



# SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

# THE

# ADVISOR

FALL 2015

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RECAP

The **Annual General Meeting** was held in Regina on June 8, 2015. 79 members were in attendance to hear updates on the activities of the various Committees during 2014. Reports were presented from the Finance, Membership and Group Benefits Committees. In all reports, the Association reported positive results with a strong financial position, membership growth and continued growth in the SRA Health and Dental Plan.

The meeting discussed how changes to the provincial prescription drug plan were expected to affect the claims of the Extended Health Plan.

It was reported that medications made up over 70% of the claims on the plan, leading to increased premiums for the new policy year, starting July 1, 2015.

A new member, Cindy MacDonald was elected to the Board joining incumbents Randy Dove, Charlotte Dusyk, Jack Peterson and Ron Reavley who were re-elected.

Following the meeting, the Board met and chose a new President. Randy Dove has taken on the role of President, replacing Alf Zimmerman, who

retired after many years in the position and the many positive contributions he made to the organization.

Randy has been the Chair of the Membership/ Communications Committee for two years. He brings experience from both the public and private sector where he worked in human resources, operations and event management roles. 🌾



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I move into my term as President of the Saskatchewan Retirees Association, I am looking forward to a period of renewal for the Association.

To assist the renewal process, we are re-launching our newsletter as a way to reach our members and provide you with updates about the activities of your organization. We plan to publish the newsletter 2-3 times per year to provide you with news about what is happening with the SRA.

As we move forward, your Board of Directors will be considering its mandate, structure, bylaws and future plans to continue to be relevant to your needs.

As always, our Group Benefits Committee will monitor your needs and wants for the SRA Health and Dental Plan as we balance changes in the marketplace, benefit enhancements and claims experience with affordability so the benefits plan stays competitive in the marketplace.

We face some challenges as our membership is now comprised of two generations, older members that have been mostly focused on pension benefit enhancements and younger members, mostly focused on the group benefit plans. Merging these needs and interests will be part of the role to ensure we balance everyone's needs in the next few years.

I am looking forward to meeting many members and learning from your experiences so that we can continue to ensure the Association is focused on the issues that matter to you.

Warmest regards,

Randy Dove, President

# TRAVEL INSURANCE WHAT TO KNOW

As the cold weather sets in, here are some important considerations for your winter getaways.

Travel insurance may be the last thing on your mind when you're planning a trip to a warm, exotic location, but forgetting or ignoring proper coverage could cost you thousands of dollars.

"It's important to protect yourself from financial risks," says Jamie Stangel of GMS (Group Medical Services). "Part of your vacation planning should include a discussion with your broker or insurance carrier around health and travel insurance to avoid exposing yourself to extremely costly medical emergencies when travelling outside your province of residence, or more importantly, outside of Canada."

Not all emergency medical travel policies are created equal, although they may appear so on the surface. Typical benefits such as hospital stays, surgeries, physician costs, ambulance and diagnostics are vital, but it's good to review all the benefits of a policy before you purchase. If you have coverage as part of a group or individual health plan, review your existing policy to ensure it has the benefits to protect you for your specific vacation circumstances.

"In addition to emergency medical benefits, additional coverage for trip cancellations, interruptions and baggage protection is essential,"



explains Stangel. "Canadians are spending a great deal of money on their vacations, and protecting your investment in regard to your prepaid vacation expenses is very important."

These products are helpful when you have to cancel your vacation for unforeseen reasons and in the event your vacation is disrupted for any one of a number of possible reasons listed under the policy.

All policies have exclusions, probably the most important exclusions relate to pre-existing medical conditions. Most policies do not cover travellers for conditions that existed prior to departure unless they're considered 'stable.' It's important to understand the definition of 'stable' in the policy, as some insurance carriers are more or less restrictive in this regard. Above all, always review your coverage and inform your insurance carrier of any health changes before you travel. 🍷

## SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-16

### OFFICERS

President  
Vice President, Finance  
Vice President, Development  
Vice President, Secretary  
Past President

Randy Dove  
Frank May  
Ken Lozinsky  
Charlotte Dusyk  
Alf Zimmerman

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Group Benefits Committee  
Membership/Communications  
Finance  
Pensions

Jack Peterson  
Randy Dove  
Frank May  
Alf Zimmerman

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ann Donovan, Rolli Bachelu, Linda Clark, Chris Pasloske, Barry Dixon, Cindy MacDonald, Ron Reavley, Graham Tuer, Marian Brown

# COMMITTEE PROFILE

## GROUP BENEFITS

Chaired by Jack Peterson and ably assisted by Marian Brown, Ann Donovan, Frank May and Alf Zimmerman, the Group Benefits Committee provides oversight to the SRA Health and Dental Plan.

The SRA Health and Dental Plan continues to grow with 1358 members enrolled in the Extended Health Plan and 878 members enrolled in the Dental Plan as of July 31, 2015. This represents enrolment increases of over 10 per cent for both plans from 2014. Much of the new growth has resulted from the strong support and endorsement from Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations.

With growth come added costs as claims for the extended health plan increased by 6.8% and dental claims increased by 24.7%. The increase in

claims for both plans meant that premium rates were increased with the July 1st policy year. The Extended Health plan premiums increased by 6.95% and Dental premiums increased by 9.25%.

The SRA was successful in signing a new three year agreement with our insurer, Group Medical Services. This agreement was signed after the Committee considered several other retiree group benefits plans coverage and costs. Of the premiums members pay, 91% are used to pay claims, a level consistent with the service requirements of the Association.

As we move forward, claims trends are being closely monitored in an effort to keep the plan coverage current and the plan as affordable as possible to members. 🌱



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## MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion? Need Information?

Let us know:

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