



SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

THE

ADVISOR

SUMMER 2023

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGE

At the May 25, 2023, Annual General Meeting, members approved the removal of the \$20 annual membership fee effective, January 1, 2024.

The rationale for the change is outlined here:

In 2013, member dues were waived for members enrolled in the SRA Health Plan. This decision was made in recognition of the costs members were incurring to participate in the SRA Benefit Plans.

Over recent years, while many new members have joined the SRA and enrolled in the SRA Health Plan, the number of members not enrolled in the benefits plans has continued to decline.

At this stage, of the 3,800 active SRA members, only 260 members are not enrolled in the Health Plan. Of this group, 135 members have pre-paid their membership beyond 2023.

Volunteers spend an estimated 100 hours tracking these members and providing reminders to renew their annual membership. These costs are estimated at \$1,820 annually (postage, printing, distribution and volunteer labour).

Members approved the following motion:

The membership approves the removal of the \$20 annual membership fee for all SRA members, effective January, 2024.

This change results in some lost revenue, but reducing each future year as this segment of the membership mostly represents our oldest members.

With membership approval of the direction, the SRA will return the pre-paid membership dues to the 135 members that have paid beyond 2023. This would be a one-time cost of \$5,200. Affected members would receive communication outlining the decision, and assurances that they are still full, active members in the SRA.



SRA – LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next few months, the Board of the SRA will be looking at a variety of research initiatives as we continue to develop plans to meet member needs.

The various projects include:

- **Updating the SRA website** to modernize the design and make it easier for members to use. Your feedback suggested that it is difficult to navigate and find the information that matters to you.
- Reviewing **member usage of the prescription coverage** in the SRA Health Plan. This will be done in partnership with GMS and conducted by an external consulting group with skills in analyzing usage and trends by members in making prescription claims.
- Conducting a review of **SRA operations** to identify areas where administrative risks exist as well as suggestions related to potential ways to organize operations to respond to current and potential member needs.
- Developing **marketing materials** for use with our member organizations to help reach employees considering retirement so the SRA is more prominent for future retirees. This includes a targeted survey of recent retirees to learn more about how they discovered the SRA.
- Investigating the **potential of social media** as platforms to reach members in a timely way. This may be a quicker way to provide members with information as an alternative to the many e-blasts in use now.
- Developing the 2023-24 series of **educational webcasts** for members. The topics provided in 2022-23 were seen by members as important and the numbers of members that participated was impressive. Visit YouTube to view the events that demonstrated interest from members, as well as the feedback provided after each session.

These projects will also feed the SRA action planning process, scheduled for renewal in 2024.



2023 LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBER JACK KLOCZKO

Jack retired in the mid-1990s after a career in both the cooperative system and the public sector.

Jack volunteered with the SRA, where he spent time contacting members that were in arrears in paying their membership fees. Most of these fees were collected due to his

diligence and persistence. This was done over several years.

Jack was also involved with the Group Benefits Committee in process of reviewing tenders sent to various insurance companies. Eventually, the SRA continued its relationship with GMS. He was involved in

negotiations with GMS to establish a marketing commission for the SRA.

Jack was always involved in the planning for the Annual General Meeting to ensure members had a positive experience while meeting to discuss the business of the organization.

UPDATE – LEGISLATION PASSED ENABLING PEBA’S TRANSITION TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

On May 17, a significant milestone was reached as the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) continues to transition to a not-for-profit corporation at arm’s length from the Government of Saskatchewan. Bill 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*, was passed by the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and received Royal Assent.



PEBA began pursuing the transition in 2021 at the request of the trustees of the two largest pension plans it administers: the Public Employees Pension Plan (PEPP) and the Municipal Employees’ Pension Plan (MEPP). The new NPC will strengthen and streamline governance and aligns with Canadian best practice in the pension industry.

There will be no changes to the pension and benefits plans that PEBA manages. They will continue to operate in exactly the same way, and will continue to be overseen by their respective boards. For members, their contribution rates, entitlements and services are not changing in any way.

Nothing changes for PSSP members. The NPC will have a contract with the Government of Saskatchewan to provide administrative services. The Government will continue to fund member pensions.

Throughout the process, we’ve worked hard to engage Pension and Benefit Plan members,

employers, unions and other stakeholders to ensure that they understand the need for the transition and how it will affect them. This included online **member town halls**, which are available to view on our website.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

The new NPC will begin operations on January 1, 2024 under the name *Plannera Pensions and Benefits (Plannera)*. The name reflects PEBA’s ongoing commitment to helping members successfully plan for retirement. It was developed based on input from employees, plan members and employers. Plannera will continue to provide the same high level of service employers and members now receive.

We are proud to be the administrator of your pension plan, and strive to bring you the best service and support. If you have any questions about the transition, contact us at peba@peba.gov.sk.ca.



SRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023-24:

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

Nominations: Charlotte Dusyk

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance: Chris Oleson, George Meredith,
Cindy MacDonald

Group Benefits: Harold Hugg, Ann Donovan, Mae Smith,
Beatrice Regnier

Membership/
Communications: Randy Dove, Shane McLellan, Brian McKay,
Lyle Fluter, Penny Hendrickson

Pensions/Issues: Ken Lozinsky, Harold Hugg, Mae Smith,
John Mowbray, Bill Thomson, Janette Hamilton

Nominations: Charlotte Dusyk, Ken Lozinsky, John Mowbray

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Shane McLellan

Brian McKay

George Meredith

Beatrice Regnier

Mae Smith

Bill Thomson



MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion? Need information? Let us know!

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