to respond to province's December 2014 announcement which

introduced exemptions and a two-year transition period. The province will review the revised program in October, and if approved, the revised MMRP will launch on January 1, 2016.

- The Board adopted three new policy statements:
 - Municipal Climate Adaptation
 - Urban Highway Connector Program
 - Fine Revenue Distribution
- There were updates on provincial proposals to amend municipal conflict of interest legislation and essential services legislation, which will be introduced in the upcoming fall legislative session starting October 13. If you're attending the regional meetings over the next couple of weeks, also expect discussion on the changes to municipal conflict of interest legislation there.
- Work by the province, SUMA and SARM on new boundary alterations guidelines has been successful and these guidelines will soon be announced. These guidelines will provide assistance to urban and rural municipalities in reaching agreements to alter municipal boundaries, setting out responsibilities for each in working to reach consensus on contentious issues.
- We discussed the new federal grade crossing regulations and how SUMA can help our members with their information gathering before the November 2016 deadline.