



Keeping you informed

President's Update



December 10, 2015

Notes From the Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors gathered last week for the final meeting of 2015. Here are some of the highlights from that day.

The Convention Planning Committee gathered first in the morning to discuss some final details for **Convention 2016**. The final touches were made to the convention agenda, and the committee was informed that the 2016 Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow is once again sold out with 28 new exhibitors attending.

When the full Board gathered, we spent considerable time discussing the recently implemented **Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendments**. SUMA has communicated to the Minister of Government Relations our concern regarding the process to develop these amendments. SUMA was involved in consultations on these amendments, but would have like to see further engagement with the broader municipal sector. In addition, we strongly believe the implementation of these amendments could have occurred following the municipal election in 2016. This would have provided sufficient time for administrators and elected officials to get educated on the changes and ensure compliance.

The other component to the amendments includes the expansion of the **Provincial Ombudsman's duties** to include municipal entities. The Ombudsman now has the authority to investigate and resolve public complaints about the administrative decisions and actions of municipalities and council members. SUMA supported the expansion of the Ombudsman duties as it will provide an additional review process for residents who believe they have been treated improperly by their local government. Along with SARM, SUMA also supported a proposal from the Minister of Government Relations to allocate a small portion of

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municipal revenue sharing to the ombudsman to offset costs associated with handling municipal complaints. Details on the amount and how it will be collected are still be worked out.

The 2016 **Host Hotel Program** was approved. The full details will be released after the new contracts take effect March 1, 2016.

We also commended the province for committing to launch the **Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP)** on January 1, 2016. While further work is required to establish and guide the program through the current transition period, SUMA looks forward to the launch of the program and working with the ministry and stakeholders to ensure the MMRP is a strong, lasting program that meets the needs of cities, towns, and villages. If your municipality wants to be part of the program when it launches January 1, you must have a [signed services agreement](#) by **December 31** (even if you had signed up in 2014).

The Board discussed and approved **15 member resolutions** to proceed to the convention floor. A number of Board members mentioned the extremely high quality of the resolutions this year. A package with all the details on resolutions will be sent to municipalities later this month.

We considered an **Alternative Building Code Compliance Model**, proposed by the Ministry of Government Relations, and decided that it was not a good fit for SUMA members, as it would reduce municipal control over the building and inspection process, without necessarily reducing municipal liability.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will take place on **January 30** as we prepare for Convention 2016.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Executive Committee

I'm also pleased and excited to tell you that on Monday, December 7, I was elected as the Affiliate member's representative of the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Executive Committee**. I look forward to continuing to represent the interest of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities at the national level.