



# SRA

SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION

# THE

# ADVISOR

WINTER 2023

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2023

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Retirees Association, we thank you for your support during the last year. With the interest in recent surveys and various webcasts over the year, we learned how engaged members can be when topics are identified that meet you where you live.

During 2023, we experienced another year of growth for the organization, with an 8% increase in memberships to almost 4000 active members. When we add family members, we know that the SRA family has over 6000 lives that count on information, group health and dental plan information and updates on pensions and relevant topics.

You continue to remind the Board that your needs are ever changing, so we are working to continue to adjust so your confidence in the Board remains at a high level. Through eblast communications, the Advisor newsletter and YouTube, we are working to keep you aware of any updates to the services we provide.

Our relationships with Group Medical Services, the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and Plannera

Pensions and Benefits (formerly PEBA) remain important,



as these organizations work to support the interests of public sector retirees in Saskatchewan. With regular contacts, we are raising questions, concerns and asking for information that we can pass on to you.

As we look forward to 2024, we are looking to refresh the SRA website, finish an operational review to enhance the operations of the SRA and focus on promoting the SRA to current and future retirees.

With the festive season coming quickly, we extend our best wishes to you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season!

**Happy Holidays,**  
**Your Board of Directors**  
**Saskatchewan Retirees Association**



## WHAT CAN SRA DO FOR YOU?

### WHAT IS THE SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION (SRA)?

The SRA is a non-profit organization made up of current and retired Saskatchewan public sector employees who are working to improve our members' quality of life.

### WHAT BENEFITS DOES THE SRA PROVIDE FOR MEMBERS?

#### The Saskatchewan Retirees Association (SRA):

- Focuses its efforts on issues and concerns common to retired Saskatchewan public sector employees.
- Monitors current retirement benefits and Plannera Pension and Benefits and the Public Employees Pension Plan (PEPP) plans in order to make relevant information available to members.

- Informs members on issues that are relevant and timely through regular newsletters and informative webinars.
- Advocates to government and other organizations for improvements to PEPP and Plannera retirement benefits.
- Offers members a comprehensive health and dental insurance plan to help manage ongoing health costs similar to what was in place while working for the public sector in Saskatchewan. Refer to the SRA website for more information about the benefits our insurance plans offer.
- Manages the health and dental plans on behalf of its members upon their retirement from public service. Members submit claims to Group Medical Services (GMS) in a similar manner to when they were employees of the public sector in Saskatchewan.

### HOW DOES THE SRA WORK FOR MEMBERS?

- The SRA is a volunteer-led group of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of retired

public sector employees. We monitor pension issues, offer members a post-retirement health insurance plan and provide information about services and programs that are important to members in their retirement.

- The SRA provides the ongoing management and administration of the health and dental plans provided to members through GMS.

### HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SRA?

- Potential members can complete the SRA application for membership, which is available on the SRA website, and submit it to the SRA.
- Membership is available to all retired employees or those employees considering retirement from the Saskatchewan Government, Crown Corporations, Universities and other SRA approved public employee agencies.

## DID YOU KNOW? SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS DRUG PLAN



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.

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.



# NEW SRA WEBSITE IN DEVELOPMENT

---



The Membership/Communications Committee has been working with external resources to refresh the SRA website.

Our goal is to simplify the site so that members can locate needed information more quickly without having to search through the various topics on the site. We will also remove information that members are not viewing or that has become irrelevant over time.

The refresh will also allow members to complete online forms to send to the SRA without having to print and scan them. We also will add a place where future retirees can provide their

contact information and begin to receive SRA communications prior to retirement. This will help potential members get information and build networks with the SRA before they leave their workplace.

The project team is working on the layout and then will create the content for the site or move information from the existing site.

We expect to relaunch the updated site by May 1, 2024 . While the new site is in development and testing, the current website remains active and can be accessed at **[www.saskretirees.org](http://www.saskretirees.org)**.

We think the new site will serve your needs better, so you can find information when you want it.

Part of this change includes shifting our official email address to [skretireesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:skretireesinfo@gmail.com) as we have been having some security questions about the current email and website.

As your needs and interests change, the SRA is adapting to better serve members with timely information and easier access!



## MEMBER COMMENTS

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

---

---

---

Saskatchewan Retirees Assoc. Inc.  
c/o Walter Scott Building  
3085 Albert Street Regina, SK  
S4S 0B1

306-584-5552  
[www.saskretirees.org](http://www.saskretirees.org)  
[skretireesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:skretireesinfo@gmail.com)

