



**Town Hall
September 10, 2020**

Responses to Member Questions:

Pensions:

Q. Would there be any option for Defined Contribution Pension recipients who have retired for over 20 years to use their pensions to join one of these new plans?

A. As indicated during the workshop, these types of plans are not yet available, and their terms and conditions have not been defined. It will take some time to develop and introduce them. Changes to federal legislation and provincial regulations will be required. Then PEBA will be challenged to design and develop plans that will address the needs and wants of PEPP members. Member consultation will be important to that process.

Q. If PEPP had a VPLA (Variable Payment Life Annuity), what would underlying assets be invested in? Balanced fund? Aggressive?

A. This new type of plan still has to be developed and it is not known at this point how the funds would be invested. PEBA has indicated that a separate pool of funds would be needed to support a VPLA. The UBC VPLA, which was initiated under earlier tax legislation and grandfathered in, is the only Canadian example that currently exists. It uses a balanced fund.

Q. Late life annuity...so, it's a guaranteed income after a certain age... thus, the industry is gambling on a certain number of people dropping dead BEFORE they reach that age, so that they just get to keep the money??

A. An Advanced Life Deferred Annuity (ALDA) is designed to work as longevity insurance. Some people would die before receiving their invested amount, while others would live longer and receive more than they invest. That is how annuities work. Each individual would have to assess the risks and benefits of investing in an ALDA based on their own circumstances.

Q- What would the minimum age (be) to participate in the plan?

A- It is not certain what " plan " is being referred to here, but if it is the Defined Contribution Pension Plan which all public servants are currently enrolled in, essentially , once an employee is hired by a Provincial Ministry or Agency, they are automatically enrolled in the pension plan. Minimum age requirements are usually not specified for positions but rather education, training and experience are requirements for a position.

Q - Does SRA have any plan to ask (the) Government of Saskatchewan for (an) increased amount of pension per month for those who are under old rules and have retired more than 25 years ?

A - It is assumed that this reference is to retirees who are enrolled in the Defined Benefits Pension Plan/Public Service Superannuation Plan- PSSP (or Old Plan) . It should be noted that SRA was able to obtain an annual pension adjustment equal to 70 % of the annual Saskatchewan cost of living increase which has, in fact, been added to the PSSP's retirees pensions every year. That amount was intended to address the loss of buying power through inflation and though it may be viewed as inadequate, it was only finally reached through significant effort, including court action, and it required direct personal intervention by an SRA executive with newly elected cabinet ministers at the time. It would appear that the Old Plan is now viewed by government as a settled issue and it is very doubtful that they would be receptive to any further changes to this plan.

Positive Aging:

Q. My understanding is several of the other provinces already have representation for seniors. Is SK behind the ball on this initiative and is there a need to push to catch up??

Is there a Positive Aging commitment by other provinces? Can we make use of the other provinces' experiences as we look to push forward on the Positive Aging initiative in SK?

A. All other provinces have a form of plan for older adults as shown in the following table:

Provincial and Territorial Plans for Aging Populations

Canadian provinces and territories that anticipate the need for comprehensive planning for the growing population of people over age 65 have created or are in the process of creating plans to guide government policies and financial commitments.

Which province has no published plan to include in the chart?

Saskatchewan's population of adults over 65 is projected to grow, increasing from the current 15% to about 23% (or more) by 2038.

Long term planning is needed to respond to the needs this trend will create, and to recognize and appreciate the value of older adults in the province.

Province/Territory	Published Plan for Aging Population
British Columbia	Seniors Action Plan (2012) plus continuing action planning through the office of the BC Seniors Advocate
Alberta	Aging Population Policy Framework (2010)
Saskatchewan	
Manitoba	Strategies: Age Friendly Manitoba Initiative (2011), Provincial Elder Abuse Strategy (2002)
Ontario	Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors (2017)
Quebec	Government 5 year Plan for Seniors (2018)
New Brunswick	We're All in this Together – An Aging Strategy for New Brunswick (2017)
Nova Scotia	Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population (2017)
Prince Edward Island	Promoting Wellness, Preserving Health – a provincial action plan for seniors, near seniors and caregivers (2018)
Newfoundland & Labrador	Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors Activity Plan (2017 – 2020)
Yukon Territory	Yukon Aging in Place Action Plan (2020)

Northwest Territories	
Nunavut	Strategic Framework: Addressing the Needs of Nunavut Seniors (2017)

Q. What is your definition of positive aging?

A. Positive aging means supporting older adults that choose to live their lives by “aging in place” wherever that may be. It means having support for home care, access to services, sufficient finances to manage their affairs independently and being able to opt for health care as needed in their community of choice.

Will SRA assist to work with a community if they have space or land to develop a Senior Living housing or help work with lobbying government to build in a community.

A. The SRA would be supportive of local SRA members looking to improve the lives of older adults in their region. If the SRA could assist through our contacts with government or through the SSM, we would consider providing our voice to a community sponsored plan.

Q. Is there any communication with CARP?

A. The SRA is an organizational member of the SSM (SK Seniors Mechanism). There is regular contact with CARP Regina through that affiliation. CARP and SSM collaborated with a joint working group that helped develop some of the concepts included in the positive aging research.

Q. What is the age definition of " older adults "Is it 65 years old or younger?

A. Older adults are defined using the Statistics Canada description, meaning adults 65 years and older.

Q. Will this virtual town hall presentation be available to watch again later on? Will I be able to share it with my friends?

A. The Town Hall event was recorded and has been posted on the SRA website at www.saskretirees.org.

Q. What are you doing about keeping seniors in their own homes longer? Are you increasing the funding and workers for home care? Are you subsidizing seniors to stay in their own homes?

A. The SRA Board has always taken a stance to ensure that its activities are in the best interest of all members, not a certain group that may be part of the larger membership.

With that reference point, the SRA has not considered direct funding to support certain members that may have needs.

SRA does support the SSM (SK Seniors Mechanism) in its efforts to advocate for programs and services that improve the quality of life for older adults. This has included raising issues about expanding home care and pressing for a comprehensive plan for older adults.

The SRA is funded by the 3600 members, there are no other sources of funds for activities on your behalf. The SRA does not have sufficient funds or reserves to undertake direct funding in support of lower income older adults in a sustainable way.

Q. What are the qualifications to be a lifetime member?

A. All SRA members can nominate another SRA member to become an Honorary Lifetime Member by completing the nomination form. Honorary Lifetime members are selected by the Board of Directors and recommended to the membership at the next Annual General Meeting. Qualifications include a significant contribution to the long-term development and success of the SRA through participation as an active volunteer. Significant contributions to volunteering in one's local community with reference to the SRA mission and vision will also be considered.

Q. Has the SRA considered allowing other retired people join the SRA that are outside retired government workers?

A. The mandate of the SRA is limited to individuals that worked in the provincial public sector. Organizational members need to be able to demonstrate a direct connection between their organization and a Minister of the government. Changing the definition of members would mean amending the SRA bylaws and changing the articles of incorporation to broaden them out for additional classes of members. The SRA membership has always maintained that the organization needs a common bond, meaning a connection to public service through employment with the provincial government.

At this time, the SRA Board has no plans to revisit or expand the mandate for other retirees or children/grandchildren of current members that may have little connection or affiliation to the SRA.