

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

When the SRA completed its planning for the next three years, the top priority was to pursue more efforts to meet our members so we can learn more about our members needs and interests.

The Board committed to look for opportunities to engage members across Saskatchewan. As a result, the SRA approached the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) to become involved in the Spotlight on Seniors Showcase. Through the discussion, the SRA became a sponsor of the event and provided a booth at the showcase in October.

Invitations were sent to all Saskatoon region members as the SRA has nearly 800 members in the Saskatoon area. Included in the invitation was an opportunity to drop by the booth and collect a ticket that could be exchanged for a complimentary lunch at the event.

Of the 800 invitations, over 200 people stopped at the booth to learn more about the SRA, ask specific questions or visit with our volunteers. Over 5% of those invited took advantage of the lunch opportunity, about what we expected as we have not done this type of outreach for many years.

Overall, the event was successful as SCOA is reporting that about 750 people attended the event, which has been operating for 19 years in Saskatoon.

The SRA Board will be looking for more opportunities to engage members across Saskatchewan in the coming months so watch for invitations and events in your region of the province. If you have an interest in working as a local host for an event, please let us know at 306-584-5552 or at info@saskretirees.org as the experience in Saskatoon was very positive for all involved.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last update, the Saskatchewan Retirees Association is continuing to move forward with the activation of our three-year planning activities.

The SRA is experiencing unprecedented growth and is expected to increase our active membership by about 400 new members by the end of 2018. This would mark a potential 60% increase over last year, which was also a record year for new members. Much of the increase is due to the continued support of the crown corporations sector as well as a larger group of retirees from Executive Government than the SRA has seen in many years.



Growth also provides more financial resources that allow the SRA to implement part of the action plan to engage members more often on a regional basis.

As highlighted elsewhere, we were very pleased with the response from the Saskatoon members and can see that there is good potential for additional outreach activities into 2019.

We have also started to respond to concerns about succession on the Committees and the Board and have added new volunteers to several of our standing committees. This process will continue into the future. If you have interest in serving in any capacity with the SRA, we would love to hear from you. At our Saskatoon event, we connected with a recent retiree who expressed interest in greater involvement so we will be working to sort out ways to involve her in the Association.

In closing, I'd again offer my thanks and gratitude for your continued support and involvement in the SRA. With our plan, we really can better fulfill our vision of "providing leadership to meet your needs and interests"!

Regards,

Randy Dove, President



### **MEMBER VOICES:**

## A SENIORS STRATEGY FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Over the past months, as a member of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM), the SRA has been supporting a research project focused on creating foundational information for the development of a seniors' strategy for the province. The consultative process includes participation from other SSM members, the Life Long Learning Centre and CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons). The focus is on looking for solutions, not just rehashing the issues facing older adults.

#### Background:

Statistics indicate that older adults are making up an increasing percentage of the population. **Projections** (Statistics Canada)

#### Population of Saskatchewan 2016

- Total Population 1,142,570
- Population 65 or over 177,000 or 15.5%
- Population 55 or over 308,500 or 27%

#### Population of Saskatchewan 2038

- Total Population 1,173,900
- Population 65 or over 266,360 or 22.7%
- Population 55 or over 400,460 or 34.1%

Whether you see the increasing population of seniors from the perspective of increasing needs or increasing benefits, the real issue for our province and our communities is to plan for this population shift.

Many people worry that the increasing percentage of older adults will put greater stress on community resources. However, older adults are also a resource:

- They contribute a tremendous amount of volunteer time to our communities.
- They bring a wealth of experience and wisdom.
- They are living longer, more active lives, with a greater awareness of the need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Like Saskatchewan, most provinces place the overall responsibility for seniors' issues within the Ministry of Health. However, most other provinces have significantly more structure and resources dedicated to this area (see chart below).

It is important to recognize that a seniors' strategy needs to consider issues related to infrastructure and services as well as the related, but more intangible, things like quality of life and community involvement including:

- housing
- · health care
- meaningful participation in the community
- transportation
- services
- finances

## The question is "How do we get from where we are now to where we want to be?"

To date, this question has been asked to over 500 attendees at forums and focus groups. SSM wants to give people an opportunity to discuss what the future needs to look like to provide the best possible quality of life for older adults and others in our province. The information we gather will be collated and shared with governments and other organizations in 2019.

	ВС	AB	MB	ON	QC	NS	NB	PE	NL	SK
Ministry/Minister		Х		Х	Х				Х	
Secretariat							Х			
Division									Х	
Department						Х				
Branch			Х							
Age Friendly	Χ	Χ	Х	Х						
Srs Advocate	Χ	Χ								
Strategy	Х			Х		Х	Х	Х		
Advisory Council			Х					Х	Х	
Consultant										Х

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**



At the recent volunteer recognition event, Celebrating Seniors, one of the SRA's Honorary Lifetime Members was awarded special recognition for his advocacy over many years.

Bob Walker received the award on September 30, 2018 from Lieutenant Governor Tom Molloy as a result of his nomination from the SRA.

Robert (Bob) Walker has served the SRA for many years, both as an active member and as part of Committees and the Board of Directors. He was a key leader, working behind the scenes in the development and introduction of the SRA Health Plan, key to the continued success and funding of the Association. Bob has a keen sense of history and is aware that the foundational members are now fewer, so has made efforts to pass on the history and documents to a new generation of leaders. Never afraid to ask a question and complement, Bob's contribution has been significant the success of the SRA.

We are very pleased to acknowledge Bob for his many contributions over the years and his continued zest to improve the lives of seniors in Saskatchewan.

#### **√**

# MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion? Need Information?

Let us know:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: SRA Inc.

c/o Walter Scott Building

3085 Albert Street

Regina, SK S4S 0B1 www.saskretirees.org info@saskretirees.org 306-584-5552

