



A band-aid approach won't do: According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, an investment of more than \$200-billion is needed to close Canada's infrastructure gap.

Infrastructure gaps: Slack strategies

Beyond the multi-billion dollar investments which eventually may be made in Saskatchewan for nuclear power infrastructure, municipal governments are still struggling to close a multi-billion dollar gap in local infrastructure needs.

Earlier this year, a study done for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) estimated a nation-wide \$123 billion municipal infrastructure backlog.

Another \$115 billion is also needed for growth related investments like the expansion of water and wastewater systems, roadways and multi-use recreational facilities.

These numbers are almost too big for governments at all levels to incorporate into their long-range budget planning, which is the key challenge. So what strategies might work best to get everyone pulling together?

One of Canada's leading experts on municipal financing is Enid

Slack of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto. She recently reminded World Bank delegates at a Washington conference that the "sustainability" of current shortfalls in municipal expenditures and revenues is not a useful concept because Canadian municipalities are required to balance operating budgets and they face capital borrowing restrictions.

"Overall health," she concluded, "has less to do with balancing the budget than with how well services are being provided and the state of municipal infrastructure."

Slack also observed in a recent public policy book review that, in making the case for increased funding, local government spenders "must do three things: 1) link the spending proposal to the current priorities of the federal [or provincial] government, 2) do their homework and 3) have a constituency to support them."

In Saskatchewan, cities and other

urban municipalities have been collectively approaching the new provincial government as a potential ally which embraces a vision for growth as well as "sustainability." Regional economic development and crucial trade exports cannot happen without adequate public infrastructure supports.

As for doing the required homework, it has been almost two years since detailed urban infrastructure estimates for Saskatchewan were compiled and shared with provincial and federal governments. Plans are also underway to achieve further refinements in accounting for both buried and above-ground assets, and for estimating replacement costs.

Finally, there has been a growing list of groups rallying to the cause of improved local public infrastructure. Beyond the credible, supportive reports by research institutes, various self-interested business groups and associations have become more vocal about the need for infrastructure to keep

Inside this issue

According to the FCM, Canada's band-aid approach to aging infrastructure will get us nowhere fast. More than \$123-billion is needed to repair the old and more than \$100-billion is needed for the new.

Spring Regional meetings have come and gone. Take a look inside and see how our executive director and president feel they went.

The SUMA office had a distinguished group of visitors stop by in May. Who were they? Read on for more...

The University of Regina hosted the 2008 Student Sustainability Summit. Co-eds from across the globe tuned in and checked out Saskatchewan's sustainability strategies.

Municode thanks SUMA for all of the memories.

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pace with economic development opportunities. Governments do pay attention when the chorus grows.

The federal government has recently made a substantial infrastructure funding commitment, adding a Building Canada Fund (cost-shared with the Province) to the earlier Gas Tax Fund initiated by the former government and now to be continued in perpetuity.

While there have been some delays in delivering federal dollars, sorting out future provincial government commitments to municipal infrastructure has also been delayed by the transition to a new, long-term Revenue Sharing plan for operational services.

It is nevertheless hoped that this forward movement will help to close the gaps.

President's *Voice*

Are the spring Regional meetings over already?! The anticipation is so great, yet they always fly by so quickly. First off I have to hand it to our Executive Director Laurent Mougeot and his staff. Once again everything went off without a hitch. Their planning and preparation always make the trip a wonderful experience. I would also like to thank the staffers from the provincial government and the employees of AON who brought valuable information to our members. And finally, thank you to Minister of Municipal Affairs Bill Hutchinson for taking time out his busy schedule (he claims to be working hard on some sort of revenue sharing formula for us).

It was great to see all of you once again. I almost made it to each region, unfortunately my schedule didn't allow me to visit everyone, but I will do my best to see you in the fall. Hopefully by then we will have some great news from the provincial government – maybe even proof of the great unicorn known only as a revenue sharing formula. It's our hope that the process will be complete by October and the Minister has made a commitment to get the work done.

I, like many of you, am still digesting all of the valuable information brought to SUMA's members at Regional's. But I must admit, even I have some favourites. Hat's off to Shauna Brown, our manager of Group Benefits & Insurance, Laurent and the staff from AON. SUMAssure is the single most exciting addition to our organization that I can remember. Not only will it benefit everyone who takes part, but it will also allow SUMA to continue delivering the services that our members have come to expect. And who knows? With SUMAssure's success, perhaps more services will be available down the road. Any suggestions?

Our policy branch has been run ragged with revenue sharing meetings, PSAB implementation, protective services information and keeping their newest summer student, Sara Hearn, in line. They have brought a host of new issues to our attention and will continue to beat the bushes for new money, direction and communication between our organization and the Federal/Provincial governments.

Those who attended our Regional meetings were able to hear from Tania Meier from Corporate Services. She and Shantel have been busy bringing new additions into the SUMA Advantage program. We are working hard to find new services such building inspection and human resources assistance to your municipality.

Summer will soon be upon us. This is a time when many of our communities slow down for two months. This isn't the case for the SUMA office; our staff will be available throughout the summer to assist you in all your requests.

We are not that far from Fall's Regional meeting. So if there was an issue that you wanted discussed, please ensure that you contact the office. We look forward to seeing all of you once again. Hopefully Laurent and I will manage to avoid a hotel room of horrors such as one we found in a community that will always be nameless. Until then enjoy your summer!

Allan Earle, SUMA President



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Executive Director's *Voice*

SUMA, on the road again!

The SUMA team just came back from the spring regional meetings, and this year I had the pleasure to attend with Jennifer Hurst, Tania Meier and Shauna Brown who led the delegation from our office. President Allan Earle attended the majority of the meetings, with VP Barry Gunther and VP Renaud Bissonnette filling the gap on behalf of the President.

As ever, the regional meetings are an excellent opportunity for SUMA to get in touch with the membership. Although there are many common elements on every agenda, each region has its own particular way of stimulating discussion around municipal or provincial issues.

This year, SUMA emphasized a number of topics which have been high on SUMA's strategic objectives:

- Municipal Sector Strategic Plan, including revenue sharing, infrastructure funding, long term planning and our expectations for a "government to government" relationship.
- SUMAssure, the member owned and operated new company which will deliver property and liability insurance for subscribing municipalities.
- New corporate services products and services launched since last fall.
- SUMA's new PSAB projects which will be implemented over the summer to assist municipalities with compliance with the new tangible asset reporting requirements.

A number of other topics, including Occupational Health and Safety, sourcing municipal funding and Municipal Awards made the list on most of the regional agendas.

It is only appropriate to share with you some of the issues which have been raised by the members at these meetings:

Resort Villages – there continues to be a general concern that the distribution of funding on a per capita basis does not serve well communities where the level of infrastructure and operational needs clearly exceeds that of its permanent population count.

Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative loans (SIGI) – There exists some confusion over the calculation of interest in instances where a municipality decides to borrow from private financial institution, and over eligible costs (i.e. land survey and engineering design).

Building Canada Fund – Most municipalities agree that in order to maximize the benefits from this program, there needs to be a realization that large projects (e.g. exceeding two to three million dollars) should be approved without a maximum cap on the Federal and Provincial shares. On the other hand, the majority of elected officials also agreed that smaller projects should be subject to a cap in order to maximize the benefits of the Fund. SUMA's Board of Directors discussed these principles at its recent meeting and will be reviewing the options with Municipal Affairs.

Firefighters and WCB: many municipalities raised the issue of volunteer firefighters being treated differently than professional responders when injuries or deaths occur at the job site.

Census data – this topic continues to be an issue, as it is estimated that in many urban municipalities, population counts are inaccurate and under-reported. In time of growth, the five year interval between official censuses also impacts per capita funding.

Enterprise Saskatchewan and New Economic Regions – the impact of the proposed new economic regions on existing REDAs was discussed.

Idle properties - Vacant and contaminated sites are creating a problem for municipalities, as they are looking for properties to accommodate economic development opportunities. Some municipalities are experiencing loss of revenues and economic activity as these prime sites remain idle.

Many other topics came up and will be further addressed as the SUMA team continues to research and report on these issues in the Urban Updates, with possible resolutions being presented at the 2009 Convention.

Laurent Mougeot, MCIP

Student sustainability summit puts Saskatchewan on the map

From May 12 to May 16, Regina was host to the 2008 Student Sustainability Summit (S3). With about one year to plan, the Regina chapter (UR Students for Sustainability), working together with the university, Communities of Tomorrow and Tourism Regina hosted a fantastic week of fun and informative workshops, discussions and activities.

Meka Okochi, President of the Regina Chapter, said that hosting the event was a decision of the chapter based on the fact that no one knew really about their city or province.

"This conference was a great way opportunity to give more exposure to Regina, the University of Regina, and to the entire province," he said. "Very little was known about us within many of the international student networks we work with."

The Student Sustainability Summit is an annual conference hosted by the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD) member organization, aimed at bringing students together to collaborate, share knowledge and take action in their own communities and universities. The WSCSD is an international organization with ten chapters in nine countries that work to address sustainability issues and take local action.

The conference was a hit with all the delegates that came. From the moment they arrived, the students enjoyed welcoming hosts, great food and accommodations as well as informative and interactive workshops and activities.

"I feel as though I've found a missing piece of the puzzle, my piece, that I didn't even know was miss-

ing," said Shumirai Magwada, a delegate of the University of South Africa, originally from Zimbabwe. "This conference has allowed me a chance to better understand not only sustainable development issues, but how the individual role of each person is critical to success."

He added the best work comes from the interaction with different people from all over the world.

"The greatest part of the conference is not the workshop; it is the fact that you get people from different walks of life and backgrounds and they come together, young people that are all passionate about the same things."

"(This trip to Craik) provides a chance to see sustainability in action. Delegates really enjoyed seeing how the community lives, examples of sustainable building, and speaking with a young family from the city who chose to come to Craik to live a more eco-friendly life."

Craik was a favorite of many delegates, giving them a way to see communities and young people actively implementing sustainable initiatives into their way of living.

Okochi pointed out that "some people don't have the luxury of seeing what we see everyday. If people are in a nation that is unstable, the focus for them is to survive. However, Craik sparked something in peoples' hearts and made them realize they can go back home and make a difference."

His work with the WSCSD for the past six years, as Chair of the Regina Chapter, has left him with a great passion for public adminis-



Students from nearly every continent attended the S3 - Student Sustainability Summit, held at the University of Regina and the outlying communities in May.

tration, international development and social change. When he is finished his PhD, he plans to gain some more experiences in Canada before going back to Nigeria to be a positive agent of change in Nigeria and Africa.

As for Communities of Tomorrow and the Regina Chapter, follow up from the conferences is still going on.

Okochi's vision for the Regina Chapter is first to grow to involve local key players such as

SIAS, the University of Saskatchewan as well as high schools to work together for local innovative change.

Second, he sees the opportunity to continue to showcase Regina and Saskatchewan to an international lens, to share information and experiences and support other groups with the overall goal of building better societies of tomorrow. Plans for next year's conference are already underway and will be held next January in Switzerland.

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SUMA hosts international delegation

It's easy to take a municipal government in Canada for granted. It works, it seems to have always worked and will always work. The SUMA office received a delegation in late May that can't always make that claim. Municipal leaders from Sri Lanka and Indonesia were in Saskatchewan to learn governance at the local level – flatland style.

"It really is a benefit to learn from different governments. Our organization is only in its infancy. We will take some of what you have learned through SUMA's one hundred plus years of existence back to Indonesia," said Nurdin Abdul Rahman, a prominent local leader. "There are many things that our countries share and obviously, many differences."

The delegation was in Regina as part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) ongoing effort to improve international government. Currently they are working with post tsunami Indonesia and post civil war Sri Lanka. Representatives from each country are working to develop a SUMA like organization to represent their communities.

"It's very interesting to entertain representatives from two countries that have only recently begun to recover from severe civil strife," said SUMA Vice-President of Cities Fred Clipsham. "With the creation of local government at the municipal level; they need an umbrella organization to carry forward policy with senior levels of government. These are the kind of things that we may take for granted but is new stuff for them."

The delegation learned about SUMA's policy making process, communication and distribution methods and were very interested in the SUMAssure program. They also heard about the the SUMA Advantage programs.

One of the main topics of discussion was how to get more women involved in local politics. Each delegation said it was an issue their government was working hard to address, but one in which they are fighting an uphill battle.



Muhammad Munir Aziz, Elisabeth Noya, Hemanthi Goonasekera, Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamal, Nurdin Abdul Rahman and Mohamed Aliyar Iffhikar present SUMA Board Member's Dawn Lunning and Fred Clipsham with a token of friendship.



SUMA's 2007 Municipal Employee Award Winners & Dignitaries
 Front Row: Margaret Rowland, Esterhazy, Jean Bjornndal, Estevan, Brenda Fedyk, Estevan, Sheilagh Pattermore, Estevan, Barry Gunther, VP of Villages, Allan Earle, President, SUMA, Linda Dugan, Midale, Wreatha Curtis, Esterhazy, James Kluk, Yorkton, Dale Hala, Midale.

Second Row: Laverne Hockey, Midale, Hank Skinner, Lashburn, Anthony Fullawka, Yorkton, Bill Gray, Regina, Don Teniuk, Yorkton, David McCall, Life Membership Award, Indian Head, Alex Nagy, Humboldt, Terrence Hawken, Montmartre

Back Row: Rick Romanow, Montmartre, Brian Sych, Esterhazy, Mike Murphy, Estevan, Gordon Hahn, Swift Current, Leon Dubreuil, Estevan, Jerry Hildebrandt, Swift Current, Kevin White, Estevan, Aurel Labreche, Montmartre, James Pray, Humboldt.

Absent: Eddie Heinrichs, Swift Current, Gloria Johnson, Coleville, Lois Kubik, Esterhazy, Gordon Meyer, Esterhazy, Glen Morrow, Swift Current, Brian Stranaghan, Yorkton, Darwin Tochor, Esterhazy

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SUMA's annual Spring Regional meetings went off without a hitch through the first and second weeks of June. (above) Municipal employees and elected officials made up the majority of those who attended the various sessions. (above right) SUMA Director Gordon Hall points out that the future belongs to SUMAssure. (right) SUMA President Allan Earle and Executive Director Laurent Mougeot were on hand to listen to members.

Churchill

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Taking Advantage

A quick look Occupational Health and Safety

By Carola Hicks

Saskatchewan workplaces fall under provincial and federal jurisdiction. Health and safety in workplaces under provincial jurisdiction is governed by The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993, and The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996. The Act and Regulations require employers, supervisors, workers, self-employed persons, contractors, suppliers and owners to work together to identify and control health and safety hazards. This is called the Internal Responsibility System.

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-employed persons, owners and suppliers); however, it is important to note that since employers have

the most control over the conditions of work and how it is done, they have the greatest degree of responsibility for the health and safety of workers.

Employers are required to have copies of The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 and The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996 readily available to both workers and management.

Protection of Worker's Rights

The protection of workers to exercise their health and safety obligations and rights, and the consultative mechanism provided by occupational health committees are important to ensure everyone fulfils their health and safety obligations.

Workers are legally protected from disciplinary action by the employer when fulfilling their responsibilities or exercising their rights under the Act.

Committees and Worker Representatives

One of the three fundamental worker rights enshrined in legislation is the right to participate in

health and safety decisions. In workplaces with ten or more workers, the occupational health and safety committee is the principal vehicle for worker participation and cooperative involvement of labour and management. The committee brings together workers' practical knowledge and management's overview of job interrelationships, general company policies, and procedures.

The occupational health and safety representative is the key vehicle for worker participation in small workplaces where occupational health and safety committees are not required. The representative is the liaison between the employer and coworkers, bringing worker concerns to the attention of the employer.

The Role of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee

Ongoing workplace monitoring by occupational health and safety committees, worker representatives and workplace parties is a much better way of addressing health and safety concerns than relying on inspections and enforcement by government of-

ficials. The Occupational Health and Safety Division helps people in the workplace understand and fulfill their responsibilities. Occupational health and safety officers support occupational health and safety committees and worker representatives, inspect workplaces and enforce compliance with legislated requirements. It is a mistake to think that it is the officers' job to find hazards in the workplace.

Where small towns and villages may only have one or two workers, work hazards may seem minimal; however, their rights and responsibilities remain the same and perhaps the dangers are greater because no one is monitoring or checking to see if the municipal worker is working safely. The law applies to all, whether there are one or 100 workers carrying out their jobs!

Carola Hicks is CEO of Workplace Safety Group, the SUMA "Advantage Supplier", providing occupational health & safety solutions to urban municipalities. Carola may be reached at: carola@workplacesafetygroup.com

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Municode thanks SUMA members

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and SUMA staff for having MuniCode Services Ltd., as a SUMA Advantage partner since 1995. Although over the years the partnership has changed in many aspects, we always had and will continue a great working relationship with SUMA.

Through the partnership with SUMA we have had the opportunity to work with many of the SUMA members

and appreciate the business and friendships made over the years. As of May 31st, 2008, the partnership between MuniCode and SUMA has been dissolved but we will continue our contact with SUMA with the best interest in mind for our clients, many which are SUMA members.

Once again THANKS to ALL.

Wayne and Diane Meier, MuniCode Services Ltd.

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Taking Advantage

Vadim wins international award
Vadim Software is pleased to announce that Magic Software Enterprises Inc., has named us North American Partner of the Year at the 2008 Magic International Users Group and Business Networking Conference. Vadim Software was honored for its iCity offering for municipal governments, using Magic Software's eDeveloper and iBOLT solutions for application development and integration.

Vadim Software, an independent software vendor based in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, develops innovative, integrated financial, municipal, asset and utility management software for municipalities, local governments and utility companies.

Vadim Software has been an active partner with Magic Software since 1996, as a customer for Magic Software's eDeveloper and iBOLT solutions that provide greater flexibility and scalability than competitive offerings.

Vadim Software General Manager Wayne Anderson accepted the award on behalf of the company, and said, "With the iBOLT Integration Suite as part of our product offering, we can easily create interfaces between iCity and third-party software applications. We greatly value this recognition and our long-standing business relationship with Magic Software to help us deliver real operational benefits to our customers."

The 2008 Magic International User Group and Business Networking Conference, held this year from May 4 - 7 in La Jolla, California, is one of the largest Magic community events in recent years. It gathers together board level executives, project leaders and developers using Magic Software's eDeveloper composite application development tool and iBOLT business integration suite. The award

competition was judged by technical and business representatives based on business success, customer success and technical merit.

"We were very impressed with Vadim Software's iCity suite of applications for municipal governments," said Regev Yativ, president of Magic Software Enterprises, Americas. "From both a development and integration perspective, Vadim Software offers its North American customers mission-critical functionality and self-service capabilities for their respective audiences."

Kal Tire V.I.P. Program

SUMA partnered with Kal Tire Ltd. in the fall of 2007 to provide members with discounts on municipal tire purchases. Thus far the program is proving to be highly successful and now SUMA and Kal Tire have a new program to introduce, the V.I.P. Program. The program is available to all elected officials and municipal employees. Although the V.I.P. Program will not enjoy the same savings as the municipal purchases, it will still provide elected officials and municipal employees with cost savings.

Kal Tire's #1 aim is to provide a level of quality and value of both products and service that exceeds their customer's expectations and as a V.I.P. member you can also expect:

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ficials and municipal employee's names, addresses and phone numbers. Forms are available on the SUMA Advantage website at www.sumaadvantage.org or by calling Tania Meier, Member & Corporate Services Coordinator at 306-525-4379. Once the forms are filled out, they can be faxed to 306-525-4373, mailed to 200, 2222 13th Avenue Regina, SK S4P 3M7 or emailed to tmeier@suma.org. SUMA will take care of submitting your forms to Kal Tire. Once Kal Tire receives the information they will mail directly to those that signed up, a package containing information on the program and their V.I.P. card.

For further program details, please contact Tania Meier at (306) 525-4379 or tmeier@suma.org.

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Anyone with information concerning these or any incident is requested to contact: Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (*TIPS) or SaskTel Mobility Network at *TIPS (*8477). Submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is anonymous and does not subscribe to call display nor are your calls traced or recorded. If your information leads to an arrest or a case being cleared, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.00.

Armed Robbery of Convenience Store

An armed robbery occurred at a Battlefords convenience store located in the 1100 block of 107th Street on February 23, 2008 around 2:30 p.m. A single male entered the store and stole a large amount of money. The male fled the scene with the money.

Thefts from the Bigger Area

On or about November 11, 2007, suspects entered a farm north of Biggar in the RM of Glen-side. The suspects parked on the roadway near the farm and walked into the yard. A quonset was entered, and a John Deere chain saw was stolen. In addition, suspects used a piece of hose to siphon 15-20 gallons of gas from parked grain trucks. Three vehicles were observed in the vicinity prior to these thefts, they were a red half ton pick up truck, a mini van and a white car.

On or about January 3, 2008 the suspects returned to the same farm, again parking on the roadway and walked into the property. A five gallon jerry can was used to siphon gas from a swather which had been parked for the winter.

Unexplained shootings/vandalism in the Churchbridge area
Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers are requesting

assistance from the public in solving the following offences which happened in and around Churchbridge. In the spring of 2007 damage was done at the camp ground which included a bullet hole in a public wash-room.

On March 15, 2008 damage which interfered with the operations of the water well was reported. It was determined that damage had resulted from shots from a high power rifle. Other damages have been reported in the community where windows have been broken in buildings or vehicles damaged from windows being broken or tires slashed.



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TUESDAY evening a \$5000 Grey Cup Package will be drawn. Delegates must be in attendance to win and remember **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR TEAM'S JERSEY!!**

WEDNESDAY a trip worth \$2000 will be drawn.

Trade Show Hours
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The Tuesday evening show will be a CFL Tail Gate Party!

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