



**SASKATCHEWAN
RETIRES
ASSOCIATION**

THE ADVISOR

FALL 2025

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This past year has been one of progress, celebration, and new opportunities for the Saskatchewan Retirees Association (SRA).

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board has grown with the addition of three new Board members: Kyle Chow, Donald Monaghan, and Dean Parker. With their appointments, our Board now reflects representation from across the province, including Regina, Regina Beach, Saskatoon, Kenosee Lake, and Prince Albert.

EXTENDED GMS PARTNERSHIP

We recently signed a new five-year agreement with our partner, GMS, strengthening a long-standing relationship that benefits our members. Alongside this, we introduced new flexibility to our Health and Dental Plans, offering additional options for drug coverage and dental maximums. We are also exploring expanded travel insurance beyond the existing 60 days of coverage, which we hope to finalize later this year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR (SO FAR):

- We completed the development of our new three-year Strategic Plan, working with Praxis Consulting, who also supported our Organizational Review last year. This plan provides a strong foundation to guide our work going forward.
- As part of celebrating our 50th Anniversary, we were proud to launch the SRA Legacy Scholarships for SRA members and their families. These awards are available at the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, with five

scholarships of \$5,000 at each institution. This initiative is a meaningful way to mark our milestone year and invest in the future. You will see more on this later in this newsletter.

- We continue to build connections with our members. SRA participated in the Spotlight on Seniors event in Saskatoon on October 7, where we also hosted a member luncheon. In addition, we hosted a very successful member luncheon for Regina and area members on October 22, with over 200 participating. These events offered another opportunity to gather, share, and celebrate together.
- We initiated a promotional campaign to support membership growth. It includes a free membership for joining the SRA and subscribing to a Health and Dental Plan. It also offers a \$50 reward incentive to all our members who refer an individual to the SRA's Health and Dental Plan. The promotion is in place until the end of 2025.
- Growth is a key component to the success of the SRA in providing affordable and competitive Health and Dental Plans for our members. So far this year, SRA has shown a steady growth rate near seven per cent.

These initiatives, achievements, and celebrations remind us that SRA's strength lies in both our proud history and our commitment to meeting the needs of members today and in the future. On behalf of your SRA Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and participation as we move forward together.

Harold Hugg, President, SRA

UPDATE ON PEPP'S LIFETIME PENSION OPTION

The Public Employees Pension Plan (PEPP) launched a new Lifetime Pension a little over six months ago, and the fund is already valued at more than \$4 million and growing steadily. The Lifetime Pension is one of Canada's first Variable Pension Life Annuity retirement income options. It provides a dependable monthly income for life, regardless of how long you live.

What makes the Lifetime Pension unique is payments adjust yearly based on investment returns and other plan factors. Over time, these adjustments are expected to trend upward, helping your retirement income keep pace with inflation.

Developing the Lifetime Pension was a first for a large Canadian pension administrator, and the fund has already gained international attention. It's been nominated for an Excellence and Innovation Award at this year's World Pension Summit.

PEPP members with a Variable Pension Benefit (VPB) can purchase a Lifetime Pension at any time. Our new online calculator is a great place to start when exploring which combination of retirement income options is right for you. Former PEPP members can also purchase a Lifetime Pension, provided their external retirement funds aren't locked in through another retirement product.

If you would like to learn more, PEPP is hosting two online Lifetime Pension workshops:



October 29, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM



November 13, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

PEPP's Retirement Information Consultants also provide one-on-one appointments.

Call them toll-free at **1-833-787-3170** or email ric@plannera.ca.

RETIREE REPRESENTATION ON THE PEPP BOARD

Saskatchewan's defined contribution plan for public employees (now called the Public Employees Pension Plan – PEPP) was created in 1977. The Plan's Board is composed of an equal number of employee and employer representatives with a chairperson. This composition made sense when there were no retirees in the Plan, but the situation changed following the introduction of the Variable Pension Benefit (VPB) in 2006. Since then, the number of retirees in PEPP has been increasing steadily.

- **Retirees made up 11.1% of PEPP members as of March 2024**
- **Retirees held 26% of PEPP funds as of December 2022**

Clearly, retirees have become an important, but still unrepresented, stakeholder in the Public Employees Pension Plan.

The Saskatchewan Retirees Association raised the issue of retiree representation on the PEPP Board to the Minister of Finance in 2021. The Minister advised SRA that a board composition review was "being planned to ensure the Board maintains an accurate representation of the Plan membership" and that the SRA would be consulted "as we move through the process."

There is progress to report. Early this year, Watson Board Advisors were hired to conduct the review. The consultants interviewed SRA representatives, and the SRA submitted a paper to them outlining the case for retiree representation. Since then, the SRA has been advised that the PEPP Board received the consultant report and formed a Governance Committee to follow up on its recommendations.

The Committee is developing a work plan and timeline and has committed to work with the Saskatchewan Retirees Association towards effective retiree representation. While the composition of the Board is defined in legislation, and any changes to PEPP board structure will inevitably take time, the SRA is pleased that real progress is being made.



NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIP MERCHANT!

The SRA is excited to announce the introduction of a new travel website platform with **Trip Merchant**, designed exclusively for SRA members.

Trip Merchant has secured special membership savings, offering up to 50 per cent off on travel experiences. They partner with a wide range of suppliers to cater to diverse travel styles, including ocean cruises, river cruises, guided tours, adventure and active travel, African safaris, solo travel, long stay vacations, and others...

- Exclusive Member Savings
- Trip Merchant Loyalty Program
- Trip Contests
- Trip Itinerary Builder
- Online Presentations
- Exclusive Group Departures with Trip Merchant Journeys
- Travel Inspiration and More!

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

All SRA members will have the option to “opt into” Trip Merchant’s travel benefits by registering and then logging into your Trip Merchant access from the SRA website.

The SRA will be launching our Trip Merchant service from a link on the SRA website soon ... **so stay tuned for more information and new exclusive travel options from your SRA membership!**



SRA BY THE NUMBERS

Here are some key metrics we put together to help show you how the SRA is meeting objectives while focusing on our member’s needs.

SRA Members	4,055
SRA Members with a Health Plan	3,501
Insured Family Members (Associated with a Member)	2,067
2025 New Members (as of October)	201
Attendees at 50th Anniversary Luncheons	230
50th Anniversary Scholarships Awarded	2
New Partnerships (Trip Merchant)	1



50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

SRA LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The SRA 50th Anniversary committee has issued 40 letters of eligibility to qualified applicants for these awards. The process of adjudicating and selecting the recipients is underway at the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Polytechnic has announced two of their awards. The recipients were Andrew Sinnett and Jayna Hack.

- Andrew Sinnett is currently enrolled in the second year of Psychiatric Nursing at the Regina campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Andrew is the nephew of SRA member Helmut Schemmer, formerly with SaskTel.
- Jayna Hack is currently enrolled in training as a Dental Assistant at the Regina campus. Jayna is a granddaughter of SRA member Albert Lavalley of Willow Bunch, formerly with SaskPower.

Competition for three awards continues at Saskatchewan Polytechnic with the competition closing October 31, 2025. Applications are accepted through the student portal at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan are in the applicant selection process.

Congratulations to the successful applicants and we wish all participants success in their future studies!

MEMBERSHIP DRAWS FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES – 15 FOR \$50

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, SRA will be giving away \$50 Mastercard gift cards to 15 lucky SRA members.

✓ There is nothing you need to do, just be an active SRA member as of December 1, 2025, and your name will go into the draw for one of the \$50 gift cards.

Please be sure we have your current email.

✓ The draw of all active December members will be made December 9, 2025, and the lucky winners will be notified by email within four days.

✓ Good luck and thank you for being an SRA member.

UPCOMING MEMBER SURVEY

Your opinion matters to the SRA!

We are planning to conduct a member survey in early 2026. The last survey was conducted two years ago, and we received a very good response and valuable feedback. We plan to carry out a survey every couple years to ensure the SRA continues to represent member needs and responds to member concerns in a timely manner.

You will receive more information on the upcoming member survey as we finalize survey topics.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion?
Let us know at:

skretireesinfo@gmail.com

