

## Budget Helpful, but No Long-Term Plan for Urban Municipalities

Cities, towns and villages will find it easier this year to keep property tax increases to a minimum, acknowledged SUMA President Don Schlosser, Mayor of Weyburn, but the Budget offers no vision for the future when it comes to sustaining municipal services.

"There is a plan for substantial business tax relief, which we welcome, but no business plan for meeting municipal needs," Schlosser said. "There is still no longer-term strategy for revenue sharing with municipalities or timelines for additional school tax relief for residential and commercial properties," Schlosser said.

The Budget confirmed earlier announcements about a \$7.4 million increase in the urban Revenue Sharing pool for this year, at the same level as the one-time "top-up" for last year which was distributed this March. Northern Revenue Sharing sees a similar increase of \$800,000 for last year and this year.

"We also appreciate the one-time capital funding program, Community Shares 2006, announced at our Annual Convention," said Schlosser, "but that was from last year's surplus." Most of the ongoing infrastructure dollars now come

from federal programs like the New Deal gas tax funding.

"We need to put in place some longer-term Provincial commitments to an Urban Agenda rather than piecemeal, year-to-year fixes," said the SUMA President.

Several local government programs will receive funding similar to last year. The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) will experience a budget shortfall normally made up with higher municipal requisitions. Overall

funding for school divisions also appears to be less than expected, putting more pressure on local school mill rates.

"Municipal and school taxes are a form of capital tax on property, and high taxes can hurt the economic competitiveness of our communities," Schlosser said. "If further tax relief depends on changes in the federal equalization formula, then SUMA is committed to help the Province get the new Federal Government to make those changes."



Executive Director Laurent Mougeot discusses the Budget and its impact on cities, towns and villages.

## 2006-07 Provincial Budget: Municipal Impacts

### Provincial Revenue Sharing

- The total Revenue Sharing increase for all municipalities is \$12.2 million more than in 2004, with \$7.4 million designated for urban municipalities (increasing the pool for cities, towns and villages to \$51.5 million) and \$800,000 for northern municipalities (total pool of \$7.8 million). A similar top-up for 2005 was received in March.

### Federal Revenue Sharing

- The Provincial Budget confirmed again that over the next five years, \$147.7 million will be available in federal New Deal infrastructure. A further \$12.4 million dollar deal for public transit funding was signed last week.

### Federal-Provincial Infrastructure Funding

- Under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), the Province contributes \$11.9 million, matching the federal allocation.

- Carry-over payments under the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) will total \$6 million for 35 projects. The Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) allocation is again about \$5 million, this year going to Saskatoon for south downtown projects.

### One-Time Provincial Capital Funding

- Although funded out of last year's Provincial revenues, the \$32 million Community Shares 2006 program is available to municipalities this year.

### Other Funding

- The Provincial program funding transit for those with disabilities is again set at \$2.7 million, mostly for operating expenses (unlike the new federal public transit program).
- Cost-shared Urban Development Agreements funding will provide \$1 million this year, the second of a five-year commitment.

- Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes on Provincial offices will mean \$5.6 million going to municipalities this year, with the rest of the \$11.5 million total going to schools and libraries.

### Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency

- Although SAMA recently received a special end-of-fiscal-year allocation of \$200,000, this does not meet their budget request. This year's \$875,000 increase from Learning allocation for SAMA is unchanged in the Government Relations budget, but there is a slight increase in the Learning budget.

### School Tax Relief

- Urban residential and commercial/industrial properties will receive the same 8% school tax credit on the property tax bill as last year, while agricultural properties will receive a 38% credit, as

## Inside this issue

*The 2006-07 Provincial Budget is the highlight of this issue. President Don Schlosser gives his reaction while Mayor Phil DeVos, VP of Cities reports on flooding in northeast Saskatchewan. Directors Dawn Luhning and Randy Goulden encourage women's participation in municipal governance through a workshop.*

*Spring is a time for beginnings: SUMA celebrates the official opening of its new office; a new paint recycling program begins at Sarcen; and the University of Regina prepares to offer a new Advanced Certificate in Local Government Authority.*

*SUMA members give their reviews of the 2006 annual Convention.*

*The Clearing the Path workshops, hosted by SUMA and SARM receive strong support from over 800 leaders and administrators.*

*Finally, a special pull-out section contains responses to Resolutions from the annual Convention.*

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announced on March 3, funded by the Province. Local budget shortfalls could keep the pressure on school mill rates in some school divisions, offsetting at least some of the credits shown on the property tax bills.

### Business Tax Relief

- Phased-in business tax relief should help to stimulate economic development in Saskatchewan communities, but municipal and school division dependence on property taxes is another form of capital tax on businesses (and residential properties).



# SUMA Celebrates Official Opening

In conjunction with its March board meeting, SUMA celebrated the official opening of its new office on March 24th. The office is located in the Saskatchewan School Boards Association building at the corner of 13th Avenue and Cornwall Street in Regina.

Nearly 100 guests enjoyed hospitality and witnessed a brief

ceremony. Mr. Lance Bean, President of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, presented SUMA a commissioned statue.

Made out of stained glass, metal and stone, the statue represents a typical urban landscape. The colours chosen for the piece were meant to blend with the interior

of SUMA's new offices and the small ribbon of glass that flows across the top of the statue was chosen to represent a similar image found on SUMA's logo.

The statue was created by a local Regina company, Sisters' Stepping Stones, which custom designs stepping-stones embedded with stained glass

as well as a variety of other stained glass projects.

Minister Van Mulligen of Government Relations and SUMA President Don Schlosser unveiled a new sign in the reception area. The Master of Ceremonies was Mayor Phil DeVos, Vice President for Cities.



President Schlosser and Government Relations Minister Van Mulligen unveil the sign at the new SUMA location.



President Schlosser receives a sculpture from Saskatchewan School Boards Association President, Lance Bean.

## Our Members Write

The following excerpts are taken from evaluation forms from Convention 2006.

### General

"The best convention of the six I attended – very informative throughout and although I attended everything, I was not exhausted because this convention did not crowd activities allowing us to explore and learn from fellow councilors."

"Way too much wasted time – could have done it in two days easily."

"This year was the first year I found that convention had some interest for towns not just cities."

### On Speakers

"Senator Campbell's address was great and I, personally, got a lot of ideas from the Community Development session."

"The politicians were as expected, but the other three speakers were exceptional."

"Mr. Davidson is an incredible speaker on a subject that should be of the utmost of importance to all of us. Mr. Linner is also an incredible attribute to the profession."

### On Resolutions

"Very few controversial issues but perhaps that is a sign of ongoing dialogue to resolve issues and effective communication of the results to all concerned."

"Most resolutions were couched in such vague maternal terms that it was easy to vote for them, but they are meaningless in their intended thrust."

### On the Tradeshow

"Terrific tradeshow and enjoyed the extra space and the number of exhibits – let's keep building on it!"

"Time allotted to tradeshow could be cut and put into learning opportunities."

"In discussion with some exhibitors, they also spoke highly of the space, location and visibility they received this year."

### On Mardi Gras

"Fun – excellent entertainment. More games of chance."

"Very nice event."



SUMA Directors gather in front of the sign at the new SUMA location.

## President's Message

In other years, the 2006-07 Provincial Budget would have been the big news of this issue, but with the announcements of 2006 Community Share and Revenue Sharing top-ups that came at our Annual Convention, Budget Day contained no surprises for municipalities. On the other hand, it was a "good news" budget for business owners as the Government unveiled plans to reduce business taxes from 17 to 12 per cent by July 2008. The business community received a long-term commitment; now it's time for the Province to invest in a long-term vision for Saskatchewan communities. Though we are grateful for the \$32 million (2006 Community Share) and \$7.4 million (Urban Revenue Sharing), we must continue to strive for a permanent Revenue Sharing solution on which we can depend.

Related to the Provincial Budget, in 2006-07 SAMA will experience a budget shortfall with the outstanding tab normally picked up by municipalities. Overall funding for school divisions also appears to be less than expected, putting more pressure on local school mill rates. Municipal and school taxes are a form of capital tax on property, and high taxes can hurt the economic competitiveness of our communities. If tax relief depends on Saskatchewan's

success in finding a more equitable Federal equalization formula, then Government Relations has SUMA's full support, as I pledged to Minister Van Mulligen at the March board meeting.

At the end of March, the SUMA Executive attended the inaugural Municipal Forum of Minister Harry Van Mulligen of Government Relations. Under the New Deal, significant progress has been made on Infrastructure Investment Plans. As well, the Municipal Liability Review will be proceeding with consultations with non-municipal stakeholders in the next few months. Issues relating to the Urban Agenda will be pursued outside the Municipal Forum.

The Clearing the Path Workshops have wrapped up and were, by all accounts, a success. Having attended the workshop in Weyburn, I found Clearing the Path to be a positive forum to find new ways to co-operate, and I hope that the spirit of partnership will become engrained in the culture of our regions.

June looks to be a busy month with regionals and a board meeting all within a short time frame. The SUMA Board and staff look forward to seeing you at the spring Regional Meetings in the coming month.



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### SUMA EXECUTIVE

Mayor Don Schlosser, President  
Mayor Phil DeVos, Vice-President, Cities  
Mayor Allan Earle, Vice-President, Towns  
Mayor Barry Gunther, Vice-President, Villages, Resort Villages and Northern Municipalities

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Brenda Oliver .. Manager - Member Services  
Cam Baker ..... Policy Analyst  
Sean McEachern ..... Policy Analyst  
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# SUMA and SARM Join Forces to Enhance Saskatchewan's Economic Climate

From late March to early April, over 800 municipal leaders and administrators attended one of eight Clearing the Path workshops, a joint effort of SUMA and SARM, to interact and brainstorm ways to enhance economic development opportunities.

In 2005, SUMA joined the Clearing the Path initiative in support of SARM's 11 recommendations to identify and remove impediments to economic development. Said SUMA Policy Analyst Cam Baker, "Urban and rural municipalities in any given area will all experience benefits from economic development, so many municipal leaders have told us that greater cooperation is needed to move the ball forward. Clearing the Path is all about cooperating and finding ways to enhance opportunities that make sense for a whole area."

Facilitator Paul Martin led participants through exercises in which they identified the positive attributes of their municipalities and brainstormed industries their region could easily support. However, the most important exercise was the interaction amongst municipal leaders as they established relationships and the intention to streamline regulations to create a "business-friendly" environment.

During the lunch hour, participants heard the success stories of leaders of Ogema, Leroy, Craik, Wolseley, and Wilkie, all of which have facilitated growth in their communities through cooperation, hard work and determination, despite a well known province-wide trend towards population decline in many areas.



Over 800 municipal leaders attended workshops around the province.

Participants left the Clearing the Path workshops with concrete plans to coordinate activities with neighbouring municipalities. Said Baker, "With Clearing the Path, we wanted to go beyond sharing ideas and best practices, and instead equip leaders with some tools to enable prosperity. Paul Martin asked participants to schedule a call to their partners

by the end of April. I'm very confident that we'll see a gradual transformation toward a cooperative approach to economic development."

In the meantime, stay tuned to the Clearing the Path website for the development of a Leaders' Toolkit.  
[www.sarm.ca/CTP/CTP.htm](http://www.sarm.ca/CTP/CTP.htm)

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# Women's Participation in Governance Workshop

Immediately prior to the 2006 annual convention, SUMA, the City of Regina and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities hosted a workshop called "Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government."

The workshop was one of 10 coordinated by FCM and held across Canada to raise awareness of the gap in the numbers of women involved in municipal government, in comparison to their male counterparts. Urban Voice spoke with Randy Goulden of Yorkton and Dawn Luhning of Moose Jaw, who are members of city council in their respective communities. Both are also members of SUMA's Board of Directors and helped organize the workshop.

"The statistics for women's participation are very low," said Luhning. "It's about 22 per cent

for elected positions," added Goulden. "The numbers would be much higher when you add in administration, because there are many women working as administrators in smaller communities across the province."

The workshop featured speakers from different orders of government, including Donna Ziegler from the Regina Catholic school board; Linda Boxall, Reeve of the RM of Sherwood; Barb Gustafson, a member of Prince Albert City Council; and Deb Higgins, Minister of Learning.

"We wanted them to share about their experiences in preparing and running for office, and the barriers they encountered," Goulden said. "We wanted them to share any insights about how they got where they are."

Luhning and Goulden noted that a very diverse group of people took part in the workshop, from

communities of all sizes around the province. While the majority of participants were women, a significant number of men also took part. Following the speakers, the afternoon was spent in small groups discussing what they had heard and considering possible solutions.

"The groups concluded that, yes, there is a democratic gap, and while it often applies to women because of their family responsibilities, there is more to it than that," Goulden noted. "Men also face barriers when they're considering running for office. There is also a gap around participation by youth, and young aboriginals in particular."

Luhning added, "First Nations people follow a different democratic process. The question is, how do we integrate the two? We can't expect them just to accept our process; we need to integrate into theirs, too."

Both Luhning and Goulden agree there needs to be a toolbox or package of information that would enable any potential candidate, man or woman, to gain a better understanding of the obstacles they will face if they decide to run for office. The package would also inform them about what to expect if they are elected. "There is no one place you can send someone who is thinking of running. I know the time I put in doing council work is way more than I expected,"

observed Luhning, a first-time councillor in Moose Jaw.

"And the information will not be restricted to people thinking about running," Randy added. "It will be to encourage women to get involved by serving on higher-profile boards like the planning commission, as well as the recreation board."

What's next? The results from the workshops across the country will be presented to the FCM in June. Luhning and Goulden expect the next step may be the development of a national strategy to increase women's participation. They also expect to present a report on the FCM process at SUMA's September board meeting. Both would like to see similar workshops held in smaller communities around the province.

"The speakers have indicated they are open to doing more of these, if there are people in communities willing to help facilitate the sessions," said Luhning. "We'd need about 20 people willing to participate to have a session."

Goulden and Luhning would also see similar workshops integrated into future SUMA conventions, perhaps focusing on increasing involvement among youth or Aboriginal people. Clearly, the workshop this year was just a starting point for a continuing process.

### Saskatchewan Paint Recycling Program Begins

As of April 1, Saskatchewan residents can drop off leftover paint products at any of Sarcan's 70 recycling depots at no charge. Paint will then be reused and recycled into other products, or used for its energy value.

The Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program was established to meet the requirements of the Saskatchewan Waste Paint Management Regulations. The program is funded by eco-fees paid to a non-profit organization, Product Care, assessed at the point of sale.

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|           |  |         |           |
|-----------|--|---------|-----------|
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# New Local Government Certificate at University of Regina

by Christine Crowe,  
University of Regina

Recruiting new municipal administrators to carry on the work of current administrators and other local government officials who will retire in the next five to ten years is an urgent issue facing municipalities in Saskatchewan. The demand for new administrators has coincided, not surprisingly, with the demand for additional post-secondary training opportunities that will allow new and current administrators to advance their skills and knowledge in the areas of municipal administration and local government authority.

The Certificate in Local Government Authority remains the foundational step for those interested in municipal careers, but there is a growing interest in advanced educational and professional development opportunities at the post-secondary level in the area of local government studies. The University of Regina is pleased to announce a new Advanced Certificate in Local Government Authority (ACLGA) to meet this need for additional education and training.

The Advanced Certificate in Local Government Authority is a 30-credit hour program (one full year of post-secondary study) that has been created in consultation with UMAAS, RMAA, the

Department of Government Relations and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Regina. Its flexible curriculum is designed to build on students' existing experiential knowledge, while encouraging ongoing post-secondary study directly relevant to their professional development as municipal administrators, councilors or other local government officials.

All four correspondence courses taken in the CLGA can be used towards completion of the ACLGA core requirements. The elective courses in the ACLGA have been chosen from a wide variety of disciplines to allow students to explore areas of interest that relate to local

government issues. For students who live outside Regina, many courses in the ACLGA are offered at Regional Colleges, through online/televised delivery, or through Weekend University and Summer University in intensive formats.

The Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Regina invites all CLGA alumni, current municipal administrators, and other local government officials to consider the ACLGA as the next step in their professional development. Applications for admission to the Advanced Certificate in Local Government Authority will be accepted starting May 1, 2006.

## Spring Regional Meetings 2006

|              |                    |                            |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| West Central | Monday, June 12    | Battleford                 |
| Southwest    | Tuesday, June 13   | Swift Current Days Inn     |
| Northwest    | Wednesday, June 14 | Glaslyn                    |
| Northeast    | Thursday, June 15  | Hudson Bay                 |
| East Central | Friday, June 16    | Saltcoats Community Hall   |
| Central      | Monday, June 19    | Regina Beach Memorial Hall |
| Southeast    | Tuesday, June 20   | Vibank                     |

## Crime Stoppers ... We Need Your Help, Not Your Name

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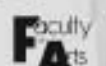
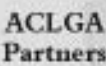



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For more information on the ACLGA, call 306.585.5807 or visit: [www.uregina.ca/cce/creditstudies](http://www.uregina.ca/cce/creditstudies)





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# The Flood of 2006 ... Again!

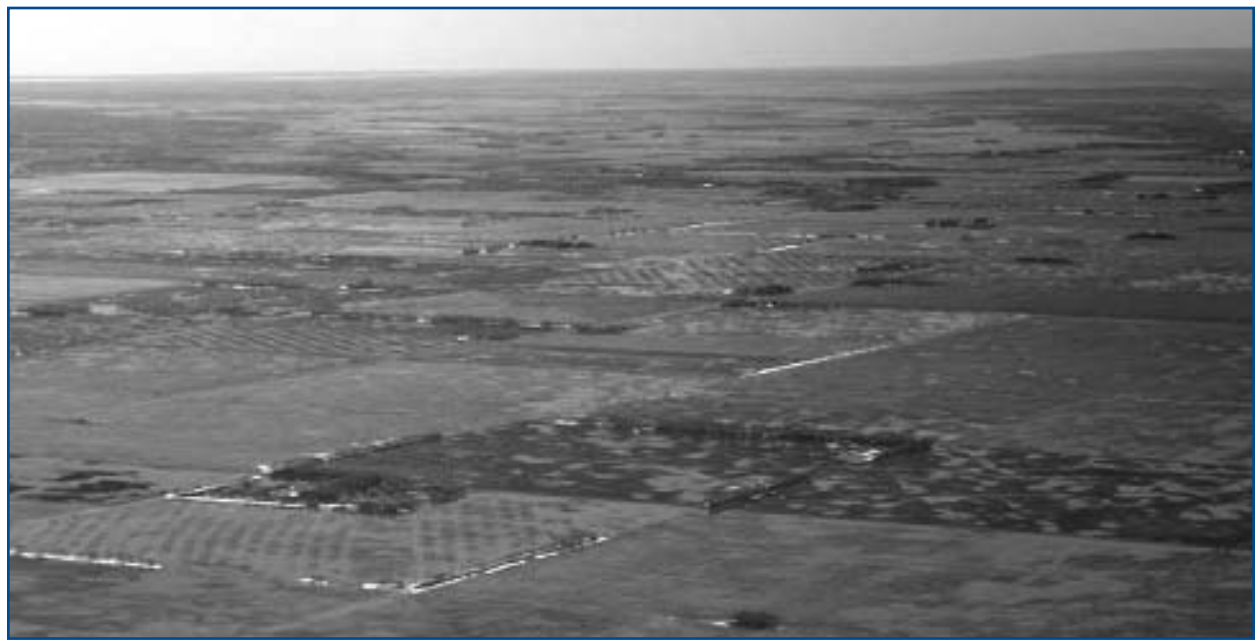
by Mayor Phil DeVos,  
VP of Cities

On Easter weekend I viewed the Arborfield flood with Minister Harry Van Mulligen, Minister Kevin Yates, SARM Vice President Jim Hallick, and SARM Director Harvey Malanowich.

I was shocked to see the amount of water lying on fields, surrounding farm homes, cutting off roadways and people from receiving help.

I could feel the frustration by those who met us on the ground in Nipawin. One was Mayor Randall Rusk of Arborfield. He and his council members had been working almost non-stop for several days alongside more than 700 people from his community. They had managed to save their town, a victory over Mother Nature, but now they were worried about their dikes and pending rain. This was the third flood in less than 2 years for the community and they were tired and financially strapped.

You could see the pride in Mayor Rusk's eyes over what his community had accomplished, but also the frustration over the



Floods threaten the towns, villages, and farms of northeast Saskatchewan.

financial cost to Arborfield – a cost that no level of government has yet offered to come forward with. In fact, as of that day, their Federal MP and Provincial MLA had not yet visited, and that made the Mayor angry.

For the rural residents, the concern is spring seeding. Even when the water recedes, they may have a problem repairing the roads in time to get equipment into the fields. Urgent as the

situation may be, Federal Oceans and Fisheries will not allow reconstruction to begin because of spawning fish. This is an issue on which both SUMA and SARM agreed to work together to get some positive federal action.

After a 45-minute briefing from the dedicated men and women in the flood control center in Nipawin, we left. I could not help but appreciate my Easter

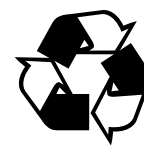
dinner a bit more this year. As we gave thanks for our meal, I thought of those who maybe were praying for their homes and their livelihood and their families. Maybe their dinner was a cold can of beans or nothing at all because they were too busy in their battle with the water, a battle we know some will win, but others will not be so lucky.

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## Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Enterprise Rent-a-Car joins the growing list of partners providing benefits to our membership.

- Reduce employee-travelling costs, save on personal travel, implement a fleet management system;
- Guaranteed Corporate Rates within Central Canada and North America;
- Airport rentals receive 10% discount off the lowest posted price;
- Five locations in Saskatchewan: Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Regina, Prince Albert and Saskatoon;
- Where possible, Enterprise will provide a pick up service when you rent your vehicle.

## Larvicide Purchase Program

In partnership with Westgro Horticultural Supplies, SUMA will once again offer the larvicide purchase program to members. This program benefits smaller member municipalities by providing bulk pricing without the requirement of a large quantity purchase.

NEW to the program in 2006 is Vectolex CG, a Bti product with long term mosquito control benefits similar to Altosid.

*Certification is Mandatory:* Product purchase and application requires a qualified operator with a valid Pesticide Applicator License. SIAST offers courses at locations throughout the province, as well as provision for home study, contact 1-800-667-7730 for further information.

Funding for mosquito control programs is posted on the Department of Health website

[www.health.gov.sk.ca/ps\\_wnvprgm.html](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/ps_wnvprgm.html).

## Municipal Elections 2006

With the exception of an increase in shipping charges, 2003 pricing will hold for the upcoming election year. Note that election forms as prescribed by *The Local Government Election Act* have changed for the 2006 election year. Any forms currently held in your municipality should be destroyed.

SUMA will offer election forms, supplies and ballot printing for all members. *SUMA's intent is to offer ballot printing as a service where needed, and not to take the business from local printers.*

Order forms are included in this edition of the Urban Voice, and will be available for downloading off the SUMA website.

## Municipal Shared Services Program

SUMA has partnered with three industry leading companies to put together a package to help municipalities manage taxation, utilities, workflow and project management, publishing and web page design, land management planning combining emergency, environment and community services.

Said Anna Mae Stainbrook, Administrator for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle: *"We selected Vadim because we wanted a technological up-to-date and integrated financial application that will carry us forward for many years. Vadim's financial and municipal applications will allow our staff to provide accurate and well timed reports for council to make good decisions for the community."*

## Strategic Partners

### AON Reed Stenhouse

Broker and risk management provider with enhanced municipal property and liability coverage.

### BMO – Bank of Montreal

Works with SUMA members to provide a full range of enhanced financial products and services, your local branch can assist with all your needs.

### CEG Energy Options Inc.

Sells fixed rate natural gas contracts for terms of up to five years. Contracts have provided, stability protection, and savings to SUMA members for fourteen years.

### Host Hotel Program

- Park Town Hotel – Saskatoon
- Saskatoon Inn and Regina Inn

Preferred rates for all SUMA members (elected and employees) when travelling on business or for personal reasons in Regina and Saskatoon.

### Concentra Financial Commercial Leasing

Commercial, industrial and institutional equipment leasing services, in affiliation with Credit Unions and Co-operative Trust Company of Canada.

### Kelln Solar

Kelln Solar is an established Renewable Energy company with experience in solar and wind power systems and solar pool heating. Canada's major manufacturer of solar/wind-powered water pumping and aeration systems.

### Laurie Artiss Ltd.

The premier pin provider for the 2010 Winter Olympics partners with SUMA supplying members with professional design and production of municipal lapel pins.

### MuniCode Services Ltd.

Assists member municipalities with professional plan reviews, building inspections, and fire code services.

### Signal Industries (1998) Ltd.

Banners, decals, plaques, dimensional lettering, as well as any custom signage; offering your municipality more than one solution to your signage needs.

### SUCCESS Office Systems

State of the art colour and b&w digital multifunctional devices, copiers, faxes, printers, and postage meters to all members. A Saskatchewan company with local sales and service covering the entire province. *Update: SUCCESS recently announced a price reduction on their full product line.*

### Supreme Basics

A Saskatchewan owned and operated company specializing in office and computer supplies, as well as office furniture.

Full program details for all member programs and services are available on the SUMA website, [www.suma.org](http://www.suma.org) under Member Services, SUMA Advantage Programs. Or contact the SUMA office at (306) 525-4383.

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## THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

*An international UN-HABITAT event on urban sustainability*

Main theme: OUR FUTURE: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action

On the agenda:

- The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management
- Energy: Local Action, Global Impact
- Municipal Finance: Innovation and Collaboration
- Urban Safety and Security: Taking Responsibility
- Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing
- Public Engagement: The Inclusive Approach



Join us as we mark the 30th anniversary of the first UN conference on human settlements held in Vancouver in 1976, which led to the creation of UN-HABITAT.

[WWW.WUF3-FUM3.CA](http://WWW.WUF3-FUM3.CA)

The World Urban Forum is a United Nations meeting organized by UN-HABITAT. The third session is hosted by the Government of Canada with the support of the GLOBE Foundation.



# Upcoming Education Sessions

SUMA is once again offering education sessions to our members. Watch upcoming Urban Updates for session details. The dates for the upcoming education sessions are:

**Tourism: Show the world what you've got!**

Dates: May 2nd in Regina and May 3rd in Saskatoon.

This education session is a must for all municipalities interested in attracting tourists to your community. The topics covered in this session include an introduction on how to get started in the tourism industry. What are the strengths and challenges faced by your municipality, and what municipal and provincial laws have to be adhered to? Discussion will also include: outfitting, what is it and how does it affect your area? What is agri-tourism, is it really the untapped potential of Saskatchewan? Eco-Tourism: what is it and is it right for your municipality? Finally, you've got your strategy, now how do you market it for success.

**Local Election Preparedness: for Administrators and Candidates**

Dates: May 31st in Regina and June 1st in Saskatoon.

If you are thinking of running for municipal office or you want to get reacquainted with the nuts

and bolts of the election process then this is the education session is for you! The morning session includes: Reviewing the process for running a municipal election. Where can you go to get the things you need to facilitate an election? What are the legal requirements administrators and candidates need to consider? The afternoon session will be a how to on communication: You'll receive tips on how to run a successful campaign, and how to get your message out to the local media.

**How to Manage your Human Resources**

Dates: September 12th in Regina and September 13th in Saskatoon.

You've asked and we've answered. This education session will cover topics on recruitment and retention of employees, conflicts in the workplace, how to get your employees to deliver effective customer service, and what's covered in the employment laws.

**Newly Elected Workshops**

Dates: November 13-21st

The Newly Elected workshops will again be run in conjunction with the Fall Regional Meetings. Those newly elected council members will get information on bylaws, procedures and more. More information will be supplied closer to the Fall Regional Meetings.

# UMAAS: New Act, New Focus

Submitted by: Kim Gartner, UMAAS President

As an organization, UMAAS ensures that members have access to the educational tools and training required to prepare for the ever-changing work place. The 2006 UMAAS convention will focus on the requirements and expectations of our new Municipal Act. As administrative professionals, our employers expect us to have the knowledge to advise and react to the requirements associated with the new act. We in turn, should expect our employers to support participation in conferences and workshops that provide access to the information we require. Over the past few years we have been very fortunate to have the President of SUMA endorse participation in our convention. UMAAS will again be requesting SUMA and member municipalities to support the participation of your administration in this important annual conference. The knowledge gained will far outweigh the monetary costs.

Integral to our conventions are the communication skills acquired through information sessions and networking, which increases our capacity to provide knowledge to our employers, as expected from UMAAS members. There have been a number of legislative changes since our last convention, and the knowledge that is required by our membership is

at an all time high. The 2006 convention agenda puts a focus on insuring we have the tools to communicate these changes to our communities and our Councils. The annual convention has a proven track record as an invaluable networking opportunity for administrators, regardless of their length of service in the field. The new Municipal Act will challenge even the most seasoned veteran in the way our business is conducted.

It is surprising how fast time goes by when you are doing an activity that you enjoy and I have truly enjoyed my time as President of UMAAS. Through my term as President I have had the good fortune to communicate and combine forces with many great individuals; fellow administrators, SUMA officials, provincial government representatives, and of course, UMAAS executive members. It is this interaction that has strengthened my resolve that Saskatchewan truly is a place with a future. Our association has charted a new course with the development of a strategic plan, and now is the time to renew the leadership of our association. Thank you to the membership for allowing me the opportunity to be a voice for our association. I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

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