



## URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN Office of the Executive Director

Phone: 306-554-2123      Email: [exdumaas@gmail.com](mailto:exdumaas@gmail.com)

Box 220 Wynyard, Saskatchewan S0A 4T0

Website: <https://umaas.ca/>

### UMAAS MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS NOVEMBER 22, 2024 – DELTA HOTELS REGINA:

**Attendance:** Laurier Donais – Deputy Minister, Government Relations  
Bonnie Chambers – Assistant Deputy Minister, Government Relations  
Randy Goulden – SUMA President  
Barry Elliott - UMAAS President  
Janelle Desautels - UMAAS Vice President  
Brandi Morissette - UMAAS Division Director  
Kelly Hoare - UMAAS Division Director  
Meredith Norman - UMAAS Division Director  
Tamara Knight - UMAAS Division Director  
Kyle Van Den Bosch - UMAAS Division Director  
Jason Chorneyko - UMAAS Executive Director  
Lovely Magnaye - UMAAS Executive Assistant

The meeting started at 8:05 pm with a greeting from UMAAS President, Barry Elliott followed by introductions of each participant.

During the meeting, the following topics were discussed: Timing of the Election, Bylaw Enforcement and Bylaw Court, Intermunicipal Relationship and CAO-Council Relationship.

#### Timing of the Election

President Elliott started the conversation by stating that the Town of Maple Creek had a very low turnout this election, with approximately 20% voter turnout. He said residents lose perspective of which is municipal or provincial because of the closeness of the two election dates.

Deputy Minister Donais mentioned that different sectors want a different date for example, Rurals wants in the fall, and Urbans wants in the spring, but the Government does not want it to be at different times of the year. Therefore, he thinks that he does not see a lot of appetite for change from the politicians.

Assistant Deputy Minister Chambers added that the Policy Branch issues a survey after the election, and if there is a consensus to change the date, it may be considered in the future. She encouraged everyone to fill out the survey if they haven't, to get forward the solutions to this matter.

#### Bylaw Enforcement and Bylaw Court

President Elliott asked how we can add fines not related to the property to the property taxes, i.e. Animal Control.

Assistant Deputy Minister Chambers mentioned that the Municipal Court in Kindersley is doing pretty

---

***“Building careers while building strong municipalities.”***



## URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

### Office of the Executive Director

Phone: 306-554-2123 Email: [exdumaas@gmail.com](mailto:exdumaas@gmail.com)

Box 220 Wynyard, Saskatchewan S0A 4T0

Website: <https://umaas.ca/>

well. SUMA President Goulden added that the SaskParty platform will look at municipal courts because of the backlog.

Deputy Minister Donais suggested inviting the Municipal Court from Kindersley to attend the UMAAS Convention to share information with members.

#### Intermunicipal Relationship

Division Director Morissette asked what the government can do to help with the inter-municipal relationship. For example, the RM does not help or work with the Town. Vice President Desautels suggested baby steps – keep trying to build trust and establish a good relationship.

Assistant Deputy Minister Chambers highlighted that Targeted Sector Support encourages regional collaboration. It may be a good start for the inter-municipal relationship.

#### Council-CAO Relationship

President Elliott started with an update of the resolutions made during the 2024 UMAS Convention. He said that UMAAS would like to suggest some amendments to the legislation requiring mandatory training to the Council, help strengthen the position of the CAO, get a larger percentage of the Council to vote to terminate a CAO and that the CAO be given an opportunity to appeal or speak with Council. These resolutions were brought forward to SUMA for their support, but we have not heard back from SUMA and are willing to bring this forward to the province for consideration.

Assistant Deputy Minister Chambers suggested contacting Andrea Ulrich because the Act will be opened for amendments. She suggested that we can site things that have worked in other jurisdictions.

Vice President Desautels said that we only ask for a little protection. Executive Director Chorneyko said that he has been receiving calls from members about a CAO being fired during a Council meeting, and many cases are 4-3 votes, with the mayor resigning due to dismay.

President Elliott mentioned that we have dropped the ball among ourselves. Therefore, we are strengthening the mentorship and office inspection and will work out or recognize our weaknesses and help improve our members.

Assistant Deputy Minister Chambers asked if the problems are from smaller centers and if they lack resources. Executive Director Chorneyko said no, the calls are coming from small and big centers, which is why it is alarming.

In closing, Deputy Minister Donais thanked UMAAS and appreciated the invitation to meet the Executive Board. He also said he would like to hear great news and stories in the future, not just the bad ones.

SUMA President Goulden also thanked UMAAS For sitting on their meetings and being part of the Convention Planning Committee. She said that we can continue working together, and if there is any

---

***“Building careers while building strong municipalities.”***



---

**URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS'  
ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN**

**Office of the Executive Director**

Phone: 306-554-2123      Email: [exdumaas@gmail.com](mailto:exdumaas@gmail.com)

Box 220 Wynyard, Saskatchewan S0A 4T0

Website: <https://umaas.ca/>

---

training that UMAAS think SUMA can do, please let them know.

President Elliott thanked our visitors for coming and for the fruitful conversation.

The meeting ended at 9:37 pm.

---

***“Building careers while building strong municipalities.”***