



Urban

The newsletter of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
Vol. 14 No. 2 April 2009 SUMA Publication Agreement No. 40027298

voice

Inside this issue

Municipalities celebrate historic budget

by Sean McEachern

The 2009/2010 provincial budget received high praise from municipal leaders around the province as a good news budget for addressing the concerns of Saskatchewan's municipalities.

After many years of lobbying for a predictable, long term and sustainable revenue sharing program municipalities in this province have finally succeeded. In this year's budget the provincial government announced the new Municipal Operating Grant (MOG) program. This initiative provides all of Saskatchewan municipalities with 90 per cent of one point of the Provincial Sales Tax, worth \$167 million with \$107 million to urban municipalities. In addition, the government has committed to increase the amount in the 2010/2011 budget to a full 100 per cent of one point of the PST.

This new arrangement did not happen overnight. For over a year now, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and municipal representatives have worked as partners on the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan – a process that was established to study and recommend a suitable solution to the revenue sharing file.

This new commitment combined with recent announcements of infrastructure funding confirm that this government understands the needs of urban municipalities and their priorities, and their shared responsibility to ensure that Saskatchewan cities, towns and villages have the ability to deliver high quality services.

This budget also saw a significant change in how pre-kindergarten - Grade 12 education is funded in this province. Following a yearlong review of options for education funding and long-term property tax relief, the government announced that they would now be funding 63 per cent of the operating costs, up from 51 per cent last year. This results in a savings of over \$103 million for property owners in this year compared to last. In addition, they committed to increasing their share to 66 per cent in the 2010/11 budget therefore providing further relief to an individual's property tax. This new funding program will also see the province setting province-wide education tax rates for each of the three major property classes - residential, commercial and agricultural, thereby, eliminating the ability of school boards to independently set rates.

There were also several other initiatives announced that will benefit urban municipalities. These include \$1.8 million over the next year towards the purchase of radios for emergency service providers and \$1.6 million for thirty additional police officers as part of the government's four-year commitment to add 120 new officers. The government also introduced the "Transportation for Growth" framework that will see significant funding towards highways and infrastructure. This includes \$140 million for the Rural Highway Strategy, \$111 million for strategic projects targeted at new growth such as twinning of Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Prince Albert, and the Urban Highway Connector Program. In addition, there is funding for renewal of the province's aerial firefighting fleet to better protect northern communities and improvements to the province's water supply infrastructure.

The 2009/2010 budget has allocated significant funding to initiatives that will benefit urban municipalities in this province and assist them in providing a high standard of living for their residents.



Top left - (L to R) SUMA Vice-President, Towns, Renaud Bissonnette, SUMA President Allan Earle, Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Hutchinson and SUMA Chief Executive Officer, Laurent Mougeot.

Top right - President Earle and Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Hutchinson

Bottom right - President Earle talks with media



When good public policy makes good politics

SUMA's Policy & Communications team hits the road

More convention coverage: Environment Minister responds to Bear Pit questions; President's Banquet Award Recipients; an interview with Tania Meier

SUMA Board upbeat for quarterly meeting

Sask Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association ready for a busy season

Legislative interns attend SUMA Convention

Learn how our newest SUMA Advantage partners can work for you



President's Voice.....2

CEO's Voice3

SUMA team hits the road.....4

Roadbuilders ready to go5

'Bear Pit' responses6

Your convention feedback7

Board update8

SAMA aims for neutrality9

Taking Advantage11

Municipal Marketplace12

President's Voice



It's understating the obvious, but I'll say it anyway – there have been a lot of changes for Saskatchewan's cities, towns and villages since my last update to you in January's edition of the Urban Voice.

Firstly, I must thank everyone who was involved with SUMA's 104th annual convention in February. It was an extremely successful series of days. Of course, the Premier's announcement of the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) was the highlight. Our member councils were extremely pleased to see infrastructure needs recognized with \$100 million in unconditional dollars for our cities, towns and villages. SUMA very much appreciates recognition of the fact that municipalities know where and how best to spend this money.

And, unless you've been vacationing in a warmer climate without a Blackberry, you're likely aware that the long

outstanding issue of revenue sharing has been addressed by the Province through the announcement of the new Municipal Operating Grants (MOG) program. MOG will replace the former revenue sharing formula, providing a portion of the Provincial Sales Tax to municipalities on an annual basis.

As you all know, SUMA has long been advocating predictable, adequate revenue streams that will allow cities, towns and villages the opportunity to budget adequately, providing much-needed operational assistance to Saskatchewan municipalities.

This new program has increased the level of funding that will make annual budget forecasting much easier. There will no longer be the need for municipalities to lobby for ad hoc increases on a yearly basis for increased funding.

We wish to thank Premier Wall and Minister Hutchinson for their government fulfilling its commitment to our members. The MOG and MEEP programs are evidence of a very positive government-to-government relationship that exists between the province and municipalities, one that has and will continue to pay dividends for SUMA and its members over the long-term. Together we are working to implement positive changes in communities across our province.

I've always felt extremely fortunate to serve as your President, and am particularly proud at this time when we are seeing the dividends of many years of hard work on the revenue sharing file. However, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge all those who have been involved in this effort over the years - men and women who have done outstanding work in municipal government, committed leaders who have fought hard for the interests of Saskatchewan's urban municipalities. The voices may have changed over the years, but the message and our collective resolve have remained.

While these developments are major victories for Saskatchewan's municipalities, we know that there is much work ahead, not the least of which is an ambitious construction agenda in the coming months. As construction and renovations go on throughout the province, we know that municipalities will be working hard to deliver quality projects on budget and on time.

We know that communities across Saskatchewan are up for the challenge!

President
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association



consulting (sask.) ltd.

Project Engineers for:

- Municipal Infrastructure
- Water and Wastewater
- Urban Streets and Transportation
- Subdivision Planning and Land Development
- Solid Waste
- Golf Courses and Recreation

Contact:

J.W. (Jim) Campbell, P.Eng.

1601A - 4th Avenue
Regina, SK S4R 8P9

Phone: (306) 757-8694
Fax: (306) 757-4202
E-mail: epc@epc-consulting.com

TALK TO US!
If you have comments or suggestions about the Urban Voice, we'd love to hear them!
Email Rae Anne Furber at rfurber@suma.org or call 306-525-4396.

Board and Staff Members

Mayor Allan Earle, President

Councillor Fred Clipsham
Vice-President, Cities

Mayor Renaud Bissonnette
Vice-President, Towns

Mayor Barry Gunther
Vice-President, Villages, Resort Villages & Northern Municipalities

Mayor Sharon Armstrong
Wynyard

Councillor Darren Hill, Saskatoon

Councillor Michael Fougere
Regina

Councillor Randy Goulden
Yorkton

Mayor Gordon Hall, St. Walburg

Mayor Al Heron, Eston

Mayor Sandy Larson
Swift Current

Councillor Regina Sagal-Hendry
Moose Jaw

Councillor Tiffany Paulsen
Saskatoon

Mayor Gary St. Onge, Estevan

Mayor Jim Scarrow, Prince Albert

Mayor Bobby Woods
Buffalo Narrows

Mayor Roland Zimmer, Tisdale

Laurent Mougeot
Chief Executive Officer

Wes Jickling
Director of Policy & Communications

Jennifer Fink
Policy Advisor

Sean McEachern
Policy Advisor

Rae Anne Furber
Communications Officer

Tania Meier
Manager, Corporate Programs

Shauna Brown
Manager, Group Benefits & Insurance

Tauna Kupiec
Group Benefits Administrator

Gail Meyer
Manager, Member & Administrative Services

Fran Ullman
Administrative Assistant

Tammy Bryant
Manager, Financial Services

Laurie Bryant
Accounting Clerk/Receptionist

Contact us:
200 - 2222 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 3M7
P: 306-525-3727
F: 306-525-4373
suma@suma.org www.suma.org

When good public policy makes good politics



It took more than 15 years to get there. At first, our case received little if any attention. After all, just about every provincial jurisdiction in the nation reduced revenue transfers to local governments. “It was the thing to do” we were told. Saskatchewan was facing difficult financial times, and municipalities were in line for significant revenue sharing cuts. No one liked it. Every municipal government in the province faced some very difficult decisions.

One way for municipalities to cope with the shrinking provincial revenue stream while maintaining municipal services was to reduce their infrastructure investment. So they cut back on maintenance, repairs and replacement to save the operations. Year after year, municipal officers and elected officials struggled with annual budgets, reducing capital investments and debating which core or essential services would be immune from service reduction. Over the years, most municipal operating budgets have included some significant compromises. In many instances capital programs took the brunt of the cuts, effectively forcing municipalities to maintain their operations at the expense of decaying infrastructure. And so, municipalities faced each annual budget cycle with very few options, watching capital needs compound year after year.

The last five years saw a much more concerted effort by local elected officials, mayors and councillors, working through their municipal associations and through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), jointly pleading their case for a better re-distribution of the tax dollar. The “8 cent per tax dollar going to local government” message provided the basis for much of the discourse with provincial and federal governments. Similarly, the concept of “infrastructure deficit” and the need to invest jointly in the upgrade and replacement of infrastructure was quickly accepted by all orders of governments. From the New Deal program to the recent Infrastructure Stimulus package, including the Building Canada Fund, there has been a renewed interest in meeting some of the local infrastructure needs.

The Government of Saskatchewan, and certainly Minister Hutchinson and also his colleagues in Cabinet, have a great understanding of municipal government. Clearly, revamping the revenue sharing formula and addressing municipal infrastructure needs have been part of the mandate of this Government. To be heard has been a good thing for the municipal sector, and to be served has been a true reflection of the level of engagement we have achieved with the provincial government.

The announcement of a \$100M unconditional infrastructure program (MEEP) is an unprecedented contribution by the provincial government. The application process should be considered a model, respecting local autonomy and needs of communities. The per capita distribution is also respectful of our expectations.

The creation of the Municipal Operating Grant which will dedicate a portion of the Provincial Sales Tax towards municipal operations has been attracting the attention of municipalities throughout Canada. Described as a historical moment by President Earle, this program reflects the public interest in properly resourcing cities, towns, villages, resort villages and northern communities. The program has been developed on sound analysis, and its foundation as “public policy” is now based on solid factual work. It acknowledges the shared responsibility of the province and urban municipalities in making Saskatchewan communities better places to live, work and play, and to maintain a healthy and competitive economic environment. It is good policy. It is good politics.

Skilled Canadian Workers Available Coming to a town near you

Providing Quality, Productive
Canadian Workers to Help
Build Your Community

Skilled Trades
General and Specific Labour
Friendly and Reliable People
Hourly Billing
Skill Transference
Built in Supervision
Housing / Lodging Included
Community Investment

*“TDT Crews has helped increase our productivity
and have had a positive economic and social impact
on the Frontier area”*

Honeybee Manufacturing

Jamie Pegg
Frontier, SK

*“We need to find new and innovative
ways of recruiting and maintaining workers”*

Bob Blakley

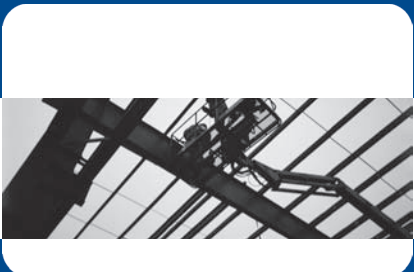
Co Chair and Director of Canadian Affairs for the
Building and Construction Trades Department

Also Selling and Erecting Pre-Engineered
Steel Buildings



1.877.30 CREWS (27397)

www.tdtcrews.com



Discussing municipal issues in Speedy Creek

PCS team has similar visits planned in future for smaller municipalities

Swift Current’s motto is Where life makes sense. So, when SUMA’s Policy and Communications Services (PCS) team decided to take a road trip to a Saskatchewan community to experience firsthand the municipal issues we talk about every day in our work life, Swift Current seemed to be a perfectly logical choice.

In addition to its catchy motto, Swift Current was selected because it is a microcosm of the most significant challenges facing many of Saskatchewan’s communities, including pressures on infrastructure, annexation, municipal finances and recycling. SUMA’s PCS team is responsible for providing strategic advice to the SUMA Board and member councils on key issues related to policy and communications, so Swift Current seemed to be an ideal location to discuss the practical side of these issues. The city’s administration was keen to host us, so in early March, the four of us hit the road. After Jenn called “shotgun”, we were off to spend two unseasonably warm days in ‘Speedy Creek’.

The Swift Current region boasts a diversified economy that includes grain farming, ranching and oil and gas development. Located at the junction of Highway 4 and the TransCanada Highway, Swift Current is the hub of southwest Saskatchewan. The city is home to just over 16,000 residents and serves a regional population of approximately 55,000. Swift Current is home to the major healthcare facility in southwest Saskatchewan – the Swift Current Regional Hospital. The Living Sky Casino and the newly renovated multi-purpose arena – the Credit Union IPlex - are also evidence of a region that is bustling in the wake of our Province’s economic momentum.

Thanks to our knowledgeable and hospitable tour guides, we visited nearly every municipal facility there was in the city, including the water and sewage treatment plants, public works, fire hall, landfill and recreational facilities. The PCS team also attended the regular City Council meeting, where Director Wes Jickling provided an update about SUMA, its membership, and our role as advocates for Saskatchewan’s municipalities.

It was no surprise to find much going on behind the scenes. Keeping existing infrastructure in good repair, recruiting and retaining qualified employees, positive environmental stewardship, defining responsibility between orders of government, and effective planning are just some of the issues on the agenda of those working within the city’s senior administration. Delivering quality essential services within tight budget parameters is a daily commitment – issues that city staff openly discussed with the PCS team.

The opportunity to discuss issues facing municipalities provided a hands-on perspective that the PCS team was looking for. Additionally, meeting the people behind the scenes revealed a serious commitment to delivering quality, affordable services to the people of Swift Current, and a great community pride – one that the PCS team agrees is justified.

SUMA’s PCS team would like to extend sincere thanks to the City of Swift Current for accommodating our request. Thanks especially to the people that took time meet with us, and to those that acted as tour guides. And, special thanks to Tim for stopping by the Co-op for lefsa!

Mayor Sandy Larson
Mac Forster, City Engineer
Tim Marcus, Director of Finance
Bob Rindahl, Fire Chief
Mitch Minken, Director of Light and Power
Dean Robson, Director of Recreation and Parks
Marty Salberg, Director of Business Development
Trevor Feicht, Manager of Engineering and Planning Services
Miriam Hornell, Aquatic Superintendent
Greg Parsons, Manager of Public Works
Tim Cox, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Rudy Holland, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent



Clockwise from top left:

- How are you guys for odors? asked Tim Cox, 2nd from left, as he and Trevor Feicht (far left) toured us through the wastewater treatment plant
- Mayor Larson reviews her notes in advance of the City Council meeting
- Recreation Director Dean Robson explains how the ‘chillers’ work at the Credit Union IPlex
- Who knew you needed this type of signage at the wastewater treatment plant?
- The newly renovated Credit Union IPlex
- People kept asking us if we’d been to the Big Eye, and when we went, this is what we found
- We checked out the Central Service Garage, and this front-end loader seemed like as good a place as any for a photo backdrop. SUMA’s Policy & Communication Services team, from left: Jennifer Fink, Rae Anne Furber, Sean McEachern and Wes Jickling
- Fire Chief Bob Rindahl explained some of the SCFD’s challenges
- City Engineer Mac Forster fields media questions after the City Council meeting

Ready to roll!

Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association preparing for a busy summer season

There’s no doubt about it. It’s going to be busy this year, one that is historic in terms of infrastructure renewal in this province.

Record levels of funding from provincial and federal governments will make for some exciting (but busy) times for both municipal councils and the road building industry.

The Provincial Budget alone included \$630 million for highways and infrastructure – a 19 per cent increase over last year’s budget. Highway’s Minister Wayne Elhard is calling it “the most aggressive approach to infrastructure that our Ministry has ever undertaken”.

As you are no doubt aware, one of the largest initiatives announced is the rural highway strategy, which targets \$100 million towards rural highway upgrades that includes 250 kilometres of new and continued work. Municipalities meantime are going to be active in their own right as they roll out their own infrastructure projects. All of this is on top of what the Federal Government is going to be spending on infrastructure as a part of

its stimulus package.

It will be a challenging year, but the road building and heavy construction industry is up for the challenge and is already gearing up to meet the demand. Its members are already putting the labour and equipment in place to meet this demand head on. On the labour side, the association is getting dozens and dozens of resumes from across the country about the opportunities here in Saskatchewan.

However, there are still some important steps to ensure that municipalities and the industry can deliver on this ambitious construction agenda. Early tendering is key. It allows for more effective planning, and more efficient management of equipment and labour.

Another key component is the relationship between the Heavy Construction Association and municipalities.

The Association is welcoming input and feedback from municipalities as we move forward with this year’s construction season and as we look toward an equally ambitious

2010. “Working with municipalities represents a very significant part of the business of our members,” said Shantel Lipp, President, Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association.

We’ve got a lot of work before us – but we are confident that working together we can deliver. Together we are building Saskatchewan’s future.

If you have feedback for the Association, contact Shantel Lipp at rb10@sasktel.net 306-586-1821.

The Road Builders and Heavy Construction Construction Association represents over 200 companies who are engaged in non-residential construction in Saskatchewan. The sector builds everything from roads and bridges to commercial and institutional buildings, electrical systems, waterworks and pipelines. RBHCA members represent an industry that employs over 5,000 people in Saskatchewan, with an annual payroll of more than \$325 million dollars.

Providing a unique opportunity

Interns offered municipal government perspective at SUMA’s Annual Convention

SUMA once again hosted university students from the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) during the 2009 Annual Convention. SUMA has been hosting Saskatchewan Legislative Interns since this program began in 2002.

SUMA is an on-going program sponsor of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. Each year, the interns are given observer status at the SUMA Convention. In formalizing this sponsorship last year, SUMA’s Chief Executive Officer, Laurent Mougeot, wrote that the interns’ attendance at the annual SUMA conventions offers “an expanded perspective on the challenges and opportunities affecting municipal governments in Saskatchewan”. He observed that SUMA’s contribution to the Program represents “a sound investment in the professional development of the young minds that will help shape the future policy framework of our communities”.

SLIP is a joint program of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, and Rawlco Radio. The Program provides an opportunity each year for up to five Saskatchewan senior university students and recent graduates to experience the practical side of government by interning for seven months at the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The interns are paired with Members of the Legislative Assembly from both sides of the House. They perform a variety of non-partisan duties for the MLAs, including preparing briefing material, undertaking research, preparing members’ statements, and assisting with addressing constituents’ concerns. Because they serve MLAs on both sides of the House, they are not allowed to engage in any political activities during their internship.

In order to give the interns an opportunity to learn more about public policy issues within Saskatchewan, they attend numerous briefings, conferences, and conventions taking place within the province. They also spend time in the constituencies of their assigned MLA and learn about local issues and concerns. They meet with some of Saskatchewan’s leaders, including mayors of various cities in the province. In addition, they travel to Ottawa and then visit parliaments and legislatures in one or two other countries to compare what they are experiencing in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Former interns have pursued careers in public administration, advocacy, law, and education. A former employee of SUMA, Cam Baker, was a Saskatchewan Legislative Intern in 2003. Kiley Bear, the communications manager for the City of Prince Albert, was an Intern in 2007.

This year’s interns from the University of Saskatchewan are: Andrew Restall, a Saskatoon resident majoring in political studies (Honours); Dawn Gibbons, a North Battleford resident with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honours) and also a MBA candidate with the Edward’s School of Business; and Teresa Tootoosis of the Poundmaker First Nation who is enrolled in the Aboriginal Public Administration Program. From the University of Regina the interns are: Michael Radmacher, a graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree (High Honours in political science, with a minor in history) and Nicole Leach, a political science and economics major (Honours).

The 2009 SUMA Convention was the first major event that this year’s interns attended as part of their internship. The Convention gave them valuable perspectives about municipal government in Saskatchewan and the challenges that municipalities face. Intern Andrew Restall observed this about the bear-pit session: “It was interesting to see different municipalities and their officials question the elected provincial officials. You begin to understand the financial struggle municipalities undergo to achieve their mandates.” Andrew further explored what he observed at the SUMA convention when the MLA with whom he is paired, Nadine Wilson (MLA Saskatchewan Rivers), arranged for him to meet with municipal officials within her constituency.

Intern Mike Radenbacher also added his perspective: “When a person really stops and thinks, if one out of our three levels of government disappeared, the duties provided by the municipalities would be missed first. Municipalities do the on-the-ground, ‘nitty-gritty’ jobs -- the duties that all citizens demand to be done properly and efficiently, such as waste disposal and street cleaning.”

If you know of a university student who might be interested in participating in the program or if you want more information, please contact Ken Pontikes, SLIP Director at kpp985@mail.usask.ca. The application form and other information about the program and the current interns can be found at www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship/index.htm.

Premier’s infrastructure announcement highlight of SUMA Convention

The 2009 SUMA Convention got off to a roaring start as municipal representatives were notified of the \$100 million in new infrastructure funding for Saskatchewan municipalities. The announcement, delivered during the Premier’s address to delegates that kicked off SUMA’s 104th Annual Convention on February 2, was welcome news for municipal representatives who have long been dealing with an ever-increasing infrastructure deficit in Saskatchewan. Municipal representatives were particularly pleased with the per capita nature of the funding, and also the ability to address local priorities. We’re pleased to report that since this announcement, nearly 800 Saskatchewan municipalities now have provincial money through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP).

For additional convention coverage including adopted resolutions, sector reports, session summaries and responses to written Bear Pit questions visit www.suma.org.



Premier Wall talks to media after unveiling the ‘MEEP’ Program

Environment Minister responds to Bear Pit questions

We need help to run our local waste authority (Red Coat). When is the government going to step in and help fund these groups? What is the Sask Party government going to do to help out small communities to deal with recycling issues? At present it is costly to haul material to larger centres. We need alternatives.

In terms of short-term support for municipal based recycling operations the Ministry of Environment is considering emergency bridge funding to sustain recycling systems for the near future. Beyond the short-term concerns, the Ministry of Environment is working to develop a Multi Material Recycling Program and a Solid Waste Management Plan as a means to improve recycling and waste management in Saskatchewan. For many years the collection and disposal of solid waste has been a responsibility of municipalities and the costs of this activity have typically been covered through municipal operating budgets. In recent times, however, the concept of “Extended Producer Responsibility” has emerged and suggests that manufacturers and consumers also have a role to play in dealing with the waste generated by the goods and associated packaging which they produce, sell and benefit from.

The future MMRP and Solid Waste Management Plan will recognize the roles of consumers, manufacturers and municipalities in improving and funding waste management. The design of smarter solutions for packaging needs to be considered as does the development of Saskatchewan-based recycling or energy recovery opportunities in developing a cost effective waste management system. Incorporating the principles of “product stewardship” and “user-pay” will aid in minimizing product and packaging waste at the outset to reduce the waste management costs. At this time the Ministry of Environment hopes to have a MMRP in place by late 2010.

Are there any plans to increase the number of SERM offices in the province? These numbers appear to have decreased over the last few years and areas of coverage have increased in size thereby decreasing their effectiveness. I have seen an increase in illegal hunting in zones 53/54 and 67.

Saskatchewan Environment is committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources to enhance economic and social benefits. To support this commitment the ministry is transitioning to a more “results based – best practices” approach to mandate delivery. As part of the transition process, the ministry will assess its current staff capacity and office locations with the objective of ensuring the necessary resources are in place to provide the public with appropriate access to the variety of services and programs offered by the ministry. Compliance monitoring and enforcement are a high priority for the ministry. Anyone with knowledge of illegal activity related to the environment or natural resources is encouraged to call the toll free Turn In Poachers (TIP) line at 1-800-667-7561.

We understand that your ministry is going through a restructuring program, what is this new structure going to look like; will there be any office closures, and what if any changes will be directly linked to municipalities?

A new “draft” organizational structure is currently being considered. However, this new draft structure will not be finalized until the vacant Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM’s) positions have been filled. It is anticipated that these vacancies will be filled by late spring or early summer, and after an orientation period, the new ADM’s will turn their attention to organizational structure. Once the new structure has been finalized I would be happy to share it with you.

Editor’s note: Responses to Bear Pit written questions are available at www.suma.org

2009 President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony



Held each year at the SUMA Convention, the President’s Banquet honours elected officials and municipal employees for dedication to their municipality. Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

Front Row: (L to R)

Mac Forster, Swift Current; Kerry Greig, Glenside; Garry Bakken, Frontier; Karen Greve, Lanigan; Doris Doll, Swift Current; SUMA President Allan Earle; Doug Leavins, Swift Current; Raymond Ries, Eston; Leon Drebit, Hudson Bay; Andy Toth, Swift Current.

Second Row: (IL to R)

Ken Dewald, Denzil; Denis Poirer, Duck Lake; Donald Greve, Rosthern; Marnie MacRae, Eastend; Debbra Lewis, Eastend; Darlene Cochrane, Birch Hills;

Lloyd DeBray, Duck Lake; Merv Vey, Tisdale; Lenard Ward, Eston.

Third Row (L to R)

Jack Dvernichuk, Lanigan; Bryan Leier, Sedley; Bill Aitken, Yorkton; Don Robertson, Unity; Phil Richards, Saskatoon; Gordon Johnson, Whitewood; Dwight Olson, Tisdale; Paul Martens, Aberdeen; Allan Salyn, Yorkton.

Back Row (L to R)

Michael Senga, Lanigan; Ed Sigmeth, Carlyle; David Hards, Watrous; Richard Baran, Eston;

Michael Buchholzer, Yorkton; Murray Sieben, Denzil; Jeff Hornung, Vanguard.

Absent:

Brenda Brandon, Tisdale; Dave Dareichuk, Theodore; Richard Levesque, Meadow Lake; Ralph Martin, Meadow Lake; Russell Nelson, Meadow Lake; Rodney Pambrun, Meadow Lake; Clare Pierce, Meadow Lake; Robert Robinson, Whitewood; David Rosenmeyer, Yorkton; Lynne Swanson, Wawota; Brent Hopfner, Vanguard.



What YOU said about the 2009 Convention!



It goes without saying that our annual convention is a critical event for SUMA, providing the opportunity for our membership to gather, debate resolutions, identify issues facing Saskatchewan communities, and to foster unity amongst Saskatchewan's cities, towns and villages. In addition, the convention also provides revenue that contributes to the financial health of the association.

Many of us likely don't give much consideration to the particulars associated with putting the convention together, but for Tania Meier – it's her job. The SUMA convention is pretty much a year-round responsibility for Tania, who is SUMA's Manager of Corporate Programs. She works to ensure that the event looks seamless for delegates, meets the membership's strategic needs, is financially viable, and that no detail is missed. 2009 was Tania's first convention in this role. We recently sat down with her to discuss how things went, and what's in store for 2010.

UV: So, what happens with all of the delegate feedback after convention is over?

TM: After it's compiled, it's summarized and reported back to our board of directors. From there, the convention planning committee takes the feedback into consideration, making changes where possible for the following year. Certainly, we can't make every change that is asked for, but we make every effort to deliver a good, quality program, and delegate feedback is extremely important.

UV: It seems that a lot of the feedback is tied to food! What's your take on this?

TM: There are significant costs associated with food and other materials we require for convention. It's definitely not cheap to host an event at a facility like TCU – or anywhere else, for that matter. To put things in perspective, our breakfast costs are \$9.95 per person per day, and lunch costs are approximately \$14.50 per person per day. Our coffee and tea expenses for the breaks were nearly \$10,000. We do receive a lot of feedback about food. And, while there are likely those that would be willing to pay more for meals, we must make every effort to keep convention accessible and affordable for everyone. The goal is to keep registration affordable to provide an opportunity for all of our members to attend.

UV: Aside from the food costs, are there some other expenses that you think would surprise people?

TM: Well, I think it's important to note that even the things we really don't think about cost money. For example, the screens that appear in the main convention hall are \$750 per screen per day to rent, so our total costs on that were about \$12,000. Bussing is another significant cost at \$20,000, a cost that is offset with a grant from the City of Saskatoon. We could increase service and have buses running all day and going to more hotels, but it would be quite easy to double the cost of this service. These are just a couple of examples, but the bottom line is that everything costs money.

UV: We've also been asked why we don't consider other locations, be they smaller communities like Prince Albert or Moose Jaw or other facilities in Saskatoon, such as Prairieland Park. How do you respond to this?

TM: Firstly, there are really only a few facilities in the province that can accommodate our needs. TCU Place and Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. In Regina, our options are the Queensbury Centre and the Conexus Arts Centre. We need a meeting room for about 1200 people, a large trade show space and various other meeting rooms. We understand that Prairieland is undergoing some renovations, and if the situation presents itself, we would certainly look at this option. As for other cities hosting, in addition to the convention facility issue, there would simply not be enough hotel rooms for us. Most hotels in Regina and Saskatoon are full around the time of our convention, and while it would be nice to offer another city the opportunity to host, we would not put ourselves into a situation where we couldn't accommodate **all delegates**. And, I don't know anyone that wants to camp in Saskatchewan in February! <laughs>

UV: How important are sponsorship and the Municipal Marketplace trade show to the success of the event?

TM: The trade show always gets great reviews, and I think that people understand the revenue that the trade show generates, and also the valuable connections that it provides for our members and partners. In addition to the delegates liking the trade show, our exhibitors were really happy, too. Wherever possible, we look to offset costs through sponsorship. For example, our education session speakers are there for free and come on their own time. We pay for the keynote and entertainer, and again, offer these up as sponsorship opportunities to offset costs. We also provide other options, such as the opportunity to address delegates and handbook advertising.

UV: So, what didn't go over so well?

TM: As I mentioned, there were various suggestions regarding food service, including location, the amount of food, and the type of food, that kind of thing. We will certainly take this into consideration, and weigh this against what we think we can pay the facility for food and beverage costs next year. The Sunday night Kaleidoscope event seemed to miss the mark, so we will have to re-evaluate the intent and format of that event. And, people were also concerned about cell phones going off during sessions, and that's definitely something we can rectify going forward.

UV: Let's move back to the positive ... what did people love? Do you have a top three?

TM: Needless to say, the announcement by Premier Wall of the \$100M unconditional infrastructure funding was at the top. Our banquet entertainer, Johnny Bagpipes was an overwhelming hit, people loved him. The President's Banquet was also very well received, as were the sector meetings. People also really appreciated the strong cabinet presence at the Bear Pit, and the trade show was very popular, as well. (I think that's six!)

UV: Putting this convention together is an incredible amount of work. What part was the most rewarding?

I think the fact that most everything is planned in-house, by staff. We generate a lot of work out of our small office, and I may be biased, but I think that we deliver excellent value to our members. We do contract one person to manage trade show and sponsorship because we don't have the capacity to handle that, and we pay a relatively small fee to contract the Partners' Program, but otherwise, it's twelve of us. Everyone did a great job, and I'm really proud of our team.

UV: What can we look forward to in 2010?

TM: It's a municipal election year, so we will be having SUMA Executive elections. We'll also have many people at convention attending as first-time elected officials, so that is going to be exciting, too. As always, we'll cover topics that are relevant and timely to municipal governments in Saskatchewan.

Do you have an idea for next year's convention theme? If so, we'd love to hear it! Email your thoughts to tmeier@suma.org, and you could win 2 tickets to next year's President's Banquet - a value of \$100!



SUMA Board gathers for quarterly meeting

Still riding high on the recent provincial budget announcement of the Municipal Operating Grants (MOG) Program, the mood was upbeat as the SUMA Board gathered for its quarterly meeting in Regina on April 2-3.

Friday morning began with a series of committee meetings, followed by a meeting with Municipal Affairs Minister, Bill Hutchinson. Once a roundtable discussion with the Minister was complete, the board dealt with a full agenda that went well into Saturday afternoon. Reports were provided in the following key areas:

- CEO Laurent Mougeot delivered a presentation on an update of the strategic plan, which was reviewed by the SUMA administration at a day-long March retreat. The Board agreed that staff feedback on the progress of the plan was helpful to ensuring the success of the organization.
- Yearly membership fees are being collected, and the administration reported that that over half of this year's fees have been collected.
- SUMA's fiscal year-end will be moved from December 31 to September 30 in order to provide SUMA members with financial statements in advance of the Annual General Meeting at the SUMA Convention.
- The SUMA Chief Executive Officer work plan was adopted by the Board.
- A revised approach to SUMA's policy development was endorsed. The Board agreed to set additional time aside on future meeting agendas to accommodate discussion and options of SUMA policy positions.
- Meeting dates were confirmed for SUMA's spring regional meetings. Fall meetings have been rescheduled to dates that will follow the municipal elections. These will be announced on the SUMA website.

Committee news:

Environment – The Board authorized SUMA to proceed with the administration of the provincial recycling program bridge funding, helping to ensure that paper and cardboard continues to move to market in the wake of tumbling prices. The administration reported that details regarding program logistics are still being worked out, and will become available in mid-May.

Convention Planning – Michael Fougere was appointed as the 2010 convention chair. The group also discussed the fall municipal elections, and the logistics of holding SUMA Executive elections at the next convention.

Corporate Services – SUMA reported on two new programs for members, software and fuel. The group also discussed effective marketing of SUMA Advantage programs, and provided suggestions to create more awareness amongst the SUMA membership regarding available programs.

Think SUMA Advantage for your election supplies!

As a service to urban municipalities, SUMA offers election forms, supplies and ballot printing - a one-stop shop for all SUMA members with the assurance that supplies will be up-to-date and a staff member available to answer questions or refer you to the appropriate contacts at Municipal Affairs.

Elections are being held on the following dates:

- Resort Villages – Saturday July 25, 2009
- Cities and (southern) Towns and Villages – Wednesday October 28, 2009
- Northern municipalities (Northern towns, Northern Villages and Northern Hamlets) – various dates in the fall of 2009 that are locally determined.

Watch the Urban Update and SUMA Advantage website for 2009 Election forms and pricing. For further information contact Tania Meier, Manager, Corporate Programs at 306-525-4379.

Regional Meetings slated for June

SUMA regional meetings are an excellent opportunity for SUMA to stay in touch with our membership. Held semi-annually, these meetings are great way of stimulating discussion around municipal or provincial issues.

The following dates for the 2009 Spring Regional Meetings have been scheduled:

East Central (Sturgis):	Tuesday, June 2
West Central (Eston):	Wednesday, June 10
North West (Glaslyn):	Thursday, June 11
North East (Choiceland):	Friday, June 12
Central (Cupar):	Monday, June 15
South East (Montmartre):	Wednesday, June 17
South West (Swift Current):	Thursday, June 18

Although agendas are not yet finalized, the following topics are likely to be covered at the upcoming meetings:

- SUMA's strategic plan: What the association has accomplished and what's next.
 - The new provincial Municipal Operating Grant Program, and the impact on municipal budgets
 - Sorting out Federal and Provincial infrastructure commitments
 - Presentation from the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing on the Public Safety Review
 - Progress toward asset accounting and renewal (Public Sector Accounting Board and Municipal Asset Inventory Software)
 - Municipal Sector Strategic Plan - accomplishments and issues being addressed going forward
 - An update on the Province's bridge funding for recycling programs
 - Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP)
- Region-specific issues will be added to respective agendas.




In loving memory of
Cher Gunther

It is with heavy hearts that we convey our sincere condolences to SUMA Board member and Vice-President, Barry Gunther.

Barry - our thoughts are with you and your family as you mourn the passing of your beloved wife, Cher. May you cherish the many wonderful memories you shared together.

~ The SUMA Board of Directors and Staff



DEL EQUIPMENT LIMITED
1265 Mc DONALD ST
Regina, Sask. S4N 4X5
Toll Free 1-888-888-8171
PH 306-359-1477
FAX 306-565-0650



FOR ALL YOUR TRUCK BODY and EQUIPMENT NEEDS.
ONE CALL HANDLES IT ALL.


TRUCK BODIES	EQUIPMENT
GRAVEL DUMP	CRANES -TRUCK/DECK MOUNT
GRAIN BOXES	LIFTGATES
SERVICE BODIES	SNOW PLOWS-SPREADERS
CONTRACTOR & FLAT DECKS	SWAPLOADER & HOOK LIFTS
TIPSTER BOXES	TARPS
CUBE & FREIGHT VAN BODIES	HOISTS
	TOOLBOXES & ACCESSORIES
	PTO'S PUMPS WET KITS
	PINTLES & HITCHES

SERVICES

SGI SAFETY INSPECTIONS	COMPLETE SERVICE & REPAIR FACILITIES
CRANE CERTIFICATIONS	TRUCK FRAME SERVICE & MODIFICATIONS
	SANDBLASTING & PAINTING SERVICES



DEL BACKS YOU UP FROM COAST TO COAST



EMAIL: regina@delequipment.com

Revenue neutrality aim of SAMA revaluation

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) is responsible for the governance of Saskatchewan’s property assessment system. As part of this function, SAMA coordinates a full revaluation of all properties in the province every four years.

While a revaluation updates property values, it is designed to be “revenue neutral” on an overall municipal basis. Provided that local government’s budget requirements remain the same in a revaluation year as the previous year, changes in taxable assessments will only result in changed tax levels if a property’s assessment increases or decreases substantially, relative to the average for that jurisdiction.

Property taxation is the main source of revenue for most municipalities and schools. Their ability to deliver services depends on a stable assessment base. Property assessment is also a factor in calculating and distributing provincial transfer payments to local governments.

For additional information, visit www.sama.sk.ca or contact Peter Ryan at peter.ryan@sama.sk.ca or 306-924-6607.



offers central marketing facilities to every corner of Saskatchewan with locations in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina

- Does your community need a cardboard, newspaper, paper, tin or a plastic recycling program?

If so, Crown Shred & Recycling Inc. will assist you in setting up an effective recycling program. We will accept all your baled newspaper, paper, cardboard, tin and plastic as well as pay you top market value!

- Do you need a down stroke baler to efficiently handle your recycling program?

Crown Shred & Recycling Inc. carries an ample supply of all handling equipment. We are able to provide you with all necessary information on down stroke balers that will suit your needs.

For the marketing of your material give Darlene Geleta a call at 306-949-4459

Phone (306) 545-5454 • Fax (306) 545-6125 • E-mail csrregina@sasktel.net
www.crownshredandrecycling.com

Make the land OBEY.



Bobcat® Compact Tractors
 Take charge of every chore aboard a Bobcat compact tractor. Choose from nine rugged models designed for small farms, ranches, grounds managers and private homes with acreage. These tough machines proudly wear the name Bobcat – the brand that stands for top performance and long-term reliability.

- Four-wheel drive
- Hydrostatic transmission
- Models from 20 to 50 hp
- Easy implement changes

Authorized Bobcat Dealer

**Box 1785, Highway #1 East
 Regina, Saskatchewan
 (306) 347-7600**



www.bobcat.com
Bobcat® is a registered trademark of Bobcat Company

One Tough Animal.

MARITIMES

2 ITINERARIES
 All Coach or Fly / Coach



- The Cabot Trail
 - Traditional PEI Lobster Dinner
 - Titanic Museum & Grave Sites
 - Peggy's Cove
 - Confederation Bridge
 - Hopewell Rocks
 - Reversing Falls
 - Anne of Green Gables Cottage
 - Magnetic Hill
 - Woodleigh Replicas
 - And much more!
- Or
 New for 2009
 Newfoundland
 & Labrador Tour**



CAA travel agency
SASKATCHEWAN

1-800-564-6222

Call or visit your local CAA Travel for a brochure.

WestWorld CAA Tours
Where Dependability is a Tradition

SUMA Golf Tournament

August 13-14, 2009

Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan

\$85 tournament registration; \$40 for non-golfers

Visit www.suma.org and click on 'Events' for additional information.
or phone 306-473-2450 or email willowbunch.town@sasktel.net

ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd.

Upcoming A.B.C. Operator Certification Preparation Courses
Spring 2009

Apr. 20-24	Class III-IV Water Treatment (3.0 CEU's)
Apr. 20-24	Class I Water Treatment & Distribution (3.0 CEU's) (New spring course by popular demand!)

Workshops

Apr. 1	Confined Space Entry (0.6 CEU's)
Apr. 2	WHMIS & Safety (0.6 CEU's)
Apr. 15-16	Gas Chlorination (2-day) (1.2 CEU's)

(All courses and workshops will be held in Saskatoon.)

**Power Mobile Equipment
(PME) Evaluation and Training / Train-the-Trainer**
ATAP can provide on-site evaluation and training to help your community meet the new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. Please contact our office or visit our website.

Registration forms and information may be found
online (www.atap.ca under "NEWS")

#1 - 2225 Northridge Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. S7L 6X6
Phone: 306.244.8828 Fax: 306.244.8829

Comprehensive and Cost-Effective Water & Wastewater

**Fast turn-arounds.
Our sign of
service.**

- Traffic Signs
- Street Name Signs
- Custom Signage
- Traffic Related Products

**HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR
TRAFFIC SIGNS...LATELY?**

400 Keewatin St., Winnipeg, Manitoba
Ph: 204-944-7446 or 1-800-788-6805
Fax: 204-632-9747

www.airmastersales.com

Airmaster Signs

Creative communities invest in culture.

Find out more about
cultural mapping and
planning by visiting
www.saskculture.sk.ca
or by calling
(306) 780-9284.

Cultural Activity

Folklore
Choral Craftmaking
Built heritage Playwrighting
Anti-racism Awareness Elocution
Theatre Archaeology Multiculturalism Festivals
Ethno-culture Métis heritage Music Visual Arts
Heritage Conservation Film Publishing
Native Grasslands French storytelling
First Nations heritage Languages

**Culture Builds
Community**

Sask **Culture**

Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES

WESTERN ROAD MANAGEMENT
A DIVISION OF HUSKY OIL, A VENTURE OF POUNDER EMULSIONS

**The people and
products for your needs!**

Road Stabilization
Road Mix
Reclamation
Surface Treatments
Dust Suppressants
De-icing Chemicals

For more information, contact Our Office:
Ph: (306) 934-3033 • Fax: (306) 934-2052
806 - 50th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0X6

Taking Advantage

SUMA Advantage offers your municipality savings on a wide variety of products and services. Through the program, SUMA members can access products and services - **at a lower cost than regular retail pricing!** This is due to the combined purchasing power of all SUMA member municipalities. For additional information on any of the programs featured on this page or for a complete listing of all programs, visit **www.sumaadvantage.org**.

Spring has sprung - SUMA Advantage offers for you!

Chatterson Janitorial provides a dust control suppressant product that is used for both dust and erosion control. The hygroscopic (attracts moisture) characteristics gives it the ability to maintain natural surfaces for months at a time with a single application. As the spring thaw begins, be prepared for potholes with Chatterson Janitorial Premium Asphalt Repair. It's sold in convenient 50 lb bags - keep one on every crew truck to immediately take care of the pothole. It's easy to use - just sweep the hole, heap with the repair product, then pack it. Instantly open to traffic.

If you are looking to upgrade your outdoor swimming pool with solar heating panels to save money and be more energy efficient, then look at the Solar Pool Heating Program through **Kelln Solar**. Grants are also available for this type of project and Kelln Solar will be able to assist with the grant application process. They also provide members with a discount on the panels purchased.

Westgro Horticultural is a provider of larvicide products to help control mosquito problems. This program is built specifically for smaller municipalities whose purchase requirements are less than the price advantage offered by full pallet pricing. Products available with discounted pricing are Vectobac, Altosid and Vectoles.

PermaLife offers a full line of recycled rubber products that add safety and beauty to your municipal landscape, playgrounds and sports-playing surfaces. They are fully integrated rubber recycler operating a facility in Assiniboia and offer the following products: PermaLife Mulch®, PermaLife Pour&Play™, PermaLife SoftStuff™ and PermaLife ArenaFill™.

Take Action!

In 2008 Saskatchewan's population grew by 15,131. In 2003 15,000 or 5% of workers suffered an injury serious enough to be off work. If the percentage of injuries to the increased population stayed at 5%, that would be an additional 750 injuries in 2008. No indication of the severity of injuries is given but any injury is an injury too many! These numbers EXCLUDE work-related injuries on farms and ranches not covered by Saskatchewan's WCB.

Primary responsibility for workplace health and safety

The legal responsibility for identifying and correcting health and safety hazards rests on the shoulders of all workplace parties (employers, contractors, owners, workers, supervisors, self-employers persons, owners and suppliers) to work together. Since employers have the most control over conditions of work and how it is done, they have the greatest degree of responsibility for the health and safety of workers.

Municipalities are employers and bear the responsibility for the health and safety of municipal workers. It is a mistake to think that finding and controlling health and safety hazards should be left to occupational health officers. When officers do come across hazards, it is a symptom that the workplace parties are not fulfilling their legal health and safety responsibilities. Individuals are encouraged to take an active role in promoting health and safety as a vibrant part of workplace culture.

Carola Hicks is CEO of Workplace Safety Group, the SUMA "Advantage Supplier", for Occupational Health & Safety solutions. Contact carola@workplacesafetygroup.com

What's new at Success Office Systems?

Moving ahead and growing is what SUCCESS is up to these days! We have new technicians, sales people, promotions and new and improved equipment. We still have the great reliable service you can count on.

Technicians:

We hired Barry Haines to service the Moose Jaw and surrounding area! Barry is a very talented and personable technician with years of service under his belt. We are confident he will be able to give our Moose Jaw and area customers the service they expect and have come to rely on!

Sales:

We have added Neil Garchinski to our group of sales people to find solutions for our customers in the Regina and the southeast area of the province. We think Neil is a great guy and are certain he will do what it takes to make our customers happy. We are excited to have Neil as a part of team SUCCESS!

Promotions:

Darwin Day a long time employee of SUCCESS Office Systems was promoted to the position of Service Manager. Darwin is the ideal person for the job; he is knowledgeable, loyal to the customer and the company. We are excited about the promise Darwin brings to the Service Department at SUCCESS!

Equipment:

Printers are now available under full service contracts that include all toner! Colour is for everyone, very affordable and easy to use! Call us to talk about a SUCCESS solution for your office!

Why rent?

It's a fair question, and particularly relevant in our part of the world where the values of independence and pride of ownership are as important to us as Universal Health Care and The Roughriders. At Hertz Equipment Rental, we understand those values and consider ourselves partners with you to help accomplish what needs to be accomplished.

Generally speaking, it's more cost effective to rent for any application where purchased equipment would sit idle three out of twelve months a year. This includes all the hidden costs of owning the equipment such as maintenance, parts, repair, insurance, depreciation and commitment of capital. If owned equipment fails, a customer suffers direct costs, such as lost production or renting a temporary replacement, along with the indirect costs previously mentioned. Renting shifts these responsibilities to Hertz.

By renting, Hertz customers can operate a young, well maintained fleet with up-to-date safety and operational features...and use capital not to buy machines but for performing core activities.

Renting from Hertz can provide the ultimate in independence by not being tied to any one piece of equipment and you can take pride in having a partner at your service with what you need, when you need it!

Hosted solution provides peace of mind

Vadim Software has partnered with SaskTel to provide Internet based access to Municipal Financial Software with a secure connection. Managed hosting offers quick setup without the large upfront costs associated in setting up and maintaining your own IT department.

In Vadim's hosted environment, the software and data reside on an offsite server owned and maintained by SaskTel. Because information systems are their core business, SaskTel maintains and supports a server system well beyond the scope of most municipalities. They have IT resources available to immediately troubleshoot any problems with the server. They also perform the necessary data backups and ensure the data is secure. Vadim also performs all updates to the software and help files. We currently have 16 clients Canada-wide using the SaskTel solution, five of which are located in Saskatchewan.

Several years ago, the Town of Lincoln, ON, made the decision to purchase Vadim's iCity Software. By opting for a hosted solution, Lincoln saved the cost of maintaining an additional server in-house, reduced the overwhelming workload for their single IT resource and enjoyed peace of mind thanks to increased data security. SaskTel and Vadim perform maintenance tasks usually done by an in-house resource.

"If we have a server or software issue, we can call Vadim instead of calling in our own IT person, who may be offsite supporting the fire hall or other critical service," states Angela Cifani, Assistant Director of Finance. Read Lincoln's entire story and learn more at www.vadimsoftware.com.

Municipal Marketplace

Competitive Choice for Natural Gas Energy in Saskatchewan!

Natural gas term prices are presently at an all time low since 2004 and a tremendous buying opportunity exists for municipalities seeking budget certainty and financial sustainability. Nexen is pleased to offer Saskatchewan municipal and commercial/industrial markets a competitive choice for fixed gas contracts effective November 1, 2009 – October 31, 2014.

Our Company and Saskatchewan Roots
Nexen Inc. is a Canadian-based global energy company exploring, producing and marketing crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, electricity and green power. Formerly Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd., Nexen acquired Wascana Energy of Regina in 1997. As one of the largest energy marketing companies in Canada, Nexen Marketing, (a division of Nexen Inc.) specializes in offering energy solutions to municipal and large commercial/industrial customers in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Nexen Inc. has received international recognition for its ethical business practices, environmental and social responsibility and is known for its reputation as a company that operates with integrity. Please visit our website www.nexeninc.com for more information. Nexen Marketing is also a proud Diamond sponsor of SUMA's annual convention.

Our Stability

Energy marketing companies come and go ... especially in these turbulent economic times. As a physical energy company, Nexen has stood the test of time and has the balance sheet and physical assets to ensure that your contracts are secure over the long term.

Unmatched Experience

Nexen's expertise and knowledge of the power and natural gas business was earned over years as a large energy producer, wholesaler and consumer ourselves. Our portfolio of assets, along with our proprietary marketing and trading platforms, enables our clients to have access to reliable and competitive electricity and natural gas services.

Invoicing

SaskEnergy will continue to provide your invoice so the switch to becoming a Nexen customer will be seamless effective November 1, 2009.

Our People

Specializing in municipal markets, Laurie Rennich, formerly an elected municipal Councillor in Alberta, has worked extensively with both elected and administrative bodies to provide customized energy solutions for Alberta municipalities and is Nexen's dedicated municipal account manager.

Our Municipal Experience

"The Alberta Municipal Services Corporation and Nexen Marketing have been partners in the AUMA's Energy Aggregation Program since 2004. Nexen's diverse industry experience, product knowledge, market intelligence in addition to superior account management and customer care have grown our program to new levels of success and customer satisfaction. Alberta municipalities continue to benefit from competitively priced energy products, enhanced reporting and analysis in addition to budget certainty thanks to our friends at Nexen".

- Brian Jackowich, Senior Director – Energy Services, AUMA/AMSC

Our Customers

"As a customer, the service provided by Laurie and the Nexen team has been absolutely outstanding. We are always treated with respect and our questions and concerns are always addressed promptly. It is a pleasure doing business with Nexen."

Patty King, General Manager – Financial Services, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Fort McMurray

Our Pricing Commitment

With Nexen, you won't have to wait to find out what your natural gas price might be. As a physical energy company with our own stable credit rating and established business track record, Nexen would be pleased to give your municipality a firm quote on natural gas energy that will be immediately transactable, confirmed the same day and a contract your municipality can rely on in the future.

Please contact us for Saskatchewan's competitive choice for natural gas energy:

Municipal Markets
Laurie Rennich
T 403-699-5309
E laurie_rennich@nexeninc.com

Commercial/Industrial
Kevin Knudsen
T 780-643-7458
E kevin_knudsen@nexeninc.com

Save a drop. Save a lot.



Did you know turning off the water when you brush your teeth can save 7 to 12 litres of water per minute?

Learn to conserve at:
www.saskwater.com/conservation



SaskWater provides reliable and professional water and wastewater services for Saskatchewan.



SaskWater
The Quality Advantage