

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year marked our 50th anniversary as an organization — and what a milestone year it was.

We launched our Legacy Scholarship Program for SRA family members, introduced a new member travel discount service through Trip Merchant, completed a new three-year Strategic Plan, hosted membership luncheons in Saskatoon and Regina, and awarded fifteen \$50 member gift cards just in time for Christmas.

We are beginning this year by listening to you. Our 2026 Membership Survey, managed by Insightrix, is now underway. Building on our 2022 survey, it will help ensure we continue to meet member needs and expectations, including gathering feedback on our Legacy Scholarship Program, which continues this year with \$5,000 scholarships at the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Results will be shared with members and presented at our AGM on May 21 in Regina.

Over time, SRA has built a healthy operating surplus. The Board has established a committee to recommend appropriate and member-focused uses of these funds, with the goal of reporting back at the AGM in May.

We continue to work closely with our long-standing partner, GMS, and are finalizing next year's Health and Dental Plan details. Members will receive this information, including costs, with the May renewal letter. The Board has also approved a comparative review of our plan against similar retiree plans in Saskatchewan to ensure it remains competitive and sustainable.

Recently, I met with leadership from the British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association to exchange insights on organizational practices. This discussion highlighted potential opportunities to improve our membership systems and administrative supports. The Board has created a committee to explore best practices for enrollment, database management, and volunteer workload.

On behalf of the SRA Board of Directors, thank you for your continued trust and engagement. We look forward to another strong year ahead.

Harold Hugg, President, SRA



THE SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM

The SRA (then the Saskatchewan Government Superannuates Association) was one of ten founding members of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) and is proud to continue supporting SSM's important work.

Founded in 1990, SSM is an umbrella organization that works in the interest of Saskatchewan seniors. Its vision is "Quality life for all older adults in Saskatchewan," pursued through programming, education, and advocacy. SSM's initiatives include:

- **Promoting awareness of ageism, social isolation, and other issues affecting older adults.** SSM publishes *Gray Matters*, read by over 100,000 older adults, organizes an annual conference, and hosts Celebrating Seniors, an annual awards event recognizing older volunteers.
- **Advocating for home supports** to enable people to live in their own homes and communities as long as possible. Through its Home Supports Initiative, SSM produces

information for print, broadcast, and social media, and takes the case for home supports to government officials.

- **Administering Facilitating Independence Grants (FIG):** These provincially funded grants provide one-time seed money to service organizations and community groups to develop and pilot new approaches for supporting seniors.
- **Promoting the Age Friendly Communities program** in Saskatchewan, which works with communities to make their towns, villages and cities better places for older adults to live and thrive. Nineteen communities are now involved.
- **Overseeing Saskatchewan's Social Prescribing Initiative,** which helps healthcare professionals connect patients with local non-clinical services to address their health needs holistically. Pilot projects are underway in six communities, with more coming soon.

SSSM's website offers a wealth of information on quality-of-life issues affecting older adults in Saskatchewan and the programs working to address them:

www.skseiorsmechanism.ca

LIFETIME PENSION SUCCESS AND MEMBER VOICES LEAD THE WAY

LIFETIME PENSION GROWTH AND MEMBER CONFIDENCE

The Lifetime Pension is a key component of the Public Employees Pension Plan (PEPP)'s retirement income offerings. This winter, PEPP featured the story of long-time member Phil in *Pension Perspectives*, illustrating how the Lifetime Pension gave him the financial and emotional confidence to retire early. Phil's lifelong planning, attendance at PEPP workshops, and meetings with a Retirement Information Consultant helped guide his decisions. Read more about Phil's retirement journey on the PEPP website: www.pepp.plannera.ca/insights/skating-to-a-secure-financial-future

MEMBER SATISFACTION

More than 2,000 members responded to PEPP's 2025 Member Survey, with results reflecting strong trust in the plan, its service, and its communications:

- 91% satisfaction with customer service quality
- 85% satisfaction with plan administration
- 87% satisfaction with communications received

Members also identified opportunities for growth: increased awareness of financial planning services, more personalized and simplified communications, and stronger support

for early and mid-career planning. Enhancements are already underway — an enhanced PEPP website, targeted messaging, and process optimization.

To date, over \$7.5 million is invested in the Lifetime Pension. Visit PEPP's Lifetime Pension Overview web page for information, videos, links to Retirement Information Consultants, and a Lifetime Pension Calculator: www.pepp.plannera.ca/retirement-income/lifetime-pension-overview

BOARD ELECTIONS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Elections for four board members will be held at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 21, 2026.

Board members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of three terms.

We are seeking candidates for the board of directors and for committee roles. Committees include Finance, Group Benefits, Growth & Communications, Governance & Nominations, Membership, and Pension & Issues. We welcome candidates with skills in database management,

research, advocacy, communication, writing, marketing, and/or finance. **Previous board experience and financial expertise are assets.** The board and committees should ideally be gender balanced, culturally diverse, and representative of various regions across Saskatchewan.

To apply, please complete the application form on the SRA website: www.saskretirees.org/contact/application-for-either-board-member-or-committee-member

PLANNERA WEBINAR

The SRA hosted a webinar in partnership with Plannera and PEPP, covering financial planning tools and retirement support services available to members, including the PEPP pension calculator, investment fund options, savings consolidation opportunities, and common PEPP misconceptions.

View the recording on the SRA website News tab: www.saskretirees.org/whats-new

UPCOMING AGM CHANGES TO BYLAWS

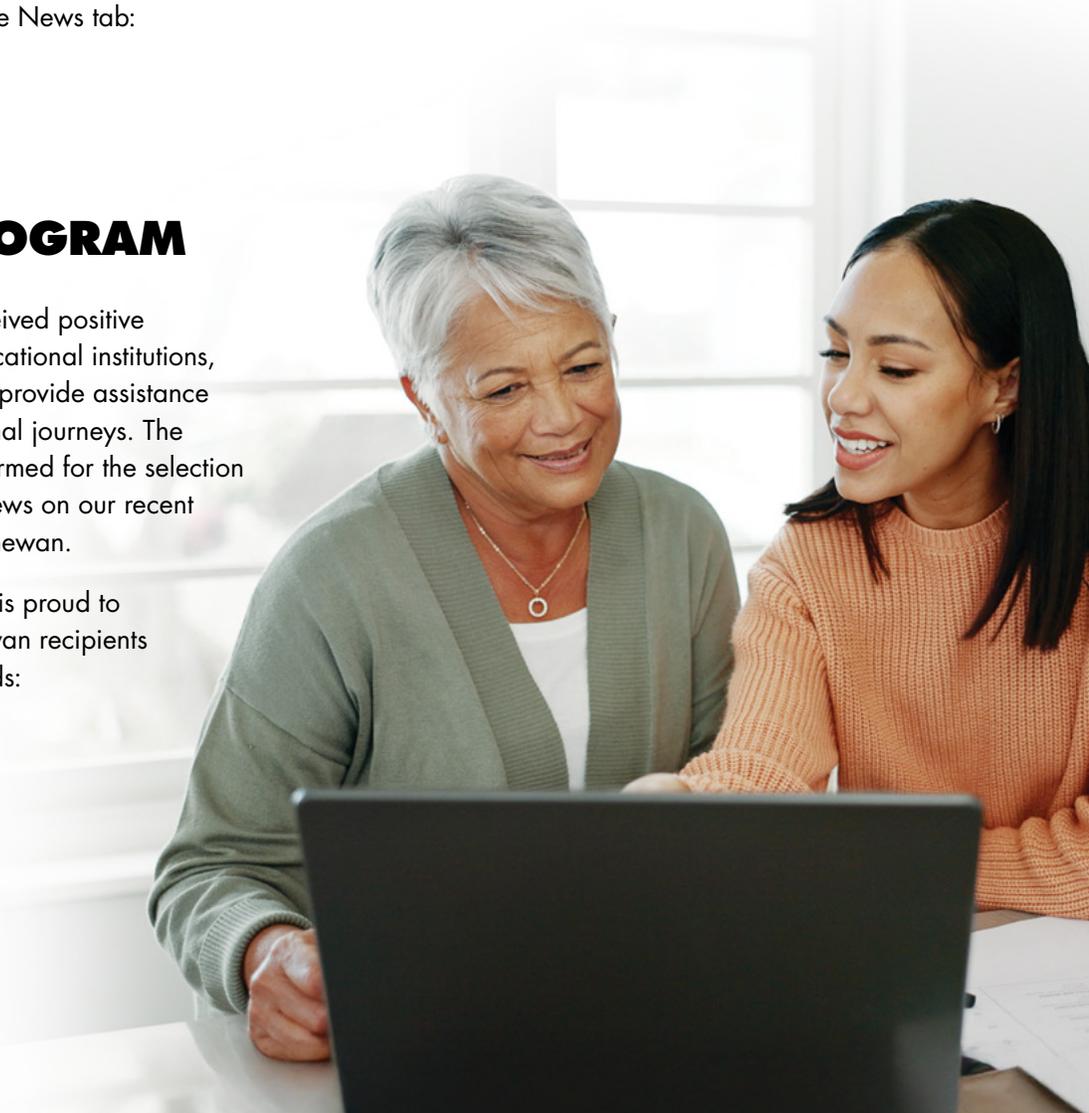
Several bylaw changes will be considered at the May 21, 2026 Annual General Meeting. Details are available on the SRA website: www.saskretirees.org/whats-new

SRA LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The SRA scholarship program has received positive feedback from SRA members, the educational institutions, and the students. We are delighted to provide assistance and support students in their educational journeys. The program is currently waiting to be informed for the selection of the last two awards, but we have news on our recent awards from the University of Saskatchewan.

The SRA 50th Anniversary Committee is proud to announce the University of Saskatchewan recipients of this year's legacy scholarship awards:

- ✓ Ava Mae Lessard
- ✓ Janaya Paige Nachtegaele
- ✓ Jared Reese Jacob Wassill



SRA 2026 MEMBER SURVEY

A big thank you to the over 1,800 members who completed the survey — it was a great response. Submissions closed in early March and your input was critical in setting the SRA Board's priorities and future direction. It was encouraging to see that 83% of you scored 8 out of 10 or higher when asked if you'd recommend SRA to someone else.

Next steps include Insightrix correlating all responses and comments into a final report. To learn more about the survey results, please join us online or in person at our AGM on May 21 in Regina.

In appreciation of all those who participated, 10 lucky members were drawn to win a \$50 gift. Congratulations to: Marg Langford, Darcel Gettel, Tin Nguyen, Bob Hunko, Susan McKay, Dean Liebrecht, Gail Shawaga, Maureen Burke, Ron Kelly, and Dwight Chernishenko.



MEMBER COMMENTS

Have a question? Suggestion?
Let us know at:

skretiresinfo@gmail.com

GMS UPDATE

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE 2026–2027 POLICY YEAR

The Saskatchewan Retirees Association (SRA) continues to work closely with GMS to improve member experience and respond to member feedback. For the 2026–2027 policy year, there are two key updates to be aware of below.

A NEW MY GMS PORTAL EXPERIENCE

As part of renewal, members can expect a more convenient online experience through the My GMS portal. When the new portal is ready, **SRA members will receive two emails: a welcome email and a separate activation link.** Once registered, members will be able to submit claims online, track claim status and payment details in real time, and access coverage information more easily.

Until the new portal is ready, members should continue using their existing benefits card — there will be no disruption to providers, claims, or reimbursements.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL ADD-ON DAYS NOW AVAILABLE

Members who need coverage beyond the plan's included travel period can now purchase optional add-on days. The base SRA plan provides up to **60 days of travel coverage outside Canada** with a **\$5 million lifetime Emergency Medical Travel maximum.** GMS now offers an **SRA-specific add-on** allowing members to purchase **an extra 15, 30, or 90 travel days per trip.** A medical questionnaire is required to qualify.

More details about the 2026–2027 policy year, including premium information and renewal instructions, will follow in the renewal communication once finalized.

**SASKATCHEWAN
RETIREES 
ASSOCIATION**
EST. 1975