

## **Disposition of Resolutions (AGM 2013)**

### **Resolutions Directed to STS (A)**

#### **A 1. Bylaw 2 – Officers and Committees**

**Be It Resolved** that Bylaw 2 – Officers and Committees be amended by adding the following: Advocacy Committee.

**Response: The Advocacy Committee was added to Page 4 of the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

#### **A 2. Guideline 1 – Duties of Executive Committees**

**Be It Resolved** that Guideline 1 – Duties of Executive Committees be amended by adding the following terms of reference for the Standing Committee on Advocacy:

1. To consider matters related to provincial bargaining that affect STS members and make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.
2. To consider matters referred to ACER-CART and SSM for action or follow-up action and make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.
3. To consider major issues affecting seniors including government benefit plans, taxation, health care and drug costs and make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.
4. To consider resolutions referred to the STS Executive related to advocacy and to make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.
5. To consider any other matters related to STS advocacy deemed appropriate by the Advocacy Committee or the STS Executive and make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.
6. To consider aspects of the STF Advocacy program and make recommendations to the STS Executive for appropriate action.

**Response: This has been added to page 23 of the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 3. (1) STS Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers  
(Policy Handbook - Pages 10-14)**

Be it resolved that STS Bylaw 6.2.7.4 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers be amended to read as follows:

- (1) In cooperation with the STS President and the STS Executive, foster good relationships and open communications with other organizations. In particular, time and effort should be directed towards achieving strong relationships with the STF, governments, the STS Benefits Carrier, the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan, the TCU Financial Group, ACER-CART and Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

**Response: 6.2.7.5 (page 13) has been updated in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

- (2) The Executive Officers shall make representation on behalf of the STS to governments only after first obtaining the approval of the STF.

**Response: Response: 6.2.7.5 (page 13) has been updated in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 4. STS Bylaw 9 – Amendments to Bylaws and Policies**

Be it resolved that STS Bylaw 9 – Amendments to Bylaws and Policies be amended by adding the following:

9.6 Amendments to the STS Bylaws must be submitted to the STF for approval prior to their coming into effect.

**Response: This amendment has been added to page 16 of the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 5. STS Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers**

Be it resolved that STS Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers be amended by adding the following:

6.1.10 Dissolve or re-establish the STS by a meeting of the STS Executive.

**Response: This resolution was referred to the STS Executive.**

**A 6. Bylaw 2 – Officers and Committees**

**Be It Resolved** that Bylaw 2 – Officers and Committees be amended by deleting the following: Archives Committee.

**Response: The Archives Committee has been deleted from Bylaw 2 in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 7. Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers**

**Be It Resolved** that Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers Section 6.2.1.1 be amended to read:

The President of STS and the Executive Secretary shall be jointly responsible as spokespersons for the STS.

**Response: This amendment has been made on page 11 in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 8. Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers**

**Be It Resolved** that Bylaw 6 – Duties of Executive and Executive Officers Section 6.2.7.1 be amended to read:

The Executive Secretary and the President of STS shall be jointly responsible as spokesperson for the STS.

**Response: This amendment has been made on page 12 in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013**

**A 9. **Be It Resolved** that the STS annual fee for 2013 – 2014 be \$30.00 per person.**

**Response: The STS annual fee for 2013-2014 has been set at \$30.00 per person**

**A 10. **Be It Resolved** that the STS annual rebate to Chapters for 2013 – 2014 be \$8.00 per person.**

**Response: The annual Chapter Rebate for 2013-2014 has been set at \$8.00 per person.**

**A 11. **Be It Resolved** that the STS investigate the necessity of changes to the Teachers' Superannuation Plan to increase the current minimum allowance which was negotiated in 1993 at \$192.00 per year of contributory service.**

**Response: Please refer to correspondence received from Doug Volk.**

**A 12. **Be It Resolved** that the STF approve the following policy:**

The Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan believes that all Saskatchewan seniors who qualify for the Saskatchewan Senior's Drug Plan should not be charged a prescription fee.

**Response: STS Policy 12 was added on page 22 in the STS Policy Handbook dated July 1, 2013.**

**A 13. Be It Resolved** that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross to provide the coverage for other Chronic Disease Management Programs including Pulmonary, Diabetes and Stroke as a category with the same yearly \$300 limit as the Cardio Rehab Program.

**Response: This resolution was referred to the Group Benefits Committee to discuss with Saskatchewan Blue Cross.**

**A 14. Be It resolved** that time be allotted, as necessary, at each STS Annual General Meeting in the plenary session to discuss a limited number of topics, which the AGM committee selects from topics supplied, by any of the STS Chapters. This discussion should precede resolutions debate to encourage the formation of resolutions from the floor.

**Response: This resolution was referred to the AGM Planning Committee.**

**A 15. Be It Resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan support the STF Policy on Student Evaluation.

**Response: The STS has expressed its support to the STF.**

#### **Resolutions Directed to STF (B)**

**B 1. Be It Resolved** that the STS request the STF to negotiate changes to the Group Life Insurance Plan to provide coverage for superannuated teachers, after age 65, equal to ten per cent of the benefit coverage for active teachers.

**B 3. Be It Resolved** that the STS request the STF to investigate the possibility and ramifications of extending group life insurance beyond 85 years of age.

**Response: Resolutions B1 and B2 were directed to Gwen Dueck, STF Executive Director. Receipt was acknowledged and the resolutions will be forwarded to the STF Executive for informational purposes.**

#### **Resolutions Directed to ACER-CART (C)**

**C 1. Be It Resolved** that the STS urge ACER-CART to lobby the Government of Canada to allow up to ten zero-contributory years when determining CPP benefits.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. The resolution was referred to the ACER-CART Executive.**

- C 2. Be It Resolved** that the STS urge ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to allow Canadians to make voluntary contributions, in addition to mandatory contributions, and to engage in full consultation with Canadians prior to making any changes to CPP.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was referred to the ACER-CART Executive.**

#### **Resolutions Directed to the Government (D)**

- D 1. Be It Resolved** that the STS encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a Healthy homes renovation tax credit for seniors.

**Response: On July 10, 2013 the STS received an acknowledgement letter from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. Please see attached.**

#### **Late Resolutions**

- A 16. Be it resolved** that the STS investigate the feasibility of including coverage for additional hearing devices, such as the cochlear implant processor, as part of the STS Extended Health Care Group Benefits Program with Saskatchewan Blue Cross.

**Response: This resolution was referred to the Group Benefits Committee to discuss with Saskatchewan Blue Cross.**

- B 4. Be it Resolved** that the STS request the STF to amend the STF Group Health Benefit Plan in order to allow for health plan benefits to be extended to ICP recipients until the end of the month that they turn 65.

**Response: This resolution was directed to Gwen Dueck, STF Executive Director. Receipt was acknowledged and this resolution will be forwarded to the STF Executive for informational purposes.**

- C 4. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to amend the CPP to ensure that, when there is no partner/spouse, contributions and interest earned on the contributions made by the deceased, be paid to the estate or to a designated alternate beneficiary.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was referred to the ACER-CART Executive.**

- C 5. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to ensure that all clauses of the Treaties with First Nations Canadians be enacted without delay.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was not moved to the floor as the ACER-CART Executive Committee reported that this does not fit within the Terms of Reference for ACER-CART.**

- C 6. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to make no changes to OAS and CPP without consultation with Citizens of Canada.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was not moved to the floor as the ACER-CART Executive felt that it was redundant as a letter on this matter had already been sent to the Minister.**

- C 7. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to conduct a study of seniors living in poverty in Canada.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was tabled.**

- C 8. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to lobby the Federal Government to undertake, in consultation with the Provincial and Territorial Governments, a study of affordable and respectable housing for seniors.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was tabled.**

- C 9. Be it resolved** that the STS request ACER-CART to continue to lobby the Federal Government to implement a publicly funded Pharmacare Plan.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was carried.**

- C 10. Be it resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan request ACER-CART to urge Provincial and Territorial Governments in Canada to develop plans to expand and improve Seniors Home Care Programs and Seniors Home Support Programs to assist seniors to remain in their homes.

**Response: On May 17 this resolution was forwarded to Vaughn Wadelius, ACER-CART, Chair, Legislation Committee for consideration at the ACER-CART AGM in June. This resolution was carried.**

- D 2. Be it resolved** that, through appropriate channels, the STS lobby the Federal Government to exempt the CPP Death Benefit from income tax.

**Response: On June 27, 2013 a letter of acknowledgement was received from the Canada Revenue Agency. Please see attached.**

**On September 27, 2013 this resolution was sent directly to The Honourable James M. Flaherty. A response was received on October 2. Please see attached.**

- D 3. Be It Resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan in its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting urge the federal government to act to protect traditionally bred varieties of wheat and alfalfa from contamination by cross-pollination by refraining from licensing genetically modified wheat and genetically modified alfalfa in Canada.

**Response: On July 11, 2013 a letter of acknowledgement was received from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Please see attached.**

- D5. Be It Resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan urge the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that all services currently provided to superannuated teachers by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission be maintained.

**Response: On August 24, 2013 the STS was assured by the Minister of Education that all services would be maintained.**

- D6. Be It Resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan urge the Government of Saskatchewan to adequately fund the Teachers' Superannuation Commission in order to ensure that the exemplary services currently provided to superannuated teachers by the Teachers' Superannuation Commission are maintained.

**Response: On August 24, 2013 the Teachers' Superannuation Commission was authorized by the Minister of Education to fill two vacant positions with permanent employees.**

**D7. Be It Resolved** that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan go on record as being opposed to the transfer of the Teachers' Superannuation Commission to the Public Employees Benefit Agency.

**Response: On August 24, 2013 the STS was informed that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission would remain under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education.**



The following response was received from Doug Volk, Executive Director,  
Teachers' Superannuation Commission.

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Good day Fred

Further to our conversation with respect to the application of Section 21 8(a)(b) of *The Teachers' Superannuation and Disability Benefits Act* (the Act), the way I interpret this section of the Act is; this would be a minimum pension for any teacher that was a member of the Teachers' Superannuation Plan (TSP). In other words a test to ensure a teacher would receive not less than \$96/year of contributory service (pension starts prior to July 1993) or \$192/year of contributory service (pension starts after June 1993). Therefore, if the pension by formula results in a pension less than the amounts of dollars/year of contributory service, the teacher would receive the minimum pension as stipulated in the Act (the greater of the two). It doesn't mean a base pension where every teacher would get \$/year plus the pension by formula.

The teachers that typically fall into this category are teachers that were part-time, substitutes, had low service and teachers that take perpetual refunds throughout their career. A very small percentage would fall into this category and they would fall under the small benefits provision under the Act, which means they would receive a commuted value payout of their pension benefit to invest rather than receive a small monthly pension. This enables teachers with small pensions to combine all their pension assets into one retirement savings vehicle for potential maximization of retirement income.

I have also attached a pension summary of the annual pensions that were paid from the TSP as at June 30, 2011. This data was extracted from our valuation data and separates the teacher pensions from the spousal pension and broken into \$5,000 intervals. Even though the data doesn't reflect the amount of service that a teacher would have accumulated during their teaching career, I believe the data demonstrates the value teachers are receiving from this pension plan as a result of their dedicated teaching service for our Saskatchewan youth.

I trust this is the information that you require. If you wish to discuss further or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank-you

Doug

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Saskatchewan  
Housing  
Corporation

An Agency of  
Social Services

Program and Service Design

11th Floor, 1920 Broad Street  
REGINA SK S4P 3V6

306-787-7288 (Direct Line)  
306-798-3110 (Fax)

July 5, 2013

RECEIVED JUL 10 2013

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

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your letter of June 11, 2013 informing me of the resolution passed at your Annual General Meeting in May.

As you may know our government concurs with your assertion that we need to be addressing issues that may affect the growing population of seniors in this province. The *Ministry of Social Services Plan for 2013-14* includes strategies to improve client outcomes and ensure the best use of public funds through program, service, and process alignment and continuous improvement efforts. A key action of this strategy is to apply a citizen-centered lens to ensure that client needs and expectations become the driving force behind service delivery.

Thank you for ensuring the needs and expectations of Saskatchewan's older adults are heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Badiuk".

Eileen Badiuk,  
Executive Director

cc: Don Allen, President, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation  
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network  
Tim Gross, Executive Director, Housing Development



Resolution D2

JUN 21 2013

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

Dear Mr. Herron:

On behalf of the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of National Revenue, I would like to thank you for your correspondence of June 10, 2013.

I assure you that the views expressed have been carefully considered. The Canada Revenue Agency is responsible for administering the tax system and applying the current tax legislation contained in the *Income Tax Act*, whereas the Department of Finance Canada is responsible for developing federal tax policy and amending legislation. Accordingly, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable James M. Flaherty, Minister of Finance, for consideration.

Again, thank you for having taken the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Petra Kenny  
Director  
Executive Correspondence and  
Language Services Division

c.c.: The Honourable James M. Flaherty, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Finance





Department of Finance  
Canada

Ministère des Finances  
Canada

RECEIVED JUN - 2 2013

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0G5

Resolution D2

JUN 27 2013

2013FIN393611

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

Dear Mr. Herron:

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of June 10, 2013, which was referred by the Office of the Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Gail Shea, to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable James M. Flaherty.

Please be assured that your comments will be brought to the Minister's attention as soon as possible.

Departmental Correspondence Unit

Canada



Department of Finance  
Canada

Ministère des Finances  
Canada

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0G5

RECEIVED OCT - 7 2013

Resolution D2

OCT 02 2013

2013FIN396926

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

Dear Mr. Herron:

We acknowledge receipt of your further correspondence of September 27, 2013, to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable James M. Flaherty.

Please be assured that your comments will be brought to the Minister's attention as soon as possible.

Departmental Correspondence Unit

Canada

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

Quote: 191709

JUL - 5 2013

Mr. Fred W. Herron  
Executive Secretary  
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan  
2317 Arlington Avenue  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 2H8

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your letter informing me of the resolution passed by the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan with regard to genetically modified (GM) wheat and alfalfa. I appreciate this opportunity to address your comments.

Canada has one of the most stringent and rigorous regulatory systems in the world. Canada's regulatory system for products of agricultural biotechnology requires that new products undergo science-based safety assessments before they can be cultivated by a grower, used in livestock feed or made available to the consumer.

In 2005, GM alfalfa underwent food, feed and environmental safety assessments conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Health Canada and received authorization. The environmental safety assessment took into account the potential of the plant to become a weed of agriculture or to be invasive of natural habitats; the potential consequences of gene flow to other alfalfa fields and wild relatives (including a consideration of cross-pollination by bees); the potential to increase the activity of a plant pest; and the potential impact on non-target organisms and biodiversity. As part of the environmental safety assessment of GM alfalfa, it was determined that this alfalfa does not present more of an environmental risk than currently commercialized alfalfa varieties in Canada. Current information on gene/pollen flow in alfalfa continues to support the information reviewed in the 2005 environmental safety assessment.

A summary of this assessment can be found on the following CFIA website: [www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/approved-under-review/decision-documents/dd2005-53/eng/1311630531051/1311631992012#a4](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plants-with-novel-traits/approved-under-review/decision-documents/dd2005-53/eng/1311630531051/1311631992012#a4). Health Canada's safety assessment for glyphosate-tolerant alfalfa can be found at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/appro/nf-an115decdoc-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/appro/nf-an115decdoc-eng.php).

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Before GM alfalfa could be fully commercialized in Canada, it was subject to variety registration. This process is in place to ensure that quality and safety requirements are met; it also facilitates seed certification, the international trade of seed, and the tracking and tracing of varieties in commercial channels. The variety was approved by an independent group of industry experts and was submitted to the CFIA for registration. Proceeding with registration was a business decision that rested with the applicant.

In Canada, once a GM crop has been approved for environmental release and obtained other appropriate regulatory approvals, including variety registration for alfalfa, it is considered to be like any other commodity crop. Growers are free to implement identity preservation systems for certain specialized types of production and can co-operate with their neighbours to minimize the impact of surrounding production methods.

With regard to your concerns about GM wheat, the CFIA and Health Canada are responsible for assessing the safety of the agricultural products and foods in Canada's food production system. The CFIA assesses the safety of the end product for release into the environment and its safety for use as a livestock feed, while Health Canada assesses its safety for use as food and its effect on human health. To date, no GE wheat has been authorized for use in Canada.

As mentioned, the regulatory assessment process for GM organisms is science-based. This ensures a predictable environment for the introduction of new products. It is important that regulatory decisions be evidence-based and impartial. If new information relevant to the safety of a product, including those derived from biotechnology, comes to light, the CFIA conducts a review of this information. The CFIA may change or revoke an authorization, if warranted for safety reasons.

I trust that this information will be of assistance. Again, thank you for writing with your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "R".

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP