



Keeping you informed

President's Update



July 4, 2016

Notes From the Board Meeting

The SUMA Board of Directors gathered June 24 for a full day of discussion on urban Saskatchewan issues.

The morning opened with a Convention Planning Committee meeting, where they adopted *Shaping an Urban Saskatchewan* as the theme for **Convention 2017**. As we celebrate the past 150 years in Canada, we also look to what the future holds for urban governments in Saskatchewan. Urban Saskatchewan is a growing, diverse, and progressive part of our province; SUMA wants to encourage councils to take the initiative during their term, using innovation and leadership to shape their future instead of having it decided for them.

The committee decided to have a Canada 150 theme for the **Sunday night welcome reception**, to be held at O'Brians Event Centre, one of Saskatoon's most unique event centers with state of the art lighting, sound and video equipment.

The **Meritorious and Honourary Service Awards, and the Scoop Lewry Award nominations** will open July 6, and run until October 5. Watch [the Convention page](#) of our website for more details and the nomination forms.

Convention dates were set for the [2020, 2021, and 2022 conventions](#).

The full Board gathered mid-morning and covered a variety of issues. Some highlights:

We received a report on the very successful **2016 Village Sector Meeting**, and instructed staff to proceed with planning for a 2017 Town Sector Meeting.

The Board discussed **advocacy on aquatic invasive species**, including partnering with SARM, Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, and other

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stakeholders. We are calling to attention the [damage posed by invasive species](#), particularly zebra mussels, to water bodies and treatment plants, and welcome [the province's declaration of Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) in May and [provincial coordination with western provinces and Yukon](#) in June

The Board approved a proposal for third-party research into fire departments **compensation rates for attending motor vehicle collisions**, which should provide data and strong rationale for our advocacy efforts with SGI.

We reviewed **the results of the Landfill Research Project**, which studied the estimated costs of to municipalities to change from current landfilling standards to those in the proposed by unimplemented draft landfill chapter of the Environmental Code.

The Board approved a [policy position](#) on the future of the **Saskatchewan Transportation Company**, and its ongoing importance to small urban municipalities and their residents.

The Board resolved to create a **Reconciliation Policy** to help members take action on [the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations](#) relating to municipalities and fostering cooperation and collaboration between Indigenous peoples and urban municipalities across Saskatchewan.

We approved the **SAMA 2017 Business and Financial Plan**.

The next meeting of the SUMA Board of Directors will take place on **September 23**.

Resolutions Update

If you're interested in the responses we've received on **resolutions passed at Convention 2016** (or all the way back to Convention 1997), you can visit the [resolutions database](#) on our website. Search by term, sponsoring community, or year to see the resolution and any responses we may have received.

Now is also a good time to start preparing for Convention 2017 resolutions. Though **we accept resolutions** all year long, [we've issued the official call](#) as well.

National Municipal Energy Infrastructure Task Force

I'm also excited to tell you that I've been appointed to the

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) **National Municipal Energy Infrastructure Task Force**. The group is a response to recent federal government commitments to improve the environmental assessment and National Energy Board (NEB) process that form part of the federal review and approval of major pipeline projects. We aim to ensure FCM's work in the area reflects shared national concerns and perspectives.