



SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN

MEMBER REPORT 2022

Information

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Membership – 11,971 members in 42 Chapters including two in British Columbia

NOTE: The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan is constituted as a local of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and is assigned eight voting councillors for all annual meetings of the STF.

1. MAJOR CONCERNS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

A. FEDERAL LEVEL

1. Impacts of the creation of a National Dental Program and/or Pharmacare Program.
2. Development and enforcement of national standards for long-term care residences particularly in light of lessons learned with the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Ensuring a coordinated effort towards safeguarding the interests of older adults and improving their quality of life through a mechanism such as a national seniors care plan.

B. PROVINCIAL LEVEL

1. Over the last decade, our public health system has been challenged to meet the needs of a geographically dispersed and increasingly aging population. COVID-19 has exacerbated wait time issues for treatments and procedures, and has raised additional concerns about the availability of, and standards within, long-term care homes.
2. Development and enforcement of provincial standards for long-term care residences particularly in light of COVID-19.
3. Safety standards such as cleaning and ventilation for schools as well as protections for students and staff, needs to be enhanced given COVID-19.
4. Learning supports within the classroom have decreased because of other demands on school division budgets, including the need to replace aging infrastructure and dealing with increased enrollment. In addition, student

needs beyond the scope of the classroom teacher are not being met with adequate provision of specialized services.

5. Suitable housing for older adults allowing them to remain in their own homes with necessary supports helps to support longevity and quality of life for older adults. In order to “age in place,” older adults may need greater access to homecare, assistance with yard work, housework and home maintenance as well as clear and accessible information about what services are available and where.
6. The STS continues to support the work of the McDowell Foundation. The main focus of the Foundation is to inspire and support worthwhile research projects that are student-centred and relevant to successful instruction in today’s classrooms. A member of the STS Executive sits on the McDowell Foundation Board of Directors.

2. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ASSOCIATION SINCE LAST ACER-CART AGM

- a. Most meetings of the STS were postponed, cancelled, or moved to a virtual format given the situation with COVID-19.
- b. The Provincial Executive last met face-to-face on March 11, 2020. The current Executive has been meeting by using Zoom.
- c. STS President’s visits to STS local Chapters are gradually restarting. The President was able to visit our Chapters located in British Columbia in April.
- d. Provincial Executive has liaison representatives for each of the 42 Chapters. A more consistent and coherent way of communicating with the Chapters has been initiated by the Executive. This liaison continues largely using digital means.
- e. Publication and distribution of five issues of *Outreach* annually. There has been an emphasis of moving the distribution to electronic means as much as possible, although given the demographic of our members we anticipate always having a print version.
- f. Support of Chapters hosting provincial recreational events had been placed on hold. However some events are beginning again in the Spring and Summer of 2022.
- g. The STS is a founding member of the *Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism* and recently contributed \$100,000 to a “Home Supports Initiative.” SSM intends to influence public and government support of older adults being able to age comfortably and safely within their own homes.
- h. Two \$1,500 scholarships to support university studies, proposed to increase this coming year to \$2,500.
- i. An annual grant of \$2,000 in support of the activities of the McDowell Foundation, proposed to increase this coming year to \$3,000.

- j. The STS engaged in an extensive member survey to assist in guiding the Provincial Executive in terms of direction, programs and services. An external survey firm was hired and 1,160 responses were submitted. Results have begun to be collated and analyzed.
- k. A renewed Health and Dental Agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross was negotiated. Negotiated were some benefit enhancements and a lowering of the administrative fees being charged. Correspondingly, more responsibility for the management and risk of the Plan and more responsibility for the various reserve funds and their investment was taken on by the STS. The engagement of a Plan consultant was utilized in the negotiation and members will experience a modest increase in premium levels after three years without increases for Health and four for Dental.
- l. An STS Facebook page was launched with the intention of building connections with more recently superannuated teachers and those soon to be retired. We invite you to search for Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan, click on the STS logo and then “Like” or “Follow” us!
- m. The initial stages of planning for a website refresh are underway.
- n. Honorary Life Members were recognized with this year’s recognition going to Maxine Stinka and Fred Herron.
- o. Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation Planning for Retirement Seminars— Presenters are guests of STF and we greatly appreciate the STF’s invitation to participate. The intention of the seminars is to outline the reasons why retired teachers might join the STS, provide an overview of the STS Extended Health and Dental Plans and provide documentation and contact information. These sessions have largely occurred electronically this past year.
- p. STS Retirement Lifestyle Seminars – The purpose of these interactive seminars is to allow participants an opportunity to examine and discuss foundational questions about retirement and the realities of retirement. Participants explore their preparedness for the changes retirement will bring to their lifestyle and that of their significant others. These sessions have been somewhat curtailed or have largely occurred electronically this past year.

3. AGM MOTIONS FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION TO THE ACER-CART AGM.

These will be forwarded to ACER-CART by electronic means immediately following the STS AGM occurring on May 11-12, 2022.