



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jennifer Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 15, 2020

RE: **2020 SUMA Resolutions**

ISSUE:

The 2020 SUMA Resolution Package is attached for Council's review and discussion to provide Town of Wadena's voting delegates direction on their position for the SUMA Convention in Regina February 2 – 5, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Mayor Linnen and Councillor Christianson will be attending the convention and voting on behalf of Town of Wadena.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

ANALYSIS:

Administration does not have any notable concerns with the proposed resolutions.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Administration requests Council to provide direction to the voting delegates on Town of Wadena's position on each of the 2020 SUMA Resolutions.

ATTACHMENT:

SUMA Resolution Package



*115th Annual
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association Convention
February 2 – 5, 2020
Queensbury Convention Centre and
International Trade Centre (ITC)
Regina, Saskatchewan*

Resolutions Committee:
Councillor Mike O'Donnell (Chair)
Councillor Ted Zurakowski
Councillor Dawn Luhning
Councillor Richard Beck
Councillor Pat Jackson
Mayor Fraser Tolmie

A Note from the Resolutions Committee Chair

SUMA received a great deal of member feedback during, and following, the 2019 Resolutions Session. Most of this feedback concerned three things: the inability for member councils to discuss late resolutions in advance of our convention; a concern that some councils are voting along sectoral lines, rather than on the merit of an idea; and that members are not receiving enough information about the status of individual resolutions.

The Resolutions Committee has decided to make a few changes to resolutions this year, to address these concerns.

Urgent and emergent requirements will be enforced for all late resolutions—including those from the Board of Directors. That means that the issue brought forth cannot wait for the next meeting of the SUMA Board for discussion, and has emerged since the November 1 cut-off for resolution submissions.

The names of sponsoring communities have been removed from resolutions, and sponsoring communities will no longer be required to second their resolution on the convention floor. Anyone may now speak for or against a proposed resolution.

We would also remind members that voting is not mandatory. Any voting delegate may abstain, particularly if the resolution does not affect their municipality, region, or sector.

Lastly, SUMA is reworking how we engage and report on resolutions. Changes will include a tracking page on the SUMA website, Urban Update articles explaining the prioritization and major milestones for resolutions, and a more solutions-based advocacy strategy with other levels of government.

With your help, cooperation, and unifying strength, SUMA will proudly continue to be the voice of Saskatchewan urban municipalities.

Sincerely,



Mike O'Donnell
Resolutions Committee Chair

RESOLUTION PROCESS

Presentation of resolutions:

- The Resolutions Committee will determine the order in which resolutions are presented at the Convention.
- A Resolutions Committee member will read the action clause
- The Resolutions Committee Chair will move each resolution and ask for speakers supporting, opposing, or seeking amendment to the resolution.
- All speakers will be given no more than two (2) minutes to speak.
- If an amendment is proposed:
 - the amender will be given the opportunity 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.
- Should no members speak to the resolution, or at the close of debate, the Resolutions Committee Chair will call the question.
- 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.

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2020-01. SaskPower Rates for Municipal Rink Facilities

Whereas rinks are the hubs in Saskatchewan communities, providing a place to exercise as well as to socialize; and

Whereas the benefits of exercise to our health and well-being are well known; and

Whereas the social benefits of providing activities for our youth and a gathering place for everyone are incalculable; and

Whereas balancing the costs to operate rink facilities while charging fees that most people can afford is difficult for our communities; and

Whereas SaskPower charges rink facilities their Business Standard rate for electricity, which is designed for profit; and

Whereas the Business Standard rate puts an unfair burden on our rink facilities, which are not-for-profit; and

Whereas SaskPower is a Crown Corporation of the Province of Saskatchewan;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate SaskPower and the Minister Responsible for SaskPower to recognize the not-for-profit nature of community rinks and the value that they provide by offering a reduced electrical rate for all community-owned rink facilities or offsetting electricity costs through a grant program.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-02. SaskPower Net-Metering Program

Whereas Saskatchewan urban municipalities have expressed their interest in being leaders in climate change adaptation, including the development of renewable energy sources; and

Whereas 75 per cent of electricity generated in Saskatchewan comes from non-renewable resources; and

Whereas recent changes to the SaskPower Net-Metering Program have removed grants for the installation of solar panels, and reduced the credit for power generated to half of what is being charged communities when they are consuming power; and

Whereas the changes to net-metering grants and credits cripple municipality's ability to move forward with clean-energy projects in a cost-effective manner;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate SaskPower and the Saskatchewan Government to reconsider changes to the net-metering program and make amendments to it to support municipal clean energy development.

Background

In Saskatchewan, non-renewable energy resources comprise 75% of the electrical generation, emitting carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, the accumulation of which, contributes to Climate Change. One of the effects of climate change is increasing global temperatures. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that the rate of increase in temperature needs to be slowed and capped. Another effect of climate change is severe weather events. Municipalities have seen these impacts from emergencies such as forest fires and floods.

The government of Canada has offered funding opportunities to change the source of electricity in municipalities to renewable energy in the Low Carbon Economy Challenge (LCEC) and the Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The government of Saskatchewan has also promised funding for the ICIP grant programs. Municipalities have developed applications for projects which use solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity to reduce their production of greenhouse gases from the consumption of electricity.

Saskatchewan has a northern climate with long days of sunlight in the summer and much reduced daylight hours in winter. Therefore, more electricity is used for lighting and for heating in the winter months. As a result, solar generation of electricity is greatest in the summer and consumption of electricity is least in the summer months. Arrays of solar panels are designed as grid tied systems with bidirectional meters that export electricity onto the SaskPower grid in the summer for use by other consumers. In the winter, a grid tied system will not produce as much electricity as required and will draw back off the grid through the bidirectional meter. This is commonly referred to as net metering.

Net metering, in its true form is no longer available from SaskPower. The new net metering program, announced on October 15, 2019, allows a solar energy producer to bank credits in a dollar amount. Credits going onto the grid have a value of \$.075 per kWh, but when the community wants to draw on those credits, the dollar amount is \$.14 per kWh. There is also no longer a granting program to help with installation costs. Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities need a true net metering program so that they can participate in a low carbon economy, generating renewable energy and use the SaskPower grid as a battery, economically.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-03. A Seat at the Table

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan makes numerous decisions that affect Saskatchewan hometowns, from legislative amendments to infrastructure spending decisions; and

Whereas it is imperative that the voice of urban municipalities is heard when these decisions are made, to ensure that urban priorities are considered; and

Whereas improved urban consultation will also help the Government of Saskatchewan make better decisions, with fewer unintended consequences;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt a consultation protocol agreement, under which SUMA would have a seat at the provincial table when decisions that affect Saskatchewan hometowns are being made, including legislative changes and infrastructure priorities.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-04. Recreation Funding and Revenue Sharing

Whereas revenue sharing is designated to assist urban and rural municipalities with unconditional financial assistance to provide services such as recreational facilities, libraries, museums, community centres, and playgrounds; and

Whereas these facilities provide service to both urban and rural residents, but are usually paid for, maintained, and operated by urban councils; and

Whereas costs for these facilities should be shared between urban and rural municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to change revenue sharing criteria for rural municipalities, to have 95 per cent provided unconditionally and 5 per cent conditionally, to be used to assist urban municipalities with recreational facility costs.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Municipal Grants Regulations*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-05. SUMA and SARM

Whereas the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) each have over 100 years of experience in supporting Saskatchewan municipalities; and

Whereas SUMA and SARM share a common goal to enable strong, vibrant, and sustainable communities; and

Whereas the member municipalities of each association need to work more collaboratively together to deliver municipal infrastructure and services within and outside of their individual boundaries; and

Whereas SUMA and SARM themselves have recognized their need for greater collaboration, and have been able to reach consensus on many advocacy and program matters; and

Whereas the experiences in other province, such as British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario illustrate that having one association to represent all municipalities with a unified advocacy voice has a greater affect on federal and provincial governments; and

Whereas combining our respective advocacy resources would expand our influence, lower costs, and increase both associations sustainability; and

Whereas there is an opportunity for the associations to unite their efforts in providing group purchasing opportunities, and employee benefits so that instead of competing with each other they can improve services to their members, reduce costs, and provide the best possible pricing for their members, while combatting competition from the private sector so as to use the profits to fund other services and help municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association invite the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities to engage in exploratory discussions to merge the two associations into one new, unified, municipal association.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-06. Provincial Sales Tax on Municipal Construction Projects

Whereas prior to the 2017 provincial budget, Saskatchewan municipalities were exempt from paying Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on construction projects; and

Whereas the removal of that exemption left numerous municipalities and their ratepayers solely responsible for funding the additional costs of PST on projects that had already been approved for federal and provincial funding; and

Whereas one level of government taxing another is inappropriate, as the Government of Saskatchewan has itself noted with respect to the federal carbon tax;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister of Finance to immediately reinstate a PST exemption on municipal construction projects.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Provincial Sales Tax Act*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-07. Funding for a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

Whereas SUMA members passed a resolution in 2017, stating their intent to assume a leadership role in adopting carbon-reduction strategies; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan has adopted the Prairie Resilience climate change strategy, which states numerous targets, including the adoption of more renewable sources for power generation; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan still has many targets that have not been met in Prairie Resilience; and

Whereas municipalities could play an important role in helping the Government of Saskatchewan meet those targets; and

Whereas a Municipal Climate Changes Action Centre, funded by the province and administered by SUMA could provide funding for small municipal projects related to carbon reduction and climate change resilience;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister of the Environment to fund the development of a Municipal Climate Change Action Centre to provide grant funding for municipalities and work cooperatively with SUMA and SARM to see it implemented.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-08. Dutch Elm Disease

Whereas Dutch Elm disease is a significant concern for Saskatchewan municipalities and the entire provincial ecosystem; and

Whereas removing and properly disposing of infected trees can be expensive for municipalities; and

Whereas a Government of Saskatchewan program existed prior to the 2010 provincial budget, to provide financial assistance for the removal of diseased trees; and

Whereas the 2010 provincial budget ended Provincial assistance for tree removal, effectively downloading all costs onto municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipal Association advocate the Minister of the Environment to immediately reinstate the program which provided financial assistance to remove trees infected with Dutch Elm disease and make this program assistance available for all affected municipalities in Saskatchewan.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-09. Education Property Tax Collection Fee

Whereas municipalities are held responsible under *The Education Property Tax Act* to levy education property taxes on their residents and submit the proceeds to the Government of Saskatchewan, for inclusion in the General Revenue Fund; and

Whereas the implementation of the Act in 2018 nullified any agreements for administrative fees that were previously in place, when municipalities collected education taxes and remitted them directly to school divisions, causing some SUMA members significant financial losses; and

Whereas the Act, as written, specifically forbids any administration fees for education property tax collection; and

Whereas municipalities are required to undertake considerable additional work to levy, administer separate accounts, and remit education property taxes; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan collects an administration fee for administering and distributing funding from the federal government to municipalities under the Gas Tax Program;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education to amend *The Education Property Tax Act* to allow municipalities to retain a percentage of education property taxes equal to that the Government of Saskatchewan retains for Gas Tax Fund Administration, to compensate municipalities for the costs of levying, administering, and remitting education property taxes on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Education Property Tax Act*
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-010. Revitalizing Historic Downtowns

Whereas the Town of Maple Creek has been awarded the 2019 Prince of Wales Award for its exemplary and effective revitalization practices and demonstrated results in bringing heritage to life; and

Whereas Maple Creek has 18 new businesses in its downtown since participating in the provincial government's Main Street program, resulting in increased property demand, renewal and municipal revenue; and

Whereas all of Maple Creek's downtown businesses experienced revenue increases ranging from 13% - 153%; and

Whereas downtown and heritage revitalization plays an important role in ensuring local business revenue stays within the community; and

Whereas funding for downtown revitalization and historic preservation has been significantly cut; and

Whereas the opportunity costs of not investing in downtowns and heritage is significant; and

Whereas the uniqueness and health of a community's downtown and historic spaces and buildings is linked to local business health;

Therefore, be it resolved that Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to work with SEDA to develop programs with sustainable funding to assist municipalities in rehabilitating their downtowns and historic spaces and buildings.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.
REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-011. Uniform Highway Construction Zones

Whereas highway construction zones are imperative to creating and maintaining infrastructure within our provinces and territories; and

Whereas highway construction zones are created and maintained differently between provinces and territories, creating confusion between interprovincial drivers, unreasonable highway construction zone set ups, and unsafe driving conditions; and

Whereas the harmonization of major highway construction zones shall create a single standard for all major highway construction zones, thus creating safer roadways for all of us;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Federal Minister of Transportation to create a committee whose sole task is to harmonize major highway construction zones to the same standard for each province and territory, thus creating less confusion between interprovincial travelers and creating safer highway construction zones.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-012. Liquor Store Open Hours

Whereas there may be a correlation between crime in a community and its level of alcohol consumption; and

Whereas giving municipalities better control over the availability of alcohol may assist them in carrying out their responsibility to provide public safety and enforcement services; and

Whereas existing legislation, including *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2017* and *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*, may create practical legal and financial enforcement impediments to such municipal control;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority to make necessary legislative changes to clearly and legally permit municipalities to regulate operating hours of liquor stores, so that they may more effectively manage public access to alcohol as council thinks appropriate for to its own community.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2017. The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016.*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-013. Community Involvement in Health Services

Whereas health care is important to all citizens of Saskatchewan, regardless of if it is provided in tertiary, regional, or community-based hospitals; and

Whereas the recruitment and retention of health care professionals is difficult and has a dramatic effect on the ability of communities to provide acute health care services in towns and smaller cities in the province; and

Whereas communities at times are strongly encouraged to allow the health region to be solely responsible for these tasks;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister of Health to improve the communication processes between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and local communities regarding all health services in the community;

Be it further resolved that the provincial government allow local communities to jointly participate with the Saskatchewan Health Authority in a proactive approach of recruitment and retention of health care staff to ensure all acute care services are maintained within the community;

Be it further resolved that those communities that engage in these actions across the province should be participants in maintaining the services in their communities.

ACTS AFFECTED: NONE.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-014. Interfacility Transfers

Whereas Saskatchewan has a broadly-spread population, where many people choose to live outside of the larger urban centres; and

Whereas specialized equipment, like CT scanners and MRIs, and resources are only located in larger urban centres; and

Whereas health care and wellbeing are growing concerns for all residents of Saskatchewan; and

Whereas an ambulance bill to travel from a small-urban hospital to a hospital in a larger city can be in excess of \$2000.00.

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Minister of Health to develop a program similar to the Seniors' Cap program for ambulance service, where once the patient has entered the health care system, they get the care and treatment that they need, without incurring additional financial burdens.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-015. Coordinated Support for the Crystal Methamphetamine Crisis

Whereas crystal methamphetamine use and addiction rates are substantially increasing, leading to increases in overdose deaths, violent crime, property crime, and drug offenses; and

Whereas this crisis is putting increasing strain on Emergency Responders and resulting in millions of dollars spent on emergency health services, incarceration, and family breakdown; and

Whereas local police services are unable to address the root causes of addictions and the mental health problems that often accompany them; and

Whereas the Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that Saskatchewan currently spends only \$86 per capita on mental health and addictions--\$20 less per capita than the Canadian average; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan is responsible for the disposition of justice, health, and social services resources;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to work with communities to create interventions to break the cycle of addictions by improving coordination among provincial ministries, police services, community agencies, and Indigenous organizations and ensuring effective, evidence-based responses that address all four pillars of the addictions crisis (prevention, treatment, enforcement, harm reduction).

Be it further resolved that the Government of Saskatchewan increase mental health and addictions services funding by not less than three percent in the 2020 provincial budget so as to ensure financial resources are in place to implement measures that will help to address this growing crisis.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-016. Community Health Advisory Networks

Whereas *The Provincial Health Authority Act* “allows for the continuation and creation of community advisory networks to provide the new Authority with information and advice on specific community perspectives, trends, issues and priorities regarding health services”; and

Whereas Community Health Advisory Networks (CHANS) were mandated in the former Regional Health Services Act; and

Whereas municipalities are informed by their residents about the issues and needs in their communities, that the health system may not be aware of;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) advocate the Minister of Health to ensure direct municipal input and involvement in the health system by requiring Community Health Advisory Networks to be established throughout the province, under *The Provincial Health Authority Act*.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Provincial Health Authority Act*.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-017. Provincial Transportation Services

Whereas the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC), was a Crown Corporation of the Government of Saskatchewan that provided passenger transportation and parcel delivery throughout Saskatchewan since 1946; and

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan decided to cease these services as of May 31, 2017 due to a decrease in ridership and citing inability to turn a profit; and

Whereas this decision has caused hardships on our small-urban residents, particularly seniors and other vulnerable sectors, who relied on the STC for transportation for essential reasons, such as medical appointments in larger centers; and

Whereas municipalities and the private sector have been pressured to take on the responsibility for transportation services, knowing that operating deficits are inevitable in order to provide this service at a reasonable and affordable rate for riders; and

Whereas small-urban communities with EMS services are sometimes left without local emergency coverage during EMS transfers to outlying facilities. A portion of such transports are of non-urgent nature covered by EMS units due to lack of alternate transportation options available to community residents;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association work with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities to advocate the Government of Saskatchewan to take back the responsibility to provide transportation in Saskatchewan, for small-urban residents, and particularly vulnerable residents who have been impacted by the discontinuation of STC, and/or subsidize the services as necessary to make it affordable for an outside company to successfully fulfill ridership needs.

ACTS AFFECTED: TBD.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: Towns, Villages, Northern

2020-018. Leave for Municipal Council Duties

Whereas *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* entitles an employee to leave if they seek nomination, become a candidate, or are elected to any level of government; and

Whereas most employers will allow employees leave to attend meetings and conferences without using holiday pay or requiring a formal leave of absence; and

Whereas *The Act* does not explicitly require employers to offer leave to attend to municipal government duties without using holiday or vacation time; and

Whereas some employers only allow a minimum 30-day unpaid leave of absence, which is too long; and

Whereas municipalities often struggle to find candidates willing to volunteer for municipal council, and a requirement to use holiday or vacation time to fulfill municipal duties may deter many potential candidates;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the provincial government to change or add to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* the requirement for employers to allow employees to attend meetings, conferences, or training related to serving on municipal council, without having to use a long-term leave of absence or using holiday/vacation time.

Background

The Saskatchewan Employment Act States:

2-54(1) An employee is entitled to a leave

- (a) To seek nomination as a candidate for a municipal, provincial or federal election or an election for a board of education or Conseil scolaire Fransaskois, for a reasonable period;
- (b) To be a candidate for a municipal, provincial or federal election or an election for a board of education or the Consiel scolaire fransaskoi, for a reasonable period; or
- (c) If the employee has been elected to a municipal, provincial or federal government or a board of a education or a Consiel scolaire fransaskoi, for the period during the employee's term of office that may be necessary.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-019. Municipal Election Dates

Whereas the Provincial Government passed Bill 134 in 2019 to amend *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*, which includes the amendment to move the municipal election day from the 3rd Wednesday in October every four years to November 9, 2020, November 13, 2024, and thereafter the second Wednesday in November every four years; and

Whereas the explanation from the Government of Saskatchewan for the amendment was to address the overlap of provincial and municipal/school board election campaign periods in 2020; and

Whereas by holding the municipal election close to another election, such as the provincial election in 2020, the voters will be subject to fatigue and confusion which will certainly impact voter turnout for the municipal election; and

Whereas municipalities face a concern with how to adequately advertise to voters on how to vote, where to vote, and voting requirements for a municipal election, since a provincial election follows very different processes and requirements than a municipal election; and

Whereas municipalities face many obstacles such as overlapping of training for workers who are needed to work both the provincial and municipal elections, municipal advance poll dates that could take place on or before the provincial election day, and the abundance of campaign election signage within the municipalities; and

Whereas the fiscal year for municipalities is from January to December of each year, with many municipalities moving towards reviewing and considering their annual budgets in the early fall of the previous year to assist with the required preparation to undertake the approved planned projects in any given year and the holding of a municipal election during the same time period has become cumbersome for both administration and newly-elected members of Council; and

Whereas the holding of a spring election would allow members of Council an opportunity to orient themselves in municipal business prior to having to undertake a comprehensive budget process at the beginning of fall in the year following a municipal election; and

Whereas the holding of a spring election for municipalities would be anticipated to minimize the overlap of provincial and municipal/school board election campaign periods on a go-forward basis;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Provincial Government to amend Section 10 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* that a general election must be held on:

1. November 9, 2020;
2. Second Wednesday of May, 2024; and,
3. At intervals of every four years, on the second Wednesday of May, following 2024

Background information

In April of 2018, the Ministry of Government Relations forwarded draft amendments to The Local Government Election Act requesting a response from various stakeholders regarding those proposed amendments to the Act. The draft amendments included a proposed provision to amend Section 10 to move the general election to November 18, 2020 and after that date at intervals of every four (4) years on the third Wednesday of November. As noted in the Explanation section of the draft amendments, the change is recommended as a result of the overlap that will occur between the provincial and municipal elections in 2020.

The Ministry of Government Relations forwarded an update in August of 2018, on the potential change to the 2020 municipal election date. Within the update, the Ministry advised that the responses received from the potential change that would move the municipal election from the fourth Wednesday in October to the third Wednesday in November did not support this change. Therefore, the Ministry requested feedback on the potential of delaying the municipal election date one year to October 27, 2021 and every four (4) years after that.

The Ministry of Government Relations advised in October, 2018, that in the interest of finding a reasonable compromise, Government has decided to move both the provincial and local election date. Both elections will take place in fall 2018: the provincial election date will be Monday, October 26, 2020, and the local government election date will be Monday, November 9, 2020. After 2020, local elections will be held every four (4) years on the second Wednesday in November. If the second Wednesday is Remembrance Day, the provision provides for the election date to be held on the Monday of that week

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Local Government Election Act, 2015.*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL

2020-020. Residency Requirements for Business Owners

Whereas it is becoming increasingly difficult to find sufficient candidates to run for municipal council; and

Whereas *The Local Government Elections Act, 2015* currently requires residency for candidates running in urban municipalities, but not in rural municipalities; and

Whereas local business owners may not live in a municipality, but they are directly affected by many council decisions, including those around taxation and utilities; and

Whereas many local business owners would be great representatives on council;

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association advocate the Ministry of Government Relations to amend *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* to allow business owners that operate or own commercial businesses within urban municipalities to run for municipal council.

ACTS AFFECTED: *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*

REGION/SECTOR AFFECTED: ALL