



Issue No. 10 - 50

December 15, 2010

2011 SUMA Convention

Connecting Voices
Strengthening
Communities

Registrations are due Friday, December 17, 2010 in order to qualify for early bird rates.

[Download Registration Form](#)

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Rinks invited to participate in wind power project

SaskPower is undertaking a demonstration project to explore the economic and environmental benefits of self-generated power projects at municipal ice rinks.

Through the project, wind turbines will be installed at two community rinks to determine if self-generating electricity could help offset the facilities' power bills. Saskatchewan communities with artificial ice rinks are invited to express interest in becoming one of two demonstration project sites. The rinks will be selected in March of next year.

"Municipalities have asked for help in reducing energy costs associated with operating their local rinks," said Rob Norris, Minister responsible for

Did you know...

Saskatchewan jumped from 8th to 2nd place (behind Alberta) in the ranking of best performing labour markets prepared annually by the Fraser Institute (2nd in Canada, 3rd in North America).

(~From A Provincial Point of View, Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff)

SUMA Classifieds

Positions Available:

Town of Kamsack: Equipment Operator

Town of Willow Bunch: Working Foreman (When Filled)

Town of Assiniboia: Director of Works & Utilities (When Filled)

SaskPower. "This demonstration project compliments SaskPower's Municipal Ice Rink Program, announced last fall, as a further step to help municipalities operate their rinks in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council and Honeywell, SaskPower's Municipal Ice Rink Program provides municipalities with a comprehensive rink energy assessment and retrofit service as well as energy efficiency and tools.

"There's a lot of interest in customer-generated power right now and this demonstration project will help us explore the many variables involved," said Robert Watson, SaskPower President and Chief Executive Officer. "The performance of the turbines will be monitored and evaluated so that rink operators -- and all customers that may be considering a self-generation project -- will have the most accurate information possible before making a decision.

The wind turbines are expected to be installed and operational by summer 2011. The sites will then be monitored for three to five years. The data SaskPower obtains will be used to help guide future programming decisions aimed at reducing customer power bills -- not only for ice rinks, but for other commercial and industrial operations as well.

More information about the project, including how communities can express interest in becoming a demonstration site, [Click Here](#).

New UMAAS salary guidelines released

At its most recent meeting, the SUMA Board of Directors accepted the proposed salary guidelines set forth by the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS).

Town of Kindersley: Municipal Engineering Assistant (When Filled)

RM of Leask: Administrator (Dec. 13)

Village of Leask: Administrator (Dec. 13)

Village of Forestburg: CAO (When Filled)

Village of Choiceland: Administrator (When Filled)

Vulcan County: CAO (1/14/2011)

City of Melville: Assistant Public Works Manager (When Filled)
(12/03/2010)

Calendar of Events

SK Association of Licensing, Inspectors and Bylaw Officers Bylaw Training School

Humboldt
April 18-20, 2011

Included in this course are topics such as:

- standards
- risks/liabilities of bylaw officials and enforcement
- equipment and forms
- how to make a solid bylaw
- scenario workshops, and small claims court procedures.

This will be a valuable course for any municipality dealing with bylaw enforcement.

Registration: \$250 (includes 2 lunches, 1 supper and coffee break refreshments).

Only the first 20 registrants will be accepted. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Bella Vista Inn (\$84.95/night).

To view the guidelines, please visit the UMAAS website (www.umaas.ca) or [Click Here](#).

Proposals for Sask Pension Plan improvements released

Jim Flaherty, Canada's Minister of Finance, together with Saskatchewan's Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Ken Krawetz, recently released draft legislative amendments to accommodate changes to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, as outlined by the Government of Saskatchewan in its 2010 budget.

"Saving for retirement is an important objective for Canadian families," said Flaherty. "We are continuing to move forward to provide greater flexibility and opportunity to achieve this goal. Saskatchewan's proposed changes to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan are consistent with these objectives and with these proposals. We are able to accommodate these changes under the Income Tax Act."

"We are very pleased that the federal government has agreed to our request to increase the contribution limit," Krawetz said. "Plan participants requested this change and we are responding." The Saskatchewan Pension Plan is a voluntary defined contribution pension plan established by the Government of Saskatchewan. It offers an alternative for small businesses that do not offer their own pension plans, provides cost-effective professional investment management of retirement savings and allows employees full portability of pension savings between employers.

The amendments proposed today to the Income Tax Act accommodate an increase in the annual contribution limit to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan to \$2,500 from \$600, and align its tax treatment with that of

Make course registration cheques payable to Lloyd Weyland.

To get registration forms fax (306) 682-3144, or email inspections@cityofhumboldt.sasktel.net.

For more events, visit the [SUMA Urban Update Events](#) page.

For more SUMA events, visit the [SUMA events calendar](#).

Quote of the Week:

"The more you say,
the less people remember."
François Fénelon



About Us

We'd like to thank you for reading the Urban Update every week, and we welcome your comments.

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"This is a significant increase in construction that is a strong indicator that our economy is picking up momentum as we finish off 2010," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The amount of non-residential construction in October was double the September figure, and definitely gives us reason for optimism."

Regina had an increase of 126.6 per cent and in Saskatoon, permits rose by 23.4 per cent between September and October 2010.

Supports for people with disabilities increased

People with disabilities who are clients of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program and the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) will benefit from an increase to earnings exemptions, effective February 1, 2011.

For more information on the changes, see the announcement [here](#).