

November 17, 2017

Gordon Barnhart, C.M., S.O.M, Ph.D  
President  
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)  
200 – 2222 13th Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 3M7

Re: Questions for Leadership Candidates of the Saskatchewan Party

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to provide my responses to your very important questions. As former Minister of Justice and Attorney General and Minister responsible for SaskPower, I have had the opportunity to work in some of the areas mentioned in your letter and I am happy to provide details on my perspective. I have included my responses to each of your questions below:

1. I support providing one point of the PST revenue being dedicated to municipal revenue sharing. It will ensure certainty and predictability for municipalities as they make plans for their own budgets. I am also committed to re-evaluating all other funding envelopes available to municipalities to make sure that funding is based on fairness, adequacy and balance.
2. I support working with SUMA and other stakeholders to develop a provincial infrastructure program. I have previously announced that within the first six months of becoming the Premier I would host a provincial transportation summit, in which SUMA would be invited to attend and participate. I propose this summit would be the main catalyst toward the development of a long-term infrastructure strategy for Saskatchewan, which would have broader focus than just on transportation and could be applied to infrastructure general. During this collaboration, I would like to explore innovative funding models and opportunities to lever private capital for provincial and home town infrastructure projects. I believe that a made-in-Saskatchewan program will allow the unique needs of municipalities and our province to be met, and in turn will provide a better quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan.
3. Yes. I am committed to developing a formalized consultation protocol between the Government of Saskatchewan and SUMA. This process should go beyond the existing dialogue sessions and annual meetings and should include the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. In addition to a formalized process, I propose to create a sub-committee of Cabinet dedicated to municipal issues which would be chaired by the Minister of Government Relations, and report back to Cabinet on a regular basis.
4. I am committed to having a dialogue with municipalities and SUMA about this issue to determine which revenue sources may be available.
5. As the former Minister of Justice and Minister responsible for SaskPower I have been very engaged on the climate change file. Our Government has committed to moving to having 50 percent of our power generation coming from renewable sources by 2030 and we are currently working on a made-in-Saskatchewan solution to the reduction of emissions. I will work with SUMA and municipalities on developing strategies to deal with climate change. I will also provide SUMA with a seat at the provincial table for discussions on climate change. The exact format can be discussed with SUMA and may be included in the formal consultation process we establish. These proposed measures will allow all provincial leaders to participate the solutions to climate change and SUMA's participation will allow us to be responsive to local needs and their unique challenges.

6. As I indicated in my first response, I am committed to reviewing funding envelopes available to municipalities to make sure that funding is based on fairness, adequacy and balance. I will include compensation to municipalities from SaskPower and SaskEnergy in that review process to determine the best way to address this issue.

7. As a Government we have made record investments in infrastructure and as Premier I will continue this record. With respect to provincial participation in Phase II of the federal infrastructure program, I believe that this is another opportunity for dialogue with SUMA to determine appropriate levels of provincial participation in strategic infrastructure projects. I hope to develop a plan in consultation with SUMA and other stakeholders to ensure that resources are maximized.

Thank you for taking the time to write and for providing me with an opportunity to share my ideas. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Gordon Wyant, Q.C.