



# SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

# THE

# ADVISOR

SUMMER 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS-2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Saskatchewan Retirees Association held the 2022 Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2022. For the first time in three years, the meeting offered an in-person gathering with an option to view the event by live streaming on YouTube.

44 members joined the in-person meeting, with an additional 24 watching virtually, so the event met the quorum requirements of the SRA bylaws.

During the meeting, the various Committees reported on the activities of the Board of Directors in 2021. There were also special presentations from the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) focused on the current "Home Supports" initiative to influence the public and government about the value of encouraging independent living for older adults. A speaker from the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) spoke about the services and direction of the

benefit agency. Both speakers received a warm welcome from the members, with special interest in SSM as the SRA has provided both volunteer and financial support to the "Home Supports" project.

Highlights from the Committees included:

- Continued strong member growth with 373 new members during 2021
- A renewed three-year agreement with GMS for the SRA Health and Dental Plan
- Prescription drugs account for 81% of all claims on the SRA health plan
- Continued efforts to enhance relationships with PEBA, including advocacy for a retiree as part of any future pension Board of Directors
- Ongoing financial strength through prudent investment management and spending limitations related to the ongoing pandemic

- Approval of an operational reserve fund policy to provide a framework for the SRA's use of financial resources
- RDS Chartered Professional Accountants were re-appointed as auditors for 2022-23

Members can access the 2021 Annual Report on the SRA website at [saskretirees.org](http://saskretirees.org) or by emailing [info@saskretirees.org](mailto:info@saskretirees.org) for a printed copy.

Members can also view the entire AGM on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/QjBMoSEteg8>

Your Board continues to seek your support and involvement to ensure the SRA is meeting your needs.



# WHAT YOU TOLD US - MEMBER SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

In early 2022, the SRA engaged Inshtrix research from Saskatoon to conduct a comprehensive member survey of our 3600 active members. We are pleased to report that 1632 members (46%) responded and we thank you for your willingness to participate.

While the Board and Committees need to consider your feedback and how it may affect our three-year action plan, we are choosing to report some of the highlights of the survey.

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the art of research



## Who are our members?

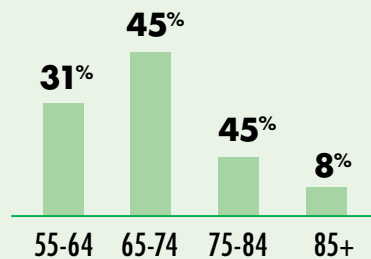
From the exhibit below you can see the various indicators of our membership. This data tracks similarly to the Health Plan enrollees. Interesting to note that there are now more members in the defined contribution pension plan (new plan) than the survey completed in 2017.

### Respondent Demographics

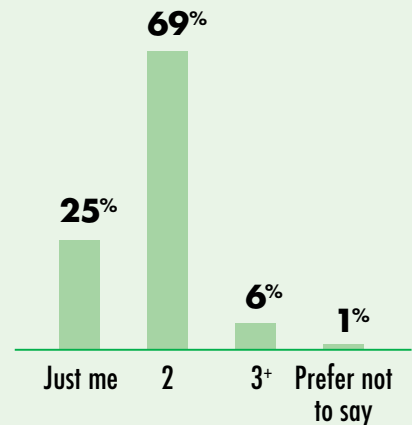
#### Gender



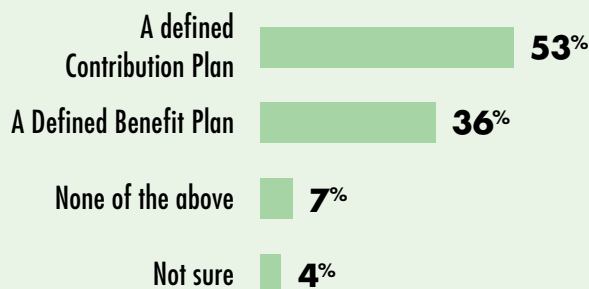
#### Age



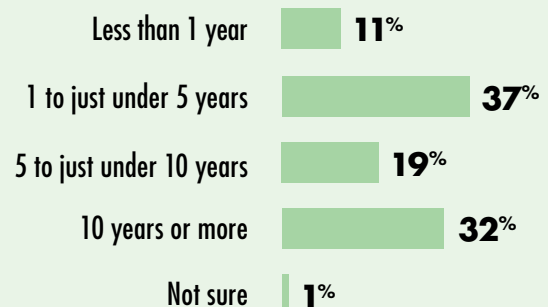
### People in Household



### Type of Pension Plan



### Tenure with SRA

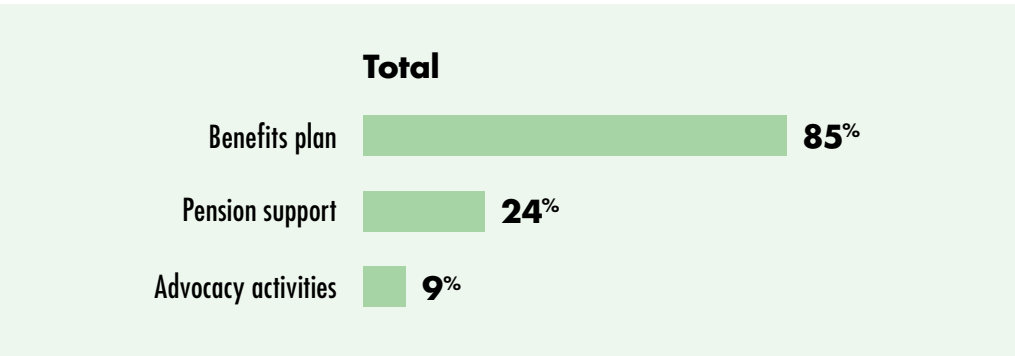


# Why retirees join the SRA?

Members overwhelmingly are joining the SRA to access the Health and Dental Plans. With our mandate to support members related to pension preservation and options, 24% identified pension support as important. These members may be representative of the defined benefit pensioners

that are still a significant part of the SRA membership.

Advocacy is an increasingly important role for the SRA with 9% of members looking for action as a voice for the members with other stakeholders including the government and public.



# Receiving Information about the SRA?

The Board was pleased to learn that 44% of retirees were receiving information about the SRA from their employer. At the same time, newer members are relying less on their employer than in the past. We still see “word of mouth” as a key to getting information out with 56% of retirees learning about the SRA from family or co-workers.

## Sources of Information about the SRA

	Total	SRA TENURE	
		Less than 5 years	5 years or more
Through management or Human Resources at work	44%	35% ▼	52% ▲
Through colleagues at work	39%	47% ▲	33% ▼
Through family or friends	17%	21% ▲	14% ▼

## Your Impressions of the SRA?

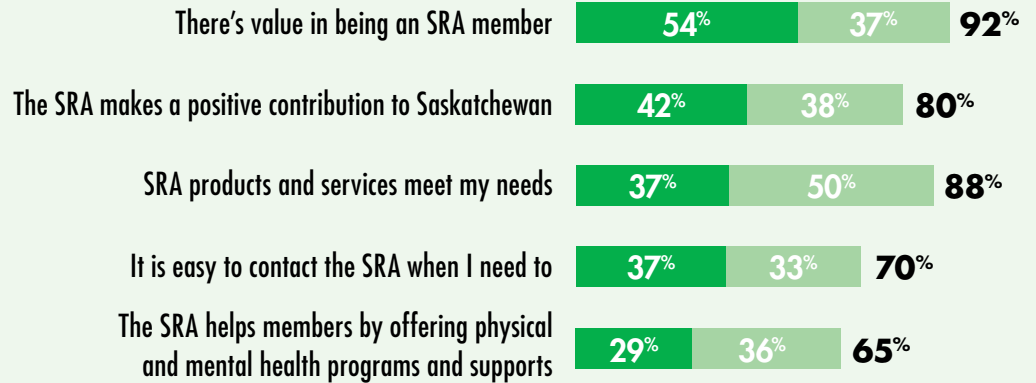
Responses to all options about your views of the SRA were positive. We will be looking to improve our access to improve your ability to contact the SRA in a more timely

way. Further contact is needed to understand the 50% that responded that the SRA services are only partially meeting your needs.



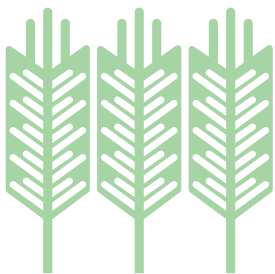
### SRA Impressions

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree

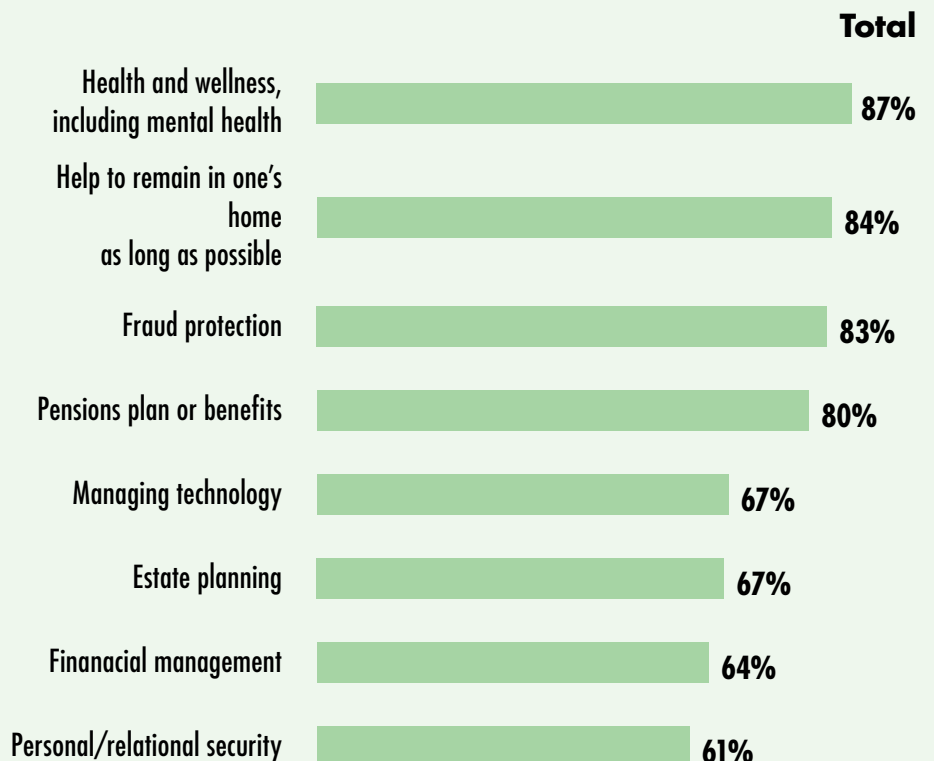


## Member Communication Interests?

Members continue to indicate a variety of interests for information and support related to wellness, independent living, fraud protection, personal security, post-retirement financial management and estate planning. Responses to all options were strong providing good advice for future planning.



### Interest in Receiving Information from the SRA (% Somewhat interested + Very interested)



# Key Findings and Conclusions



Member satisfaction and loyalty are very strong. Further, impressions of SRA services and value of being a member are strong. This suggests members have high intentions of remaining with the organization and are likely to encourage others to join.



However, SRA is largely viewed as a source of group health benefits, with pension advice seen as a distant second reason for becoming a member. Further, pension advice appears to be largely beneficial to those on defined benefit plans, a cohort within the membership that may shrink over time. This poses some risk to the future relevance of the organization.



While it is essential to ensure the GMS benefits plan remains competitive and comprehensive, efforts to provide value beyond group benefits should be the top priority for the SRA, especially given the negative impacts COVID-19 has placed on seniors. This includes offering both additional services and information to members.



Common areas of interest include continued advocacy for seniors (particularly in the area of health), advice on health/wellness, finance and fraud scams, pushing for innovative pension options, and information and services to support living at home longer. Members also largely endorse the SRA forging partnerships with other organizations such as the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism to enhance service offerings.



Email is by far the preferred method of reaching members, although the quarterly newsletter is frequently referenced and considered valuable. While few have attended SRA events lately, those that do have very positive experiences.

## Final Thoughts:

Your Board of Directors and Committees are pleased that members have positive impressions of the SRA and plan to continue to support the organization as we approach our 50th year in 2025. We will be considering where we can improve, consider expanding services, communications and provide relevant information to you in the future.

With technology, we can reach 85% of our members virtually and we will look to those communication methods to speak to you and listen to you in the future.

“Strength Together” continues to mean working with members to continue to understand your needs and interests as we grow, increase our influence and succeed together!





# SRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022-23:

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:	Randy Dove
Vice President:	Harold Hugg
Treasurer:	Chris Oleson
Secretary:	Charlotte Dusyk

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Executive:	Randy Dove
Finance:	Chris Oleson
Membership/ Communications:	Randy Dove
Group Benefits:	Harold Hugg
Pensions/Issues	Ken Lozinsky, Harold Hugg co-chair
Nominations	Charlotte Dusyk

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance	Chris Oleson, George Meredith, Cindy MacDonald
Group Benefits	Harold Hugg, Ann Donovan, Mae Smith, Bill Lawson, Beatrice Regnier
Membership/ Communications	Randy Dove, Lyle Fluter, Penny Hendrickson, Shane McLellan, Brian McKay
Pensions/Issues	Ken Lozinsky, Harold Hugg, Mae Smith, John Mowbray, Bill Thomson, Janette Hamilton
Nominations	Charlotte Dusyk, John Mowbray, Ken Lozinsky

## MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Lyle Fluter
Shane McLellan
Brian McKay
George Meredith
Mae Smith
Beatrice Regnier
Bill Lawson



## MEMBER COMMENTS Have a question? Suggestion? Need Information? Let us know!

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