



SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN

MEMBER REPORT – April 2024

Information

Membership – 12,223 members (March 1, 2024) in 40 Chapters including one 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.
2. Potential impacts of the unfolding National Pharmacare Program.
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. Learning supports within the classroom have decreased because of other demands on school division budgets. At the time of this report the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation (STF) is engaged in a collective bargaining dispute with the provincial government that is focussed on classroom complexity, diversity and size as well as the requisite supports needed to work in this environment. Several days of provincial walkouts, rolling walkouts, withdrawal of noon hour supervision and withdrawal of extra-curricular involvements have occurred, all designed to pressure government into adequately funding and supporting classrooms.
2. The STS as a local association of the STF actively supports STF initiatives and our active teacher colleagues. STS Chapters and members have been supporting our active teacher colleagues in the following ways:
 - Participation in walking the line with active teachers
 - Involvement with “sit-ins” at selected MLA offices
 - Assisting with registration of STF members at demonstration sites
 - Providing donations of hot drinks and food
 - Providing personal residences for warm-up and washroom use
 - Creating letters to the editor for daily and weekly newspapers
 - Displaying the ‘I Support STF’ posters, stick-on badges, and bumper stickers
 - Participation in events like attendance at the Public Accounts Committee meeting of the Saskatchewan Legislature
 - Media interviews upon request

3. Over the last decade, our public health system has been increasingly challenged to meet the needs of a geographically dispersed and increasingly aging population. Wait time issues for treatments and procedures continues to be a concern as do the needs of older adults to be aging in the right place as they get older.
4. The STS supports and advocates 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.
5. The STS continues to support the work of the McDowell Foundation. A Special Directed Call went out last year consisting of two research grants of up to \$3,000 per project. The topics selected for research were “Retired Teachers and their Ongoing Contribution to Teaching and Learning in Saskatchewan” (Janet Lowndes) and “Towards an Understanding of Teachers’ Retirement Identity Transition in Saskatchewan” (Jane MacLeod). A number of our members were involved in these research projects, the results of which are expected soon.

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

- a. A renewed schedule of Provincial Executive meetings to better attend to the governance needs of a maturing organization.
- b. Local Chapter visits and contacts by the STS President and Executive members to better keep in touch with and support the needs of Chapters. Unfortunately, we experienced the dissolution of one of our British Columbia Chapters this last year.
- c. Provincial Executive has liaison representatives for each of the 40 Chapters. A more consistent and coherent way of communicating with the Chapters has been initiated by the Executive. This occurs after each Executive meeting through a digital publication named *Executive Notes*. This helps to keep Chapters informed as well as provides an opportunity for Executive members to initiate contact with Chapter Presidents.
- d. Publication and distribution of four issues of *Outreach* annually, a reduction of one issue annually. This publication has been refreshed in the last year to more of a magazine format, in full colour and with photos and articles of interest. This has been so appreciated and such a success that many members have requested receiving a print version as opposed to the online version!
- e. Chapters hosting provincial recreational events have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels including a provincial Bowling tournament, Kaiser, Mah Jongg, Golf, Stitch ‘N Quilt, Curling, and new events such as a Wellness Retreat and a Keep Fit and Knit activity.
- f. The STS is a founding member of the *Saskatchewan Seniors’ Mechanism* and continues to actively support SSM and their 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.
 - h. Annual grant of \$3,000 in support of the activities of the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation.
 - i. A continued Bylaw, Policy and Guideline renewal project that reflects our maturing and stable organization.
 - j. The current Health and Dental Agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross has been extended to June 30, 2025 with no premium increases and a number of enhancements. This has been possible due to a surplus being held in the plan beyond the target levels identified for our reserves.
 - k. The STS has transitioned a significant portion of their invested funds to the investment firm of Connor, Clark and Lunn.
 - l. Honorary Life Members were recognized with this year's recognition going to Sylvia Jones, Ralph May, Diane Marchand and Adeline Wuschenny.
 - 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.
 - 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 are provided upon request and online development is currently occurring.

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

There is one resolution being considered by the STS AGM in May that, if passed, will be directed to ACER-CART.