



SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN

MEMBER REPORT – May 2025

Information

Membership – 12,328 members (March 1, 2025) 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. Continuing impacts of the creation of a National Dental Program.
2. Impacts of the unfolding National Pharmacare Program.
3. Supports for Aging in the Right Place as the needs of elderly individuals change.

B. PROVINCIAL LEVEL

1. After over a decade of decreased learning supports occurring in classrooms, the most recent provincial budget indicates some increases. These increased don't completely backfill what has been removed, but it is a start.
2. A provincial election occurred on October 28, 2024, that saw the Saskatchewan Party returning to a majority government, although with a significantly reduced majority. The STS produced and distributed election materials to members to assist in decision making of members. Education became a key issue in the campaign, largely due to a collective bargaining dispute with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF).
3. After a long and drawn out collective bargaining dispute between the provincial government and the STF, including job action and intensive engagement of the Saskatchewan public, a new agreement has been signed. Job action included 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 and also to include "Classroom Complexity" as an article within the provincial agreement. This too was achieved.
4. The STS as a local association of the STF actively supports STF initiatives and our active teacher colleagues. STS Chapters and members supported our active teacher colleagues in the following ways:
 - Participation in walking the line with active teachers

- A donation of \$100,000 from the STS to the STF Contingency Fund
 - 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
5. 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.
 6. 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. Together with the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM – a provincial collection of organizations focussed on contributing to a better quality of life for seniors), we continue to advocate for the concept of gaining in the right place
 7. 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 and presentations have been made as these results have been disseminated.

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

- a. Local Chapter visits have gradually increased since COVID and more regular contacts by the STS President and Executive members are being made to better keep in touch with and support the needs of Chapters.
- b. Provincial Executive has liaison representatives for each of the 40 Chapters. A more consistent and coherent way of communicating with the Chapters continues 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.

- c. Publication and distribution of four issues of *Outreach* annually. This is a refreshed publication that has moved to more of a magazine format, in full colour and with photos and articles of interest. Positive feedback regarding this move continues to be received.
- d. Chapters hosting provincial recreational events have seen some challenges. Smaller Chapters are finding it difficult to host events, which leaves larger Chapters with hosting most events. The organization continues to look for these activities that would be attractive to our younger members.
- e. 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.
- f. Two \$2,500 scholarships to support University studies in Education.
- g. Annual grant of \$3,000 in support of the activities of the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation.
- h. A continued Bylaw, Policy and Guideline renewal project that reflects our maturing and stable organization.
- i. A new Group Benefits Agreement with Saskatchewan Blue Cross has been signed that extends to June 30, 2027. This new agreement includes premium increases and some enhancements. Surpluses in the Plan beyond the target levels identified for our reserves have allowed premium increases to be held down.
- j. The STS has completed the transitioned of our invested funds to the investment firm of Connor, Clark and Lunn.
- k. At the 2025 Annual General Meeting a special recognition of the contributions of Fred Herron (former Executive Secretary) occurred. Fred passed away October 24, 2024. Fred's hand of leadership is evident almost everywhere with the STS.
- l. 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.
- m. 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 brings to their lifestyle and that of their significant others. These sessions are provided upon request and online development is currently occurring. A total of 8 sessions were provided around the province this past year with about 180 people in attendance.

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

There currently have been no motions forwarded to the STS Annual General Meeting that would impact the ACER-CART AGM.