

September 2012

Disposition of Resolutions Passed at AGM 2012

Resolutions Directed to STS

Resolution One

Be It Resolved that the STS approve the following policy regarding the indexing of teachers' superannuation allowances:

1. The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan believes that all teachers' superannuation allowances should be indexed at one hundred percent of the Canadian Consumer Price Index.
2. The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan should take appropriate action to achieve full indexing.

Response:

This has been added to the Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2012 as Policy 11.

Resolution Two

Be It Resolved that the STS continue to examine ways of improving the indexing provisions of teachers' superannuation allowances.

Response:

This resolution has been referred to the STS Executive.

Resolution Three

Be It Resolved that the STS direct all resolutions from the AGM which deal with superannuation allowances directly in a meeting with the STF Executive as well as to STF Council.

Response:

This resolution was forwarded to Gwen Dueck, STF Executive Director.

Resolution Five

Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan convey to the ASSEMBLÉE communautaire fransaskoise (ACF) its heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of ``The Year of the Fransaskois in Saskatchewan`` and further, that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan recognize the valuable contributions that the members of fransaskoise community have made to the economy, education and lifestyle of all people living in Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

Response:

On May 25, 2012 a letter was sent to the Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise extending congratulations on behalf of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan on the occasion of "The Year of the Fransaskoise in Saskatchewan".

Resolution Six

Be It Resolved that Policy 10 – Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation Grant be amended by adding the following:

The STS will make memorial donations to the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation in the event of the death of an active STS Executive Member in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Response:

Policy 10 (page 22) has been changed to reflect this amendment in the Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2012.

Resolution Eight

Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan endorse “Save the Future of Medicare: A Call to Care” an initiative by numerous organizations across Canada committed to ensuring that the principles of the Canada Health Act are upheld.

Response:

On May 25, 2012 a letter was sent to the Canadian Health Coalition endorsing this resolution.

Resolution Nineteen

Be It Resolved that the STS annual fee for 2012-2013 be \$30.00 per person.

Response:

The annual membership fee for 2012-2013 has been set at \$30.00 per person.

Resolution Twenty

Be It Resolved that the STS annual rebate to Chapters for 2012-2013 be \$8.00 per person.

Response:

The annual Chapter Rebate for 2012-2013 has been set at \$8.00 per person.

Resolutions Directed to the STF

Resolution Nine

Be It Resolved that the STS request the STF to continue to examine ways of improving the indexing provisions of teachers’ superannuation allowances.

Resolution Ten

Be It Resolved that the STS request the STF to negotiate, as a priority, improvements in the indexing provisions in allowances under the TSP.

Resolution Eleven

Be It Resolved that the STS request the STF to negotiate indexing of teachers’ superannuation allowances to be 100% of the national CPI for the first \$30,000 of allowances in the TSP.

Response:

Resolutions directed to the STF were forwarded to Gwen Dueck, STF Executive Director. Receipt was acknowledged and directed to the STF Executive.

Resolutions Directed to ACER-CART

Resolution Fifteen

Be It Resolved that the taxation system be used to compensate the surviving spouse (or equivalent) who, when filing income tax, is not in a position to take advantage of such provisions as pension splitting, property ownership sharing and the allocation of charitable contributions or medical expenses as ways of reducing their taxable income.

Resolution Sixteen

Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan urge ACER-CART to develop, among its other lobbying work, a lobbying strategy to intensify communications with the Government of Canada and to invite the Government to establish a consultative relationship with ACER-CART in advance of any further amendments to Federal pension programs.

Resolution Seventeen

Be It Resolved that the STS convey to ACER-CART its preparedness to support in whatever ways possible, including amendments to the fee structure of ACER-CART, an increase in its capacity to carry out its critical work, including research capacity and possible new lobbying approaches on behalf of all Canadian retired/superannuated teachers.

Late Resolution One

Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan urge the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) to express concern to the Government of Canada regarding the implications of raising the age of eligibility for Old Age Security.

Response:

On May 23, 2012 the above resolutions directed to ACER-CART were sent to Norbert Boudreau, Executive Director.

Resolutions Directed to the Government of Saskatchewan

Resolution Eighteen

Be It Resolved that the STS urge the Government of Saskatchewan to subsidize senior citizens who are attempting to remain in their own home rather than moving to assisted living or care homes.

Response:

On July 5, 2012 a letter was received from Gordon Tweed, Executive Director, Program and Service Design – Ministry of Social Services. Please see attached.

Late Resolution Two

Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan express their concern to the provincial government about the increased costs for prescription drugs under the Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan, increased ambulance fees and the loss of support for chiropractic services.

Response:

A letter was received on July 11, 2012 from the Minister of Health, Dustin Duncan. Please see attached.

Late Resolution Four

BE IT RESOLVED that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan develop a strategy with the Government of Saskatchewan to achieve a no fee Saskatchewan Seniors' Drug Plan.

Response:

This resolution has been referred to the STS Executive.

Minister of Finance



SASKATCHEWAN

RECEIVED JUN 15 2012

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3
(306) 787-6060

June 7, 2012

Mr. Fred W. Herron
Executive Secretary
2317 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your recent letter, regarding the resolutions that were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers' of Saskatchewan.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to the Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services, for her direct reply regarding the resolution to subsidize senior citizens attempting to stay in their own homes. I have also forwarded your letter to the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health, for his direct reply to the resolution regarding prescription costs, increased ambulance fees and chiropractic services.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Krawetz", with a long, sweeping underline.

Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

cc: Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services
Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health

RECEIVED JUL 5 - 2012 Saskatchewan



Ministry of
Social
Services

Income Assistance and
Disability Services

8th Floor, 1920 Broad Street
REGINA SK S4P 3V6

Phone: (306) 787-3511

Fax: (306) 798-4450

Ref: #2542JD(272-12)

June 28, 2012

Fred W. Herron
Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
2317 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your May 25, 2012 letter regarding the resolutions that were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers' of Saskatchewan. Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services, requested that I reply on her behalf.

Your letter expressed support for subsidies to assist seniors in remaining at home rather than moving to other living facilities. The government understands the importance of assisting seniors to remain in their homes and as such has many supportive programs in place to help them do so.

Seniors with low income are supported in several ways. The Seniors Income Plan (SIP), a monthly benefit, is available to Saskatchewan seniors with little or no income other than the federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement. Effective July 2012, maximum SIP benefits will increase from \$190 to \$240 per month for single pensioners and from \$155 to \$205 per month for each pensioner in a two-pensioner household. In addition, seniors receiving SIP continue to be entitled to extended health benefits including free eye exams and up to 12 chiropractic treatments per year.

Seniors continuing to reside at home with an assessed care need also have access to home care through the regional health authorities. For seniors with low income, a home care subsidy, which provides funding and flexibility in meeting their care needs at home, is available.

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Fred Herron
June 28, 2012
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Seniors living in social housing are eligible for the community-based services of Saskatchewan Assisted Living Services. This support service option is targeted at tenants in selected senior social housing sites who require a combination of shelter and support services to maintain their independence. Services include one meal per day, laundry, housekeeping, a personal response system and activity coordination.

In addition to these programs, there are a number of other supports available. Tax credits, including pension income splitting, basic/spousal exemption, the Saskatchewan Senior Supplement and the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit, help to reduce income taxes and allow seniors more money for living expenses. The Seniors' Drug Plan allows for reduced prescription costs for eligible residents while the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program provides reduced or no-cost coverage of select supplies and equipment for seniors with disabilities.

Thank you again for writing. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,



Gord Tweed
Executive Director, Program and Service Design

cc: Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services
Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance
Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health

Minister of Health



SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Our File: 12-694

JUL 11 2012

Fred Herron
Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
2317 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Mr. Herron:

The Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance, has forwarded to me your letter regarding the resolutions that were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan in May 2012. I have noted your specific concerns regarding changes in coverage under the Seniors' Drug Plan, Senior Citizens' Ambulance Assistance Program and chiropractic care.

Effective March 22, 2012, the cost for a prescription under the Seniors' and Children's Drug Plans increased from \$15 to \$20. There are a number of reasons for this change and I assure you that this decision was not taken lightly.

Our intention in making this change is to ensure that the programs are sustainable and preserved for the long term. The \$5 increase to the co-payment is the first change since the Seniors' and Children's Drug Plans began five years ago. When the programs began, the government's share of the cost of prescriptions represented just over 50 per cent of the total prescription cost with seniors and families responsible for the other half. This has changed over the past five years to the point where the government's share had risen to 75 per cent and the co-payment had decreased to 25 per cent. Recognizing the need to ensure the future viability of these important programs, the \$5 increase will see individuals now paying approximately one-third of the cost of their medication.

Each year, over 120,000 seniors and 47,000 families benefit from the Seniors' and Children's Drug Plans and with a growing and aging population the demands on the programs are forecast to continue to increase. As well, over the past five years, the number of prescriptions received by seniors has gone up by 20 per cent while more new and effective medications continue to be made available.

Fred Herron

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In the face of these pressures, we have an obligation to ensure that the programs can be maintained for seniors and families across Saskatchewan. Our government also recognizes the need to have the right programs in place to protect seniors for whom this change may present challenges. The Special Support Program assists residents with high drug costs in relation to their incomes. For more information on this program, residents can contact the Drug Plan at 1-800-667-7581 or (306) 787-3317.

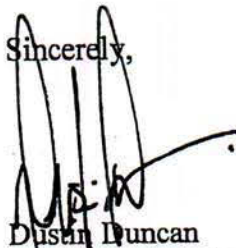
We recognize that many Saskatchewan residents utilize chiropractic services for certain medical conditions. Our province has joined virtually all other Canadian provinces in limiting coverage for chiropractic services. Low income individuals eligible for the Supplementary Health Program, Family Health Benefits or the Seniors Income Plan are covered for a maximum of 12 treatments a year.

The Senior Citizens' Ambulance Assistance Program deductible has been increased by \$25 to \$275. The deductible has not been changed in 20 years and during that time expenses have increased.

It is important that we keep our health care system sustainable now and into the future. To do this, government ministries including the Ministry of Health and the health regions are pursuing efficiencies through shared services and the Lean methodology. The Lean concept involves a continuous pursuit of process improvement by eliminating or reducing activities that do not add value. These actions will result in better health, better care and better value for the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,



Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance
Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services