

CONCERNED?

WITH ALL THE CHANGES THAT ARE OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT PROVINCIAL BUDGET, ARE YOU CONCERNED?

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call to Action!

Make your views known by:

- **Phoning your MLA**
- **Writing a letter to your MLA**
- **Emailing your MLA**

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, whose member organizations include over 100,000 older adults in Saskatchewan, invites you to participate, get involved and ensure you ask questions and make your opinion known to our legislators.

Older adults' needs and views have social and political implications for everyone. We must ensure their active involvement through: meaningful contact with decision-makers; representation on decision-making bodies; on-going communication in the democratic process.



Saskatchewan
Seniors
Mechanism

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Member Organizations

Canada Post Heritage Club, Golden Sheaf Chapter
Fédération des aînés fransaskois
Lifelong Learning Centre
Moose Jaw & District Seniors Association
National Association of Federal Retirees
Power Pioneers Association of Saskatchewan Inc.
Regina Senior Citizens Centre Inc.
Saskatchewan Union Retirees Federation
Saskatchewan Retirees Association
Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.
Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association
Saskatoon Council on Aging
SaskTel Pioneers - Chapter 59
Senior Power
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
Women of the Dawn

Supporters of SSM

Association of Personal Care Home Operators in SK
Eden Care Communities, Regina
Prince Albert Seniors Advocacy Centre
Saskatchewan Association of Nurse Practitioners
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association

Partner

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association



PROVINCIAL
BUDGET
2017

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Questions you might want to ask related to issues of key importance to seniors



As part of promoting Age-Friendly Communities, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism

encourages older adults to be involved in decision making in their communities, and to raise issues of concern to them with government leaders.

Age-Friendly, a global initiative started by the World Health Organization, promotes healthy, accessible, inclusive communities where people of all ages are valued, respected and listened to.

This brochure is meant to help older adults ensure their voice is heard. It offers some topics for conversation regarding the recent Saskatchewan Provincial Budget in March 2017. Each section ends with questions to ask your MLA.

HEALTH FUNDING

Many older adults have fixed incomes not protected from inflation and cost increases. The recent provincial budget has made significant changes to funding that may affect the health and wellbeing of people. Included in the cuts are:

- Increased long term care charges
- The elimination of funding support for chiropractor services
- The loss of the hearing aid plan and podiatry services
- Introduction of PST on health insurance premiums

- Uncertainty about service levels with the merger of the health regions

How are people on fixed incomes going to afford these services?

Where will older adults be able to access these services that are being eliminated?

Why wasn't a phase in considered to allow affected older adults to manage the cost and service changes?

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation needs change for many older adults. Driving may be restricted. Mobility issues may affect walking. Connecting to services requires affordable, appropriate transportation.

When STC service is no longer available, how will the provincial government address the need to provide the valuable services STC has made available.

These include:

- Transportation to appointments e.g. medical
- Transportation to access services only available in another centre
- Accessible, affordable transportation, particularly for people in rural communities
- Freight service e.g. cancer medications to be administered locally for those too frail to travel
- Transportation of library books for the interlibrary loan system

- Providing the sole public transportation option in many areas

How will your government address the gaps created by ending STC services?

SOCIAL ISOLATION

Older adults can become isolated due to ageism, chronic health problems, lack of transportation, low income, living at a distance from family, and critical life transitions. Isolation may increase as a result of:

- Increases in costs with the expansion of the PST
- Reduced community capacity to provide services e.g. reduced funding to libraries

How will your government reduce isolation of older adults?

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Strong communities ensure a healthy population and high quality of life.

The shortfall in funding to communities may result in:

- Reduced services
- Increased taxes

How will your government support communities in providing necessary services to sustain healthy, vibrant communities?