

The Municipal Sector Strategic Plan: A work in progress

Since the Association has engaged with the Province in the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP) process, a significant amount of work has taken place. Operating as four individual working groups, Cities, Towns and Villages, Rural municipalities and Northern municipalities have been focused on defining their work agenda.

Meetings of the co-chairs from these respective tables occur on a regular basis to share the progress from each group.

One of the many tasks tackled by the co-chairs has been to formulate a work plan, outlining the key priorities to be addressed under the MSSP process.

Following is a list of some of the immediate key priorities as identified by the respective tables.

Sector Wide:

Develop a New Revenue Sharing Deal - Primary tasks include determining potential funding ranges for each revenue sharing pool and an examination of how the total pool could be adjusted over time through a link to the provincial economy. As well, discussions on allocation and distribution of that funding along with what accountability measures are desirable are also on the table.

Conclude Consultation on Communities Portion of the Building

Canada Fund - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MA) has been meeting with all the MSSP tables to discuss key questions asked for input on a number of items relating to the agreement. This work was concluded this summer.

Prepare Infrastructure Plan for BCF - A provincial infrastructure plan must be completed as part of the Building Canada Fund Agreement. MA and Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure will engage with the sector to assist in this process.

Provincial Infrastructure Funding Review - The sector has indicated that once negotiations to develop a new revenue sharing arrangement have been concluded, a similar process will be undertaken to address the infrastructure deficit. Discussions between MA and the sector have been initiated to determine how a made in Saskatchewan municipal infrastructure plan is defined.

Inter-municipal Growth Management Strategy - In partnership with the provincial government, municipalities play an integral role in facilitating and managing economic growth. This relationship, requires support, direction and continued dialogue. Provincial leads include Municipal Affairs' Community Planning Branch, Enterprise Saskatchewan and other provincial Ministries includ-

ing Highways & Infrastructure and Environment.

Develop a Consistent Consultation Protocol between Provincial and Municipal Governments

- This work involves developing a draft municipal/provincial consultation protocol for provincial legislation and regulations that have a direct impact on the municipal sector. This includes municipal bylaws and other items that may have a significant impact on the province. The work is scheduled to begin this fall.

Provision of Affordable Housing

- The provision of affordable housing is an area of provincial responsibility that is subject to municipal regulation. Social Services has expressed interest in engaging in up-front planning and negotiations with municipalities.

Regional Emergency Planning

- Correction, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) is working with municipalities to develop emergency and fire protection plans on a regional basis. The province and the municipal sector have a shared interest in developing processes that enable better planning both locally and on a regional basis.

Collective Review of The Police Act

- All MSSP Tables will also work with CPSP to provide input the review of the Police Act to be completed by spring 2009.

Each one of the individual urban tables have also identified specific initiatives to be addressed:

City Table

- Clarify the role of the cities in attracting and retaining labour, including immigrants to support the provincial quality of life in Saskatchewan
- Provincial support for regional waste/landfill funding
- Partnering with the Province to provide multi-material recycling to city residents
- Enhancing para-transit services

Towns and Villages

- Begin discussions with Saskatchewan Health about small urban medical facilities and personnel issues
- Municipal transportation - Urban Corridor initiative

Northern Communities

- Develop a common approach in

Inside this issue

The Municipal Sector Strategic Plan tables are progressing as expected. SUMA has been hard at work with our colleagues finding solutions to revenue sharing and infrastructure funding.

Managing your municipality requires a deft touch and plenty of planning. Take a peek at what's new in Regional planning; working with your neighbours makes your job much easier.

"It's Our Time!" SUMA readies for the 104th Annual Convention.

Saskatchewan's culture is an important part of what makes this province special. Guest writer Fred Clipsham shares his views with SUMA members.

SUMA is pleased to welcome our newest Manager of Policy and Communications, Wes Jickling.

MSSP Update.....	1
President's Voice	2
Executive Director's Voice..	2
Plan to Manage	3
It's Our Time!	4
Cultural Policy.....	5
SUMA Board Meeting.....	6
Taking Advantage	7
Meet Wes Jickling.....	8



A SUMAssure first - The SUMAssure Board of Director's met in Regina on Tuesday, September 16. The meeting was the first of many to come.

the north for engaging the provincial and federal governments on issues of concern to the north

- Develop a growth management strategy for northern Saskatchewan
- Improving administrative capacity in northern municipalities
- Northern housing review
- Begin discussions with Saskatchewan Health about small urban medical facilities and personnel issues
- Improved training opportunities delivered in northern communities
- Establish the status of existing waste, waste water and solid waste facilities, capital infrastructure and site decommissioning.
- Develop training programs for water plant operators
- Increased planning for improvements to the northern transportation system
- Increased municipal input in land use planning
- Enhanced funding/capacity for Northern Regional Economic Development Authorities

President's *Voice*

Hello members! What an exciting time to be in Saskatchewan! It's been a busy summer at SUMA and it looks like we are only getting busier. On behalf of the SUMA Board, I am going to take a quick minute to walk you through some of our fall and winter priorities.

- A predictable and sustainable **revenue sharing formula** continues to be our number one issue. The new Provincial Government set October 31, 2008, as the target date to formulate just such a long term solution. I am proud to report that much of this work done through the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan tables has been completed. The information is in the hands of the Province and I hope that a public policy framework on revenue sharing will be announced in the near future.
- The second key issue SUMA is pursuing is the development of a **made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure program** which will not only be predictable and long-term, but also address the growing infrastructure gap this province faces. It has to address the influx of people and business and it must target key economic development opportunities for our urban municipalities.
- Number three is our ongoing **demand for consultation** in decision making. Consultation with stakeholders is very important to our members, especially when legislation and regulation changes may transfer responsibility to municipalities. We must have a fair consultation process to negotiate any transfer and support that will be provided.
- **PSAB Implementation** will be challenging. We have worked with the Province to make it as painless as possible. The finishing touches are being put on our program and rest assured that we will have training and information sessions later this year and at our next convention.
- We must work towards **Sustainable Communities**. SUMA continues to encourage our member municipalities to plan towards a sustainable future. We will continue to provide municipalities with assistance to help them become stronger, build capacity and encourage growth in the economy and population.
- The implementation of a **Multi Material Recycling Program** will remain a priority. The need for a Provincial multi-material recycling program is increasing as municipalities struggle to become more effective in diverting material from landfills. SUMA will continue to pressure the Provincial authorities on this subject.
- We must continue to **manage urban growth** in these times of opportunity. The Province and SUMA will work together to address a number of issues that could potentially create barriers to growth such as annexing land from our rural neighbours.
- Last but not least, **SUMAssure**, a subject near and dear to my heart. This is a great opportunity, who else can offer you the ability to be shareholders in your own insurance company? Remember to ask yourself "am I doing the best job I can with my taxpayers money when it comes to insurance?" There is still time to get on board, take a hard look, it is an excellent program that will stabilize your insurance rates and put money in your communities' coffers for years to come. Be wary of the discounts suddenly being offered to keep your business... where were they last year? And will they remain in the future?

These are just a few of our upcoming strategic priorities. I could easily mention many more but unfortunately space is limited. Rest assured that the board and staff is doing their all to ensure your issues are addressed. We will be hard at work through the rest of 2008 and look forward to seeing you all again soon. **Allan Earle, SUMA President**



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

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Wes Jickling, Manager of Policy &
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Jennifer Hurst, Policy Advisor
Sean McEachern, Policy Advisor
Dan McGeady, Communications Officer
Tania Meier, Coordinator, Member &
Corporate Services
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CEO's *Voice*

I have to face facts, summer is over. I know this because of the never-ending pile of leaves I have been raking for the last two weeks. While it may be a slower period politically, the summer flew by in the office. First and foremost I have to welcome our newest Manager of Policy and Communications, Wesley Jickling.

Wes comes to SUMA with a B.A. (International Relations) from University of Calgary and a Masters in International Relations and Development from Aalborg University in Denmark. He has been working with the United Nations since 2004 dealing with sensitive inter-governmental relations, community development, project management and strategic planning. His work has taken him to Brazil, Swaziland, Ukraine and Sudan.

But what makes it even better is that he is from Estevan. Wes is another of the ex-pat Saskatchewanians coming back to the booming province in record numbers.

This summer we have made tremendous progress with the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP). If everything goes according to plan, we will have good news on the revenue sharing front for all of you come October.

Unfortunately, this summer was marked with the loss of a popular strategic partner in CEG, I can happily say we have a new energy supplier in CONNECT (see Taking Advantage, page 6). We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with this Saskatchewan based company.

In 2009 SUMA will celebrate it's 104th annual convention. Our theme "It's Our Time" is representative of the boom our province has entered. It's time for our youth, our seniors, our politicians, our municipalities and Saskatchewan to experience the "good times" we have witnessed to our west in Alberta. Our theme also represents the challenges that these "good times" may bring. Our organization will continue to work hard for you so the challenges are managed and the benefits are abundant.

I can also proudly announce that the SUMAssure (self insurance) Board of Directors met for the first time in early September. It's here folks. We are moving quickly with this program and it looks like SUMAssure will be very successful. Congratulations to everyone who signed on. The new program is being managed to accommodate an easy transition by participating municipalities.

Thank you to all the administrators and councillors who completed our communications survey passed out during the Spring Regional meetings. The results have been compiled and the information will prove extremely beneficial to improving our dialogue with you, our members and the public. We are working very hard to make everyone in the province know who SUMA is and what it accomplishes for Saskatchewan's residents.

We must acknowledge those municipalities who took advantage of the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative. More than \$74.8 million was distributed to our members developing new infrastructure for their growing communities. Everything from sewage lagoons to subdivision expansions qualified for the interest free loan program. But there is a next step. And that is our pursuit of a made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure program.

Laurent Mougeot, MCIP



Summer is officially over in Saskatchewan.

Planning ahead to get your municipality ahead

We all know if you plan ahead for a vacation you are more likely to see and do a lot more things than if you wait until you get to your destination to decide what to do and see. Of course a successful vacation also means allowing for some flexibility when you get there to change plans and “go with the flow.”

The same principle works for municipalities. Planning ahead for your community’s needs, wants and upgrades will help your municipality to successfully complete these tasks with much less stress, excessive costs and unanticipated decision-making. There are a number of ways your municipality can plan ahead. The focus of this article is on the importance and benefits of completing and maintaining both Regional Plans and Sustainable Community Plans.

These kinds of plans are known by many different names and can refer to specific areas (such as wastewater or landfill) or be more general (covering a range of areas). Regional plans involve working with surrounding municipalities, R.M.s and businesses. Sustainable community plans involves the development of programs, goals and initiatives to keep your community stable, growing and adapting to changes.

In recent years, regional planning has been becoming more popular. ‘Regional’ refers to more than one municipality in an area that share common concerns and/or goals. Regional plans deal with sustainable development, environmental, social and cultural issues but tend to focus on ‘priority’ areas, as defined by municipal representatives (that means you get to decide). In recent history there has been a population shift from smaller towns to larger cities. This shift has left smaller communities struggling to provide the essential program and services a community needs to thrive.

Regional planning becomes very important in this instance because it allows communities to draw on each others strengths and assets, expanding each other’s capacity to provide programs and services. The purpose of these plans is to guide decision-making about urban and rural growth in a coordinated, cooperative and efficient way. These plans lay out the guidelines for future land uses, rural and urban growth and development, regional investments, infrastructure upkeep, maintenance and expansion of municipal utilities etc. Regional planning also involves public consultation. It allows all stakeholders, including local residents, investors, ‘experts,’ etc to be engaged and have the opportunity to identify issues, voice concerns and express their ideas about the future of the ‘region’. Similar to vacation planning, regional plans are not static. They change as often and as drastically as a region. This flexibility allows communities in the region to respond to changes effectively and

ensure continued applicability.

After reading the last paragraph, you may feel that regional planning is just too overwhelming and have no idea where to start. Well there is help out there for you. The Municipal Capacity Development Program, a partnership between SARM, SUMA and Municipal Affairs, provides assistance to municipalities and regions to develop regional plans. A development officer will come out to your region and host a workshop. They will help you organize regional participants, get everyone together and begin the process of developing a regional plan. They will also tell you about setting up policy, technical and advisory steering committees within the region to help monitor and evaluate the plan. This is an important aspect of the plan because it will allow you to assess how your plan is working, what changes might be necessary and show you where you have been successful.

Sustainable community plans allow a municipality to take a step back, consider what they want their municipality to look like in the future and create a step by step guide to get there. It allows councils to get their citizens more engaged and invested in their community. It will also allow the municipality to use the tools and skills of everyone in the community to develop a plan and proactively work towards achieving it. A sustainable community plan should include goals pertaining to each dimension of sustainability (economic, social/cultural, environmental, even governance), allowing councils to take these dimensions into account and make more informed decisions.

Councils will be able to take time to consider the dimensions of sustainability and how a decision could affect the future growth or success of the municipality. A sustainable community plan becomes a tool to ask the right questions and take a balanced assessment of the issue at hand. A successful sustainable community plan starts with an overarching vision for your municipality. Then you need to consider what components you need to achieve that vision. These components are then used to design a plan and monitor its success.

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) offers a comprehensive guide to begin the process of developing your own Sustainable Community Plan. SUMA’s Sustainability website offers a number of useful links (including the AUMA site) to help you get started on your sustainable communities plan. These links will provide you with step by step guidelines and templates to help you get started. FCM is also a great tool. Not only does it offer technical advice, templates and tips; it also offers grants for the development of sustainable community plans through the Green Municipal Fund.



Regional plans and sustainable community plans are an important piece of efficient municipal management. It lays out a plan; lets you know what you have, what you want and where you need to go to get there; it allows for better informed decision making; it provides accountability and transparency; it helps to ensure funds are spent wisely and purposefully; it engages citizens; and if fully implemented and used, it contribute to your municipality’s sustainability, growth and success. These plans are also an important tool and advantage when applying for government funding. Almost always, some type of plan such as regional or sustainable community plans are either a required component of eligibility or they provide your application with a leg up on other applications (sort of like bonus points). A great example of this is the new Building

Canada Fund (BCF). Involvement in regional planning is a required element of BCF funding plus, sustainable community plans give an added bonus to the applicant. Although the BCF intake period has now closed, remember this for the next intake. Why not start preparing sustainable community plans and working with your neighbours on regional planning now so that you are ready for the next BCF intake (or other grants, because most require a plan) and set your municipality’s application out from the rest.

Do you have any questions about the Municipal Capacity Development Program? Contact :

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It's Our Time!

SUMA's 104th Convention - February 1-4, 2009

"It's Our Time" is the theme for this year's 104th Annual SUMA Convention being held at the City of Saskatoon's Arts and Convention Centre, TCU Place, February 1 - 4, 2009.

The convention theme this year focuses on the exciting economic environment that Saskatchewan is currently experiencing. It's been a while coming but now is our time and the focus is on the province of Saskatchewan.

Convention forums, education sessions and discussions will highlight this topic and provide delegates with valuable tools to assist them in this ever changing and booming province. And to add his take on the Province's good fortunes, CTV's Mike Duffy, one of Canada's smartest political minds, will be a keynote speaker. Details will be provided in the Urban Update and the website at www.suma.org. Registration forms will be provided in the November issue of the Urban Voice.

Municipal Marketplace – Tradeshow

The Municipal Marketplace will host over 150 booths with products and services that focus on the municipal market.

Booths will be set-up on the ground level of TCU Place in three separate and distinct areas; the Grand Gallery, Regal A & B, then flowing into the back stage area. We will have scheduled tradeshow time on Monday and Tuesday to ensure enough time for meeting exhibitors. Also, a number of SUMA Advantage partners will be at the tradeshow to highlight their products and services available to SUMA members.

SUMA also invites your town foreman, senior purchasing staff and public works staff to attend the tradeshow.

Social Activities

The social events planned throughout will provide you with opportunities to network with your fellow delegates and find out how they tackle issues of common interest.

The Saskatchewan Kaleidoscope: A Mosaic of Culture and Food

Join us on Sunday, February 1 as we travel the province highlighting different cultures and communities and celebrate the diversity of Saskatchewan.

This evening will provide you with great networking opportunities to meet or reminisce with your fellow delegates. A mosaic of food will be provided along with various cultural entertainment. Travel Saskatchewan throughout the evening with your SUMA passport for the chance to win prizes.

Board Hosted Hospitality Night

The Board of Directors welcomes you to join them at the Monday evening Hospitality Suite held in the ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn. Gather with your fellow delegates to share experiences and sing a song or two.

President's Banquet

The President's Banquet is held on Tuesday, February 3 and honours long serving elected officials and municipal employees for their dedication to their municipality.

Following the awards program, Johnny Bagpipes will entertain you with his hilarious comedy performance where Rock'n Roll collides with the pipes.

Partners' Program

The Partners' Program is back this year and further information will be provided in the November issue of the Urban Voice.



Premier Brad Wall and Minister Don Morgan share a laugh at the 2008 Convention Bearpit.

FILE PHOTO



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Exploring a cultural policy for Saskatchewan's communities



By Fred Clipsham

Christine Tell, Minister of Saskatchewan Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, has announced the government's intention to create a cultural policy framework for the province. It is long overdue.

The first step in the process was the release of "Reflections – a summary of 30 years of cultural policy discussions in Saskatchewan." This concise 11 page paper reviews dozens of reports written for the Province is available at www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/reflections.

Two American writers, Robert Putnam and Richard Florida, have shaped thinking on the role of culture in communities. Putnam introduced the idea of 'social capital' to describe the networks of personal connections that exist alongside of commercial networks and which greatly enhance the efficiency of local economies. These personal networks are created when people get together to enjoy cultural activities, ranging

from soccer leagues to book clubs to service organizations. By playing and working together at these non-commercial activities, people create connections of trust which then "lubricate economic activity."

How many times has this happened to you... you are talking over the fence with your neighbour, and he says he's looking for someone to carry out a project in the house or yard. You know the coach of your child's team does that kind of work, is good to deal with, and lives in the neighbourhood. You pass along the coach's name, and the next time you see him he says "Thanks for the referral." That's the value of social capital.

One of the objectives of a cultural policy should be to create a broader understanding of the contribution of social capital to our individual and economic well-being. Social capital is not measured by dollars and as a result, investments of public money in places

that provide the environment for social capital to develop, like community centers, performance spaces and recreation facilities, do not easily lend themselves to a strict 'cost/benefit' analysis. The returns to the community cannot be measured in dollar terms, and so should not be subject to the same criteria a private sector, for-profit investment would be.

Richard Florida's research shows that in regions where there is a high proportion of 'creative workers' there is higher than expected economic productivity. This result isn't too surprising. New ways of doing things, new designs, new productive technologies – all these are the result of creative activity. People who are active in creative pursuits at home are likely to be creative in the workplace as well. Florida, like Putnam, shows how the investment of public funds into arts and culture has a direct economic benefit.

One major gap in the many reports the government has commissioned over the years is the important role played by municipal government in a community's cultural well-being.

The City of Regina has just received a consultant's report (Recreation Facility Strategy 2020) which says we need to invest \$70-89 million in 16 major facility projects over the next 12 years. While some of that investment will be cost-shared, Regina needs to spend a lot of money to provide community centers and facilities for a variety of arts and recreation interests. And looking forward to the 40-50 year lifespan of these facilities, a lot more money will be needed for operations and upkeep.

A provincial cultural policy needs to ensure local communities are free to determine their recreation, arts and cultural needs. The policy should provide a fund to cost-share local investments in the facilities needed to house these activities. Furthermore, given the insights of Putnam and Florida into how a public actively engaged in cultural pursuits adds value to the economy, the province has a role to play in the ongoing expenses of operating these facilities.

- Fred Clipsham is a Regina city councillor and SUMA's vice president of cities.

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A strong government to government relationship remains a priority to SUMA's Board

A strong government to government relationship will remain priority number one for the Saskatchewan Urban Municipality Association's (SUMA) board of directors. The strength and potential of the municipal-provincial relationship was a recurring theme throughout SUMA's regular fall board meeting, held September 26 and 27, in Regina.

"So far, this government seems to get it. They are working with us to address the major issues facing Saskatchewan's municipalities. We have made great progress on a revenue sharing agreement and have begun talks about infra-

structure." said SUMA Vice-President of Cities, Fred Clipsham. "All of our priorities are incumbent on our ability to work with other levels of government. Our issues and concerns may be shuffled to the background without a relationship built on trust, accountability and a mutual love for this province."

In the days prior to last weekend's board meeting, the SUMA directors held meetings with provincial Cabinet Ministers Cheveldayoff, Gantefoer, Hutchinson and Stewart. VP Clipsham said the meetings were a great way to establish strong, constructive relationships with key ministries and open the

door for more joint work on municipal issues.

"Our partners in provincial government are working closely with us on a number of important fronts. Obviously the two major issues, revenue sharing and a made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure agreement have been discussed, but the province has also prioritized other elements of the municipal sector - multi-material recycling, sustainable development, managing urban growth and exploring opportunities for economic development," said VP Clipsham. "We will continue to work hand-in-hand with the province and look forward to any and all good news they may have."

The Board meets again in December to finalize plans for SUMA's 104th Convention, CTV's Mike Duffy is scheduled to deliver a keynote address. The 2009 Convention will be held at TCU Place in Saskatoon. SUMA is looking forward to once again hosting Saskatchewan's largest convention.

Other Issue Discussed:

Gas tax funding could be delayed

The SUMA Board of Directors were startled to learn that more than 40 municipalities (both urban and rural) had yet to submit their Municipal Annual Expenditure Report (MAER) to the provincial government.

The Federal government has indicated that ALL gas tax money will be withheld until Saskatchewan's municipalities follow through with the necessary oversight mandated. SUMA will be contacting all non-complying urban municipalities. If you are unsure whether or not your community is in non-compliance, contact the Gas Tax program at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, call 306.787.8912.

Terms of Government

The SUMA Board was disappointed with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' response to the resolution asking that the provincial government increase the term of office for municipally elected officials to four years.

This recommendation passed near unanimously at the 2008 convention. The Board has recommended that SUMA continue to advocate for this important change to legislation.



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

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Learn to love learning. This year we've been busy with five informative user conferences. The Regional Meetings were held in Timmins, ON and Newport, OR, both in May; Martensville, SK in June; and Belleville, ON is upcoming in October. Our annual Seminar is taking place Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 in Kelowna, BC, which is a larger, more comprehensive gathering than the Regional Meetings. For more info, please visit our website at www.vadimsoftware.com.

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iCompass Technologies, the provider of North America's leading municipal meeting management solution, is pleased to announce their partnership with Granicus, Inc. Together, Granicus and iCompass provide an innovative turnkey solution that focuses on decreasing the costs and complexities of knowledge management, meeting efficiency and public access for local governments.

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Get 'CONNECT'ed

We are pleased to introduce to the SUMA members, CONNECT Energy who will be the supplier for our Natural Gas Program. With the phasing out of our former partner, CEG Energy from the market, a major void was left in our list of valuable SUMA Advantage programs.

CONNECT Energy is a locally owned company and is comprised entirely of former staff of CEG with 40+ years of combined energy experience. SUMA decided to join forces with CONNECT Energy to offer our membership an alternative to SaskEnergy's volatile natural gas price. As you are aware, SaskEnergy's gas price will be increasing significantly on October 1.

Thank you to the many members that have taken advantage of our Natural Gas program over the years. We hope you will once again enjoy the advantages of a long term fixed price for your natural gas supply.

For more information, please call E.J. Babey, Marketing Manager, CONNECT Energy in Saskatoon:
Toll Free: 1-866-934-6918 or Phone 306-979-0493
Fax: 306-979-0496 or Email: ejbabey@connectenergy.ca

Net metering - generate electricity and save money!

Has your municipality ever considered generating its own electricity for municipal-owned buildings? SaskPower offers a "NET Metering" program for all its customers that let you do just that. NET Metering is "the offsetting of a customer's electricity consumption against that same customer's production of electricity."

Net Metering means that you will generate your own environmentally responsible electricity (up to 100kW) for use, while still maintaining connection to the SaskPower grid. If you generate more electricity than you actually use, that excess will be banked for up to one year to offset any excess future use.

SaskPower defines environmentally responsible electricity technologies as wind, low-impact hydro, biomass, flare gas, solar and heat recovery systems. Not only will you pay much less in SaskPower bills (if at all), you will save money by generating your own electricity, and you will be using a more environmentally sustainable technology, with the added bonus of

being able to save any excess electricity you generate for later use on calm days (in the case of wind power).

Still interested? The first step is to call SaskPower and make an application. Before becoming qualified to be a NET Metering customer, you must pay \$300 for SaskPower to complete an integration study followed by a design, estimate and letter of quote and contract to provide NET Metering.

Initial start-up costs may vary depending on the technology you are interested in implementing, however the Province has set up funding opportunities through the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC). **Free of charge**, the SRC will schedule a visit to your municipality to complete an inventory of all your municipal buildings.

A written report will be provided to inform you of power and energy consumption, outline current equipment, and any recommended upgrades.

This will be useful to monitor and analyze cost savings when making energy conservation choices for your municipality.

This report must be completed before you can apply to the SRC for funding. SRC will provide a total of up to \$100,000 in funding to a municipality in any one fiscal year through the Energy Efficient Lighting Program, Energy Efficient Heating Program, Demand Side Management for Rinks Program and The Solar Water Heating Initiative for Today. For more information on these programs and other potential funding programs (Building Communities, ecoEnergy, Green Municipal Fund, and Sustainable Communities grants) check out SUMA's Find Your Funding site and the SRC website.

Check out SaskPower's NET Metering website for more information on getting started, funding opportunities, eligible environmentally responsible technologies, your responsibilities as a net metering customer and some frequently asked questions.

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Meet SUMA's newest manager of policy and communications: Wes Jickling

My name is Wes Jickling, the new Manager of Policy and Communications at SUMA. Today is my fourth day on the job and so far I have been very busy indeed. Already I have met four provincial ministers, attended a SUMA Board of Directors meeting, sat at the MSSP Cities table, and traveled to Saskatoon to meet with representatives of PARCS. The pace has been high and the learning curve steep, but I am truly excited by the role SUMA has in tackling the opportunities and challenges facing Saskatchewan municipalities. I am honoured and very grateful for the opportunity to play a key role at SUMA during this important time for Saskatchewan and all its cities, towns and villages.

A little bit about me. I was born and raised in Estevan, but my education and career path have taken me far from the southeast corner of our province...and now back to Saskatchewan again. My university background started with a BA in International Relations at the University of Calgary. But my focus in Calgary was not only on academics, I was also captain of the U of C Dinos basketball team.

My next stop was Aalborg University in Denmark, where I completed a Masters degree in Development and International Relations. After my university days I began a career in the United Nations, during which I lived and worked in several countries including Brazil, Swaziland, Ukraine and Sudan. The primary focus of my UN responsibilities was municipal development, government and stakeholder relations and public health.

My wife Shelley and our children, Isabela and Oliver, are also very keen to come to Saskatchewan. Having traveled the world, we wholeheartedly understand that there is no place like home! Very few places in the world can offer a family what Saskatchewan can (this includes our winters – nowhere in the world can offer quite the same!). All of us are just really excited to get started here.

While I may not be particularly excited about the coming winter in



Wes Jickling is SUMA's newest manager. He is very excited to work with SUMA's members.

Saskatchewan, I am really looking forward to working closely with SUMA staff and member municipalities. There are a lot of challenging and exciting issues on SUMA's table and I have already hit the ground running. It'll be great meeting and working with all of you in the coming weeks and months!

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