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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Parity on Agenda for Saskatchewan's Northeast Hometowns

Municipal leaders from 20 hometowns in northeast Saskatchewan are gathered in Melfort today to discuss matters important to their communities.

Parity at the council table is one of the topics at the Northeast Regional Meeting hosted by the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA).

"A 2016 SUMA survey found that women occupy only 14 per cent of mayors positions and 28 per cent of councillors' seats in Saskatchewan," said Glenn George, Northeast Regional Director and councillor for the City of Melfort. "Gender parity in public office is growing, but there is still more work to be done to encourage parity at the council table."

On social media this October, to celebrate Women's History Month and highlight the importance of parity at the council table, SUMA is featuring eight local women in politics who are serving their communities.

Other topics of discussion today are climate change, prompt payment legislation, and building standards.

The Northeast Regional Meeting is one of seven regional meetings being hosted by SUMA between October 1 – October 9.

"Regional meetings are a chance for municipal officials to share ideas and discuss challenges with fellow leaders from their region," said SUMA President Gordon Barnhart.

Leaders attending the Northeast Regional Meeting represent: Annaheim Avlsham Can

Aylsham Candle Lake Choiceland Carrot River **Christopher Lake** Cudworth Hudson Bay Humboldt Kinistino Melfort LeRoy Naicam Nipawin **Porcupine Plain** Tobin Lake St. Brieux Wakaw Wakaw Lake Watson -30-

For more information visit www.suma.org, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Founded in 1905, SUMA is the voice of Saskatchewan's hometowns.