

# **Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism**



**Saskatchewan  
Seniors  
Mechanism**

*Seniors Working Together*

**25th Annual General Meeting**

**June 11, 2015**

**G. Marconi Canadian Italian Club  
Regina, SK**



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# **AGENDA**

## **2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday June 11, 2015**

**1:00 p.m.**

1. Call the Meeting to Order—Robert Wuschenny, President
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2014 Annual General Meeting
4. President's Report—Robert Wuschenny
5. Executive Director's Report—Holly Schick
6. Program & Steering Committee Reports
  - a. Century Club
  - b. Celebrating Seniors
  - c. Research & Issues
  - d. Seniors & Isolation
  - e. Creating Age Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities
  - f. Seniors Neglect & Abuse Response Line
7. Standing Committee Reports:
  - 7.1 Finance & Audit Committee Report—Andre Nogue
    - a. Auditor's Report: MWC Chartered Professional Accountants
    - b. Motion to Appoint the Auditor
  - 7.2 Governance Committee Report—Linda Anderson
8. Other Reports
  - 8.1 Grants Report
  - 8.2 Philips Lifeline Saskatchewan
  - 8.3 ALCOA Representative Report
9. Nominations
10. Resolutions
11. Closing Remarks



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**  
**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM - June 12, 2014**





# AGM Minutes

AGM Minutes  
McClure United Church  
June 12, 2014  
1 p.m.

Present:

President : Betty Pickering

Past President: Les Lye

## Voting Delegates

Roger Aessie, National Association of Federal Retirees

Kathy Lye, National Association of Federal Retirees

Bill Taylor, National Association of Federal Retirees

Janice Bernier, Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

Ron Monk, Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

Jim Bitinsky, Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

Margaret Gailing, Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association Inc.

Ollie Marciniuk, Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association Inc.

Sheldon Kraus, Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association Inc.

Fern Haight, Saskatchewan Seniors Assoc. Inc.

Isobel Fowler, Saskatchewan Seniors Assoc. Inc.

Lorna Weldon, Saskatchewan Seniors Assoc. Inc.

Kerrie Strathy, Lifelong Learning Centre

Louis Wood, Lifelong Learning Centre

Marj Thiessen, Lifelong Learning Centre

Al Schell, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Robert Wuschenny, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

George Georget, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

Shirley Arnold, Regina Senior Citizens Centre

Ron Kostiuk (proxy Shirley Arnold), Regina Senior Citizens Centre

George Simpson (proxy Shirley Arnold), Regina Senior Citizens Centre

Elliot PausJenssen, Saskatoon Council on Aging

Candace Skrapek, Saskatoon Council on Aging

June Gawdun, Saskatoon Council on Aging

Marguerite Hounjet, Fédération des aînés Fransaskois

Randy Dove, Saskatchewan Retirees Association

Board (who were not delegates)

Charles Keple

Andre Nogue

Jeanne Alexander

Linda Anderson

Mike Kaminski

Wilma Mollard

Maxine Stinka

Staff

Holly Schick

Rosemary Flaman

Dianne Barrow

Lynne Couzens

1. Call to Order

President Betty Pickering called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

**Motion: Kathy Lye/Kerrie Strathy that the agenda be adopted as presented.**

Carried.

3. Approval of the minutes

**Motion: Ron Monk/Louis Wood moved the minutes be adopted as**

**circulated.** Carried.

4. President's Report – presented by Betty Pickering

**Motion: Betty Pickering/Isobel Fowler that the President's Report be accepted as presented.** Carried.

5. Executive Director's Report – presented by Holly Schick

**Motion: Robert Wushenny/Fern Haight that the Executive Director's Report be accepted as presented.** Carried.

6. Program Reports

a. Century Club

b. Celebrating Seniors

c. Century of Memories

- d. Housing Task Group
- e. Creating Age-Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities
- f. Seniors Neglect & Abuse Response Line - advisory team is listed not complete committee

**Motion: Janice Bernier/Kathy Lye that Program Reports be accepted as presented.** Carried.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Finance Committee – presented by Andre Nogue

**Motion: Isobel Fowler/Margaret Gailing that Finance & Audit Committee Report be accepted.** Carried.

**Motion: Bill Taylor/Margaret Gailing that the Financial Statements be accepted as presented.** Carried.

Margaret Gailing – \$87,030.00 was distribute this year to member organizations. Is there a ceiling of what can go out to member organizations? Up to 50% is distributed. SPRA expects SSM to give out significant amounts. Grants given out are based on requests from member organizations. Had additional requests that we didn't fund this year because of concerns about the application and we are working with that member organization this year instead of distributing grant dollars to them.

Auditor's Report prepared by Mintz & Wallace, Chartered Accountants

**Motion: Louis Wood/Marguerite Hounjet that the Auditor's Report be accepted as printed in the AGM book.** Carried.

**Motion: George Georget/Al Schell that Mintz & Wallace be reappointed as auditor for 2013/2014.** Carried.

7.2 Governance Report presented by Charles Keple

Charles Keple challenged organizations to bring forward changes they see that are required. Charles apologized that due to illness he was not able to schedule a meeting early enough to facilitate completion of the work of this committee in a timely manner. In a meeting 3 weeks ago a framework for further work was laid.

**Motion: Kerrie Strathy/Kathy Lye that the Governance Committee Report be accept as presented.** Carried.

7.3 Membership Committee – presented by Margaret Gailing

**Motion: Margaret Gailing/Marj Thiessen that the Membership Committee Report be accept as presented. Carried.**

8. Other Reports - presented by Holly Schick
  - 8.1 Grants Report
  - 8.2 Philips Lifeline Saskatchewan
  - 8.3 ALCOA Report

Grants report – Remove wording ‘In 2012-2013 those grants were distributed as follows:’

Discussion:

-many organizations are in need of additional funding. What is the best way to lobby for more funding? Do we need to separate? SPRA tells us exactly how much funding we will receive. Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism is a provincial recreation organization and it is the intent of SPRA that other organizations would apply to us. SPRA wants to deal with only one organization. SSM was established because other organizations were not eligible to ask for funding from SPRA because they were not provincial organizations.

-Can only charitable organizations get the funding? SSM can give grants to whomever they choose. SPRA can only give grants to a charitable organization. As a charitable organization we are quite restricted – We can fund projects that are our own or another charitable organization. The only project SSM funds that is not by a charitable organization is SSAI newsletter. However, it is part of our project because their newsletter is a part of our newsletter.

-only our member organizations can apply for funding.

**Motion: Ron Monk/Randy Dove that Other Reports be accepted as presented. Carried.**

9. Nominations Committee Report presented by Les Lye

**Motion: Kathy Lye/George Georget that the Nomination Committee Report be accepted as circulated. Carried**

Elections:

Each nominee has the opportunity to speak for 2 min.

Betty Pickering presided over elections.

Dianne Barrow appointed as time keeper.

**Nominee for President:** (2 year term)

Betty Pickering

**Les Lye declared Betty Pickering as President by acclamation.**

Betty presented her vision for SSM.

She presented a tribute to Brian Huggins, SSM Board Member who passed away recently.

There was a moment of silence for all those who have passed on.

**Nominee for Vice-President:** (2 year term)

Robert Wuschenny

**Les Lye declared Robert Wuschenny as Vice-President by acclamation.**

Robert presented his qualifications and his commitment to SSM.

**Members at Large:**

Jeanne Alexander – Jeanne presented her involvement in, passion for & qualifications to be on the Board.

Shirley Arnold – spoke about her involvement at RSCCI and also her interest in Elder Abuse, Affordable Housing and her passion for volunteering.

Randy Dove – sees SSM as providing leadership on a provincial basis for member organizations as well as programming (working together with member organizations).

Isobel Fowler – been on the board for 4 years and will continue to be involved with SSM.

**Les Lye declared Jeanne Alexander, Shirley Arnold, Randy Dove & Isobel Fowler as Members at Large by acclamation**

Resolutions - Presented by Betty Pickering

Concern: re: Page 15 minutes of 2013 AGM

-not receiving resolutions early enough to have the ability to consult with their organizations so delegates could vote in a knowledgeable manner.

-no background for several resolutions and don't know intent of SSM

-no report back on last year's resolutions

-many resolutions that ask SSM to take action which requires time and impacts SSM and its resources

-ask to support or not support resolutions that we have no information

SSM

Comments from last year's AGM were taken seriously resulting in a Resolutions Committee being put in place. The issue regarding resolutions coming out in a

more timely manner is the timing of member organizations' AGMs. Resolutions were forwarded to member organization contacts as soon as SSM had received and prepared them. Should SSM send tentative resolutions out to voting delegates and clarify that they are tentative? Do we wait for a year?

#### Further comments

- SSM is here to serve the leadership in the province; if we endorse resolutions without due consideration it reflects on us
- suggested AGM could be in the Fall.
- George Georget commended SSM for not delaying for a year, SSM needs to accommodate member organizations the best way they can.
- AGM delegates have the opportunity to table or refer resolutions to the board rather than pass them
- what is our bottom line purpose of producing resolutions, bringing them here and having them passed? Resolutions can be basis for presentation to government. Think about purpose of doing resolutions. If we are presenting to government and if we think it is important, let's do the work to make them excellent and timely.
- all organizations should have a conversation about what they want to see from the resolutions
- Does the resolution committee have the power to go back and ask for more background?
- suggested using the **Whereas** and **Be it Resolved** form

#### SSM

- background information is the **Whereas** because with SSM's resolution formation requirements we do not use **Whereas**
- we do not have flexibility with the timing of SSM AGM because there are legalities as to when we are required to have our AGM

### **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #1 — Home Mail Delivery**

**Moved: Janice Bernier**

**Seconded: Ron Monk**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by Canada Post Heritage Club Golden Sheaf Chapter

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM oppose the Canada Post decision to imminently remove home delivery and encourage Canada Post to consult widely in order to consider alternative solutions for mail delivery.

Friendly amendment was suggested and accepted as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM write a letter to the federal government & Canada Post to reverse the decision to imminently remove home delivery and encourage Canada Post to consult widely in order to consider alternative solutions for mail delivery. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #2 — Seniors Property Tax Deferral**

**Moved: Ron Monk**

**Seconded: Candace Skrapek**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by SSM Board

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism urge the Government of Saskatchewan to explore the feasibility of a Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Program similar to that administered by other provinces. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #3 — Child Rearing Dropout Provisions**

**Moved: Fern Haight**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to allow up to ten zero contributory years when determining CPP benefits.

**Motion: Candace Skrapek that the resolution be tabled until adequate background information is provided.** Defeated.

**Motion: George Geroget/Jim Bitinsky that this motion be referred to the SSM Board.** Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #4 — Additional Voluntary Contributions to CPP**

**Moved: Fern Haight**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to allow Canadians to make voluntary contributions to the Canada Pension Plan, in addition to the mandatory contributions.

**Motion: George Georget/Janice Bernier that we refer the resolution to the SSM Board for further information. Carried.**

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #5 — Contributions & Interest to be Paid to Estate or Alternate Beneficiary**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Fern Haight**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to ensure that when there is no partner/spouse, contributions and interest earned on the contributions made by the deceased, be paid to the estate or designated alternate beneficiary.

Friendly Amendment was suggested and accepted as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to ensure that when there is no partner/spouse, contributions made to CPP and interest earned on the contributions made by the deceased, be paid to the estate or designated alternate beneficiary. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #6 — Seniors Physical Activity Deduction**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Provincial Government and the Government of Canada to allow tax deductions for fees associated with seniors' physical activity-based programs. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #7 — Seniors' STC Bus Pass**

**Moved: Lorna Weldon**

**Seconded: Fern Haight**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Seniors' Pass on STC for \$10 per month. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #8 — Seniors Promo Discounts**



**Moved: Fern Haight**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM petition the business associations/Chambers of Commerce to maintain seniors' discounts.

A friendly amendment was suggested as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED That SSM express its gratitude collectively, publicly to the businesses of Saskatchewan for the discount programs.**

The amendment was ruled out of order because it changes the intent.

Defeated.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #9 — Transportation for Seniors as a Key to Maintaining Independence**

**Moved: Lorna Weldon**

**Seconded: Fern Haight**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to host forums to discuss and explore solutions to seniors' transportation needs. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #10 — Limited Access to Public Home Care Services**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that the citizens across the province are receiving full access to Public Home Care services.

**Motion: Louis Wood/Janice Bernier that the resolution be returned to SSAI so that the wording may be changed to clarify Public Home Care.** Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #11 — Homecare Program with Community Support**

**Moved: Fern Haight**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM continue to advocate with the Government of Saskatchewan to develop a long-term commitment to work with community agencies and stakeholders so that more seniors live safely and independently at home with proper community and individual supports rather than in care facilities. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #12 — Home Care**

**Moved: Lorna Weldon**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to add the provision of Home Care to the guaranteed services provided and funded through Medicare.

After discussion, the above resolution was withdrawn in favor of the following:

**12A**

**Motion: George Georget/Al Schell That SSM lobby the government of Canada to add the provision of Home Care Services to the Canada Health Act.** Carried.

Betty Pickering, President, stated that we would also deal with the following Resolution **12B**

**12B Sponsored by STS**

**Moved: George Georget**

**Seconded: Robert Wuschenny**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to develop plans to expand and improve Seniors Home Care Programs and Seniors Home Support Programs to assist seniors to remain in their homes.

A friendly amendment was suggested and accepted as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED That SSM lobby the government of Saskatchewan to develop a provincial home care program and home support programs to assist seniors and others to remain their homes.** Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #17** (dealt with here because topic is similar to previous motion)

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan that Public Home Care Services be improved for long term clients.

**Motion: Kerrie Strathy/Janice Bernier that the resolution go back to SSAI to reword and resubmit.** Carried.

Clarification needs to be made as to the meaning of long term clients and public home care services.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #13 — Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit**

**Moved: George Georget**

**Seconded: Bill Taylor**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit for seniors.

A friendly amendment was suggested and accepted as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED That SSM encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Healthy Homes Renovation refundable Tax Credit for seniors.** Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #14 — Comprehensive Health Accord**

**Moved: George Georget**

**Seconded: Robert Wuschenny**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the SSM, in co-ordination with the STF, STS, and ACER-CART, urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to negotiate a new comprehensive health accord that protects, transforms, and strengthens Canada's national health care system in accordance with the five principles as laid out in the Canada Health Act, and that a national seniors health care plan and a national pharmaceutical strategy be created.

A friendly amendment was suggested and accepted as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the SSM, in co-ordination with the STF, STS, and ACER-CART, urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to negotiate a new comprehensive health accord that protects, transforms, and strengthens Canada's national health care system in accordance with the five principles as laid out in the Canada Health Act, and that a national seniors health care plan and a national pharmaceutical strategy be implemented.

It was decided that the motion would be dealt with as 2 separate motions as follows:

**14A**

**Moved: George Georget**

**Seconded: Robert Wuschenny**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Canada & the Government of Saskatchewan to urge the negotiation of a new comprehensive health accord that protects, transforms and strengthens Canada's national health care system in accordance with the five principles as laid out in the Canada Health Act. Carried.

**14B**

**Moved: Janice Bernier**

**Seconded: Robert Wuschenny**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Federal Government to implement a national seniors health care strategy and a national pharmaceutical plan. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #15 — Senior Housing Grants**

**Moved: Lorna Weldon**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to make available the already established grant programs for home repairs for seniors to enable them to live in their own homes. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #16 — Health Care Insurance for Seniors**

**Moved: Fern Haight**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a public funded extended health insurance plan for seniors who do not or cannot afford private insurance plans. Defeated.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #18 – Aids to Daily Living**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Fern Haight**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to bring costs involving hearing, dental, eye care, walking and wheelchairs, etc. under control or better subsidized so that seniors in this Province may enjoy a happier and less isolated life. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #19 - Diabetic Supplies and Medications**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Fern Haight**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that the Saskatchewan Medicare System supply all diabetics with their supplies and medications, ensuring that all diabetics would have better control over their disease, resulting in reduced hospitalization and thereby saving the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health considerable Resources. Carried.

It was noted that a similar resolution was passed at last AGM.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #20 - Housing**

**Moved: Isobel Fowler**

**Seconded: Lorna Weldon**

**BE IT RESOLVED** That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that their affordable seniors' housing remains affordable for all seniors. Carried.

**SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #21 – Crown Corporations**

**Moved: Lorna Weldon**

**Seconded: Isobel Fowler**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to stop giving away our Crown Corporations.

**Motion: George Georget/Al Schell to table the resolution.** Carried.

SSM was asked to send out printed copies of the resolutions. SSM will email them to member organization contacts for distribution

**Motion: Marj Thiessen/Kathy Lye that a resolutions report be made at the next Annual Meeting.** Carried.

11. Closing Remarks – Retired Board Members (Charles Keple, Maxine Stinka, Marj Thiessen) were thanked for all their effort.

**Betty Pickering declared the meeting be adjourned @ 4:45 p.m.** Carried.

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Betty Pickering, President

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Lynne Couzens, Admin Assistant

**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**

**CURRENT BYLAWS**





**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM INC.**  
**BYLAWS**  
**May 2012**

*Preamble*

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (incorporated on July 24, 1989 under *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, Saskatchewan) and the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Charitable Trust (incorporated August 16, 1995 under *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, Saskatchewan) amalgamated to form the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism incorporated as of June 20, 2011 under *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, Saskatchewan; and

**WHEREAS** Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism is empowered under the said *Act* to make bylaws;

**THEREFORE** Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism makes bylaws as follows:

**TITLE**

*Title*

1. These bylaws may be cited as the *Bylaws of Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, Inc.*

**INTERPRETATION**

*Definitions*

2. In these bylaws:
  - 2.1 “Mechanism” and “SSM” mean Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, Inc.
  - 2.2 “member organization” means an association of seniors which is non-discriminatory in relation to race, religion, sex, physical or mental abilities and which has been incorporated for at least two (2) years for the purpose of supporting and advancing the common interests of seniors.

**OBJECTIVES**

*Aims and Purposes*

3. **To promote the well-being and independence of seniors in Saskatchewan by:**
  - 3.1 Providing access to information and support services for seniors;
  - 3.2 Educating and training seniors regarding issues affecting them;
  - 3.3 Conducting research to identify issues affecting seniors, and solutions to address them.

## **MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

- Categories* 4. Member organizations which may be represented on SSM may be province-wide, city-wide or area-wide in terms of membership, goals and objectives, and they will collectively provide a network of programs or services throughout the province.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- Membership* 5.1 Any organization that meets the definition of a member organization, pursuant to clause 2.2, and which has not been represented by any other existing member organization of SSM may apply for membership in SSM.
- 5.2 Every application for membership shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the SSM.
- 5.3 Any member organization may withdraw from membership in SSM by providing written notice to the Board of Directors of SSM.
- 5.4 After consultation with the member organization the Board has the right to revoke membership for just cause.

## **SUPPORTERS**

- Supporters* 6.1
- 6.1.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 and subsection 5.1, there shall be a category known as “Supporters of SSM” which is open to any group or organization whose membership is composed primarily of persons who support and advance the interests of seniors.
- 6.1.2 Supporters of SSM may participate in activities of SSM but have no vote.
- 6.2 Every application to become a supporter shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of SSM.
- 6.3 Any organization may withdraw from being a supporter of SSM by providing written notice to the Board of Directors of SSM.
- 6.4 After consultation with the supporter the Board has the right to revoke supporter designation for just cause.

## **DIRECTORS**

- Composition of the Board* 7.1 The Board of Directors of Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism shall be composed of twelve (12) members plus the Past President.
- 7.2 In principle, Directors shall serve for no more than two (2)

consecutive two year terms of office.

7.3 The term of office of newly elected Directors shall take effect at the first meeting of the Board held after the Annual General Meeting of SSM.

**Duties &  
Responsibilities**

8.1 Directors of SSM shall:

8.1.1 Act honestly and in good faith, consistent with the best interests of SSM;

8.1.2 Exercise due care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances, to work and provide sound stewardship of the SSM resources entrusted to them; and

8.1.3 Protect confidentiality on matters and information provided to them in confidence at all board and committee meetings.

8.2 Any director who acts in a manner inconsistent with the interests and reputation of SSM shall be deemed in conflict of interest and shall be removed from the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of ***The Non-profit Corporations Act***, Saskatchewan.

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Officers**

9. The officers of SSM shall consist of the following:

(a) President;

(b) Vice-President;

(c) Secretary;

(d) Treasurer; and

(e) Past President.

**Vacancies**

10.1 Except for the Past President, all officers and members-at-large shall be elected for a 2-year term at the AGM.

10.2.1 Upon the prior approval of nomination by a member organization an individual shall be eligible to stand for election as an officer or member-at-large at the Annual General Meeting.

10.2.2 All nominations must be received by the Nominations Committee at least 30 days prior to the AGM.

- 10.3 The Past President shall chair the AGM during the election of officers and members-at-large.
- 10.4 Election of officers shall be conducted beginning with the position of President and then continue through Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The person who receives the majority of votes cast (50% + 1) shall be declared elected. If there is no clear majority then a second and subsequent ballot(s) will be held until a clear majority is achieved. In subsequent ballots, the person with the least votes will be removed from the ballot. Individuals who are not elected to one position are eligible to run for other positions.
- 10.5 Elections for members-at-large shall occur following election of officers. Members-at-large will be elected on a single ballot. Those receiving the highest number of ballots will be deemed elected (up to the required number of members-at-large). In the event that any terms are only 1 year in duration the elected member(s)-at-large with the lowest number of votes will serve out the remainder of those terms.
- 10.6 Where an officer vacancy occurs, such vacancy shall be filled by and from the Board of Directors to complete the term.
- 10.7 Where a member-at-large vacancy occurs the Board of Directors may fill such vacancy to complete the term.
- Removals  
& Expulsions** 11.1 The Board of Directors of SSM may remove any officer by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the directors whenever, in the judgement of the Board, the best interests of SSM would be served.

## OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

### **President**

- 12.1 The President shall:
- 12.1.1 Assume his/her office immediately upon election.
- 12.1.2 Be the principal executive officer of SSM and it shall be his/her duty to be vigilant and active in promoting the objectives of SSM;
- 12.1.3 Generally supervise and control the business and affairs of SSM;
- 12.1.4 Keep the Executive Committee and the Executive Director aware of all undertakings carried out on behalf of the Board of Directors;
- 12.1.5 Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
- 12.1.6 Be an **ex officio** member of all committees; and

12.1.7 Perform such other duties which may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Vice-President**

13.1 The Vice-President shall:

13.1.1 Assist the President in the performance of presidential duties and shall act as President *pro tempore* in the absence or inability of the President; and

13.1.2 Perform such other duties which may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Board of directors.

13.2.1 The Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of President when the present incumbent is permanently unable to carry out his/her duties.

13.2.2 The completion of the term of office referred to in clause 13.2.1 shall not be considered as a term of office of President.

**Treasurer**

14. The Treasurer shall:

14.1 If required by the Board of Directors, be bonded for the faithful discharge of his/her duties in such sums and sureties as the board may determine;

14.2 Be responsible for ascertaining the correctness of the financial status of SSM;

14.3 Report the financial status of SSM at all board meetings;

14.4 Perform all other duties incident to the office of Treasurer; and

14.5 Carry out such other duties as may be assigned, from time to time, by the Board.

**Secretary**

15. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall ensure that minutes are kept.

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

**Management**

16.1 Official cheque signing authorities shall be any two of the executive director, president, treasurer, vice-president, and secretary of SSM.

16.2 As designated officers of the Board, Bylaw 16.1 shall apply to the signing of any deeds, mortgages, loans, contracts or other instruments which are authorized by the Board to be executed.

- Voting Authority** 17. Each director present at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall have one vote.
- Meetings** 18. There shall be at least four (4) meetings of the Board of Directors in each fiscal year.
- Fiscal Year** 19. The fiscal year of SSM shall commence on April 1 of a year and end on March 31 of the following calendar year.
- Quorum** 20. A majority of voting Directors personally present at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.
- Conduct of Meetings** 21. Where not otherwise expressly provided for in ***The Non-profit Corporations Act***, or elsewhere in these bylaws, the conduct of meetings of the Board of Directors shall be governed by the latest revised edition of ***Roberts Rules of Order***.

## COMMITTEES

- Committees** 22.1 The following standing committees shall be struck at the first meeting of the Board after the Annual General Meeting of SSM:
- 22.1.1 Governance Committee chaired by the Vice President;
- 22.1.2 Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer;
- 22.1.3 Membership Committee chaired by the Secretary;
- 22.1.4 Nominations Committee chaired by the Past President; and
- 22.1.5 Other Task Groups as needed to carry out the work of SSM.
- 22.2 The Board of Directors may appoint committee members from the members of the Board or may appoint participants from the general membership of any member organization(s).
- 22.3.1 There shall be a committee known as the Executive Committee which shall consist of the:
- (i) President;
  - (ii) Vice-President;
  - (iii) Secretary;
  - (iv) Treasurer; and
  - (v) Past President.

22.3.2 The Executive Committee shall have the authority of the Board of Directors of SSM as circumstances may dictate, but all actions of this committee shall be subject to the approval of the Board at the next Board meeting.

22.4 The Board of Directors may establish *ad hoc* task groups as may be required, and appointments of members to these task groups shall be ratified by the Board.

## STAFF OF SSM

- Executive* 23. The staff position of Executive Director of SSM shall be **Director** an **ex officio**, non-voting member of the Board of Directors and of each committee.
- Support Staff* 24. The Board of Directors may engage such other support staff as may be deemed necessary to carry out the day-to-day functions and operations of the SSM office.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- Annual General Meeting* 25. The Annual General Meeting of SSM shall be held within three (3) months of the end of the fiscal year, and in no case shall it be held later than June 30.
- Voting Delegates* 26. Except as provided in section 29, each member organization shall appoint in writing, the names of three (3) voting delegates for the Annual General Meeting.
- Proxy Voting* 27. Where a voting delegate representing a member organization expects to be absent during voting called at the Annual General Meeting, each such absent member may, through proxy in writing, transfer his/her voting rights to another member representing a quorum.
- Quorum* 28. A simple majority of voting members personally present, including proxy holders, at the opening of the Annual General Meeting of SSM shall constitute a quorum.

## BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO

- Directors may make, Amend or Repeal Bylaws* 29.1 Voting Delegates of member organizations may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority at the Annual General Meeting by resolution make, amend or repeal any bylaws that regulate the activities and affairs of SSM **as per terms of "The Non-Profit Corporations Act"**.
- 29.2 The Board of Directors or any Voting Delegate may submit any Proposed bylaws or any amendments or repeal thereof to the any Pro voting dele

gates at the Annual General Meeting by giving 45 days notice in writing. The delegates may, by resolution confirm, reject or amend the proposed bylaws, amendments or repeals in accordance with 29.1

- 29.3 A bylaw, an amendment to a bylaw or a repeal of a bylaw shall be effective from the day of approval at the Annual General Meeting.

## **WIND-UP AND DISSOLUTION**

***Wind-up & Dissolution*** In the event of the wind-up and dissolution of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, all the property and assets shall, after the payment of all liabilities, be distributed to one or more qualified donees, and in accordance with the provisions of ***The Non-profit Corporations Act***, Saskatchewan.



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



## **President's Report**

I was barely into the role of Vice-President when President Betty Pickering became seriously ill. After her passing, I assumed the role of President as per the Bylaws (13.2.1) and further by Board motion at the November 12, 2014 meeting. The late Betty Pickering was a stalwart in the SSM so I had big shoes to fill. The past year has been busy as we continue to work on seniors' issues as per our Mission and Vision as well as building relationships with our supporters, with governments and with our member organizations.

Through its programs the SSM reaches out to seniors across the province. I chair the Age-Friendly Committee and our Committee has visited a number of communities in the province, explaining the Age-Friendly concept and encouraging them as they journey toward becoming Age-Friendly communities. As well, we presented on Age-Friendly at the Education Sessions of the SUMA convention, at the Saskatchewan Nurse Practitioners' Conference and to an hotelier who is interested in making his brand of hotels Age-Friendly. In December, SSM and SUMA signed a partnership agreement to work together to promote Age-Friendly communities.

Our annual Consultation with member organizations focussed on the organizations' programs and activities as well as how they could be involved in SSM to a greater extent. This consultation opened the doors to many possibilities for our member organizations to play a greater role in advancing the work of the SSM.

In spite of March blizzard conditions, Stephen Hill representing the Alzheimer's Society, Joan McCusker of curling fame and Frank John, a very active senior, capably engaged the audience at the "Lifelong Vibrant Living" Conference. Hill spoke on ways to keep one's brain healthy, McCusker showed how ordinary people do extraordinary things while Frank John shared his story of living a vibrant, active life.

I thank the SSM Board for your support and your commitment to SSM. Thanks also to our staff, Executive Director Holly Schick, Administrative Assistant Lynne Couzens, Project Coordinator Dianne Barrow (now retired) and Program Coordinator Rosemary Flaman. Thanks to Beth Stilborn, our newest employee who assists in many areas. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

These are exciting times for seniors. I am proud of the accomplishments of our provincial organization. There is yet much to be accomplished as we continue to work with our member organizations, governments and supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wuschenny  
President



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



## Executive Director's Report

SSM continues to be a very lively and busy organization. I am pleased to share with you some of the work of the past year. More detailed reports from our committees and on some of our programs and partnerships – Century Club, Celebrating Seniors, Age-Friendly Saskatchewan, Age-Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities, Senior Neglect and Abuse Response Line, Seniors and Isolation, ALCOA, and Philips Lifeline – are included later in this book.

It has been both a challenging and a rewarding year. The death of our president, Betty Pickering, in mid-October was a great loss to our organization. Our vice-president, Robert Wuschenny, stepped into the role of president and is doing an excellent job. However, the loss of Betty meant tremendous grief for the organization and staff.

On the rewarding side, SSM and our work are becoming better known throughout the province. Our work with Age-Friendly Communities is really taking off and is providing a very exciting framework that links together much of the work we do.

The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, has been the **Honourary Patron** for our Celebrating Seniors Awards for several years. We are pleased that she has now agreed to be the Honourary Patron for Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

We held **Forums on Home Care** around the province. The first was held in Hanley on March 31<sup>st</sup>. In April and May we held forums in Tisdale, Melville, Estevan, Gravelbourg, and Regina. There was better attendance at some than others, but we were pleased with the dialogue that took place. The Ministry of Health and the Health Regions were very helpful in providing information and speakers from the regions for each of the forums. We were pleased that Dawn McNeil, retired Director of Home Care and Palliative Care in RQHR, was able to attend all of the forums and do an overview presentation on Home Care.

Our annual conference was part of the work of the Creating Age-Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities project. It was held on June 11-12, 2014 in Saskatoon with the theme **Creating Age-Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities**. It was an opportunity to explore what an age-friendly community is and identify the connection between age-friendly communities and reducing elder abuse. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer. On day one, three groups who are directly working on age-friendly communities shared their experiences – Age-Friendly Manitoba (presented by Shannon Kohler, Consultant on the Age-Friendly Manitoba Initiative of the Seniors and Healthy Living Secretariat), Age-Friendly Saskatoon (presented by Candace Skrapek, chair of the Age-Friendly Saskatoon Initiative, Lynne Lacroix, Haizhan Mou, and Shan Landry), and Age-Friendly Regina Beach/Buena Vista (presented by Ron Monk, Regina Beach resident and Rosemary Flaman, SSM

Program Coordinator). We also heard a brief presentation on the need for volunteers for the North American Indigenous Games (held in the summer of 2014 in Regina and sponsored by SaskEnergy). On the second day, the conference focused on addressing abuse of older adults. We started with a presentation on the Senior Neglect and Abuse Response Line (presented by Dianne Barrow). This was followed by a session on the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) Knowledge Sharing Project (presented by Shannon Kohler and Elliot PausJenssen, CNPEA Board Member). This was part of a three-year initiative to help identify the needs of stakeholders working with elder abuse and neglect issues across Canada so that CNPEA can develop resources to meet these needs.

Our **Annual General Meeting** was held in June following the annual conference. This was our third year of electing Board Members rather than having a Board composed of representatives of each member organization. Because we have 2-year terms, this is the first year in which people who had served a full term on the Board were changing. The move to an elected Board continues to be a good one. The Board Members continue to be eager and committed to attending meetings and getting involved with various committees and task groups. We formed a **Resolutions Committee** to help us better deal with resolutions coming from our member organizations.

We worked with SFUR/SURF on our **Retirement Transitions** project. This project provides new retirees and those soon to be retired with an opportunity to explore ways to make that transition as smooth as possible. The content of the 1½ day workshops includes information on finances, opportunities for meaningful activity including volunteering, mental and physical wellbeing. This project is almost complete. We held a 'train the trainer' session for those who will lead the workshops and will complete the workshops themselves this Spring and early Summer. The workshop leaders will be available to do further workshops, but groups inviting them will need to pay the leaders expenses once the project funding runs out.

Because SSM is a partner in the **Sask 211** project, we continue to offer input on possible issues and improvements that could better meet the needs of older adults.

We signed a partnership agreement with **SUMA** in December. The agreement will see us working together on issues that are of mutual interest and concern.

Our **Sell the Rocking Chair-Buy a Snowboard** event took place on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Speakers included Joan McCusker who "believes it is ordinary people who do extraordinary things," Frank John an older adult who is living a vibrant, active life, and Stephen Hill from Alzheimer Saskatchewan presenting on *Heads Up for Healthier Brains*. It was an excellent event with 65 in attendance on a day with a lot of snow and ice. It encouraged older adults not to be held back by their age and raised awareness within the community of the ways in which we fall into the trap of ageism and don't believe older adults are capable of certain things.

Our quarterly meetings with **Sask Health** have been a bit less frequent, partly because



of staff vacancies in the Community Care Branch and we are looking forward to getting these regular meetings back on track as they are excellent opportunities to connect and share information and issues. We have also had opportunities to meet with Minister Duncan. This has been very helpful. Minister Duncan has indicated a willingness to continue to meet with us. We made a proposal to the Ministry of Health regarding an increase in our funding in order to continue to develop the Age-Friendly Saskatchewan program which did not receive approval in the new provincial budget.

We prepared and sent out four issues of **Gray Matters**, our quarterly publication. We continue to print 28 pages on a regular basis to be able to include all the material we receive and want to include. We have been including articles on fitness, elder abuse, fraud and age-friendly communities in each issue. We are also pleased that Minister Duncan has been putting in an article on a regular basis.

We have a new three-year **lease** for our office. Part of that agreement was redoing our bathrooms.

We negotiated a new agreement regarding a **photocopier** and now have one that allows us to do colour copies.

We have had a number of **staffing** changes. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, Lynne began officially working 2 days a week instead of 3 for a trial period of 9 months. This was at her request. Because she actually works more than 2 days when we are busy, we have contracted with Beth Stilborn to work another 2 days a week for this 9 month period. At the end of the 9 months we will evaluate how this has worked and if we will continue this pattern. Dianne Barrow decided to retire, but is doing work for us on a casual basis, particularly in the area of presentations on senior abuse and neglect.

We are now requiring **Police Records** checks for staff. This is something we have had as a possible policy in the past, but have not implemented until now. As of January 1, 2015 these are required and must be dated within the past three years.

We have continued with our **Seniors Information Phone Line**, work on our **website**, and we are gradually moving into use of **Facebook**. We now have a staff member, Beth, who is familiar with Facebook, so we have been using her skills to better use this social media.

In addition to the above, SSM has been involved in the following:

- made presentation on SSM and seniors issues we are working on at SSAI convention
- booth at Celebrate 50+ (Regina Senior Citizens Centre)
- supper and annual meeting with supervisor of Philips Lifeline, who we partner with
- spoke about SSM on community radio, News at Noon and CTV Morning Show
- executive director continues to act as an ALCOA Board Member
  - made presentations on elder abuse and the proposed phone line project to various

groups e.g. Mobile Crisis

- attended Regina Partnerships for Positive Aging meetings
- corresponding participant with Saskatoon Falls Consortium
- provided feedback to media on various issues
- TV and radio spots on Celebrating Seniors and Annual Conference
- participated in a webinar addressing pension issues with National Association of Federal Retirees
- attended AGM of Fédération des aînés fransaskois
- attended meetings of New Horizons Rural and Remote Advisory Board
- met with Barb Byers from the Canadian Labour Congress regarding raising awareness of senior abuse
- made presentation on senior abuse resources to CNIB staff
- participated in conference call of Canadian Network for the prevention of Elder Abuse
- participated in Social Services session on housing for people with disabilities
- participated in national meeting on proposed changes to New Horizons for Seniors Program
- participated in SPRA meeting regarding collaboration with Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals
- a number of staff and Board Members attended a lecture at the U of R on Integration of Older Adults in Society
- in conjunction with SURF, we put out a press release for the International Day for Older Persons encouraging raising issues relevant to seniors
- participated in a National Association of Federal Retirees Targeted Benefit Pension Plans information and strategy session
- member of and attend meetings of the Saskatchewan Mental Health Coalition
- member of STOPS to Violence and attend their meetings
- 3 staff members attended the Peacemakers Breakfast
- 4 staff members attended a Seniors and Isolation Presentation at LLC
- made a presentation on SSM and seniors' issues to the Canada Post Heritage Club
- invited to participate in the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse's Innovation in Elder Abuse Prevention event and did so
- participated in a conversation between community groups and a Liberal MP who was meeting with various groups around the country to discuss work their party is doing on a Housing Strategy where we were able to raise some of the particular issues that relate to older adults that need to be considered when looking at housing, including those that relate to home care, pharmacare, keeping seniors in their own homes as long as possible, home support services, and long-term care
- attended a meeting of the Regina Chapter of STS where they were collecting information on Seniors Issues for an anticipated federal election
- attended a session for the Provincial Recreation Associations regarding the assessment tool they will use to evaluate the PRAs for funding allotments
- submitted the 2015-16 SPRA grant application, including recommendations for member organization grants
- presentation at RQHR built environment workshop

- hosted a focus group on RQHR long term care placement protocol
- display and presentation at Bengough Health and Wellness Fair
- display and presentation at Saskatchewan Association of Nurse Practitioners Conference
- display at STS Conference
- display at Parkinson's Society Conference
- participated in SRNA/SCOA session on promoting better health for older adults
- attended Ralph Goodale Town Hall on seniors' issues
- participated in New Horizons grant workshop and webinar
- presentation on Century of Memories to Moose Jaw Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
- participated in provincial government Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction roundtable

We held a **Member Organization Consultation** with each of our Member Organizations being invited to send up to three people. Each organization had an opportunity to give a brief report on key areas of work they are involved in. This provided an excellent opportunity for the organizations to learn about each other and build stronger connections. We also had presentations on Sask 211 and on SSM's Age-Friendly Communities initiative.

We continue to do presentations on **Fraud Awareness** for seniors and continue to supply Toolkits and Handbooks (in both French and English) to various groups giving presentations, including libraries, police, superannuated teachers and seniors groups.

In addition to **publicity** connected to specific events, we continue to do advertising about our organization and events with ½ page ads in the TV Times every 4 weeks in both the Leader Post and Star Phoenix.

We continue to receive requests to purchase our book ***Precious Memories of Prairie War Heroes***. We have reduced the price a bit because it has been around for a while.

We are still receiving stories from people 90 years of age and older with a view to publishing them in a **Century of Memories** book. We are no longer actively seeking stories, but will still accept them up to the time the book is formatted. The stories have been entered into the computer (most came in handwritten form) and we will be moving toward publication of the book in late 2015 or early 2016.

In closing I want to thank everyone connected with SSM for their commitment and hard work. Lynne Couzens, our Administrative Assistant, continues to be a dedicated member of our team and does excellent work in a variety of areas including our graphic design work. Our Program Coordinator, Rosemary Flaman, is now in her second year with us and she is providing very effective and creative leadership in a number of areas of our programming. Dianne Barrow, who has been working as our Project Coordinator on the Seniors Neglect and Abuse Response Line has officially retired, but we continue

to benefit from her skills as she still does some presentations for us on senior abuse. This year we welcomed Beth Stilborn as office support staff and she has quickly become an important member of the team. Our Board Members and all the people on various committees and task groups have given their time and wisdom to make our programs and projects possible. We estimate that approximately 1600 volunteer hours are contributed to SSM each year. I want to thank them all for their ongoing diligence and commitment to the work of SSM. A special thank-you to our President, Robert Wuschenny, for the grace, wisdom, commitment and energy he has brought to his new role as president.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Schick  
Executive Director

**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM  
PROGRAM REPORTS**



# Century Club

**Committee Members:** Ken Mitchell  
Trevor Quinn  
Marilyn Lorence  
Jack Boan  
Jeanne Alexander  
Kevin Krofchek

The Century Club is for people 90 years of age or older. It is free to join and offers a number of activities, projects, and outings for members during the year. The Century Club is a way to keep in contact with other centenarians, continue and make new friendships, and to remain in as full and active a lifestyle as they wish pursuing physical activity, mental agility, social and spiritual creativity.

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism plans four to five events a year for our Regina & area Century Club Members. The happenings of the Regina Chapter of the Century Club since June 2014 are as follows:

October 20, 2014 – Harvest Festival, hosted by SSM.

We had a small turnout but it was a very nice social gathering where everyone shared their stories of favorite memories of the fall season plus we had two activities and refreshments.

December 2, 2014 – Christmas Party, hosted by Broadway Terrace.

Everyone sang Christmas Carols, a couple of Christmas stories were read from submissions received at our office, and of course a visit from Santa who had unusual gifts in his bag of magic!

January 21, 2015 – Robert Burns Celebration, annually hosted by Wintergreene Estates.

The traditional haggis was piped in, in Scottish form, and then a toast was made. Ken Mitchell gave a brief synopsis of the life of Burns and read some of Burns' poetry. Everyone partook in the toasting, singing, and sampling the haggis, tatties, and neeps.

April 13, 2015 – Irish Spring Fling, hosted by the Telephone Pioneers Activity Centre.

Irish songs were sung by the very young and by our 90+ members, and were entertained by Irish dancing and Irish music. We had a short interactive game and enjoyed snacks and refreshments. All went home with a little jig and a click of their heels!

June 2, 2015 – Garden Party, hosted by Regina Floral Conservatory and SSM  
*(I will report on this event at the Annual General Meeting.)*

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, Jeanne Alexander and I travelled to Moose Jaw to partake in the Moose Jaw & District Seniors Association Annual Old Timers Banquet where we gave a presentation to the crowd about the Century Club. The purpose of this was to bring awareness about the Century Club and to look at starting a new Chapter in Moose Jaw. A meeting will soon take place with various individuals and organizations to work on this.

In regard to the collection of stories and poems we have been receiving to create a book called “*A Century of Memories*”, we are now organizing them into chapters in preparation for publication later this year.

It is truly an honour to be a part of this committee and to witness the vitality and enthusiasm of our Century Club members. They are a beautiful **tapestry** from the fabric of life experienced and they are still of great value to our society. It is a joy to plan these events for them.

Again, thank you to our Committee – Ken Mitchell, Jeanne Alexander, Trevor Quinn, Kevin Krofchek, Marilyn Lorence & Jack Boan. I could not do it without you, your ideas and your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Flaman  
Program Coordinator



# Celebrating Seniors

**Committee Members:** Fern Haight (Chair)  
Jeanne Alexander  
Chuck Ames  
Mike Kaminski  
Kathy Lye  
Lynn McCaslin  
Dale Williams

The 5th annual SSM Celebrating Seniors provincial volunteer awards gala was held at the Delta Regina Hotel on October 5, 2014. These awards were initiated by SSM to honour and celebrate the many outstanding senior volunteers (55+) who have contributed volunteer work towards a better quality of life in their communities and society. These awards also provide an opportunity for Saskatchewan people to be made aware of the contributions seniors make in all aspects of life and of work in the province.

The evening began with a reception where each of the 44 nominees received a corsage, a gift bag and a certificate. They each had their photo taken individually and with the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield, who presented each with a pin.

Our emcee for the evening was Jean Freeman who welcomed everyone to the event and kept the evening light and enjoyable with her wit and humour. Greetings were given by the Lieutenant Governor, Government of Saskatchewan, City of Regina and Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism. Trish Watier from SaskEnergy (Platinum Sponsor) introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Jim Hopson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He gave a much appreciated talk about his career, his experiences, and their impact on his life.

## **The 2014 Celebrating Seniors Award recipients were:**

Teamwork – SaskTel Pioneer Salvage Sales, Regina  
Advocacy – Catherine Verrall, Regina  
Arts & Entertainment – Orton and Nancy Ratzlaff  
Centenarian – W. Donald Reiger  
Community Leadership (urban) – Mercedes Montgomery  
Community Leadership (rural) – Evelyn McCuaig  
Fitness – Rick Rohatyn  
Heritage and Culture – Harvey Cashmore  
Lifetime Achievement – Arthur Zacharias

Education – Maria Reardon

Contribution to a First Nations or Métis Community – Ruth Robillard

Senior Friendly Business – Papa Geordie Gas & Grocery

Special Recognition – Betty Pickering, SSM President

A special thank you is extended to all of the sponsors who provided support to the awards program.

I would like to thank the staff of SSM and the volunteer awards planning committee for their input, commitment and dedication to ensure the continued success of this very worthwhile event.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Flaman,  
Program Coordinator

## Research and Issues Committee (includes Housing)

**Committee Members:** Les Lye (Chair)  
Chuck Ames  
Shirley Arnold  
Kurt Holstein  
Kathy Lye  
Ron Monk  
Andre Nogue  
Al Schell  
Robert Wuschenny

Approximately five years ago, SSM hosted a retreat where the major issues for older adults were determined. Those issues were:

- Health
- Housing
- Senior Abuse and
- Finance.

### **Health:**

Under the leadership of Betty Pickering major progress has been achieved, particularly with primary health care.

SSM meets with staff from the Community Care Branch and with the Minister of Health on a regular basis.

A recent issue came to the committee's attention - the high cost associated with ambulance service in the province. A resolution pertaining to this will be put before the Annual General Meeting.

The committee is also working on how to encourage support for making home care part of the Canada Health Act, as well as promoting the establishment of a national pharmacare program.

### **Housing:**

The Housing Committee conducted a survey to determine housing availability for seniors - both urban and rural. A Brief was compiled and presented to the Provincial Government. The survey supported the idea that older adults want to stay in their own homes as long as possible and when they have to move they want to stay in their communities and be able to 'age in place'. This is the underlying concept that continues to be the basis for SSM's work in the areas of housing, home care and long term care.

This year, the Housing Committee has been meeting along with the Research and Issues Committee and housing will now be one of the topics of concern of the Research and Issues Committee.

**Senior Abuse:**

This is being addressed in a variety of ways by other SSM projects, including as part of the Age-Friendly Communities Project.

**Finance:**

We held an annual conference focussed on this topic. It is also being addressed on an ongoing basis by projects such as the Age-Friendly Communities Project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Lye,  
Committee Chair

## Seniors and Isolation

On September 1, 2014 we began a new project funded through New Horizons for Seniors. It is a two year project intended to develop a program outline and resources that can be used to offer half-day programs for seniors in rural communities. These programs will be designed to be volunteer-led thus promoting volunteerism among seniors. The programs will be particularly focused to include older adults who are isolated and at increased risk for mental and physical illness. Isolation is also a significant risk factor for senior abuse.

We will work with 3 communities to offer programs as a pilot project. We will begin with a focus group in the community to determine topics for the programming, identify ways to reach out to the most isolated seniors, and set up a local committee to work on the project.

We have put together an outline of possible ideas/topics for activities in the pilot projects. We have connected these to the 8 domains established by Age-Friendly Communities initiatives established by the World Health Organization and promoted by the Public Health Agency of Canada. This outline will be a starting place for the focus group conversations in the three communities we will be working with.

We developed a process to use in the local focus groups that will share some ideas we have, get their input into other topics and possible resource people, ask some of them to become part of a small group to work on the local project with us thus empowering the local community people to take ownership and build community capacity to continue the project, and discussing with them the ways in which we might reach out to the more isolated seniors in the community and get them involved.

We have held the first focus group in Hanley. We have also established a small local group who will work on the project. We offered our first afternoon program in Hanley.

There is an emphasis on evaluation as part of this project. I participated in a webinar on evaluation design for the New Horizons projects that fit under this grant call. We completed and submitted an outline of our proposed evaluation process and are waiting to receive confirmation that this process is what is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly L. Schick,  
Executive Director

# Creating Age-Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities

**Committee Members:** Robert Wuschenny (chair)  
Linda Anderson  
Wilma Mollard  
Ron Monk  
Ruth Robillard  
Kerrie Strathy  
Marj Thiessen  
Pearl Yuzicappi

Age-Friendly Communities is a world-wide movement that is about making communities safe for all. Age-friendly is not only about the buildings and sidewalks. It is about how others see our community. Moreover, it's about respect.

For some time Saskatchewan has lagged behind other places, including our neighbouring province Manitoba, in its number of age-friendly communities. Recently, the SSM has been hard at work in trying to improve Saskatchewan's age-friendly communities record. Since the first beginnings in Regina Beach/Buena Vista, the Committee has engaged Humboldt, Yorkton, Ituna, Moose Jaw, Ponteix, and Weyburn communities. On the list for initial meetings are Strasbourg, Wynyard and Prince Albert.

At the outset, our Committee decided to concentrate on communities other than Regina and Saskatoon as much work on age-friendly aspects had already been initiated by the University of Regina Lifelong Learning Centre and the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA). I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the Lifelong Learning Centre and SCOA toward a better quality of life for the citizens of Regina and Saskatoon.

In December 2014, the SSM was pleased to sign a Partnership Agreement with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) to work toward achieving age-friendly communities. Our group was pleased to be invited to give a presentation on age-friendly at the Education Session of the SUMA Convention in February, 2015. Similarly, we were invited to present at the Saskatchewan Nurse Practitioners' Conference in May, 2015. We were also invited to engage in a visit and conversation last month with an hotelier who wishes to make his brand of hotel more age-friendly.

The SSM continues to meet with Health Ministry officials (Community Care Branch), and have also met with the Hon. Dustin Duncan in attempts to gain support and recognition for age-friendly communities.

Thank you to Age Friendly Committee members Linda Anderson, Wilma Mollard, Ron Monk, Ruth Robillard, Kerrie Strathy, Marj Thiessen, Pearl Yuzicappi and SSM Program person Rosemary Flaman for your diligence and hard work and to SSM Executive Director Holly Schick for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Wuschenny,  
Committee Chair

# Seniors Neglect and Abuse Response Line

**Committee Members:** Dianne Barrow  
Don Gmeinwesser  
Rod McKendrick  
Holly Schick  
Jan Thorson  
Robert Wuschenny

We have completed one full year of this project which will likely take approximately 3 years in total. In the first year of the project we worked on five key actions:

- Building relationships with project partners, stakeholders and community networks
- Identifying responders throughout Saskatchewan and begin developing capacity to provide services for seniors in their communities
- Identifying best practice methods to respond to seniors in need of services
- Collecting data from partners and stakeholders with respect to calls reporting neglect or abuse of seniors
- Developing awareness and advertising Mobile Crisis Services as first responder to crisis calls from seniors until a dedicated centralized 1-800 number is established

The key stakeholders include Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, Lifelong Learning Centre, Saskatoon Council on Aging, Victim Services-Ministry of Justice, Public Guardian and Trustee, Police, Mobile Crisis Services (Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert), HealthLine, Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Ministry of Health. These stakeholders represent the agencies that have the best overview of what is currently happening in the area of senior's neglect and abuse. It was concluded that there is a clear need for a specific crisis response service for victims of senior abuse and those who suspect the same and that we gather and analyze information needed to justify the need.

An Advisory Committee is in place to guide the project, made up of representatives from Mobile Crisis Services, Victim Services – Government of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

We have been able to make many connections between this project and the Age-Friendly project.

Dianne Barrow, who has been coordinating this project, has decided to retire and so will not be available to continue work on the project, although she is willing to do some presentations for us. We do have someone else who can take on some parts of the project once funding is available. We are currently working on putting in place funding to continue the project and put in place the actual 1-800 dedicated number.

We are continuing with some aspects of the project as we pursue funding options. We have had a discussion with Keith Dewar, CEO of RQHR, regarding research on

Senior Abuse services in RQHR and he is enthusiastic about this. We are hopeful the Community Research Unit at the U of R will pick up this research piece.

We are also ready to begin conversations with SaskTel regarding how the actual line might be set up.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly L. Schick  
Executive Director



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM  
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**



## Finance & Audit Committee Report

**Committee Members:** André Nogue, Chair  
Les Lye  
Robert Wuschenny

The Finance and Audit Committee met on four occasions during the past year and had a number of telephone/e-mail consultations. The main purpose of the meetings was to review the monthly financial reports prepared by staff before presenting them to the Board at its next meeting. These were opportunities for the committee to review with the Executive Director incoming grant funds, other incomes, the cash flow, the expenditure projections, any significant departure from the approved budget, etc.

The committee met with the association's auditor, received his report and audit findings and discussed with him ways to improve record keeping practices.

The committee, along with a few other Board members and the Executive Director, met to review the grant applications received from member organizations and to prepare recommendations for the Board of Directors.

The committee was consulted on the matter of managing differently the significant amount of funds in the general account. This led to the decision to invest some of the moneys in various term deposits, thus generating some additional revenue while ensuring that cash flow requirements were met.

Finally, the committee did review and make adjustments to the 2015-2016 operations and project budget proposal prepared by staff before it was presented to the Board for approval.

As Chair of the committee, I want to again recognize the dedication of the members of the committee. I also want to commend Holly and Lynne for their professionalism and thank them for all the work they put into the preparation of financial reports and proposals for the committee's consideration. Finally, I also want to acknowledge the fine contribution of our bookkeeper who is timely and accurate in his keeping of the records and the issuance of payments.

Respectfully submitted,

André Nogue,  
Treasurer

## **Appointment of Auditor**

**Motion:** MWC Chartered Professional Accountants LLP be reappointed as auditor for 2015-2016

Moved by : Andre Nogue

Seconded by:

## **Governance Committee Report**

**Committee Members:** Linda Anderson (Chair)  
Les Lye  
Wilma Mollard  
Kerrie Strathy  
Robert Wuschenny

The Governance Committee is one of four standing committees with the role to review and recommend revisions of SSM policies and bylaws, and to research and recommend new policies if and when required. The committee is tasked to review the Bylaws annually, and to make recommendations to the Board at least three months before the Annual Meeting.

### **Actions taken in 2014-15**

Researched and revised the Conflict of Interest and the Conflict of Commitment Policies which were approved by the Board at its March 11, 2015 meeting.

Reviewed the SSM Bylaws and developed several proposed changes to the Bylaws which will be before the AGM for discussion and consideration.

Reviewed and revised the Template for Committees. Used the Template to update the Mandate for the Governance Committee.

Researched and offered recommendation on the use of In Camera sessions within the Board.

The expectation is that the Governance Committee will begin work on reviewing SSM Policies with a view to developing a usable comprehensive Policy Manual.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Anderson  
Committee Chair



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**

**OTHER REPORTS**





## Grants Report

### Core Funding:

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism receives its core funding from:  
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association  
Saskatchewan Health

Funding from these sources provides money for day-to-day operations and the delivery of certain core programs for seniors. Core SSM programming includes such things as: the quarterly publication of our newsletter *Gray Matters*, a Seniors Information Line, research and education on seniors issues, an annual conference to raise awareness about seniors concerns, bringing seniors groups together to facilitate opportunities to work together, the Century Club, events, retreats, and many others.

### **CORE FUNDING for 2014-2015:**

Saskatchewan Health	\$48,696
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (Sask. Lotteries)	\$199,880

A portion of the funding from Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation supports member organizations' programs that focus on active living.  
In 2014-2015 those grants were distributed as follows:

### Member Organizations' Program Funding:

<b>Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association:</b> educating older adults about the benefits of fitness through workshops & information sharing; provide support for the Sask. 55+ games.	\$16,750
<b>Lifelong Learning Centre:</b> Reaching Every Direction Program which enables work with U of R students to implement intergenerational activities to assist seniors to overcome social isolation; supports learning & activity opportunities for the Aboriginal Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren Support Network & other lower income older adults in Regina.	\$29,850
<b>Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.:</b> Member Newsletter	\$9,000
<b>Saskatoon Council on Aging:</b> Saskatoon Century Club	\$19,500

**Regina Senior Citizens Centre: Celebrate 50+ Showcase** \$10,000

**Fédération des aînés fransaskois:** French Seniors for Healthy and Age-Friendly Communities project implementing monthly recreational programming in French in at least 2 rural & 2 urban community groups; work with French speaking communities to become 'Age-Friendly Communities'; sponsor a team of French speaking athletes for the Sask 55+ games. \$5,500

**SSM Program Funding:**

In addition to the Core Funding, SSM has received a variety of grants over the years which have enabled particular programs and projects. In 2014-2015 the following grants enabled specific pieces of work:

Please note that this listing relates to work that occurred all or in part in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. In some cases the grant money and/or the work overlaps more than one year.

**Senior Neglect and Abuse Response Line** (federal government Department of Justice Victims Fund) – to do research and begin the process of developing a dedicated toll-free phone number to call to respond to instances of senior abuse. \$83,726 (started in 2013)

**Age Friendly/Elder Abuse Free Communities** (federal government New Horizons for Seniors – Elder Abuse Awareness) – to raise awareness among older adults and communities to help make their communities better, healthier, and safer places. \$317,000 (over 3 years)

**Retirement Transitions** – providing new retirees and those soon to be retired with an opportunity to explore ways to make that transition as smoothly as possible. \$15,635

**Seniors and Isolation** – developing resources that can be used to offer programs for seniors in rural communities. \$64,323 (over 2 years)

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Schick,  
Executive Director

## **PHILIPS LIFELINE SASKATCHEWAN**

### **Annual Report for SSM 2014-2015**

**Terri Berglund  
Program Manager  
Lifeline Saskatchewan xc236**

**Total Active Subscribers: YTD March 2015: 1105**

#### **2014 Achievements**

Strong rapport has been established with our partner, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, for over 15 years and has resulted in an increase in referrals and activations. Executive Director, Holly Schick has given me the opportunity to present new innovations from Philips Lifeline and distribute marketing material to board members twice in 2014. Holly, Lynne, Rosemary, and Diane continue to refer people in need of the service via phone, email, and walk-ins as well as promoting our service at all events they attend. SSM board members and their organization members have also referred clients to the Lifeline service resulting in installations. SSM's Annual Conference in June 2014 gave me the opportunity to educate new attendees as well as update existing ones on the Lifeline service. One page ads in Gray Matters in all quarterly editions and our upgraded link to the SSM webpage have given Lifeline increased exposure and installations. I am proud to educate people in my travels about the value of the SSM and to support the SSM with partnership fees and rental fees paid quarterly.

#### **Ongoing:**

Continue to build rapport with VAC (Veterans Affairs Canada) with sales calls and updates in Regina office only to 2.5 client service agents as the Saskatoon office closed in Feb 2014 – this has drastically reduced the number of referrals of vets to Lifeline.

Royal Canadian Legion- continue to build rapport with the 244 Legions in SK replenishing in my travels throughout SK. Since Philips Lifeline's partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion nationally in Jan/08 Lifeline continues offering the legion members 2 months free for the Lifeline service for themselves, family, or friends. Lifeline will have a display at their conference in Prince Albert in 2015.

I attended and had display booths at numerous national, provincial and local conferences, and education days for a variety of healthcare professionals- SAOT (SK Association of Occupational Therapists), SRNA (SK Registered Nurses Association), Diabetes Association Tradeshow, Nurse Practitioners.

Displays at numerous conferences and trade shows locally and provincially, attended primarily by seniors' organizations, seniors and their families/caregivers but also healthcare professionals

Total of 43 Healthcare Professional in services completed in 2014.

A total of 23 seniors' presentations in 2014

Displays at wellness and falls prevention clinics/ fairs in seniors' centers and residences urban and rural

**Developing and maintaining provincial and community relationships through visits, emails, phone calls, and meetings to:**

- All hospitals and health centres (healthcare professionals-nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, therapists, social workers, discharge planners) in SK Health Authorities
- Provincial Home Care
- Community Health Nursing Services in First Nations Communities
- Private Home Health Care Services
- Seniors Healthy Living Program
- Community Clinics/Family Services
- Physicians' offices
- Podiatrists
- Footcare clinics
- Pharmacies
- Day Programs/ Convalescent care, Extendicare/Transitional and Quick Response Units
- Allan Blair Cancer Centre
- Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) Regina
- Emergency Medical Services
- Mental Health and Addictions Services
- VON-Saskatoon and Moose Jaw
- Schools of Nursing
- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Clinics in Community
- Caregiver Support Groups—Saskatoon and Regina
- Seniors Education Centres
- Other health-related organizations: Parkinson's Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association, Alzheimers Society, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Arthritis Society, ALS Society, Osteoporosis Society, Saskatoon Balance and Dizziness Clinics, Post Polio Regina, Gerontology Association, CNIB, Stroke/Caregiver Education Program, Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities, SK Aids to Independent Living
- Other groups: various seniors centres and groups in seniors complexes and churches.
- First Nations: In services and sales calls to bands in SK, Directors and Home care nurses have resulted in installs, many being funded by the bands from the Community Development Corporation and the local casinos.

Philips Lifeline Marketing Resource Team: assisted with multiple pilot projects in introducing new marketing tools to referral sources and gathering information from referral sources to discover their needs.

Home Service Representatives (Lifeline installers): recruited prospects, collected

resumes, and completed face to face interviews and orientation training. I have also trained some of my Home Service Representatives (Lifeline installers) to man Lifeline displays at tradeshows and present at seniors buildings  
Celebrated my 15th year of service with Lifeline and 15 years of partnership with SSM in Nov 2014.

Thank you SSM for the many opportunities you have given me to grow the Philips Lifeline program in Saskatchewan providing the people of SK with a better quality of life and saving lives!

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Berglund,  
Program Manager



## **ALCOA Representative Report**

I continue to serve on the Active Living Coalition for Older Adults (ALCOA) Board of Directors and have participated in their regular teleconference meetings. Our relationship to ALCOA continues to be an important partnership in which we have opportunities to share ideas on possible activities and resources, seeking to work together with other organizations across the country where possible.

*Funding has been received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a Wheel and Walk Mall Program in the 23 enclosed malls in Toronto. The project is well underway and is called *Mall Movers*. This funding is also assisting in covering costs for ALCOA staffing.*

The company who has been sponsoring the online Silver Times publication is not able to continue their funding. ALCOA is looking for another sponsor for this publication.

Former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion has agreed to act as a champion for ALCOA and for healthy active living for older adults.

ALCOA launched a Face Book page in November. It includes articles of interest and information about current projects.

ALCOA is looking carefully at its mission and vision in order to determine what the future might look like. Part of the conversation is whether or not the 'older' adults should continue to be the focus or whether this should expand to include all adults. Another consideration is how to expand the strategic alliance possibilities for ALCOA. The current membership has been declining in recent years and this is cause for reassessing where the organization is going in the future.

For more information you can visit the ALCOA website at [www.alcoa.ca](http://www.alcoa.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Schick  
ALCOA Representative

**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**





## Nominating Committee Report

**Committee Members:** Les Lye, Chair  
Robert Wuschenny  
Linda Anderson

Following the death of Betty Pickering in October 2014, Robert Wuschenny, Vice President, assumed the role of President. Linda Anderson was appointed Vice President under Section 10.7 of our By-Laws.

At this Annual General Meeting (AGM), two executive positions are due for election — Treasurer and Secretary. Only one nomination for each position has been received — André Nogue for the position of Treasurer; and Margaret Gailing for the position of Secretary.

The majority of directors will continue. Wilma Mollard's first term on the Board is completed and she has been nominated for a second term. Two other nominations have been submitted - Louise Nichol and Brian Harris.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Lye  
Past President



**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM  
RESOLUTIONS**



## **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #1 — Voting Delegates**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

**BE IT RESOLVED** that all members of the SSM Board of Directors have a vote at the Annual General Meeting.

---

### **Background**

- According to the current SSM Bylaws, Board Members do not have a vote at the AGM.
- Some individual Board Members may be named as voting delegates by an SSM Member Organization and would consequently have a vote while others would not.
- If passed, this would be **inserted as item 26.2** in the Bylaws; the current item 26 would become 26.1.

## **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #2 — Ambulance Fees for Seniors**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

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

---

### **Background:**

- 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.

## **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #3 — Ambulance Fees between Medical Facilities**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

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

---

### **Background:**

- 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.

## **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION #4 — MRIs**

To: SSM Resolution Committee

Sponsored by Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

**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.



## **Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Proposed Bylaw Changes for AGM 2015**

### **7.2 Directors**

That it be changed to read:

“Directors, with the exception of the Treasurer, shall serve for no more than two (2) consecutive two year terms of office in any one position. The Treasurer may serve up to four (4) consecutive two year terms of office.”

*(Previously read: “In principle, Directors shall serve for no more than two (2) consecutive two year terms of office.”)*

### **22.1.2 Committees**

That it be changed to read:

“Finance and Audit Committee chaired by the Treasurer”

*(Previously read “Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer”)*

### **22.2 Committees**

That it be changed to read:

“The Board of Directors may appoint committee members from the members of the Board or may appoint others whose skills and interest would contribute to the work of the committee.”

*(Previously read “The Board of Directors may appoint committee members from the members of the Board or may appoint participants from the general membership of any member organization(s)”)*

### **27 Alternate Delegates and 28 Quorum**

That they be changed to read:

27. Alternate Delegates: “Where a voting delegate representing a member organization is unable to attend, an alternate may be named by the organization. This notification shall be made in writing to SSM.”

*(Previously read: "Where a voting delegate representing a member organization expects to be absent during voting called at the Annual General Meeting, each such absent member may, through proxy in writing, transfer his/her voting rights to another member representing a quorum.")*

28. Quorum: "A simple majority of voting members personally present at the opening of the Annual General Meeting of SSM shall constitute a quorum."

*(Previously read: "A simple majority of voting members personally present, including proxy holders, at the opening of the Annual General Meeting of SSM shall constitute a quorum.")*

## **SSM Resolutions passed at June 2014 AGM**

### **Home Mail Delivery**

That SSM write a letter to the Federal government & Canada Post to reverse the decision to imminently remove home delivery and encourage Canada Post to consult widely in order to consider alternative solutions for mail delivery.

*We have written a letter to express this concern and received a letter thanking us for our concern.*

### **Seniors Physical Activity Deduction**

That SSM lobby the Provincial Government and the Government of Canada to allow tax deductions for fees associated with seniors' physical activity-based programs.

*A resolution about this was presented to Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. It was passed and they have picked this up. For more information visit <http://www.spra.sk.ca/news-events/top-stories/seniors-tax-credit/>*

### **Seniors Property Tax Deferral**

That the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism urge the Government of Saskatchewan to explore the feasibility of a Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Program similar to that administered by other provinces.

*Have raised this at various events, including Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Roundtable in April. We will consult with SUMA on how to promote this.*

**To be addressed as part of upcoming federal election issues e.g. at candidates' forums:**

### **Home Care**

That SSM lobby the government of Canada to add the provision of Home Care Services to the Canada Health Act.

*The Canadian Health Coalition/Saskatchewan Health Coalition are also promoting this.*

### **Comprehensive Health Accord**

That SSM urge the Government of Canada & the Government of

Saskatchewan to urge the negotiation of a new comprehensive health accord that protects, transforms and strengthens Canada's national health care system in accordance with the five principles as laid out in the Canada Health Act.

*The Canadian Health Coalition/Saskatchewan Health Coalition are also promoting this.*

That SSM urge the Federal Government to implement a national seniors health care strategy and a national pharmaceutical plan.

*The Canadian Health Coalition/Saskatchewan Health Coalition are also promoting this.*

*More information can be found at <http://pharmacarenow.ca/> and <http://pharmacare2020.ca>*

### **Contributions & Interest to be Paid to Estate or Alternate Beneficiary**

That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to ensure that when there is no partner/spouse, contributions made to CPP and interest earned on the contributions made by the deceased, be paid to the estate or designated alternate beneficiary.

### **Child Rearing Dropout Provisions**

That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to allow up to ten zero contributory years when determining CPP benefits.

### **Additional Voluntary Contributions to CPP**

That SSM lobby the Government of Canada to allow Canadians to make voluntary contributions to the Canada Pension Plan, in addition to the mandatory contributions.

### **To be addressed as part of upcoming provincial election issues:**

#### **Seniors' STC Bus Pass**

That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Seniors' Pass on STC for \$10 per month.

### **Transportation for Seniors as a Key to Maintaining Independence**

That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to host forums to discuss and explore solutions to seniors' transportation needs.

### **Homecare Program with Community Support**

That SSM continue to advocate with the Government of Saskatchewan to develop a long-term commitment to work with community agencies and stakeholders so that more seniors live safely and independently at home with proper community and individual supports rather than in care facilities.

### **Home Care**

That SSM lobby the government of Saskatchewan to develop a provincial home care program and home support programs to assist seniors and others to remain their homes.

### **Aids to Daily Living**

That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to bring costs involving hearing, dental, eye care, walking and wheelchairs, etc. under control or better subsidized so that seniors in this Province may enjoy a happier and less isolated life.

### **Diabetic Supplies and Medications**

That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that the Saskatchewan Medicare System supply all diabetics with their supplies and medications, ensuring that all diabetics would have better control over their disease, resulting in reduced hospitalization and thereby saving the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health considerable Resources.

### **Planning to meet with Sask. Housing to discuss the following:**

#### **Senior Housing Grants**

That SSM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to make available the already established grant programs for home repairs for seniors to enable them to live in their own homes.

### **Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit**

That SSM encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Healthy Homes Renovation refundable Tax Credit for seniors.

### **Housing**

That SSM urge the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that their affordable seniors' housing remains affordable for all seniors.

SSM is adapting material from a brochure prepared by STS to create our own brochure which includes information on key questions on Seniors Issues to ask candidates in a federal election. This brochure is being distributed to member organizations and others. We are also planning to work with STS, SURF and the National Association of Federal Retirees to set up *all-candidates' forums* around the province.

**SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM**

**OTHER**





# SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM

## VOTING DELEGATES

### SSM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2015

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Roger Aessie       | National Association of Federal Retirees     |
| 2. Brian Harris       |  |
| 3. Kathy Lye          |  |
| 1. Annette Labelle    | Fédération des aînés fransaskois             |
| 2. Laurent Desrosiers |  |
| 3.                    |  |
| 1. Joanne Corbett     | Regina Senior Citizens Centre Inc.           |
| 2.                    |  |
| 3.                    |  |
| 1. Alf Zimmerman      | Saskatchewan Retirees Association            |
| 2. Frank May          |  |
| 3. Randy Dove         |  |
| 1. Pat Trask          | Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.        |
| 2. Lorna Weldon       |  |
| 3. Ed Weldon          |  |
| 1. Kerrie Strathy     | Lifelong Learning Centre                     |
| 2. Marj Thiessen      |  |
| 3. Tamara Tucker      |  |
| 1. Margaret Gailing   | Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association Inc. |
| 2.                    |  |
| 3.                    |  |
| 1. Wilma Mollard      | Saskatoon Council on Aging                   |
| 2. Muriel Baxter      |  |
| 3.                    |  |
| 1. Ray Zelowsky       | Senior Power                                 |
| 2. Doris Dietrich     |  |
| 3.                    |  |

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Maxine Stinka    | Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan           |
| 2. Sunil Pandila    |  |
| 3. Al Schell        |  |
| 1. Ron Monk         | Saskatchewan Union Retirees Federation           |
| 2. Maureen Eckstein |  |
| 3. Richard Rosseker |  |
| 1. Dale Richardson  | SaskTel Pioneers Chapter 59                      |
| 2.                  |  |
| 3.                  |  |
| 1.                  | Women of the Dawn                                |
| 2.                  |  |
| 3.                  |  |
| 1.                  | Canada Post Heritage Club – Golden Sheaf Chapter |
| 2.                  |  |
| 3.                  |  |
| 1.                  | Moose Jaw & District Seniors Association         |
| 2.                  |  |
| 3.                  |  |
| 1.                  | Power Pioneers Assoc. of Saskatchewan Inc.       |
| 2.                  |  |
| 3.                  |  |

## **Appendix A**