



*Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
113th Annual Convention
February 4 – 7, 2018
Queensbury Convention Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan*

Resolutions Committee:
*Councillor Mike O'Donnell
Councillor Pat Jackson
Councillor Dawn Luhning
Councillor Richard Beck
Mayor Bob Maloney
Councillor Don Cody*

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Presentation of resolutions:

- The Resolutions Committee will determine the order in which resolutions are presented at the Convention.
- All speakers must be both elected officials and Convention delegates.
- All speakers, other than the sponsor, are given two minutes to speak.
- Sponsors must be present to “second” their resolution and are limited to three (3) minutes speaking time.
- Should a sponsor not second their resolution, the resolution is considered defeated.
- Sponsors may choose to withdraw their resolution from the floor rather than seconding it. This will be allowed without voting or debate.
- Following the remarks from the sponsor, the Resolutions Committee chair will ask for speakers opposed to the motion, or seeking amendments to the resolution, to speak.
- If an amendment is proposed:
 - the amender will be given two (2) minutes to speak on behalf of the amendment.
 - If a speaker is opposed to the amendment, regular debate then occurs.
 - Once debate has concluded, or if there is no speaker opposed, the question is called.
 - If the amendment is successful, the amendment will be recorded, and the chair will ask for any speaker opposed to the amended resolution to speak.
- If there is no speaker opposed, then the question is called.
- If a speaker is opposed, regular debate then occurs.
- If debate has occurred, the sponsoring municipality is provided a one (1) minute closing remark before voting occurs.
- Resolutions which are not debated at a resolutions session because of insufficient time or lack of a quorum will be presented to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Table of Contents	Page
First Responders.....	1
True Costs of Vandalism	1
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) Rates.....	2
Critical Incident Stress Management for Saskatchewan Firefighters.....	2
Permits for Controlled Burning.....	3
Single RCMP Per Capita Rate	3
Road Closure Policy	4
Town Urban Highway Program	5
Federal Equalization	5
Energy East	6
Door-to-Door Postal Services	6
Electoral Funding Improvements.....	6
Infrastructure Funding.....	7
In Camera Meeting Standards.....	7
Assessment Appeal Timelines.....	8
Empowering All Municipalities to Create Tax Subclasses	9
LED Lighting.....	10
New Environmental Code	10
Renewable Energy Production	11
SUMA Correspondence	11
Supporting the Public Library System	11
Expanded PST Revenues for Revenue Sharing	12
Regional Boards of Revision for Property Evaluations	13

1. First Responders

Village of Torquay

Whereas first responders are of vital importance in small urban areas and act as the first wave of response to most medical emergencies; and

Whereas new, qualified first responders are more difficult to find, due to a lack of funded training and program support; and

Whereas the overall population of first responders is reducing due to retirement and burnout;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Health to provide funding for the recruitment and training of first responders.

2. True Costs of Vandalism

Town of Outlook

Whereas acts of vandalism and theft against community property have both a psychological impact on the community as a whole, in the perception of loss of safety and of community pride, and a very real cost to taxpayers, who must bear the cost of repair or replacement, on a repeated basis; and

Whereas programs such as fine options and others impose an even greater real cost to the municipalities, in that the offender requires supervision, usually by paid municipal employees; and

Whereas the current sentences handed down do not normally address full restitution to the municipalities affected;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Justice to request statement of accounts of all costs incurred to repair and/or replace items vandalized or stolen from a municipality, and to submit such statement to the court with a recommendation to the presiding judge for full restitution by the offender — or in the case of a youth, that the parents or guardian of that youth be responsible for full restitution — and that terms be such that the full cost of the willful acts be repaid to the municipality over a reasonable period of time.

3. Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) Rates

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas many municipal fire departments choose to provide MVC services, despite the significant costs for equipment and training; and

Whereas SGI is responsible for providing compensation to fire departments for attending MVCs; and

Whereas municipalities incur these heavy costs for providing services, regardless of whether a call is considered “productive” or “non-productive” by SGI; and

Whereas third-party research has shown that the current compensation rates, even for time deemed “productive,” are failing to provide cost-recovery for fire departments; and

Whereas overburdening municipal fire departments will result in fewer being able to afford to provide critical MVC rescue services to the residents of Saskatchewan, potentially endangering lives;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate SGI and the Minister Responsible for SGI to have productive and non-productive call classifications removed, and to implement a \$1,200 per hour MVC callout rate, in line with third-party research recommendations.

4. Critical Incident Stress Management for Saskatchewan Firefighters

Town of Balgonie

Whereas the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association believes strongly in the importance of mental health as it applies to the fire service; and

Whereas the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association has already started a Critical Incident Stress Management initiative with support from the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs and the Emergency Management and Fire Safety branch of the provincial Ministry of Government Relations; and

Whereas all the people in this province are at one time or another protected by fire and rescue services including: volunteer, paid-on-call, and/or paid career fire departments, be it in their residence or when travelling around this great province; and

Whereas the fire service has no consistent immediate access to the help that is needed to make sure they have access to mental health support especially critical incident stress management; and

Whereas further counselling may be needed to make sure that our fire and rescue services providers can continue to contribute and serve this province after experiencing a traumatic event; and

Whereas the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association believes that the needs should be met by the communities as a whole in Saskatchewan;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities assess a one-time per capita levy of \$0.50 for all the residents in their member municipalities; and

Be it further resolved that these funds collected be placed in trust with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association, with account oversight from the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs.

5. Permits for Controlled Burning

Town of Churchbridge

Whereas there has been concern over the number of fires burning out of control in our province; and

Whereas landowners are asked to notify the government controlled-burn hotline when starting a controlled burn; and

Whereas Manitoba has a burning permit process in place;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to require all landowners proceeding with a controlled burn to apply for a permit with their local municipality. Issuing the permit will be at the discretion of the municipality, based on fire conditions at the time; and

Be it further resolved that landowners neglecting to obtain a burning permit from the municipality should receive a \$2,000 fine, and be responsible for any costs incurred to respond to, and/or extinguish the fire. If a permit is not obtained and a local fire department must respond, the fine payment issued will be forwarded to the local fire department that responded to the fire.

6. Single RCMP Per Capita Rate

Town of Lumsden

Whereas most Saskatchewan municipalities with populations under 5,000 use RCMP services contracted by the Province of Saskatchewan; and

Whereas the Province of Saskatchewan, through the Ministry of Justice, assesses a portion of the cost of this service to municipalities through *The Police Act, 1990*; and

Whereas the Ministry of Justice uses a two-tier system of assessing cost, in which municipalities with detachments pay a higher per capita cost than municipalities without detachments;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Justice to have RCMP service costs assessed at one per capita rate for all municipalities (urban and rural) that fall under the provincial policing contract.

Background

The present per capita system, where municipalities with an RCMP detachment are charged a higher per capita rate than municipalities that do not host a detachment, was designed when RCMP members were still required to reside in their detachment municipality — which was thought to bring additional value to the municipality. The residence policy is no longer in place, making the larger per capita rate unfair for municipalities with detachments.

Implementing a single per capita charge would increase rates for municipalities without detachments by only \$7.47, to reduce costs for municipalities with detachments by \$19.81 per capita.

	2016 Census	Two-tier rate projected for 2017		Single per capita rate projected for 2017		Shift
Municipalities under 5,000 <u>without</u> detachments	272,547	\$44.25	\$12,061,177	\$51.72	\$14,096,710	\$2,035,533
Municipalities under 5,000 <u>with</u> detachments	102,703	\$71.53	\$7,347,550	\$51.72	\$5,312,017	(\$2,035,533)
			\$19,408,727		\$19,408,727	

7. Road Closure Policy

Town of Churchbridge

Whereas the death of a tow truck driver due to road conditions was reported in spring 2017; and

Whereas the RCMP have asked that municipalities support their ability to close roads when they feel it is unsafe to travel on them; and

Whereas Manitoba has a road closure policy that allows RCMP to close roads;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to change road closure regulations to allow RCMP to close highways in the case of unsafe conditions.

8. Town Urban Highway Program

Town of Canora

Whereas the provincial highway system passes through many cities, towns, and villages to the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents and visitors; and

Whereas the Ministry of Highways created the Town Urban Highway program to provide funding to municipalities for highway connector maintenance and rehabilitation; and

Whereas the condition of some highway connectors has worsened to the point that program funding is insufficient to make the required repairs or a full rehabilitation; and

Whereas the ministry is responsible under the program for funding 100 per cent of the first rehabilitation of highway connectors, yet cannot provide any specific data regarding priority rankings or timelines for repaving of these connectors, and will only undertake the work if there is an adjacent highway project; and

Whereas, municipalities are now in a position where they may have to fund the full rehabilitation of highway connectors;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial government to have the Ministry of Highways make connector rehabilitation a priority according to condition, not location, and make reasonably specific data available regarding when rehabilitations will occur; and

Be it further resolved that if the ministry cannot facilitate rehabilitation projects in a timely manner, that the ministry agree to fund the work if undertaken by municipalities.

9. Federal Equalization

Village of Torquay

Whereas Saskatchewan's natural resources have been used in the equalization formula for the benefit of all Canadian provinces; and

Whereas natural benefits in other provinces, such as easy access to hydroelectric power have traditionally not been included under equalization; and

Whereas other provinces have stood in the way of Saskatchewan getting its natural resources to market, while also asking Saskatchewan to do more with respect to climate change;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial and federal governments to have all non-renewable resource revenue pulled from the equalization formula, and instead have these funds dedicated to infrastructure projects in Saskatchewan.

10. Energy East

Town of Moosomin

Whereas the TransCanada Energy East pipeline project has the potential to benefit all regions of Canada; and

Whereas a new mayor was elected in Montreal on November 5, 2017, who may not be as actively opposed to the project;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association meet with the TransCanada Pipeline company to explore the next steps for the Energy East pipeline project to proceed.

11. Door-to-Door Postal Services

City of Prince Albert

Whereas many citizens in Saskatchewan lost door-to-door mail service through the actions of the former federal government; and

Whereas the convenience of door-to-door service is one of the few visible physical services many city residents see for their federal taxes; and

Whereas the present federal government said they will listen to the needs of citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association ask the present federal government to reinstate door-to-door postal service in all Saskatchewan hometowns as soon as possible and enhance door-to-door services, instead of reducing services.

Background

In the fall of 2015, Canada Post cut door-to-door service to three Saskatchewan cities. This change affected more than 9,000 addresses in Prince Albert.

12. Electoral Funding Improvements

City of Prince Albert

Whereas it is a significant financial cost to citizens and their supporters to seek urban municipal office in larger centers;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to alter and amend the appropriate provincial legislation and work with the federal government to facilitate the following electoral improvements:

1. Income tax deductions of up to \$200 for citizens that contribute to a candidate's campaign in a city or town.

2. Candidates be allowed to deduct a "reasonable amount" of their campaign expenses.
3. Candidates, if they lose but receive 10 per cent of the vote or more, get their deposit back.

13. Infrastructure Funding

Town of Central Butte

Whereas municipalities in Saskatchewan are facing substantial difficulties with replacing aging infrastructure and building new infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing province; and

Whereas federal funding programs tend to offer limited support to smaller urban municipalities, and it is often targeted toward specific goals, through limited funding pools; and

Whereas increased government regulations and requirements for infrastructure, such as water, wastewater, and landfills, lead to increased infrastructure costs for municipalities; and

Whereas thriving urban municipalities are the drivers of economic growth in Saskatchewan;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to develop a made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure funding program that will help fund all of the many different kinds of infrastructure that urban municipalities must provide to their residents.

14. In Camera Meeting Standards

Town of Churchbridge

Whereas Section 120 of *The Municipalities Act* states:

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), councils and council committees are required to conduct their meetings in public.
- (2) Councils and council committees may close all or part of their meetings to the public if the matter to be discussed:
 - (a) is within one of the exemptions in Part III of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; or
 - (b) concerns long-range or strategic planning; and

Whereas Manitoba legislation is more explicit about in camera sessions, as noted below:

- 8.8 Despite clause 8.7 of this by-law, council or council committee may close a meeting to the public if:

- (a) the members decide during the meeting to meet as a committee to discuss a matter, and
- (b) the decision and general nature of the matter are recorded in the minutes of the meeting; and
- (c) the matter to be discussed relates to
 - (i) municipal assistance,
 - (ii) an employee, including the employee's salary, duties and benefits and any appraisal of the employee's performance
 - (iii) a matter that is in its preliminary stages and respecting which discussion in public could prejudice the municipality's ability to carry out its activities or negotiations,
 - (iv) the conduct of existing or anticipated legal proceedings,
 - (v) the conduct of an investigation under, or enforcement of, an Act or by-law,
 - (vi) the security of documents or premises, or
 - (vii) a report of the Ombudsman received by the head of the council under clause 36(1)(e) of *The Ombudsman Act*.

8.9 No resolution or by-law may be passed at a meeting that is closed to the public, except a resolution to reopen the meeting to the public.

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend Section 120 of *The Municipalities Act* to provide more explicit guidelines for in camera sessions, based on Manitoba's legislation.

15. Assessment Appeal Timelines

Town of Moosomin

Whereas Section 226 (1) of *The Municipalities Act* states:

A notice of appeal must be filed, together with any fee set by the council pursuant to section 224, at the address shown on the assessment notice:

- (a) within 30 days after the day on which the notice of assessment is mailed to the person; or
- (b) if no notice of assessment is mailed to the person, within 30 days after the later of:
 - (i) the date on which the notice stating that the assessment notices have been sent is published pursuant to section 217; and
 - (ii) the date on which the notice of a bylaw dispensing with the preparation of assessment notices is published pursuant to section 217; and

Whereas Section 226 (1.1) of *The Municipalities Act* states:

Notwithstanding clauses (1) (a) and (b), in the year of a revaluation pursuant to *The Assessment Management Agency Act*, a notice of appeal must be filed, together with any fee set by the council pursuant to section 224, within 60 days after the date mentioned in those clauses; and

Whereas the aforementioned wording leaves ambiguous whether the notice of appeal must be received, or merely sent, within the response periods, resulting in further appeals to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Government Relations to amend *The Municipalities Act* to add the words “and received by the municipality,” after the words “a notice of appeal must be filed,” in sections 226(1) and 226 (1.1).

16. Empowering All Municipalities to Create Tax Subclasses

Village of Maryfield & Village of Neilburg

Whereas the assessment values established by the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency for the 2017 revaluation year showed a substantial increase for residential assessments, while commercial and commercial resource did not see as much of an increase, posing a problem for municipalities when they want to encourage development within their communities; and

Whereas *The Municipalities Act* restricts authority to create tax subclasses to the province, giving most municipalities no way of establishing fair taxation for the commercial resource, without local commercial businesses and residents seeing a substantial tax increase; and

Whereas municipal legislation authorizing council members to abate any portion of municipal taxes does not allow for fair taxation within a specific tax class, and leaves councils open to accusations of bias; and

Whereas *The Cities Act* sections 254(1) and 255(3) authorize cities to establish property subclasses within the agricultural, residential and commercial tax classes for taxation, and these sections could easily be replicated in *The Municipalities Act*;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to amend *The Municipalities Act* to empower towns and villages to create tax subclasses within the agricultural, residential, commercial, and commercial resource tax classes, to improve fairness of the municipal tax system.

17. LED Lighting

Northwest Region

Whereas SaskPower is the main supplier of electricity to small urban communities; and

Whereas SaskPower is undertaking a strategy of energy conservation; and

Whereas it is costly to Saskatchewan's hometowns to pay for community lighting;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate SaskPower to convert all existing street lighting to LED at SaskPower's own cost, as soon as possible.

18. New Environmental Code

Town of Shellbrook

Whereas SUMA and individual municipalities support the principles and intent of the Environmental Code legislation; and

Whereas SUMA and individual municipalities have expressed concerns about some of the proposed mechanisms and implementation framework for the proposed Environmental Code; and

Whereas individual municipalities have been operating successfully and with appropriate stewardship under existing environmental legislation; and

Whereas the implementation of the code will add cost and risk to already challenged municipal budgets; and

Whereas the proposed Environmental Code will place significant human resource and financial challenges particularly on smaller municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial Ministry of Environment to phase in implementation of the Environmental Code as it applies to urban municipalities, with full implementation to be completed by December 31, 2020.

19. Renewable Energy Production

Northern Village of Green Lake

Whereas the provincial government has set a target of 50 per cent renewable energy production by 2030; and

Whereas community and individual participation in SaskPower's Net Metering Program is limited to usual power consumption of a billing address; and

Whereas SaskPower's Small Power Producers Program is limited to 100 kilowatts' production;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate increased support for individual land owners and municipalities to implement renewable energy initiatives; and

Be it further resolved that SUMA advocate SaskPower increase the amount of power that can be produced under their Net Metering and Small Power Producers programs.

20. SUMA Correspondence

Town of Shellbrook

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association routinely copy all members on all written correspondence, at the time this correspondence is sent to and/or received from provincial government ministers and/or their officials, that has not been identified as confidential.

21. Supporting the Public Library System

Town of Aberdeen

Whereas libraries have been central to communities for hundreds of years, creating a passion for reading and learning; and

Whereas, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds, libraries plug us into our communities and can be counted on to provide the resources needed to succeed, including: answers to many important questions; access to reading materials for those who cannot afford to purchase books; and an internet connection for information, banking, communications, job searches, and filling out government forms; and

Whereas libraries do much more than collect books, offering programs such as the Single Integrated Library System (SILS), preschool programs, reading programs, book clubs, story time, summer reading programs, and seniors programs; and

Whereas an amalgamation with school libraries that have limited public access and resources for an entire community would weaken the public library system; and

Whereas Minister Morgan is quoted as stating "we heard from the people of Saskatchewan that equitable library services, resource sharing and a strong library system are a vital part of our infrastructure and important to our vision for the future of Saskatchewan;"

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to adequately fund the public library system

to keep pace with inflation, and ensure that both large and small community libraries can meet the programming and educational needs that are an integral part of library programming and services for their communities; and

Be it further resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association participate fully in any government review, advocating for improved services and adequate funding for the development of a long-term strategy for the future of Saskatchewan libraries that includes engaging the library community, municipalities, and the public to ensure support for our community library services, SILS, and programming for all ages and patrons regardless of socio-economic status.

22. Expanded PST Revenues for Revenue Sharing

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas revenue sharing was originally called the Municipal Operating Grant, and designed to offer municipalities with financial assistance in providing services that also served a provincial interest; and

Whereas it was determined by Premier Brad Wall that one point of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) provided approximately enough revenue to municipalities to fund the identified provincial interests; and

Whereas since revenue sharing was put in place, the province has continued to download additional responsibilities onto Saskatchewan hometowns; and

Whereas the province has also stripped additional sources of funding away from hometowns, through a cancellation of the grants-in-lieu programs, reductions in funding for urban parks and highway connectors, and holds on programs such as the Community Rink Affordability Grant and Main Street Saskatchewan;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to include all expanded PST revenues from changes in the 2017-18 provincial budget, in the calculation for municipal revenue sharing.

23. Regional Boards of Revision for Property Evaluations

SUMA Board of Directors

Whereas mill rates are set, based upon property valuations, to generate specific tax revenues; and

Whereas appeals for property valuations are heard by regional boards of revision; and

Whereas there are currently no standardized knowledge or training requirements for regional board of revision review panel participants; and

Whereas the varied methodologies and understandings of different review panel participants results in inconsistent tax values and decision making for municipalities around the province;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Ministry of Government Relations:

- 1) create regional boards of revision with mandatory training/knowledge levels that can be populated by private or public-sector participants;
- 2) establish minimum education standards for all members of the boards of revision, with advanced training required for the secretary and chair;
- 3) create a Provincial Board of Revision with members who have the necessary level of training and expertise to handle complex commercial and industrial appeals;
- 4) ensure boards of revision are held accountable to meet legislated timelines for decisions;
- 5) establish a provincial fee schedule to levy costs for withdrawals, with those costs graduated to reflect time remaining prior to the hearing date; and
- 6) communicate that the Ministry of Government Relations has a very solid set of board of revision education tools on their website that are available to local officials.