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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Western Canadian Municipal Associations Meet in Regina**

Today, representatives from municipal associations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba met in Regina to discuss issues of common interest. The associations represent urban and rural municipalities across the Prairie provinces:

- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Alberta Association Municipal Counties and Districts (AAMDC)
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM)

“It was a pleasure to host our colleagues,” said SARM President, Ray Orb. “We have more commonalities than we do differences, and this meeting is a great learning and sharing opportunity for all of us.”

“Western Canada was built on cooperation,” said SUMA President, Debra Button. “These meetings allow our associations to tackle our common concerns, and help us all find the solutions to improve our municipalities.”

“Municipalities function best when they work with their neighbours,” said AMM President, Doug Dobrowolski. “We’re happy to build relationships with our counterparts in Alberta and Saskatchewan.”

“With an upcoming federal election, it’s important for all our associations to be prepared to present a strong municipal voice,” said AAMDC President, Al Kemmere. “This meeting lets us coordinate that voice to ensure it is heard.”

“It’s absolutely essential to build strong relationships with our municipal partners,” said AUMA President, Helen Rice. “Our associations are about presenting a strong voice on behalf of our members, and together, we can make all our organizations stronger.”

During the full-day meeting, the group covered a variety of topics, Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, federal investment in infrastructure, alternative revenue sources, the National Disaster Mitigation Program and asset management. They will meet again in Alberta in 2016.

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