

# SSM passed the following resolutions at our AGM in June 2015:

## 1. Ambulance Fees for Seniors

BE IT RESOLVED that Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism (SSM) request that the Government of Saskatchewan eliminate ambulance fees charged for seniors who require ambulance service.

## 2. Ambulance Fees between Medical Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism (SSM) request that the Government of Saskatchewan eliminate ambulance fees when transferring anyone between medical facilities.

*Background to numbers 1 and 2:*

- *Currently, patients are charged a minimum of \$250 each time they are transported to a hospital for medical care or transferred from one medical facility to another - even when the transfer is not initiated by the patient.*
- *In addition to the ambulance charge, patients are charged \$2.30 per kilometre plus obligated to pay a "wait time" fee of between \$50 and \$100 per hour. These fees create a significant hardship for many patients.*
- *Across Canada, fees vary from a low of no out-of-pocket charge to patients to a high of \$385 if transported to a hospital in Alberta. Some provinces charge a lower rate if "medically necessary".*
- *CBC Marketplace documented that many seniors hesitate to use ambulance service because of the cost.*

## 3. MRI's

BE IT RESOLVED that SSM express concern to the Saskatchewan Government about any potential changes to MRI procedures that would give priority access based on an individual's financial resources. Further we encourage consultation with stakeholders before any changes might be made.

*Background:*

- *Everyone in Saskatchewan, regardless of ability to pay, should have access to timely MRIs when they need them.*
- *Legislation has been introduced by the provincial government which could pave the way for more people to get private scans, if they are able to pay for them.*
- *Concern about how this might erode the original concept of Medicare whereby everyone is entitled to the same service regardless of income.*
- *After the MRI those who paid for them could get bumped ahead in the line for treatment because of having access to an earlier MRI.*