



SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN MEMBER REPORT 2023

Information

Membership – 12,069 members in 41 Chapters including 2 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 (currently only available for children under 12)
2. Impacts of the current Pharmacare Program that does not include equitable access and long-term sustainability.
3. Enforcement of the National Long-Term Care Standards that were developed following the requirements set out by the Standards Council of Canada.

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. Although COVID-19 highlighted the issue, wait time issues for treatments and procedures continues to be a concern as does the availability of, and standards within, long-term care homes.
2. Development and enforcement of provincial standards for long-term care residences.
3. 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.
4. The STS as a local association of the STF actively supports STF initiatives and our active teacher colleagues. In April the STF organized a Rally at the Legislature in support of Public Education. The STS encouraged Chapters and members to attend and be involved in this rally.
5. The STS continues to support and advocate for the concept of suitable housing for older adults, allowing them to remain in their own homes with necessary supports which helps to support longevity and quality of life. 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. A Special Directed Call went out this year that consists of two research grants of up to \$3,000 per project. Suggested Topics of Inquiry include “Transitioning to Retirement” and “Ongoing Contributions” of superannuates. 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. All meetings of the STS returned to an in-person format starting in September, 2022.
- b. STS President’s visits to STS local Chapters has restarted, which has been appreciated by members.
- c. Provincial Executive has liaison representatives for each of the 41 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 but as more Chapters return to in-person meetings, Provincial Executive members in their liaison capacity will be attending more of their meetings in person.
- d. Publication and distribution of five issues of *OUTREACH* annually. We have begun a refresh of *Outreach* in more of a magazine format, in colour and with photos and articles of interest (as opposed to mainly reports). We will continue to move the distribution to electronic means as much as possible, but we anticipate always having a print version.
- e. Chapters hosting provincial recreational events has returned and we had a provincial bowling tournament in April followed by a mah jongg tournament in May. Most of the other events are also beginning again.
- f. The STS is a founding member of the *Saskatchewan Seniors’ Mechanism* and recently provided a second \$100,000 contribution 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.
- g. Two \$2,500 scholarships to support university studies in education, increased from \$1,500.
- h. Annual grant of \$3,000 in support of the activities of the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation, increased this year from \$2,000.
- i. An extensive member survey performed last year continues to inform and guide the Provincial Executive in terms of direction, Bylaw renewal, programs and services.
- j. The current Health and Dental Agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross continues to be implemented. Our experience is that benefit utilization has rebounded, but not always in predictable ways. A one-time Health Spending Account that was implemented in order to reduce the surplus that was generated during COVID has been underutilized.
- k. The STS engaged the expertise of an external investment consultant in the search for an investment manager for the various STS reserve funds. Connor, Clark and Lunn was selected after this search process.

- l.** Honorary Life Members were recognized with this year's recognition going to Walter Popenia and Doreen Rathgeber.
- m.** 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 continued to be held electronically this past year.
- n.** 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.
- o.** STS representatives to the STF Annual Meeting of Council participated in the Rally for Education held at the provincial legislature on April 29th.

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

There were no resolutions at the STS AGM this year that were directed to ACER-CART.