

## **Resolution #2**

### **SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTION**

To: SSM Resolutions Committee

Sponsored by: Board of Directors, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

Moved by Nancy O'Donnell-Monk      Seconded by Randy Dove

### **BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism urge the Government of Saskatchewan to fund the vaccine Shingrix for all adults 50 and older.

#### Background

An estimated 130,000 Canadians get shingles every year and the older you are, the more likely you are to get it and to suffer severe health effects.

Shingles is a brutally painful infection that anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of getting. It is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, which can lie dormant for years. It tends to reactivate when the immune system is compromised, in the form of shingles.

For some people, shingles develops into a more serious condition called post-herpetic neuralgia, with burning pain that can last for years. For some seniors, it can mean the difference between living independently and having to move into a long term care facility because of its long-lasting effects.

The new vaccine Shingrix shows efficacy against shingles above 90%, regardless of a person's age. Shingrix is now available in Canada, patients require two separate shots given a few months apart costing up to \$400 in total.

Shingles can be a financial burden on individuals, their families, and the health care system, in addition to the physical pain people suffer.