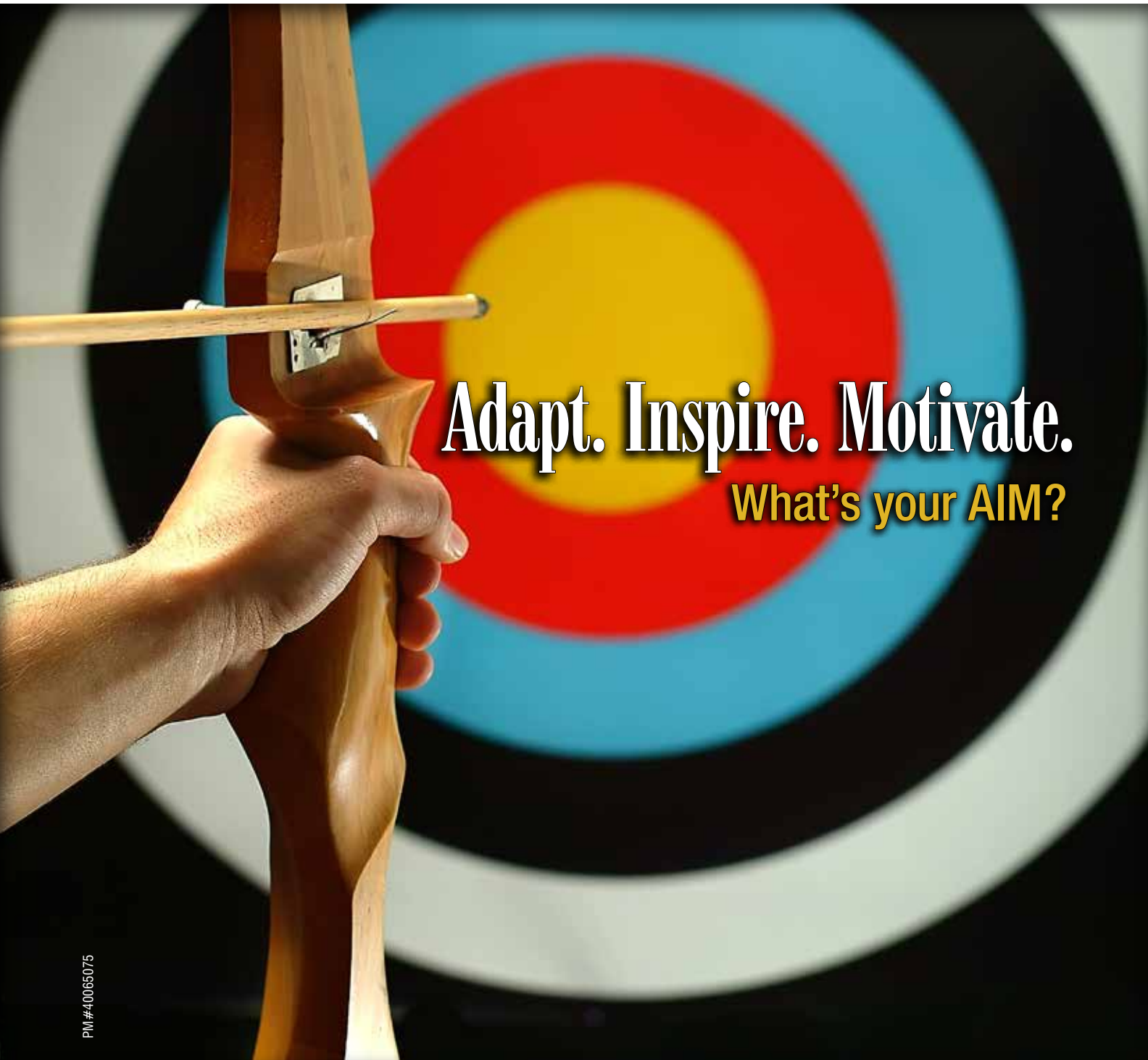


VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3 | WINTER 2015

URBAN*Voice*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION



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What's your AIM?

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SaskTel continues to invest in and develop a comprehensive suite of products that simplify operations and maximize value for business customers of all sizes, from the home basement business to the largest multi-product line and location corporate clients.

Although currently operating data centres in 6 locations taking up 31,088 square feet, the demand for data centre based services continues to grow, and SaskTel has stepped up to meet that challenge. To meet the needs of existing and new customers, SaskTel is investing in a new certified Tier III Data Centre in Saskatoon with a scheduled completion of Q4 2016.

This new location will complement the new Tier II Data Centre recently opened in Regina, with both centres offering highly available, secure and stable operating environments for businesses IT infrastructure. The new data centre design will consist of 24,000 total square feet and has been certified by the Uptime Institute as meeting all Tier III requirements, such as concurrently maintainable electrical and mechanical components and multiple independent distribution paths serving dual-powered IT equipment that will be fully compatible within the typology of the site's architecture.



"These are world class facilities that are outfitted with cutting edge technology to deliver services with the security, availability and assurance that business customers today demand from their technology partners," said Sean Devin, SaskTel VP of ICT Delivery and Assurance. "SaskTel has been providing data centre services internally for over 30 years and to external customers for over 13 years, and today, SaskTel hosts government, corporate, and private customers from throughout North America."

With SaskTel Data Centre services, such as Colocation, Managed Hosting and Disaster Recovery, businesses can be assured their critical data and IT infrastructure is kept in a safe, secure and professionally managed environment, letting them focus on what matters most.



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PUBLISHERS

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)
200 - 2222 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 3M7
306-525-3727 | F: 306-525-4373
suma@suma.org | www.suma.org

SUMA STAFF

Laurent Mugeot, CEO

Shauna Audette, Group Benefits & Insurance Services Manager

Beverly Bradshaw, Municipal Procurement Agent

Laurie Bryant, Accounting Administrator

Steven Dribnenki, Policy & Legal Advisor

Katee Galandy, Convention & Events Coordinator

Tauna Kupiec, Group Benefits Administrator

Sean McEachern, Policy and Communication Director

Sean McKenzie, Policy Advisor

Scott Meger, Group Benefits Administrator

Tania Meier, Corporate Programs & Member Services Director

Lindsay Peel, Finance Manager

Lisa Rawlings, Marketing Coordinator

Heather Vanderaa, Executive Assistant

Tiffany Wolf, Communications Advisor

Please send change of address to suma@suma.org

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Third Floor - 2020 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0K4
Tel: 866-985-9784
Fax: 866-985-9799
www.kelmanonline.com

Managing Editor: Terry Ross, terry@kelman.ca

Layout & Design: Tracy Toutant

Marketing Managers: Rod Evason, rod@kelman.ca

Advertising Coordinator: Stefanie Hagidiakow

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VOLUME 20 NUMBER 4 | Winter 2015

URBAN Voice

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION

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ADAPT. INSPIRE. MOTIVATE. WHAT'S YOUR AIM?

Mayor Debra Button, President

There's a lot happening in the theme for Convention 2016. It seems fitting when you consider how much is happening in urban municipalities, especially in the next year. The country has just elected a new federal government, Saskatchewan is preparing to elect the next provincial government, and all of us are preparing for municipal elections next year, as well.

The nature of municipal council is that there are changes constantly on the horizon, and members of council carry a lot of responsibility to guide operations and to be leaders in our communities. With all that's happening in 2016, we want delegates to consider all aspects of the theme. How is your municipality adapting to a changing environment? Are your council members inspiring leaders, current and future? Is your community motivated to be engaged in projects? And, of course, what's your aim?

I encourage you to seriously consider these questions in the couple of months between now and Convention. You may be wrapping up your municipal career and deciding what legacy you

want to leave behind. Or you may be getting excited about what else you can do with another term. You may even find yourself uncertain of how you are going to handle all this change. It's a time for reflection, but also a time for action.

As we approach the end of a four-year term, how do you feel? At SUMA, we want to help our members feel ready to adapt, and we want urban municipal leaders to be inspired and motivated. This is your chance to gain strength from your peers and colleagues, and to prepare for everything that's coming up in 2016. This is our chance to speak with one voice to the provincial government ahead of the next election, and make our voice heard all over the province. It's also our chance to learn and grow as leaders.

For my part, SUMA's Annual Convention always stokes the fire of excitement I have for my municipality, and for the work we do at SUMA on behalf of all our city, town, and village members. I hope the same is true for all of you, and I hope to see you at Queensbury Centre in Regina as we take aim at 2016. ■



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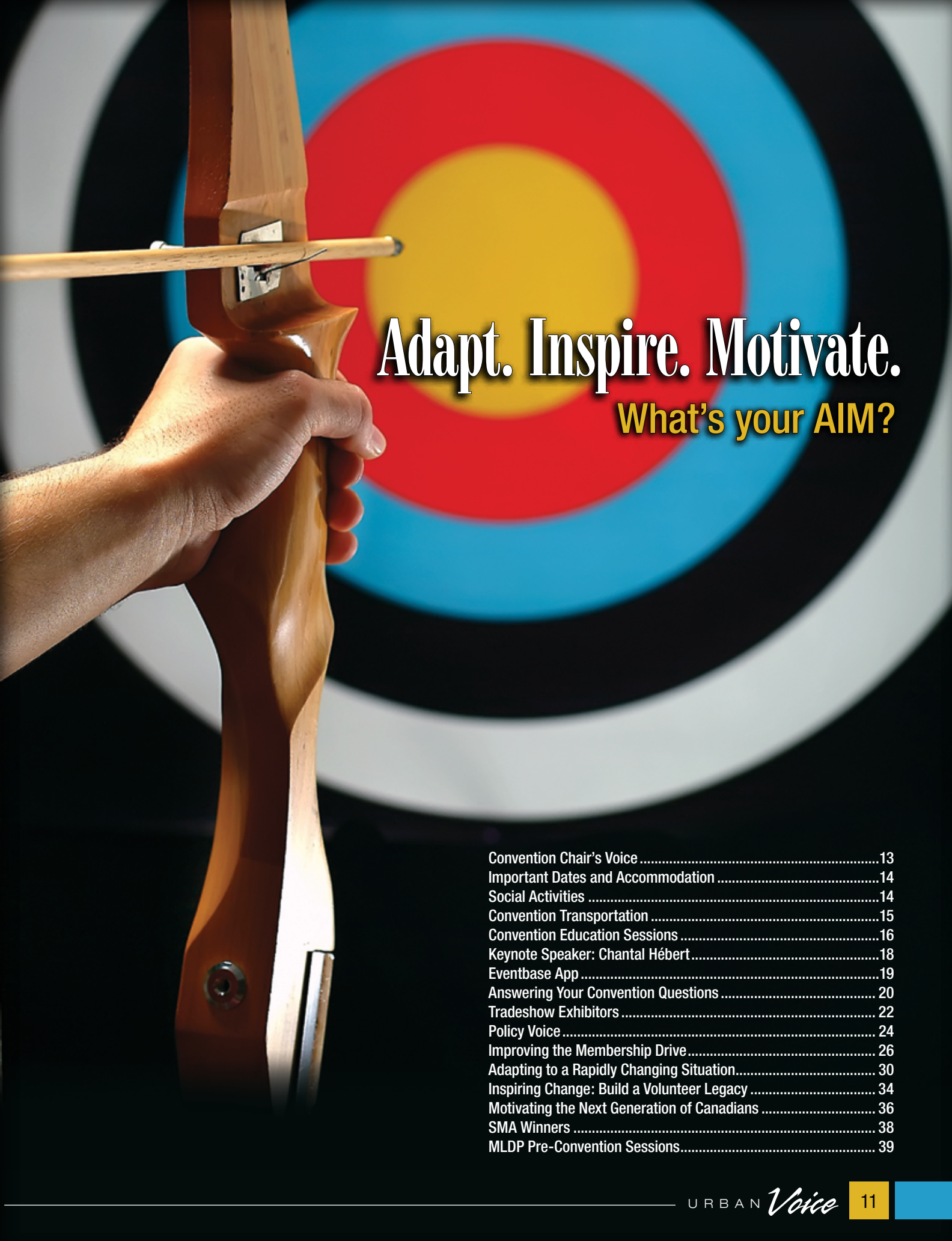


is more than just talk

As we continue to deliver valuable information through the pages of this magazine, in a printed format that is appealing, reader-friendly and not lost in the proliferation of electronic messages that are bombarding our senses, we are also well aware of the need to be respectful of our environment. That is why we are committed to publishing the magazine in the most environmentally-friendly process possible. Here is what we mean:

- We use lighter publication stock that consists of recycled paper. This paper has been certified to meet the environmental and social standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and comes from responsibly managed forests, and verified recycled sources making this a RENEWABLE and SUSTAINABLE resource.
- Our computer-to-plate technology reduces the amount of chemistry required to create plates for the printing process. The resulting chemistry is neutralized to the extent that it can be safely discharged to the drain.
- We use vegetable oil-based inks to print the magazine. This means that we are not using resource-depleting petroleum-based ink products and that the subsequent recycling of the paper in this magazine is much more environment friendly.
- During the printing process, we use a solvent recycling system that separates the water from the recovered solvents and leaves only about 5% residue. This results in reduced solvent usage, handling and hazardous hauling.
- We ensure that an efficient recycling program is used for all printing plates and all waste paper.
- Within the pages of each issue, we actively encourage our readers to REUSE and RECYCLE.
- In order to reduce our carbon footprint on the planet, we utilize a carbon offset program in conjunction with any air travel we undertake related to our publishing responsibilities for the magazine.

*So enjoy this magazine...and **KEEP THINKING GREEN.***



Adapt. Inspire. Motivate.

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Convention Chair's Voice

Councillor Dawn Luhning

Here we go again! It seems SUMA's Annual Convention is never far from my mind, but I'm so excited to be gearing up for Convention 2016. It's an honour to serve as the Convention Chair, and I can't wait for you to see what we've got planned for you.

We know that last year's keynote speaker was highly anticipated, and we are pleased that Chantal Hébert has agreed to come back to us for our 111th Annual Convention. Her perspective on the political landscape is sure to be informative and insightful as we settle into a relationship with our new federal government.

We have also planned plenty of informative education opportunities throughout Convention. Sunday afternoon is, as always, jam packed with chances to learn. Old favourites like recycling and rail safety are on the docket along with emerging issues like conflict of interest, public

procurement, and getting ready for the next round of property assessments. We've also got you covered on Monday afternoon with three more education sessions, plus the sector breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon. You'll have a chance to learn from experts and your peers on issues ranging from council's role as an employer to how you can make the best of change.

Let's not forget that Convention is about more than just taking in presentations; it's also about making connections. Our social activities are a great time for networking. This year, we have the chance to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field during our Sunday evening Welcome Reception. There will be live music courtesy of Amy Nelson, Rider memorabilia, and even the chance to pick up Rider merchandise. We've also got Danceland DJs back again for our

hospitality night on Monday, February 1 at the DoubleTree. Then, on our last evening together, you have the chance to join us in celebrating long-serving elected officials and municipal employees. It will be a musical evening with Jeffery Straker performing between supper courses, and The Dead South performing after the formal program, so be sure to bring your dancing shoes!

As well as the chance to connect with your peers, you get your chance to ask questions of the provincial government at the Dialogue with Ministers sessions and Bear Pit on Wednesday. With the upcoming provincial election in 2016, these sessions are more valuable than ever, so start preparing your questions now.

Convention 2016 is certainly shaping up to be a busy and fun four days. I look forward to seeing you all in Regina!



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Find out what you can recycle and where, at:
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This program is funded through Environmental Handling Fees that are applicable to new electronic products sold in the province.



Important Dates and Accommodation Information for Convention 2016

Wednesday, December 23, 2015: Early-bird registration deadline

Wednesday, January 13, 2016: Last day for cancellations

Sunday, January 31 - Wednesday, February 3, 2016: Convention 2016

Host Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton

Accommodation and rate information is available on the Convention 2016 page of the SUMA website.

See you at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina!

Social Activities at Convention 2016

Convention is a busy few days, so delegates deserve a chance to take a load off and spend some informal time with their colleagues and peers. There is an activity on each night; come on down and enjoy yourself.

In 1910, the Regina Roughriders were playing on a field known as Park Hughes. After many additions and improvements to the field throughout the years, the facility was renamed Taylor Field in 1947. With the Saskatchewan Roughriders moving to a new stadium in 2017, what better way to bid farewell to a historical landmark than attend our Welcome Reception on Sunday night from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.! You will have the chance to tour through the Green and White Lounge, Alumni Room, and the guest and Rider dressing rooms. You will be welcomed by President Button

and have the chance to network with other members of SUMA's Board of Directors and your fellow delegates while enjoying a cash bar and light appetizers. Singer songwriter Amy Nelson will perform throughout the evening and there will be an opportunity to purchase merchandise at the Rider Store and take photos with Rider memorabilia. Tickets for this event are \$35 and space is limited, so purchase your tickets today!

The Monday night hospitality night is back with the same format as previous years. Danceland DJ's will be spinning the tunes at the DoubleTree Hotel, and there will be a cash bar. The evening starts at 8:00 p.m., and you do not need a ticket for this event. Please join us!

Delegates thoroughly enjoyed the changes to last year's President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony, so we are sticking

with a winning formula for 2016. Enjoy a three-course plated meal, while enjoying the stories and songs of Jeffery Straker. A classically trained pianist from small-town Saskatchewan, Straker swears he was born under the piano on the family farm. So it's possible he was born to share songs and stories.

After the formal program, stick around for an extended evening and spend some time on the dance floor with The Dead South. This four-piece ensemble from Regina, Saskatchewan blends elements of folk, bluegrass, classical, and rock to create their own unique sound, which they've dubbed "boot-stompin' acoustic music." Tickets for this event are \$60. This is a great value for an evening filled with food and entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there!



Transportation Information

SUMA and the City of Regina are pleased to provide shuttle bus service for SUMA delegates at Convention 2016.

Information with approximate departure times and bus stop locations will be posted in the following hotel lobbies:

Downtown	South Regina
DoubleTree by Hilton	Travelodge
Delta	Executive Royal Hotel
Ramada	
Hotel Saskatchewan	
Wingate by Wyndham	

For those attending Sunday education sessions, there will be a continuous shuttle circuit in the afternoon. Check your hotel lobby for the schedule when you arrive.

Monday to Wednesday shuttles will run delegates to the Queensbury Convention Centre in the morning and return them to hotels in the afternoon. Bussing will be provided for the Sunday evening Welcome Reception and the Tuesday evening President's Banquet.

There will *not* be a continuous shuttle service during the day Monday to Wednesday, nor for the hospitality night at the DoubleTree by Hilton.

Parking is available at the Queensbury Convention Centre free of charge for those wishing to drive.

Please do not park along the barricades where the bus drops delegates off; you could be ticketed and/or towed.



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Convention Education Sessions

There will be many opportunities to learn at Convention 2016, from the informal learning experiences at meals and in the halls to the education and breakout sessions planned by SUMA staff.

Sunday, January 31

E1 and E7

How Your Fire Service Affects Property Insurance

Do you know how decisions around public fire protection affects your municipality's grading in the Canadian Fire Insurance Grading Index and what that means for property insurance? This session will help explain that issue and others, such as:

- fire insurance grades;
- risk management;
- the municipal obligation to manage the built environment;
- fire halls, apparatus, and hydrants;
- the effect of staffing models.

E2 and E8

Public Procurement Practices to Avoid a Lawsuit

As public entities, municipalities are responsible to their ratepayers to ensure they are receiving the best value for goods and services purchased with public dollars.

Attend this Public Procurement 101 session to:

- find out what procurement is and why it's important;
- understand the trade agreements and relevant legislation that public entities must adhere to;
- learn the values that guide public procurement; and
- understand the competitive bid documents used to ensure your process is fair, competitive and transparent.

E3 and E9

Keeping Council Out of Conflict

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced a number of legislative amendments in response to the Barclay Report on the RM of Sherwood. Come and find out how your council can ensure it is following best practices about conflicts of interest and preparing for any legislative changes.

E4 and E10

Three Rs: Regulations, Requirements, and Recycling

Our environment is a busy place these days! This session will explore some of the changes the province has made to the environmental code, landfill requirements, and the Multi-Material Recycling Program.

E5 and E11

Rail Safety Measures to Prepare and Protect

Over the past 10 years, the amount of dangerous goods being carried by rail has risen drastically. High-profile disasters, such as the disaster in Lac Mégantic have prompted increases in rail safety regulations, and this session will host rail safety representatives from the larger Canadian carriers, to discuss some of the improvements to safety they have made to better protect municipalities and their residents.

E6 and E12

Property Assessment 201: Preparing for Revaluation 2017

Building on the "Property Assessment 101" session presented before Convention 2015, this session covers the valuation practices used to prepare property assessments in greater detail. Attend the session to learn how municipalities can prepare now for the upcoming 2017 revaluation.



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Monday, February 1

E13

Taking a Chance on Change

Change is part of life, part of business, and part of municipal government. How prepared is your municipality for the changes that will inevitably come your way?

At this session, find out:

- how to positively react to change – even embrace it;
- how to help those around you change;
- how to shorten the roller coaster of feelings associated with adapting to change; and
- how change helps build better relationships and organizations.

E14

Lessons Learned

Through the 2015 Wildfires

No matter how well prepared your municipality may be, a major emergency can catastrophically affect your day-to-day business. This session will look at some of the struggles faced by northern communities during the 2015 fires, and some of the solutions they used to address those challenges.

E15

Open Forum on Council Operations

By popular request, this session will be chance for members to ask any and all questions related to council operation, including conduct of council meetings, conflict of interest, and human resources. SUMA policy and legal staff, and municipal advisors will be in attendance.

Tuesday, February 2

Cities

Growing Green

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund supplies grants to municipalities to help them conduct studies and develop plans for innovative, environmentally beneficial initiatives. The fund also provides low-interest loans toward capital projects to help make those plans a reality. Come learn how the Green Municipal Fund can help your city grow!

Towns and Villages with
Population Above 500

Filling the Volunteer Void

Every community needs volunteers. They help run our recreation facilities; they organize our events; and they work tirelessly as champions for our communities. But where do we find them? From public recognition to Rider Pride, this session will focus on engaging and retaining community members and growing your volunteer base.

Towns and Villages
with Population Below 500

Building Solid Employment Relationships

Are employment contracts really necessary? Can a mayor set work hours and wages for municipal employees? This session will break down the individual roles and responsibilities of councils and CAOs as employers, noting potential landmines and emphasizing effective management strategies.

An advertisement for Viking Cives Ltd. and CUBEX. The background is a photograph of a snowy residential street with trees and a car. Overlaid on the image are the logos for Viking Cives Ltd. (a stylized star) and CUBEX (an orange geometric logo). Below the logos, text reads: "Canada's leading manufacturer of innovative and dependable snow & ice control equipment" and "Cubex Municipal Regina, SK, 1.204.336.0008".

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Keynote Speaker: Chantal Hébert



No, we didn't forget to replace the keynote speaker article before we sent this issue to print. After last year's unfortunate series of events, Chantal Hébert has agreed to once again be the Keynote Speaker at Convention 2016!

Hébert is a journalist and author with her sights well trained on national politics. She is a national affairs

writer with the *Toronto Star*, a guest columnist for *L'Actualité*, and a regular on political television and radio shows. You may have seen her as a weekly participant on the political panel at *Issue* on CBC's *The National*. She is also co-author of *The Morning After*, a book on the 1995 Quebec referendum, and what may have been – if the vote had gone the other way.

She began her career in Toronto as a reporter for the regional newsroom of Radio-Canada in 1975 before moving on to Parliament Hill for Radio-Canada. She has served as parliamentary bureau chief for *Le Devoir* and *La Presse*. She has received two Asia-Pacific media fellowships (Malaysia and Japan), and in 2005, received the APEX Public Service Award. In 2006, she received the Hy Solomon award for excellence in journalism and public policy, as well as York University's Pinnacle Achievement Bryden Alumni award.

Join us for a keynote that will motivate you to take a closer look at Canada's shifting political landscape.



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Eventbase mobile app

Once again this year, we are using a free mobile app that contains everything you need to know about Convention 2016. The Eventbase app is available for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android users by downloading Eventbase in your device's app store. This is the third year we've used the app, but we wanted to give you a quick guide to the app so you're ready to go by Convention.

Once you've downloaded Eventbase, open the app and search for SUMA. Watch for the blue SUMA logo! When you tap the SUMA logo, you go to the basic information about Convention, including a short description and the dates. Tap Launch Event Guide, and you're off to the races.

In the event guide you'll find a full schedule, which means you have the most up-to-date information about when and where events are happening

at Convention. We will be adding information as soon as it's available, so even if you can't find the information now, it should appear soon.

The schedule gives you basic information, but if you tap on an event, you'll get all the available information, from date and time to room number and a description of the session or event. Again, these sorts of things will be updated from now until Convention, so this is a perfect way to make sure you are always in the know.

As we confirm speakers, watch the Speakers section to read bios, and learn more about who will be speaking and leading sessions.

You can even select your own favourites by clicking the stars next to events. It gathers all your favourites in the (surprise, surprise!) Favourites section, so you can basically create your own personalized agenda.

If you can't get the app for your phone – or you just prefer to use a mobile website – visit www.tinyurl.com/SUMAconventionapp to use the mobile web version.



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Answering Your Convention Questions

Read on if this is your first time attending a SUMA Convention or if you just need a quick refresher on the ins and outs of attending convention!

What does my registration fee include?

Your convention registration fee includes:

- admission to all of the education and breakout sessions (your choice of sessions);
- a seat at the keynote speaker presentation;
- tradeshow viewing times Monday and Tuesday;
- shuttle service to and from host hotels;
- a light continental breakfast and lunch on Monday and Tuesday;
- refreshment breaks;
- a chance to mingle with fellow delegates during Monday's Hospitality Night (cash bar);
- the chance to dialogue with provincial cabinet ministers; and
- the opportunity to network with other municipal leaders.

The Sunday night welcome reception and the President's Banquet require separate tickets with their own fees.

How do I use the shuttle service to the Queensbury Convention Centre?

The short answer: Check the hotel lobby for approximate departure times and bus stop locations.

The long answer: The City of Regina is providing shuttle service to and from select hotels. For Sunday education sessions, there will be a continuous shuttle circuit beginning at noon. Service will also be available that evening for the welcome reception.

Monday through Wednesday, shuttles will run to the Queensbury Convention Centre in the morning, and return to hotels in the afternoon. There will also be bussing for the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony Tuesday evening.

Please note that the shuttle will not run for the hospitality night on Monday evening, and service on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the day is not continuous shuttle service.

Where do I register at the Queensbury Convention Centre?

When you get to the Queensbury Convention Centre, come up the stairs/escalator and the registration desk will be set up in the foyer outside Salon ABC.

The Registration Desk is where you get your convention envelope (including your nametag, agenda card, voting information, and pre-purchased event tickets). Your nametag is your admission ticket to the sessions and luncheons, so it is a must-wear item during convention. At the end of convention, we will collect these holders to reuse and your nametag will enter you into a draw for a prize.

Each registered delegate will also receive a bag with the convention handbook. This handbook is an invaluable resource for every delegate, containing transportation information, facility floor plans, session details, resolutions, and day-by-day agendas.

The registration desk will be open all four days:

- Sunday, January 31:
11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 1:
7:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 2:
7:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 3:
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Is there a mobile app available to download?

Yes! We are once again using a free mobile app that contains everything you need to know about Convention 2016. The Eventbase app is available in the app store for iOS, Blackberry OS, and Android users. Once you've downloaded the app, search for SUMA, and you'll have Convention 2016 at your fingertips. If you can't get the app for your phone, visit www.tinyurl.com/SUMAconventionapp to use the mobile web version.

What should I wear?

Casual business attire is recommended for daytime activities. The Sunday night event is casual attire, and the President's Banquet is business formal.

Please remember that you are representing your community, so put your best foot forward while at convention. You will be networking with urban governments from across the province, and will be in the presence of many provincial and national dignitaries. Avoid ball caps, sweatpants, ripped jeans, and other unprofessional attire.

Remember that it's winter in Saskatchewan so bring suitable outerwear for the trek to and from the hotel! A coat check will be available.

Tell me about the meals!

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the foyer outside Salon AB at Queensbury on Monday and Tuesday. The continental breakfast will include muffins, fruit, and a yogurt parfait; lunch will be served as a buffet.

Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided at the Sunday night event, and a plated dinner will be served at the President's Banquet. Tickets must be purchased in advance for these two events.

What are sector meetings?

Sector meetings give delegates a chance to meet with colleagues from other municipalities in the same sector. This is the perfect opportunity to discuss current issues that are affecting your sector. The sector meetings will be held on Monday, February 1 at 1:00 p.m. and split into three groups:

- Cities
 - Towns
 - Villages and Resort Villages
- Northern municipalities will gather at the same time for their Northern Regional Meeting.

What are breakout sessions?

Breakout sessions are split into the below groups and focused on a topic of particular interest to each group.

- Cities
- Towns and Villages with populations below 500
- Towns and Villages with populations above 500

Breakout sessions will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 1:45 p.m.

How do resolutions work?

The resolutions session will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 3:20 p.m.

Resolutions will be summarized in your convention handbook (provided onsite when you register at the Queensbury Convention Centre). Only those delegates with blue name badges (voting delegates) are able to vote on resolutions.

As per SUMA Bylaws, the number of voting delegates a municipality has been assigned is based on population. Each resolution will be moved by the Chair, and a member of the sponsoring council must second it (or it will fail). The seconder will be given three minutes to speak to the resolution. The chair will then ask for anyone who wishes to speak against the resolution. If there is no opposing view, then the question will be called. If someone wishes to speak against the resolution then normal debate occurs. Speakers are given two minutes. The seconder will then be allowed one minute to close debate.

Voting will be by a show of blue voting cards, unless 25 voting delegates request a vote by ballot. Any call for a ballot vote must come prior to the call for votes in favour. In the case of a ballot vote, the ballots from delegates from the cities of Regina and Saskatoon will be counted as seven votes. Procedural challenges will be resolved through consultation with our parliamentary advisor(s).

What about the AGM?

The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday February 2 at 10:15 a.m. Any elected official from a SUMA member municipality can vote during the AGM.

What happens at the Dialogue with Ministers and the Bear Pit?

Only those delegates that have **blue** (voting delegate), **yellow** (delegate) or **orange** (municipal employee) badges are able to ask the ministers questions. You may ask only one question, and statements are prohibited. To allow as many questions as possible, you will be given 90 seconds to ask your question and you will be timed.

What is the Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow?

The Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow is held in conjunction with the annual convention and is open to convention delegates and municipal employees only. There will be more than 180 exhibitors offering products and services that are relevant to municipal needs. Time is set aside for you to visit the exhibitors.

Please be respectful of the items that are given away at these booths. Only take your share as the exhibitors only bring enough items for everyone that attends.

Remember to enter your name into the prize draws – SUMA delegates are lucky people, and you don't know what prizes you could take home! The ballot entry forms are contained within the handbook.

Why are there security guards onsite?

Security at convention is for your peace of mind. We have security at the event to ensure that only paying delegates have access. There will be security at Convention 2016 so please be sure to wear your name tag all day long and bring your tickets to the evening events.

Anything else?

All SUMA staff members can be identified by the red name tags they'll be wearing. Please don't hesitate to come over to say hello, or let us know how we can help you. We always love to hear from our members!



Tradeshow Exhibitors

1 Stop Playgrounds
20/20 Geomatics Ltd.
211 Saskatchewan (United Way Regina)
ACP Applied Products
Affinity Credit Union
Airmaster Signs
Alliance
All-Net.ca
Allnorth
ALS Environmental
Altus Geomatics
Anderson Pump House
APEGS
Arrow Engineering
Assiniboine Injection Ltd.
Association of Consulting Engineering
Companies - Saskatchewan
ATAP Infrastructure Management Ltd.
ATSTraffic Group
BILN Holdings Inc.
Britespan Building Systems Inc.
Brownlee LLP
Bullée Consulting Ltd.
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Moving)
Canada Culvert

Canadian Arena Products
Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stoke
Foundation, Lung Association
Canadian Labour Congress
Canadian Ramp Company
Catterall & Wright
Centaur Products
Century Environmental Services
Chatterson Janitorial Supplies
Chemical Industries Inc.
Cimco Refrigeration
Clifton Associates Ltd.
Colya J Fire Services
Commercial Pool and Recreational
Products
Commercial Truck Equipment
Commissionaires South Saskatchewan
Communities in Bloom
Community Initiatives Fund
Connect Energy
DCM Enterprises Ltd.
Delco Water
Dynamic Construction Ltd.
Eco-West/Eco-Ouest
Element Water Systems
Emterra Environmental

Enbridge Pipeline Inc.
Engineered Pipe Group
Equinox Industries
Expocrete, an Oldcastle Company
Fair Practices Office - Worker's
Compensation Board
Fer-marc Equipment
Fire and Auto
First on Site
Flaman Fitness
FleetLynx
Fort Gary Fire Truck
Fort Gary Industries
G. E. Environmental Solutions Inc.
GovDeals Inc.
HeadStart on a Home/Westcap Mgt. Ltd.
Heritage Saskatchewan
Husqvarna Canada
Jet Ice Ltd.
KAP CITY Construction Ltd.
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Lexcom Systems Group Inc.
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Paradise LeisureScapes
Park N Play Design Co Ltd.
Parkland College
PINTER & Associates Ltd.
Playgrounds R Us
PlayWorks Inc. & ParkWorks
Pounder Emulsions
Precision Concrete Cutting Inc.
Pro AV Ltd.
Provincial Pothole & Paving
RIVA Specialized Cleaning Services &
Pigeon Control
Riverdale Water Management

RMIS Engineering
Road Boss Grader
Roy & Sons Dredging Services
Rubber Stone
Sapphire Water International Corp.
Sask. Emergency Medical Services Assoc.
Saskatchewan Assessment Management
Agency (SAMA)
Saskatchewan Association of Recreation
Professionals
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance
and Sask 1st Call
Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers
Saskatchewan German Council Inc.
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation
Association
Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
SaskCulture
SaskTel
SaskWater
Sawyer's Landscape Management
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Shercom Industries
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St. John Ambulance
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SUMA
SUMAssure
Suncorp Valuations
Superior Infrastructure Restoration
Superior Roads Solutions
Superior Truck Equipment Inc.
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Tiger Calcium Services Inc.
Top Shot Concrete Inc.
Transport Canada
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Policy Opportunities at Convention

For more than a century, SUMA has worked to better understand the interests of our members. We are always looking for new ways to engage with you, learn from you, and deliver victories for you. But we can't ignore the tried and tested ways, like our annual convention.

Each year SUMA members come together at Convention to discuss the important issues of the day. You get several opportunities to have direct input into SUMA's policy development and advocacy work. To prepare you for Convention 2016, let's explore these opportunities.

Resolutions

Delegates can influence SUMA's policy direction by submitting resolutions ahead of Convention, and voting on those presented at the Tuesday afternoon resolution session. Resolutions help guide SUMA's priorities for the next year.

Sector Meetings

Sector meetings on Monday afternoon provide delegates with sector-relevant updates on key policy files. Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions for new policy priorities.

Annual General Meeting

At SUMA's formal AGM on Tuesday morning, delegates will receive a report on our activities in the past year. This session also gives delegates the chance to ask questions about SUMA's advocacy priorities and our progress in advancing the interests of our members.

Dialogue Sessions

Wednesday morning's dialogue sessions with provincial cabinet ministers are a key opportunity to ensure your voice is heard. SUMA has invited nine members of cabinet and a representative from the

RCMP to participate in this year's dialogue sessions. These sessions allow delegates to ask specific questions in a more focused way than the Bear Pit allows.

The Bear Pit

The Wednesday morning Bear Pit session is the final event of the SUMA convention and is often the highlight. With the Premier, Cabinet, and members of the media attending, delegates have the chance to ask questions about their priorities and get answers directly from the provincial decision-makers.

Meetings with Ministers

On top of scheduled events, many cabinet ministers are willing to meet with individual SUMA member governments during the convention. If you are interested in meeting with a particular minister during Convention, contact the minister's office directly, or call SUMA and we will point you in the right direction.

Meeting with Board Members and Staff

Finally, we encourage our members to get to know SUMA Board members and staff during Convention. We are here to represent you, and we want to get to know you, your issues, your challenges, and most importantly, your successes. While we may not have time for a formal meeting at Convention, we would love to chat informally, exchange contact information, and plan to connect following the event.

There are many opportunities to influence the policy and advocacy work of SUMA at our annual convention. This is an opportunity for you, and a necessity for us. Active engagement of our members is the only way we can be the voice of urban Saskatchewan.

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Improving the Membership Drive

It's been a busy year at SUMA, and one of the projects we are excited to tell you about is an update to our membership drive. Our old process meant you didn't get your invoice for the year until after Convention was long over, so in some cases payment was coming in more than halfway through the year.

Over the summer, we reworked the process and got a head start on 2016. This means your membership invoice for next year should arrive in the mail around the same time as this edition of *Urban Voice*. But more importantly, it means you have the option to bring your payment with you to Convention 2016.

We encourage you to take a look at the letter, as it gives us a good chance to celebrate some of SUMA's accomplishments in the last year, and tell you about all the programs and services we offer to make your life easier (and cheaper!). You'll also see a new addition this year, which shows you all our programs – both those you take advantage of and those you don't.

This new process is intended to make everyone's lives easier, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the SUMA office. We are here to serve.



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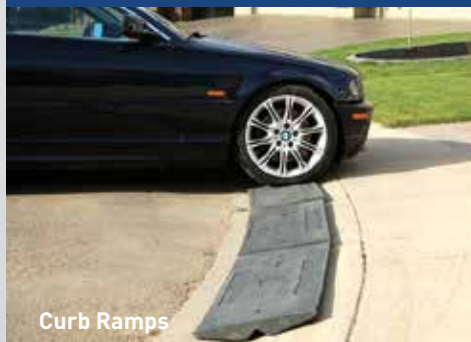
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SASK ENTREPRENEUR TURNS HAZARD INTO **RESOURCE**

Shercom Industries founder Shane Olson may have been ahead of his time, but now his decades of dedication to turning an environmental hazard into a useful product that saves municipalities time and money is paying off.

Shercom is recognized by Saskatchewan business, community and industry leaders for contributing to environmental sustainability. But Olson defers the recognition, which most recently came in the form of a nomination for EY Entrepreneur of Year in 2015 for Agricultural and Environmental Innovation.

"As much as we get credit for recycling, in reality, all we are doing is changing the shape of tires," said Olson.

"It's not recycling until someone uses the newly manufactured product ... so it is our customers who are the real recyclers, and they deserve the credit and the congratulations."

More product is now available due to a recent expansion to increase Shercom's processing and manufacturing capacity. Each week, Shercom can divert up to 1 million pounds of tires by turning them into products such as rubber mulch. The mulch resists weeds and insects while remaining colour-fast for years. It ranks ahead of all other CSA-approved materials for safety, making it a preferable option for under play structures.

When rubber is used for molded products, such as Patio Tiles or Splash Pads for rain gutters, consumers find they are lighter and more flexible than concrete but heavier and more durable than plastic.

You can imagine how much more forgiving a rubber surface is to walk on through a city park or to dampen a fall alongside a swimming pool. Re-surfacing running tracks and playgrounds or cracked concrete and asphalt with a flexible rubber surface is an innovation pioneered by Shercom. Experience it for yourself in Regina at the Rick Hansen Optimist Playground.

Landscape contractors, property owners and municipalities find Shercom's products are delivered at competitive prices, with the added benefit of lasting for years. Recycled rubber products naturally resist weather and temperature damage, as well as provide excellent durability, traction, and comfort.

Since getting started more than 20 years ago, Olson has had to overcome significant obstacles but his persistence has not gone unnoticed. This summer, the company was recognized in Legacy Builders Magazine by EY (Ernst & Young) which said Shercom Industries is "changing the world ... by keeping 40-50 million pounds per year of scrap tires out of landfills." This comes after Shercom Industries was honoured with the 2013 Environment ABEX and SABEX Awards.

More recognition comes from the Ministry of Environment, who described Shercom as a world class business and expressed gratitude, "for the work they do transforming tires from an environmental hazard into a usable product, allowing their customers to participate in the environmental sustainability of our planet."

Olson got started before it was widely recognized recycling plays a critical role in sustainable industry. That awareness has now arrived. National chains are carrying Shercom's unique, high-quality products and civil engineers are recognizing the benefits for projects all over Saskatchewan. Visit Shercom's booth at the upcoming SUMA and SARM conferences to learn more about how recycled rubber products could be a solution for your municipal project needs.

The property in Saskatoon pictured here is landscaped to incorporate many products made from recycled tires. Using rubber mulch, rubber lawn edging, rubber tiles and incorporating a rubber-paved driveway, this project alone recycled over 650 tires!



Adapting to a Rapidly Changing Situation: An Administrator's Experience During a Wildfire

Victoria MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of La Ronge

"You must be shapeless, formless, like water. When you pour water in a cup, it becomes the cup. When you pour water in a bottle, it becomes the bottle. When you pour water in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Water can drip and it can crash. Become like water my friend."

- Bruce Lee

Lee's eloquent analogy makes it sound effortless to adapt to any situation. However, when people are put into emergency situations where homes, lives, and livelihoods are on the line, we can feel more like a helpless vessel being tossed around by the turbulent waves. There are endless ways we are called to adapt to an ever-changing world at work: turnover in staff or council members, new ideologies and approaches to governance and human resource strategies, changes to legislation, and crisis situations. In each instance, those who adapt quickly are those who keep communities moving forward.

Often it seems that need to be adaptable and have expertise in so many areas can be overwhelming for many newcomers to municipal administration. One of the areas that is often glossed over when accepting a new administrator position, or when someone is newly sworn in as a member of council, is the role and expectations that are upon these people in an emergency. It was definitely the furthest thing from my mind when I accepted the full-time Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) position with the Town of La Ronge in 2014. Little did I know that just over a year later I would be coordinating the municipal Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and be a part of what would turn out to be the longest and largest evacuation event in Saskatchewan history.

As the town was dealing with dense smoke from wildfires in the area, it became apparent that the reality of an evacuation was closer than anything I had ever experienced. I was aware of the Emergency Plan and our Fire Chief had walked our management

team through it a few weeks earlier as a precaution. Yet, "it couldn't *actually* happen here" played in my mind for comfort until Saturday, July 4 after a few days of heavy smoke and poor visibility showed that the fires had advanced more than expected.

Although we had regular update meetings, it was with little notice the regional partners were called together to determine the next steps. With the fire professionals' reports and the uncertainty about whether roads south would close, the decision came to call for the general evacuation of the regional area, while the roads were still open and there was the benefit of daylight. The mandatory evacuation had taken hold of the tri-community area (Lac La Ronge Indian Band reserves, the Northern Village of Air Ronge, and the Town of La Ronge) by the end of the following day, July 5.



Once leadership declared the emergency there was the moment of disbelief and uncertainty. What is supposed to happen now? How does a whole community stop? How long do we have until the fire comes? Questions were plentiful in my mind, with few answers. The biggest question was how I was actually going to perform the role the emergency plan described for the administrator. We hadn't had a full run-through and the last wildfire emergency in the area was a decade ago. Although we had been guided through the plan,

Those who adapt quickly are those who keep communities moving forward.



I was not looking forward to the weight of the reality that was quickly setting in. Thankfully, it didn't take long to realize that I wasn't alone. No one wanted to be in the situation, but here we were. We were going to have to adapt, do our best, and ensure the safety of our residents.

As the municipality transitioned from daily operations to emergency operations, we evacuated all but one staff person each from public works, water and sewer, and facility management. Those staff stayed to help the town's reservoirs remain full, to keep the rink cleaned and stocked for visiting firefighters, to collect garbage from emergency service personnel, and to address any other tasks within the emergency site. The municipal airport had up to two staff remaining. Three administration staff, including me, remained in the EOC. Cell phones and landlines were juggled and we documented movements of staff and key events.

The situation was fluid at all times and the days were long, but went by quickly. Weather was changing, resource needs were changing, people were becoming exhausted, and staff needed

to be exchanged as the days went on. Plans had to be prepared for both an efficient repatriation process and the possibility of evacuating the EOC location if necessary. The evacuated staff had questions about pay and how they could help.

Thankfully, as a municipality, we were only one part of a bigger picture. The front line was outside of the municipality's boundaries and the professionals in fire behaviour and emergency preparedness provided information and advice on the situation during the municipal EOC meetings. The municipal EOC was made up of representatives from neighbouring communities' governance and administration to communicate with the Emergency Site Manager (the La Ronge Regional Fire Department Chief), coordinate movement within our local emergency site (the jurisdiction of the La Ronge Regional Fire Department), and ensure that municipal leadership was able to make informed decisions.

At the full interagency meetings within the EOC, everyone gave their updates and we solved problems

We don't only 'go' with the flow – we 'become' the flow.

collaboratively. I heard someone say a group effort of this magnitude, with up to four jurisdictions with separate governance and administration all working together at a central communication hub, had not been witnessed before. We put aside differences to focus on the common goal and people adapted to what the situation needed at every point.

In the opening quote, Lee encourages us to become like water. I admire the concept due to my affinity for martial arts, but there is a very real comparison to the experience of feeling overwhelmed. It can hit like a tidal wave and spill over us, or we can make the conscious decision to remain calm and focused. This conscious thought helps us to become like water, to be able



We put aside differences to focus on the common goal and people adapted to what the situation needed at every point.



Sandy Bailey, P.Eng., Asset Management Specialist and Division Manager, Water and Industrial: passionate about long term sustainability and public value.

An environmental systems engineer with experience in operations, capital projects and asset management in the municipal and non-municipal sectors, Sandy enjoys working with our public and private sector clients to preserve, plan, develop, and maintain the infrastructure that both supports their needs and protects our environment.

"With her enthusiasm and leadership, Sandy brings long-term, innovative, value based solutions to the communities and industries she serves," advises Bert Munro, Vice President & General Manager of Associated Engineering's Saskatchewan and Manitoba operations.

Sandy says, "So many clients are feeling overwhelmed with the increasing demands on their resources. I really enjoy helping them find ways to improve how they manage their infrastructure and create solutions they can implement to improve their community."

Contact Sandy at baileys@ae.ca or call her at 306-721-2466.



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Even though the outcome was positive, there is still work to be done to ensure the lessons learned from this emergency are taken into account for the next version of the emergency plan.

to understand that the situation is going to require a lot more flexibility. We don't only 'go' with the flow – we 'become' the flow. Adapting is being able to evaluate what needs to be done and determine where the resources are coming from to get what needs to be done, done.

I saw amazing examples of adaptability during the two weeks of the Egg Wildfire. Every person

who represented their organization was put into the same situation and acted with extreme professionalism and camaraderie. We were all dealing with our own personal stories – being away from worried family members, working long days, sleeping beside the phone ready for a call or changing conditions at any time, and all the while hoping that the decisions that are made are the

ones that will help to save lives and property.

In the end, the residents of the Town of La Ronge were able to return safely to their homes and the amazing outcome that not a single structure was lost within the municipality. A lot of hard work was undertaken around the community for that to be the case, and the outpouring of support from near and far was incredible to experience. Even though the outcome was positive, there is still work to be done to ensure the lessons learned from this emergency are taken into account for the next version of the emergency plan and so, we will continue to do what we all must do and adapt. ■



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A photograph of an indoor aquatic facility. It features a large, circular pool with a wooden deck. In the background, there is a green water slide and a yellow umbrella-shaped water feature. A sign on the pool edge reads "0.9M NO DIVING".

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Inspiring Change: Build a VOLUNTEER LEGACY

Steven Dribnenki, Policy and Legal Advisor, SUMA



Given the importance of volunteers in your community, take the time to consider what volunteers are already doing for your community, whether you have a policy or structures to encourage volunteerism and oversee volunteer activities, the ways to best attract and engage volunteers, and what new ways volunteers can help your community.

With municipal elections coming up quickly, 2016 will bring change to many communities. Whether it's your first term or the last of many, next year will no doubt involve reflection on accomplishments and hopes for the future. In doing so, have you thought about what your legacy will be?

While some may see a legacy as a name on a building or a statue, there is likely no greater tribute than being an inspiration to others – particularly inspiring people to give back to their community through volunteering. By inspiring volunteers, you are creating a living legacy – a strong, vibrant community.

We can all appreciate the gift volunteers give our communities, whether they are in for a long-term commitment serving on a council committee or responding to a short-term immediate need or emergency. At times, perhaps the breadth and scope of their work and the value of their service is not truly appreciated or understood.

In a speech to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in June 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (at the time, leader of the Liberal Party) captured the challenge facing Canadian municipalities. He acknowledged that while municipalities deliver more than 60 per cent of all services to Canadian citizens, they only collect between eight and 12 cents of every tax dollar. In other words, with municipalities facing scarce resources, volunteers are the lifeblood of service delivery in any community. Without them, a community cannot survive.

Considering this, it's easy to see how volunteers help your community. They may serve on the board of your recreation centre, they may pitch in on park cleanup day, or they may be piling sandbags as your community faces a natural disaster.

Given the importance of volunteers in your community, take the time to consider what volunteers are already doing for your community, whether you have a policy or structures to encourage volunteerism and oversee volunteer activities, the ways to best attract and engage volunteers, and what new ways volunteers can help your community.

If you have not done so, engage your council and administration to highlight the importance of volunteers to your community. This does not simply mean appreciating their service (although it should definitely include that), but actually identifying the specific and concrete ways volunteers are helping and seeking out easily identifiable new areas where volunteers would be helpful. Look over the processes already in place for recruiting volunteers. Make a checklist of what's in place and priority areas you need to address. This will help identify where you are in creating a structure and an atmosphere which promotes volunteerism and safety.

A key component to creating this is having a volunteer policy and a risk management plan, screening processes, and insurance to ensure the safety of volunteers and residents. Research best practices and policies, including contacting or accessing resources available from Volunteer Canada (such as the Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement) and other communities you know have strong policies and best practices.

Once you have a volunteer policy in place and up to date, allocate staff and financial resources, offer training and development opportunities, and ensure appropriate supervision. Seek out legal advice for guidance on legal documents and advice on liability issues. Not only does this promote safety for everyone, it provides structure to encourage volunteers to stay involved and attract new ones.

With this in place, get the word out and get people inspired. Your best tool for communications will likely be your community website. Many communities across Canada, big and small, highlight volunteer opportunities and programs on their website. Consider creating a volunteer advisory committee to ensure your volunteer policy and safety standards stay up to date and consider opportunities for recruitment or new work to take on. And be sure to take time to celebrate volunteer contributions and promote the benefits of volunteerism. Let them know that they play an important and appreciated role in the well-being of your community.

While municipal budgets may be small, people with big hearts keep our communities strong. Inspiring volunteers to serve and giving them the tools to serve well could be the greatest legacy you can give your community. ■



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The next wave of the Internet is going to create some interesting times for communities. It is called the **"Internet of Everything"** and it will be responsible for connecting everyday objects such as (fire hydrants, street lights, parking spots, water meters, security cameras and just about anything else) creating an enormous amount of data that can be used in many different ways.

One of the challenges that communities face is that each department has independent systems from each other and no clear way to bring it all together. One of Lexcom's priorities is to develop a low cost leak detection system using as much of the existing water meter technology as possible. In order to accomplish this, we require data from each system that we want to manage.

Lexcom is currently conducting a proof of concept with the Town of Dundurn where we are placing low cost data collectors throughout the community. We envision having the ability to take readings from the water meters, and street lights utilizing the same technology. *"Our end goal is to be able to trend usage so that we can clearly see when patterns have changed while also having visibility into the health and performance of the infrastructure remotely. When we are done, you will be able to obtain water meter readings from your desk. The lights will tell*

you how much power they are using and if it has burnt out. These are just two opportunities, but the possibilities are endless." says Mr. Darcy McLane, Lexcom Vice President.

One of the challenges that communities face, is that smart infrastructure components now require expertise to evaluate their infrastructure investments from a technology perspective. How does the asset fit into the asset management strategy? What data do we need to properly manage the asset? Is the technology proprietary in nature or an open standard? What does the decision we are making today look like in 10 to 15 years from now?

"Success depends on working at multiple levels in the community. At a high level, we are working with progressive community leaders at how technology plays into their strategy. Operationally, we are working with administration to understand the problem areas in the community and address them when making capital investments. We then work closely with engineering to review capital infrastructure projects from a technical perspective to ensure that everything comes together. Information technology can play a pivotal role in communities and this is where Lexcom is your expert." – explains Mr. Bryan Janz, Lexcom CEO.

www.lexcom.ca



Motivating the Next Generation of Canadians

Adam Thompson, Senior Advisor, Government Relations | Policy & Government Relations, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Canadians are getting older. It's a fact. Statistics Canada has recently reported that in 2011 one in seven Canadians was 65 or older. By 2026, this ratio is expected to increase to one in four. With a critical mass of Canadians approaching retirement, all governments must have a plan to meaningfully connect the next generation to their communities – as employees, elected officials, and leaders.

According to the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), the need to recruit and retain highly skilled employees is second only in importance to a healthy economy in its importance to municipal operations. In other words, our municipalities need more engaged young people.

In response, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has engaged in a multi-year project aimed at sharing the most innovative initiatives at work across the country to our full membership. Launched in 2013, the Jack Layton Fellowship brings together a small group of young Canadians each summer and challenges them to develop tools and resources that can help municipalities attract and retain the next generation of municipal leaders.

Earlier this year, FCM pulled together more than 200 students from six schools across the country in a virtual Town Hall meeting to hear directly from young Canadians on what is important to them. The findings were telling. Key municipal issues rose to the surface. Finding solutions to public transit, affordable housing, and climate change topped the list.

When governments make efforts to meaningfully engage young Canadians at home and in their communities, important issues like those FCM heard this year come to the fore. The recent federal election demonstrated this point directly.

According to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), estimates of youth voter turnout were up 10 per cent over previous elections. FCM's campaign for solutions to local needs around transit, clean water, and housing clearly

resonated with young Canadians who by and large shared these priorities.

National organizations such as Samara Canada and Apathy is Boring recognize, however, that voting is just one aspect of engagement in Canada. Young Canadians are much more engaged locally – through clubs and social groups, youth councils and other community organizations.

Through our Jack Layton Fellowship program, FCM has been developing tools and resources for our members to capitalize on engaged young Canadians. This year, for example, FCM developed and released a short video which can be easily shared and promoted locally by members. It provides a quick snapshot of what young Canadians can do to become more active in their communities.

Additionally, the Municipal Youth Engagement Handbook provides a rich variety of engagement tools that local governments can implement at home. Our members have recognized the need to educate, inform, and engage young Canadians in their communities to empower them to be champions for their communities.

Our members have recognized the need to educate, inform, and engage young Canadians in their communities to empower them to be champions for their communities.

Reaching out to young Canadians and providing information about the work of municipalities can take a variety of forms. Communities like Vancouver, BC and Guelph, ON have created youth-focused webpages that interface with the city's site and act as a portal for young citizens to learn more about their local government.

The City of Burlington, ON has, since 2009, brought together local partners and schools to host a Local Government Week, showcasing the services and opportunities available to young citizens. They use creative programming such as poster contests, and school visits by council members and senior staff to show off all of the opportunities that are available to young residents.

Many forward thinking communities have also gone the extra mile by establishing formal engagement mechanisms that bring youth into the "inner circle" of decision making. In the Town of Pelham, ON, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council brings together 15 to 20 young leaders from grades seven to 12 to act in an advisory role to the mayor directly. The council meets monthly and is given updates on significant town developments from the Mayor. The Town of Essex, ON has taken this one step further and has mandated two permanent seats on council to be held by representatives from the area high-schools. (*Editor's note: Here in Saskatchewan, the towns of Kindersley and Eston have similar initiatives.*)

These councils or committees can be incredibly valuable resources for engagement, often providing direct dialogues between local elected officials and young Canadians. In addition, young Canadians who see themselves within the political, operational, and social fabric of their community are much more likely to stay engaged and get their friends to engage over the long term.

By informing and engaging young Canadians in the business of local government, communities become better able to cope with internal challenges as well, such as the need to recruit and retain the next generation of municipal employees. The handbook provides a number of recommendations on this front as well. Examples include job shadowing, and promotion of young professional networks. Alberta's Municipal Internship Program demonstrates another positive option through the facilitation of youth internships across the province.

If we sincerely want to engage young Canadians in local government, these young leaders must be able to see themselves in their community. A consistent message we've heard from our work on the Jack Layton Fellowship is that the best advocates for increased youth engagement are young Canadians themselves. Yet local governments can provide the raw materials for this empowerment to take place.

FCM is looking forward to welcoming next year's Jack Layton Fellows and to continually building the tools and resources municipalities can draw from to engage young Canadians. To learn more about how FCM is contributing to youth engagement, visit our website at www.fcm.ca.

Other resources:

Jack Layton Fellowship information and video: www.fcm.ca/home/programs/jack-layton-fellowship.htm

Virtual Town Hall: www.fcm.ca/Documents/events/AC2015/Our_Communities.pdf

Municipal Youth Engagement Handbook: www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/FCM/Municipal_Youth_Engagement_Handbook_EN.pdf ■

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Congratulations to this year's winners!

First Place

Doctor Recruitment/Retention Strategy and Community Health & Wellness Centre
Town of Kamsack

Established a committee that developed a strategy to recruit and retain physicians in the community, including the construction of a health and wellness facility.

Second Place

Kindersley Wastewater Project
Town of Kindersley

An agreement allowing the oil and gas sector to access and utilize the wastewater from the water treatment plant to alleviate steadily increasing water consumption.

Third Place

Jubilee Park
Town of Shaunavon

Rehabilitated recreational infrastructure including a new arena, curling rink, skate park, tennis courts, playground, ball diamonds, swimming pool, basketball courts, and an outdoor rink with more plans for the future.

Regional Cooperation Award

Planning for Growth Services Agreement

RMs of Mervin, Frenchman Butte, Parkdale, and Turtle River
Villages of Paradise Hill, Glaslyn, Mervin, and Edam • Town of Turtleford

A shared-services agreement giving 19 RMs, towns and villages in the area access to the services of a growth professional planner, enabling better planning for the future for subdivisions and servicing requirements for increased infrastructure needs.

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Strengthening local government leadership with **MLDP**

Municipal Leadership
Development Program

Once again, the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) will have workshops available the day before SUMA's Annual Convention kicks off. These MLDP workshops were developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. The modules target specific issues of importance to urban, rural, and northern municipalities. Mayors, councillors, and municipal staff will strengthen local government leadership through the learning opportunities MLDP offers.

MLDP will offer five modules, each running from **9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30 at Queensbury Convention Centre.**

Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

Learn how council and staff plan for municipal success by setting strategic priorities, developing action plans, and building the financial framework to achieve the desired outcomes.

Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

This module helps find answers to key questions about economic development: What is it? Who are the players? What role can the municipality play? What kind of returns can we expect?

Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace

This highly interactive session gives participants an overview of the labour market, council and administration's role in human

resources and the legislative framework around it. You'll also learn how to deal with conflict, more about the hiring and dismissal processes, the importance of orientation and motivation, and how to manage performance.

Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities

The module teaches you how to effectively communicate with your ratepayers as well as the media. Learn how to become proactive in your public relations activities. Get tips on public speaking and techniques used by print, radio, television, and other media.

Community and Land-Use Planning

This module covers many areas around community and land-use planning: the roles and responsibilities of council, administration and the public; the creation, adoption, and amendment process for Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws; the subdivision process; servicing agreements; the development and permits process; the development appeal board process; enforcing bylaws; the building permit process; and regional planning.

If you can't make it before the SUMA Convention 2016, the same five workshops will be offered again on **Monday, March 7 at Queensbury Convention Centre** to coincide with the annual SARM Conference. ■



Introducing ROAM:

SaskWater's remote monitoring solution

SaskWater

Every community wants it: safe, reliable water and wastewater services. Every community knows the cost: a water treatment plant is often the biggest capital expenditure they will make. Then there is the cost to operate it. Finding certified operators to monitor the treatment plant around the clock simply isn't feasible for many communities. That's where remote monitoring offers a solution.

"Any community that has to operate with limited staff, who often have other duties to deal with as well, should take a look at remote monitoring," says **Randy Avery**, director of business development at SaskWater. "It can work for anyone."

SaskWater has been using its Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor its facilities around the province for eight years. From the control centre in Regina, certified operators are able to monitor water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, and distribution systems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

SCADA helps SaskWater increase safety, improve service, enhance water quality monitoring, and reduce costs. They currently use remote monitoring on all of their own facilities and those where they have a Certified Operation and Maintenance agreement.

Now they are ready to provide this service to a wider audience. And they are calling it ROAM: Remote Oversight and Monitoring.

"It provides security to the community and their operators that their systems are constantly monitored by trained, professional operations personnel. The customer still owns and

operates their facility. This is SaskWater's latest service offering to Saskatchewan communities to provide continuous monitoring of their facilities," Avery says.

"ROAM gives you peace of mind that your system is operating safely and that we will contact you immediately if a problem develops. It is beneficial for every facility not operating with staff on site on a 24/7/365 schedule."

The ROAM system offers flexibility for the operator and safety assurances to the customer. It also has the potential for cost savings related to operating a facility such as lower electricity costs or savings on chemical costs.

The Benefits for a Customer

Avery points out the benefits of remote monitoring, including increased assurance that the water treatment plant operation is running smoothly, improved ability to manage after hours call outs, increased system performance tracking and reporting, and fewer emergency call outs.

ROAM uses a state of the art SCADA system that captures data from the plant in real time and transmits it to SaskWater's control centre in Regina. Computer equipment set up to monitor the system alerts the operations staff monitoring the SCADA system 24 hours a day if any of the data falls outside the set values. If it does, the operator monitors the situation, and when necessary, alerts the community operator of a potential problem at the plant.

"The health and safety of each community member depends on the optimal operation of these water treatment plants. Using ROAM allows the town operator the flexibility of performing their



other tasks with the comfort of knowing that the plant is being monitored and the process is secure,” Avery says.

Historically water and wastewater facilities have required daily operator visitations and monitoring. Recent advances in technology have allowed automated monitoring and process control systems to enable operators to monitor certain parts of their process from remote locations. In the past this type of technology was only used in very large treatment plants and high-volume systems. The technology has improved so much over the past several years that it is affordable and accessible for even small utilities.

The remote monitoring technology can be used at water treatment plants, distribution systems, such as would interest rural pipeline associations, wastewater treatment plants, and wastewater lift stations. The basic requirements include the monitoring hardware, installation, and calibration.

“The equipment required to operate ROAM is a standard set of monitoring equipment determined by our electrical and instrumentation team. It works with the existing analyzers, level indicators, flow meters, pressure transducers, and pumps all connected to a PLC (programmable logic controller). The PLC relays the information to the SCADA server in our control centre,” explains **Randonn Swan**, SaskWater’s manager, special services.

The Value of Safety

SaskWater will purchase, install and maintain the equipment required to provide the ROAM service to a customer. The cost of the equipment is included in the monthly monitoring fee. The service will be available anywhere in Saskatchewan that has SaskTel coverage since the equipment uses the cellular network to transmit data.

“Safety for dollar value, it is a very good deal. You should have someone monitoring the water,” Swan adds.

“ROAM records all data transmitted from your plant in real time so that any anomalies are tracked and recorded immediately. This has the potential to help communities avoid precautionary drinking water advisories.”

The service can monitor a wide variety points, including turbidity, chlorine, discharge pressure, building temperature, flow, wet well level, pressure, security, pump status, and flood alarms. In the event that there is an alarm or equipment failure at the facility, the operator is notified immediately. This could save equipment from being damaged, prevent a service interruption, or prevent the need for a precautionary drinking water advisory.

Next Steps – When in ROAM

When a community expresses an interest in using ROAM to monitor their facility, a SaskWater account manager will come and visit their site. They will have a full discussion of the program, the monitoring system, what SCADA points are monitored, and the type of equipment required.

“We will follow that up with a visit to the facility with a technical specialist, and then we can create a full proposal with detailed costing. Included in the service are the cost of installation, calibration, and maintenance of the equipment used for monitoring,” Randy Avery explains.

“Annually or semi-annually, we will issue a detailed report to the customer with a summary of their data for review. This data is extremely helpful in preparing consumer confidence reports that may be required by the permit to operate,” he says.

“There is an increased peace of mind that someone is monitoring the facility 24 hours a day/seven days a week – it’s like having a full-time operator at a fraction of the cost,” Avery says. “By having continuous monitoring in your facility, you also give the public a sense of security that there is someone watching the water quality entering the community’s distribution system at all times.”

Randonn Swan and account manager **Dawn Dierker** offered a glimpse of ROAM with a presentation at the Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association (SWWA) Conference in Saskatoon in November. SaskWater is officially launching the new service at the SUMA convention in February. Drop by their booth at the convention to learn more. ■



CONFLICTING CLAUSES: ARE YOUR BYLAWS BY THE BOOK?

Steven Dribnenki, Policy and Legal Advisor, SUMA

While municipalities are empowered to pass a wide range of bylaws, that power is no greater than what the province grants – or prohibits – them to do. Whenever you are considering, enacting, and reviewing bylaws, always start by asking yourself: Are your bylaws abiding by the provincial statute book?

This is no small task, and requires constant vigilance. Review your bylaws on a regular basis to ensure they are clearly worded, readily enforceable, and up to date – and not in conflict – with provincial legislation.

This task can be challenging with the province increasingly allowing municipalities the general powers to adopt bylaws in more and more areas. While having this general power to pass bylaws gives municipalities more freedom to respond to local concerns, it can also be difficult to determine reliable language and definitions to use in the bylaw without legislative direction.

For instance, *The Clean Air Act*, which is cited in many municipal bylaws across Saskatchewan, was repealed in June

2015 with the view that the general municipal bylaw power (as an example, section 8 of *The Municipalities Act*) provided sufficient municipal jurisdiction to regulate. While this frees up municipalities from having to seek ministerial approval for clean air or burning bylaws, your existing bylaw may be affected. In these circumstances, where there is no provincial intention to limit municipal jurisdiction, municipalities can still use the repealed act for guidance on definitions of words and phrases when drafting a new bylaw.

In the Supreme Court decision *United Taxi Drivers' Fellowship of Southern Alberta v Calgary (City)*, 2004 SCC 19, the court held that when a province repeals specific legislation in favour of general powers, this should not be taken by implication that the province intended to remove the specific powers granted by the previous legislation. At issue was a challenge to a city bylaw that limited the issuance of taxi plate licenses. The court adopted a broad and purposeful



approach to statutory interpretation, and found that although the province had changed the legislation, the new legislation still granted municipalities the general authority to provide a system of licenses and did not indicate an intention to limit municipal power. By stating the power in more general terms, the court found that the province had in fact enhanced municipal regulatory powers.

So, how does this work? An example of taking guidance from previous legislation is the usage of the “junked vehicles” definition that was in the repealed *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984*. Although current municipal legislation allows regulation of junked vehicles, the term “junked vehicles” is not specifically defined. By adopting the wording used in the repealed municipal legislation in bylaws, municipalities are using reliable and clear language that can be easily referenced and understood by the province and judiciary.

The flip side of this lack of legislative direction is when legislation specifies what municipalities are permitted to do. In *Baker v Sherwood No. 159 (Rural Municipality)*, 2015 SKQB 301, the court held that municipalities are bound to closely follow legislative language when a specific power is set out. As noted in the fall issue of *Urban Voice*, in 2014, the province ordered an inspection and later an inquiry into allegations about the RM of Sherwood’s handling of the proposed Wascana Village development. After the inquiry was announced, the RM reviewed options regarding reimbursing council members for legal expenses connected to the inquiry and passed a reimbursement bylaw to do so.

The reimbursement bylaw cited section 355 of *The*

Municipalities Act as the source of its authority, but had key differences in language. For example, the bylaw used the imperative word “shall” while the act used the permissive word “may.” The bylaw also applied to all actions or proceedings arising out of any acts or omissions of council members, while the act only permitted the municipality to pay costs of defending a liability claim against a councillor. Meanwhile, residents took issue with the bylaw and applied to the court to quash it.

The court held that the bylaw was more expansive than what the act permitted and as a result was invalid. In particular, the court noted the use of “shall” instead of “may” and that the bylaw expanded coverage beyond the act’s limit to defending a claim. The court also considered the context of the bylaw in that it was adopted for the purpose of responding to the inquiry.

Provincial legislation is always changing. This constant change is necessary to improve legislation and to respond to new issues. Look to previous legislation when seeking direction on how to use general powers, and mirror wording when attempting to comply with specific legislation. While it can be challenging, take the time to make sure your existing and future bylaws comply with and correspond to provincial legislation – or your bylaw could find itself on the wrong side of a conflict. ■

The goal of SUMA Legal Services is to assist members on legal issues and keep members up to date on decisions and trends in municipal law. This service does not create a solicitor-client relationship. For legal advice about your specific situation, contact your community’s lawyer.

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Physician Retention

– a collaborative, but complicated approach

It is a common story in Saskatchewan and western Canada: A community is elated to have and welcome a new physician. But after the welcoming events are over and life continues, the physician leaves. Recruitment starts all over again.

Not only is this a common story, it is one that clinics, health regions and communities throughout Canada have been dealing with for many years. This typical scenario begs the obvious question: What can we do to improve physician retention in Saskatchewan? The simplest answer is to work together. However, as we all know, that is more complicated than it sounds.

This fall, saskdocs met with practicing physicians, clinics, health regions, and communities around the province to try to work through some of the complexities surrounding physician retention in order to improve it.

“When we talk to partners like the health regions, established and practicing physicians interested in succession planning for their practice, or just with communities looking to keep the physicians, one thing stands out: Physician retention involves so much more than the physician,” said saskdocs CEO **Dr. Dennis Kendel**. “That is just one of the things we’ve learned over the years and we want to share some of this information with communities and employers like the health regions.”



saskdocs' Senior Recruitment Consultant Brenda Taylor engaging with SUMA delegates at Convention 2015 in Saskatoon

Research on the subject has shown that effective physician recruitment strategies must go beyond just filling vacancies with the first available recruit. Time and effort must be spent to ensure a good fit between each physician and the community to which he/she is recruited. First and foremost, there must be good alignment between the skill set of the recruited physician and the medical service needs in the community. If the medical role to be filled requires effective collaboration with other healthcare professionals, a demonstrated commitment to teamwork and a record of effective service from that team should be a prerequisite. Attentiveness to the career goals of a spouse/partner and any special needs of a physician's children are also important.

In an effort to work closer with health regions and communities, saskdocs set up meetings throughout the province this past fall. Combining our efforts with partners like the regions and communities will help us settle new physicians and their families in those communities over the long term. The activities essential to effective physician settlement are often shared between health regions, community-based agencies, municipal councils, medical clinics, and local physicians in formal or informal leadership roles. Without effective integration and co-ordination, some key elements of optimal physician settlement get overlooked.

Dr. Kendel and Senior Recruitment Consultant **Brenda Taylor** met with health region staff, board members, and community leaders in the following health regions:

- Kelsey Trail
- Five Hills
- Saskatoon
- Sunrise
- Heartland
- Regina-Qu'Appelle
- Sun Country

Taylor wants to know if the regions and communities can shed any light on what communities and health regions have to offer the physician's spouse and family members. "saskdocs has also been conducting surveys at regular intervals over the past couple of years in conjunction with the SMA (Saskatchewan Medical Association).

The survey results repeatedly show that employment opportunities for the physician's spouse are a huge priority and often are deciding factors on whether or not the physician intends to stay," said Taylor.

"We took an informal approach to these meetings," said Dr. Kendel. "They weren't structured in any way, but they were more of an opportunity for

us to share what we've learned about physician retention and for the health regions and communities to share with us some of their successes and challenges."

If you are a community member interested in working with saskdocs on physician retention, send us an email (info@saskdocs.ca) or give us a call (1-888-415-3627). ■



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Knowledge the Best Weapon in Fight Against Scammers

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The use of technology has brought many improvements to our lives, but unfortunately, has also increased our exposure to scams. Phone, email, and Internet scams are becoming more common as scammers find new and sophisticated ways to take advantage of people's trust. But we don't have to live our lives in fear of being a victim; we can educate ourselves and our loved ones on what to watch out for.

Lately, utility scams seem to be on the rise. Scammers impersonate power, water, and natural gas services companies to try to dupe their victims. At SaskPower, we're seeing this more and more. The scammers call or send emails to our customers, posing as us, and threaten to disconnect the customer's service unless they pay up immediately. Once the scammer gains access to their victim's credit card and personal information, they move to steal as much as they can, as quickly as they can.

Our customers should know that this

scam is totally contrary to our standard practices. If someone is severely behind on their payments, we'll always send a letter first to let the customer know that they're past due. We'll never give a customer an ultimatum to pay in a matter of hours, and we'll never ask the customer to pay by credit card to an alternate account, or by using pre-paid cards. We'll call customers sometimes to let them know they're past due on their payments; however, we don't send emails asking for your personal information.

If customers are unsure, they can always call us at 1-800-SKPOWER (1-800-757-6937). Anyone who thinks they are being targeted by a scam should hang up immediately and call their local police department and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

While this all might seem straightforward to some, that's not always the case. Scammers have been

using these methods to target those they believe most vulnerable to their tactics, such as the elderly. Scammers have also targeted people who have recently immigrated to Saskatchewan. The scammers are betting that some newcomers don't entirely know how our processes work. They are trying to take advantage of language issues, cultural differences, and the worry many small business owners have when they are just starting out and working hard to succeed.

One restaurant owner and SaskPower customer was recently contacted by a scammer just before her lunch rush. She feared her restaurant would be shut down due to not having power, so she made the requested payment of \$1,200. Shortly after, she contacted our customer service department and quickly realized what had happened. Because our customer service representatives had previously encountered this situation and had been briefed by our Enterprise Security team,



we were able to advise the customer on what to do next. Fortunately, she was able to recover \$800 of the \$1,200 paid. Some have not been so lucky.

So what can we do about it? As an organization that cares deeply about building trust with our customers, we're determined to reverse this trend. We're reaching out to people through the usual channels: talking with our customers, putting information on our website, and trying to educate our customers through social media. Our Enterprise Security team is working to stay on top of the issue, working with our customers and the authorities to identify new scams and ways to stop them.

But maybe the solution to this technological issue also requires a traditional response. Perhaps some scammers have been successful because in our busy, high-tech lives we often forget that helping to protect our friends and loved ones can be as simple as having a conversation. For

the grandparent who lived the majority of their lives in a different age, spending a few short minutes with them to teach them how to use technology safely might make a big difference. Or to the restaurant owner who may have just arrived to Saskatchewan from another part of the world, maybe an offer of help from one of their customers or neighbours could have prevented the loss of their hard-earned money.

As Saskatchewanians, we've always known that working together is the way we confront challenges. When there's an outage in the province, we ask you to help us identify its location by picking up the phone and calling us. There's no satellite or computer program that's pinpointing and fixing the problem. *You* are crucial to relaying information that we need to help us get the lights back on. So when it comes to protecting our friends and loved ones from being victimized by scammers, why should it be any different? ■

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KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE during the next big storm

Stephen Marks,
Municipal Manager, City of Hoboken

Back in 2012, Superstorm Sandy completely disabled my town of Hoboken, NJ. Five hundred million gallons of brackish water flooded our streets, homes, and critical infrastructure. Ninety per cent of the city lost power, and this devastating situation lasted for about two weeks. Citizens – low-income and senior citizens, in particular – found themselves in a dire situation. Basic services such as grocery stores and pharmacies were closed or unreachable. Fresh food and water dwindled rapidly. Many elderly and disabled people in need of oxygen or dialysis were stranded. And, no matter how hard they worked, emergency personnel, first responders and volunteers couldn't perform evacuations and repairs quickly enough. As a city administrator, I can attest that this was a very humbling experience because there wasn't anything we could do to help our constituents – our neighbors.

In the aftermath of Sandy, Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer vowed “never again” and immediately began investigating what the city should do to prepare for the next big storm. She asked

if a microgrid – an efficient and resilient electricity system that is independent of the regional power grid – could be what Hoboken needed to keep the lights on and ensure that even our most vulnerable citizens could stay safe during the next crisis. Living in a dense urban landscape populated by mid-rise and high-rise buildings, we knew that our residents were not all going to be able to evacuate, so we wanted to design a system that would allow them to ‘shelter-in-place.’ During a crisis, mass evacuations divert valuable resources away from other pressing issues, but microgrids have the ability to provide communities with the electricity for essential services they need until regular power is restored.

If you've ever looked into establishing a microgrid for your own town, you'll know that microgrids typically take years to implement and require in-depth knowledge of energy markets, engineering, electricity systems, stakeholder management and economic analysis. Therefore, we realized that partnerships are an essential part of making our microgrid a reality. Using



recovery funds, we engaged Sandia National Labs to design a microgrid to provide back-up power to critical buildings including the police headquarters, fire stations, the ambulance corps, pharmacies, senior buildings, emergency shelters and low-income housing. Selecting these particular buildings would allow emergency services and those who are most vulnerable to effectively function during times of extreme strain. In addition to partnering with Sandia, we selected the environmental design firm Greener by Design as our energy consultant to help manage the project. As time went on, Greener by Design discovered that we could use a toolkit to engage stakeholders, organize data management and allow for knowledge sharing. To bring this toolkit to life, we partnered with EDF Climate Corps – a unique fellowship program that embeds trained graduate students within organizations to accelerate clean energy projects over the summer. Our EDF fellow developed the toolkit for us, and as a result, we're aiming to break ground on the microgrid next summer.

It's not a matter of *if* there will be a next storm, but *when*, so as government officials, it's up to us to prepare and find proven ways to keep our residents safe and secure.

The toolkit includes a centralized dashboard allowing stakeholders to share knowledge among one another on issues like energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions per building, the use of renewables and costs year-over-year. An adjustable, milestone-based timeline enables users to track progress on these long-term projects and keep all stakeholders informed. Also, a special scorecard allows users to measure the benefits of their project, including environmental, financial and social benefits, and compare their microgrid against others.

Cities up and down the East Coast face the same challenges as Hoboken due to extreme storm events, rising sea levels and increased dependence on energy. As local government administrators are tasked with improving the resiliency of their infrastructure, microgrids are a key way they can accomplish this. Seeing this trend, our EDF Climate Corps fellow is currently working to put her Resilient Microgrids Toolkit onto an online platform where other city managers will be able to use it.

All this work has important implications for states and localities across the United States. It's not a matter of *if* there will be a next storm, but *when*, so as government officials, it's up to us to prepare and find proven ways to keep our residents safe and secure. We are also long past due to update our antiquated and rigid electricity system. Microgrids can help not just during storms, but also on hot summer days when electric utilities are strained. They can prevent costly brownouts and blackouts, and enhance quality of life for residents. If you haven't looked into implementing a microgrid in your city, I encourage you to take a look because microgrids have the incredible potential to enhance safety, resiliency, sustainability and quality of life.

To learn more about the toolkit and how your city could benefit from a microgrid, visit ResilientMicrogrids.com. ■





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Renewed program with Signal Industries and Guardian Traffic Services

According to **Tania Meier**, Director of Corporate Programs and Member Services for SUMA, “One of the oldest SUMAdvantage programs has been revised and updated – and is the first program to be launched under the revamped SUMAdvantage business model.” Under the new business model, programs created under SUMAdvantage are taken through a request for proposal process that follows best practices in public procurement. Members are also involved in the process through participation on the bid evaluation committee. Signal Industries and Guardian Traffic Services are sister companies under the ATS Traffic Group umbrella. Previously, their SUMAdvantage program primarily supplied municipalities with traffic signage. But under the new program, they offer much, much more.

Gwyn Tremblay, Sales Manager for ATS Traffic Group, says, “We have really fine-tuned our operation in order to better serve municipalities. Signal Industries (1998) Ltd. and Guardian Traffic Services are sister companies of ATS Traffic Group. Basically, Signal is the manufacturing arm, while Guardian and ATS look after sales. We have instituted a Lean Management System, which is committed to customer value and focuses key processes to continuously increase that value, while eliminating waste.”

Continuing, Gwyn adds, “When it comes to products, signage is still what most clients know us for, but we also offer traffic lights, solar radar, barriers, road markings, underground trench shoring, traffic calming solutions, etc. – and the complete installation of all these products. We also offer traffic control services for construction companies that are working on local infrastructure projects, providing these companies and their workers with cost-savings and peace of mind.

“What a lot of people don’t know about us is we have an in-house engineering department that can draft traffic control plans and strategies that are specific to your municipality’s needs. Since we are Saskatchewan-based, these traffic control plans also meet provincial and local authorities’ codes.

“Another area that municipal officials may be unaware of is their ability to rent traffic equipment. This can be an ideal short-term solution to a traffic situation. And sometimes you can use these rentals as a tax write-off. Also, by renting, you can try the latest technology before you buy.”

Guardian is a certified 3M fabricator, meaning its production, products, and quality of manufacturing has been verified to meet 3M’s stringent industry requirements. 3M fabricated signs last longer than other signs (and come with a warranty of up to 10 years) meaning your taxpayers dollars go further. Guardian’s fabricators must be certified by 3M annually – just another quality check that ATS Group is pleased to embrace.

Gwyn is adamant that customer service is at the heart of Signal/Guardian SUMAdvantage program. “There is no sense offering our extended product line if we aren’t going to do

whatever we can to make the purchasing of these products a positive experience for our municipal customers. In the area of pricing, under the new program, SUMA members get 10 per cent off of list price and a further four per cent discount on the invoice received by SUMA. This is in addition to the already preferred pricing discounts that have been applied (these discounts vary depending on the product and service). And our sales staff provides up-to-date regulatory changes on orders based on the Uniform Traffic Control Manual of Canada and/or the Saskatchewan Department of Highways Manual for signs.”

“Safety is at the heart of everything we do,” says Gwyn.

“It’s behind all our products and the reason we use high-grade aluminum (sign grade 5052-H38) in our signs. It is why we are always exploring new technology and products like the new ‘rumble strips’ from RoadQuakes that alert drivers to the fact they are approaching construction zones and workers. It’s why we deliver our traffic technology course to municipalities on behalf of the Canadian government.”

For SUMA’s part, Tania says, “We are very excited about this new program. ATS Traffic Group has undergone recent changes such as adopting Lean management techniques, and SUMA has updated the SUMAdvantage program; so the timing for this re-launched program is absolutely perfect. Both organizations have instituted well-thought-out plans to get better and this new program is the result.”

Gwyn concludes, “This year marks the 50th anniversary of being in business for both Signal Industries and ATS Traffic Group. It’s an ideal time to renew our SUMAdvantage program, and enhance existing relationships with old municipal friends and begin new relationships with other Saskatchewan municipalities.”

When you call, please identify yourself as a SUMA member.

Signal Industries
Tel: 800-565-9443
Fax: 800-723-2438
www.signalindustries.ca

Guardian Traffic Services (Regina)
Tel: 800-214-1477
Fax: 306-565-8808
www.ATSTrafficgroup.com

Guardian Traffic Service (Saskatoon)
Tel: 306-242-4407
Fax: 306-975-9131
www.ATSTrafficgroup.com

For more information on the revamped SUMAdvantage business model, please contact Tania Meier at tmeier@suma.org or 306-525-4379. ■



Following is a list of our SUMAdvantage programs by category. To learn more about a program, visit the SUMA website.

If you need additional information, please contact SUMA's Corporate Programs and Member Services Director, **Tania Meier**, at 306-525-4379 or email tmeier@suma.org

OFFICE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Apparel, Promotional Items and Sporting Goods	Prince Albert Source for Sports	306-764-3285	www.pasourceforsports.ca
Election Material	SUMA	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Lapel Pins	Laurie Artiss Limited	800-667-8168	www.thepinpeople.ca
Long Distance, Cellular and Internet Services	SaskTel	306-525-4379	www.sasktel.com
Municipal Magazine	Municipal World	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Network and Email Solutions	Lexcom Systems Group Inc.	306-545-9242	www.lexcom.ca
Office Machines	SUCCESS Office Systems	800-667-8173	www.succesos.com
Office Products	Supreme Basics	800-667-3690	www.supremebasics.com
Shipping Labels	SUMA	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Software	Acrodex	306-584-3401	www.acrodex.com

PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS AND LEISURE

Cat and Dog Tag Licensing and Animal Control	Ketchum Manufacturing	306-525-3727	www.suma.org
Equipment Rental	Hertz Equipment Rental	800-777-2700	www.hertzequip.com
Fuel Supply	PFA Canada	800-807-3750	www.pfacanada.ca
Janitorial Supplies	Chatterson Janitorial Supplies	800-667-8178	www.chatterson.com
Mosquito Control	Direct Solutions	800-661-2991	www.aatdirecsolutions.com
Municipal Tires	Kal Tire	Contact nearest location	www.kaltire.com
Municipal Tires	Michelin	Purchase through Kal Tire, Saskatoon Wholesale Tire or Graham's Tire.	
Natural Gas	Connect Energy Partnership	866-934-6918	www.connectenergy.ca
Solar Pool Heating	Kelln Solar Consulting Ltd.	306-731-2224	www.kellnsolar.com
Traffic Signs	Signal Industries Ltd.	800-565-9443	www.signalindustries.ca

HOTEL AND VEHICLE

Fleet Management and Vehicle Rental	Enterprise Rent-a-car	800-736-8227	www.enterpriserentacar.ca
Regina Hotel and Convention Host Hotel	DoubleTree by Hilton (Regina)	306-525-6767	www.doubletree.com
Regina Hotel	Travelodge Regina	306-586-3443	www.travelodgeregina.com
Saskatoon Hotel	Park Town (Saskatoon)	800-667-3999	www.parktownhotel.com
Saskatoon Hotel	Travelodge Saskatoon	888-278-4209	www.travelodgesaskatoon.com

FINANCIAL

Borrowing and Financing	BMO Bank of Montreal	Contact nearest branch location	www.bmo.ca
Building Valuations	Suncorp Valuations	800-764-4454	www.suncorpvaluations.com
Credit and Debit Merchant Services	First Data	306-241-5008	www.firstdatacanada.ca



- SAMA has completed and implemented phase one of our multi-phase Technology Infrastructure (TI) Program, which saw upgrades to the interface of SAMA's internal computer system. The resulting efficiency gains are expected to improve our ability to complete maintenance in a more timely fashion for 2016, and begin to increase our capacity to conduct property reinspections going forward. For more information on the TI Program, please visit SAMA's website at www.sama.sk.ca.

- SAMA conducts revaluations based on a four-year cycle. 2013 was the year of the last revaluation, and in 2017 assessed values will be updated to reflect a new base date of January 1, 2015. The Agency recognizes that all parties should be provided with as much time as possible to examine the assessment shifts and make tax policy decisions prior to 2017. SAMA plans to ensure that preliminary values are communicated to Government Relations on or before April 1, 2016, and to our client municipalities by September 1, 2016.

- SAMA is continually working to improve our customer service. Part of our ongoing efforts to prioritize maintenance work is to establish service charters with municipalities that detail their individual delivery needs. Contact your local SAMA office for more details or to discuss setting up a maintenance service charter.

- For more information on SAMA or Saskatchewan's assessment system, or to view individual property assessments on SAMAView, please visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262,
or by email: info.request@sama.sk.ca.

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Blue Imp	19	800-661-1462	www.blueimp.com
Brandt Tractor Ltd.	7	888-227-2638	www.brandt.ca
Bullee Consulting Ltd.	16	306-477-2822	www.bulleeconsulting.com
Catterall & Wright Consulting Engineers	26	306-343-7280	www.cwce.ca
Clifton Associates	33	306-721-7611	www.clifton.ca
Commercial Pool and Recreational Products	33	888-523-9274	www.cp-rp.com
Community Initiatives Fund	47	306-780-9308	www.cifsask.org
CUBEX	17	204-336-0008	www.cubexltd.com
DoubleTree by Hilton	55	306-525-6767	www.regina.doubletree.com
Ducks Unlimited Canada	27	306-569-0424	www.ducks.ca
EPRA Saskatchewan	13	888-567-4535	www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk
Handy Hitch	18	800-665-2490	www.handyhitch.com
Industrial Machine Inc	23	587-286-2772	www.industrialmachine.ca
Jeff Jackson Playground Pro	45	866-757-5502	www.playgroundpro.ca
LEXCOM	35	877-539-2663	www.lexcom.ca
McElhanney Consulting Services	49	306-649-0740	www.mcelhanney.com
MPE Engineering Ltd.	37	866-329-3442	www.mpe.ca
Municipal Utilities	6	306-530-3141	www.municipalutilities.ca
Museums Association of Saskatchewan	43	866-568-7386	www.saskmuseums.org
Park N Play	37	866-551-8188	www.parknplaydesign.com
Pinter & Associates Ltd.	32	306-244-1710	www.pinter.ca
Prairie Wild Consulting	37	306-222-8481	www.prairiewildconsulting.ca
Pre-Con Limited	24	306-931-9229	www.preconltd.ca
Recycle Saskatchewan	27	855-665-6105	www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca
Rubber Stone	52	888-786-6333	don@sierrastone.com
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	52	800-667-7262	www.sama.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery	9	877-645-7275	www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation	33	306-787-2105	www.pcs.gov.sk.ca/shf
Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy	54		www.economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association	52	306-780-9231	www.spra.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board	26	800-667-7590	www.worksafesask.ca
SaskCulture	43	866-476-6830	www.saskculture.ca
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SHURE	25	800-363-8855	www.shurecanada.com
Stantec	14	306-781-6400	www.stantec.com
SUMA/Healthcare Spending Account	35	306-525-4390	saudette@suma.org
Suncorp Valuations	3	800-764-4454	www.suncorpvaluations.com
TAXervice	37	877-734-3113	www.taxervice.com
Tetra Tech EBA Inc.	52	306-347-4000	www.tetrattech.com/canada
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Creative Options Regina

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