

**MINUTES OF THE  
SEVENYFIRST (71<sup>st</sup>) ANNUAL CONVENTION of the  
URBAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN  
Held at the TCU PLACE, SASKATOON,  
JUNE 2 - 5, 2026.**

PRESENT WERE: 227 Delegates, 3 Fraternal Delegates, 145  
Sponsors/Exhibitors/Guests = 375

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026**

Registration began at 6:00 pm in the lobby of Centennial Hall A, TCU Place and the icebreaker started at 7:00 pm, held in the Centennial Hall A. Participants played the game "Mingo" where they get to meet and socialized with people described on their bingo card. There were over 100 people who attended the icebreaker.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026**

OPENING EXERCISES

President Barry Elliott called the official opening of the 2026 convention at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

PRAYER

Bluejay Linklater opened the convention with a prayer and traditional song.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Barry Elliott introduced the Executive Board Members for the year 2025-2026.

PRESIDENT ADDRESS

President Barry Elliott started his speech with a land acknowledgment. He expressed his appreciation to UMAAS for the opportunity to serve as President. He also expressed his gratitude to the Executive Board Members; the Executive Director and the Executive Assistant for all the hard work and dedication that they provide to the organization as well as the Board of Examiners and acknowledge the work of its Secretary, Brad Hvidston.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Jason Chorneyko presented his annual report on the Association's operations, outlining the various projects, programs, consultations, and initiatives in which UMAAS has been involved over the past year. He reported that as of the date, UMAAS has a total of 507 members. He also thanked the sponsors and trade show exhibitors for their continued support of UMAAS. This year we have 60 trade show exhibits and for the first time, UMAAS has a Diamond Sponsor.

2025 CONVENTION MINUTES

Moved by Don Macleod from the Town of Fort Qu Appelle, that the 2025 Annual Convention Minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by Teresa Biller from the Town of Lampman, that the 2025 Audited Financial Statements, be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

2026 AUDITOR'S APPOINTMENT

Moved by Cindy Larson from the Town of Saltcoats, that Baker Tilly SK LLP be appointed as UMAAS auditor for the year 2026.

CARRIED

CONFERENCE KICKOFF

Steven Langer from well By Design, talked about "Culture Catalyst: Igniting Workplace Wellness". He talked about burnout and value of rest.

## BREAKOUT SESSION

Members attended two breakout sessions: Bylaw Enforcement presented by Bob Gourley from Gourlay and Associates Bylaw Enforcement, held at the Centennial Hall A and Employment Standards Updates presented by Irene Phan from the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Fair Workplaces Branch, held at the Gallery A.

## NOON LUNCHEON

Jean Marc Nadeau provided updates from SUMA. The following provided remarks at the noon luncheon:

- Councillor Randy Donauer, on behalf of SUMA and the City of Saskatoon
- Brad Dunlop, on behalf of SaskWater

## SUMAINVEST PRESENTATION

Jonah Toth, Manager of Community Partnerships, SUMAINvest discussed about pooled investment opportunities for municipalities to grow municipal reserves and other ways to put money back into our communities.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Executive Director Jason Chorneyko conducted the Call for Nominations for Vice President. Marty Baroni from the Town of Kindersley nominated Amanda Flasch, City Manager of the City of Meadow Lake for the Vice President position. Subsequently, Barry Elliott from the Town of Maple Creek nominated Brandi Morissette, CAO of the Town of Oxbow, for the Vice President position.

No further nominations were received upon. The election for Vice President was set for June 5, 2026.

## DIVISION MEETINGS

Division meetings were held from 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm. Elections for the Division Director position for Divisions 1, 3, 5, and 7 were held. Brandi Morissette from the Town of Oxbow was re-elected for Division 1; Melissa Dieno from the Town of Watrous was elected for Division 3; Nathalie Hipkins from the Resort Village of Tobin Lake was re-elected for Division 5; and Lyle Hannan from the Town of La Ronge was elected for Division 7.

## ANNUAL BANQUET, RETIREMENTS AND SOCIAL EVENING

Convention participants enjoyed the annual banquet, retirement awards, membership presentations, and new certificate recognition. The Honourable Minister Kim Gartner, Minister of Highways, spoke on behalf of the Honourable Eric Schmalz, Minister of Government Relations. He also assisted with the presentation of membership pins, new certificates, and retirement awards. Jamie Orr, RMAA Fraternal Delegate, Glenda Lemcke, MAA Fraternal Delegate, and Jason Wallsmith, LGAA expressed their appreciation for being invited to the UMAAS Convention.

Following the awards, members enjoyed the night with entertainment and played Family Feud, Musical Bingo and Fastest Finger.

## **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2026**

### DIVISION MEETING REPORTS

Division Directors presented reports from their respective meetings to include issues and challenges being faced by Administrators and their municipalities.

### COACHES CORNER

The following speakers participated in the Coaches Corner this year:

- Sharon H. Pratchler, Saskatchewan Ombudsman
- Adam Touet, UMAAS Solicitor from Avenue Law
- Brad Hvidston, Secretary of the Board of Examiners
- Megan Istace, Director of Municipal Engagement, Ministry of Government Relations
- Barry Elliott, UMAAS President and Saskatchewan Peer Network
- Monica Merkosky, CAO for the Town of Lumsden

Some of the topics discussed include CAO-Council Relationship, Bylaw Court, Council Mandatory Training, Salary Guideline, Wage Negotiations, Bylaw Enforcement, Economic Development and Animal Control.

#### BEST PRACTICES MANUAL UPDATE

Milad Alishahi, Partner at MLT Aikins provided updates on the Best Practices Manual project between UMAAS and SUMA funded by the Targeted Support Sector Funding Program.

#### NETWORKING AFTERNOON

Delegates participated in a networking afternoon with a choice of either a Texas Scramble Golf Tournament at Valley Regional Park in Rosthern, SK, or a tour at the Stoked by the Splitsville Bowl where they ate lunch at the burger buffer, and played bowling, arcade and ride on Go Karts. Following the tour and golf tournament, delegates enjoyed Casino Night held at Centennial Hall B, TCU Place.

#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026**

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS MEETING AND ELECTION

The associate members' meeting and election took place from 8:30 am to 9:00 am at the Gallery A. Kathleen Desjarlais from the Northern Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse was elected as the Associate Director.

#### AI PRESENTATION

Brennen Schmidt, Founder and CEO of ALEUS Consulting Group presented tips on how to effectively use AI.

#### VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

The Vice President Elections was held and Amanda Flasch, City Manager of the City of Meadow Lake was elected as Vice President.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS UPDATE

Brad Hvidston, Secretary of the Board of Examiners, discussed the functions of the Board, certification requirements, and the updated policies regarding office inspections.

#### MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Alan Williams, Director of Legislation & Regulations, Ministry of Government Relations provided updates on Bill 43 – The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE

President - Barry Elliott, Maple Creek

Vice President – Amanda Flasch, Meadow Lake

Division 1 – Brandi Morissette, Oxbow

Division 2 – Tamara Knight, Morse

Division 3 – Melissa Dieno, Watrous

Division 4 – Kyle Van Den Bosch, Central Butte

Division 5 – Nathalie Hipkins, Tobin Lake

Division 6 – Heather Sten, Canwood

Division 7 – Lyle Hannan, Town of La Ronge

Associate Director – Kathleen Desjarlais, Ile-a-la-Crosse

Executive Director - Jason Chorneyko, Wynyard

Executive Assistant - Lovely Magnaye, Tisdale

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Barry Elliott declared the convention adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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President

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Executive Director