



# SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

# THE

SPRING 2023

# ADVISOR

## SAVE THE DATE - 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Saskatchewan Retirees Association is planning the Annual General Meeting for May 25, 2023. Currently, the plan includes the opportunity for members to gather together as well as meet virtually for members who live further away or may choose not to travel.

Your Board of Directors will report on the 2021-24 action plan, the financial operations, various Committee reports, the SRA group health and dental plans as well as electing directors for a three-year term. The audited financial statements will be presented including a motion to reappoint the auditor for 2023-24.

As there is a proposal to change the membership fee structure, a recommendation will be circulated in

advance as well as a bylaw proposal to accommodate the change.

Members that choose to join the meeting virtually will be able to participate in the voting process, a positive change from the live streaming approach taken last year.

Please watch for announcements of the location and time as those arrangements relate to the technology requirements needed for the virtual option for the meeting.

If you have questions or suggestions, please let us know at [info@saskretirees.org](mailto:info@saskretirees.org)

*See you at the AGM!*



## **DID YOU KNOW? - SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS DRUG PLAN**

The Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health has been offering a senior's drug plan for many years. It provides for reduced costs for seniors depending on age and income.



Your eligibility is determined by age and the income reported on your income tax return filed with the Canada Revenue Agency. You must:

- Be a Saskatchewan resident 65 years of age or older with a valid Saskatchewan Health card.
- Be eligible for the provincial age credit, which is based on the annual net income you reported on Line 23600 of your income tax form in the previous year. Your net income

must be \$69,741 or less on your 2021 income tax to be eligible for the year 2023.

- Seniors who are covered under federal government programs, such as the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits Program or Veterans Affairs are not eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan.

In August 2016, GMS changed their process for approvals for exception drug status (EDS) and the new automated approval system needs prior approval from the government prescription drug program before the drug claim will be processed.

Pharmacies can provide a one-time exception to allow drugs to be approved for a member. However, the pharmacy, doctor or the SRA member will need to apply for EDS status approval. Once SaskHealth approves the drug, the pharmacy will get authorization and claims can again be processed electronically.

Forms to apply for EDS are available from Sask Health or your pharmacy to assist you in making application for EDS approvals.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS - NOMINEES WELCOME**

The SRA Board has twelve directors serving on behalf of the membership. Each year, four director terms expire, providing opportunity for members to step forward to serve the organization. Incumbent directors can be re-nominated for up to three, 3 year terms by the SRA bylaws.

In advance of the Annual General Meeting each year, as well as at the meeting, there is an opportunity for nominations and an election to occur.

The SRA is a volunteer led, non profit organization that was incorporated in 1975. Directors serve at the Board and on the various committees to help operate the organization. Committees meet regularly and the Board meetts about six times annually, depending on needs and priorities.

If you are interested to learn more, our Nominations Committee would like to hear from you. Inquire at [info@saskretirees.org](mailto:info@saskretirees.org) and we can provide more information.

## USING TECHNOLOGY – WEBCASTS SUCCEEDED!!



Based on feedback from the 1600+ members that responded to our survey in early 2022, we have been holding a series of webcasts for members. Starting in November 2022 and continuing through March 2023, four webcasts have been offered to members.

You have responded, with almost 500 members joining the webcasts to hear speakers present views on the PEBA transition to a non-profit organization, myths about generic drugs, considerations for financial planning after retiring and nutrition and lifestyle choices.

Many more members could not attend on the day of the webcasts, so each session was recorded with links posted on the [saskretirees.org](http://saskretirees.org) website so they could be viewed on YouTube. We have been delighted with your interest as almost 1000 views have occurred since November 2022.

We asked you for feedback about the sessions; you overwhelmingly have told us you like the sessions; the professionalism and you've encouraged us to continue with more sessions in the future.

We are always interested in your views about future sessions. Recent feedback suggested that topics like retiring with a mortgage, wills and estates and understanding dispensing fees are themes you would be interested in learning more about. There is also continued interest in independent living/home supports, a project that the SRA has supported with both funding and volunteers.

With your enthusiasm, we are planning to offer another series of webcasts into the fall and winter of 2023-24. As we finalize our planning, we will keep you aware of the topics, schedule and how to participate. We expect to continue our reliance on Terry Scott Voiceworks and Webcast Canada as their contribution has made our efforts professional and available on a stable technology platform.

Your Board congratulates and thanks you for your interest. We look forward to "seeing" you again at future webcasts!



# WHAT'S NEXT – FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

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Over the last five years, the SRA has maintained a 10%+ new member growth rate as we now are reaching towards 3800 active members. Growth has slowed during 2022, giving the Board a moment to reflect on where the SRA needs to be to continue to be a sustainable organization.

Everyone knows that as the baby boomers move through life's journey, there would be a period where fewer people would be retiring. As more and more of the new members have birth years in the 1960's, we are realizing that we are approaching that time.

With our 50th anniversary in 2025, it's a good time to sort out what we need to do to ensure the organization is viable longer term.

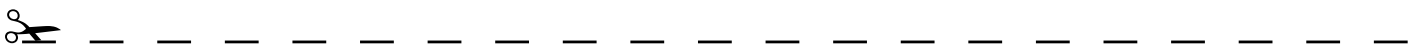
We are quietly working with our group benefits provider, GMS to look at what's needed for member growth to continue to be able to provide a quality health and dental plan at affordable costs to members.

We are also looking to meet with key organizational members to learn more about how they are promoting the SRA to their employees. We will be looking to make the SRA more attractive to future retirees so they



can sign up for the newsletter, eblasts etc. before they reach retirement age. Continued efforts are being made to meet with PEBA to grow that relationship with the hope it may open doors as our members are now close to 20% of the retiree members with funds being managed through the PEPP plans.

Please stay tuned as we will be looking to members for support to help us understand what the next generation of retirees wants, expects and how the SRA can adjust to continue to be relevant in the longer term.



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

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