

Disposition of Resolutions Report – AGM 2015

Resolutions Directed to the STS (A)

- A 1. Be It Resolved** that the STS investigate the inclusion of the pneumonia vaccination for members under the age of 65 into the Extended Health Plan.

Response: On July 28, 2015, this resolution was forwarded to Saskatchewan Blue Cross with a request to provide information and cost analysis.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross response:

The pneumonia vaccination is a drug that is not on the Saskatchewan Drug formulary. The cost to add non formulary drugs would open up all drugs and would be a huge cost for the plan as we are unable to just single out pneumonia drugs. We will continue to monitor this as we recognize the members desire to have this included. At a point in time when our system would allow single therapeutic coverage, we will advise the STS.

- A 2. Be It Resolved** that the STS consider providing each member with an official STS identification card.

Response: At the September 24, 2015, STS Executive meeting, a motion was passed to prepare an STS membership card. The card was made available to Chapter Presidents for distribution to their Chapter members requesting a card.

- A 3. Be It Resolved** that the STS explore member discounts at hotels and fitness locations.

Response: STS members are entitled to receive the same hotel rate as the STF. Several gym locations were contacted to gather information regarding corporate memberships.

Corporate Gym Memberships

1. GoodLife Fitness:

- Locations in Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon. Second location opening in Regina in early 2016.
- Corporate membership includes:
 - All Group Exercise classes
 - Cardio theatre
 - 20 Minute Fit Fix circuit
 - Change rooms
 - Pools, saunas (where available)
 - Free weights
 - Fitness machines

- Access to all locations across Canada and to 24-Hour Fitness in the US
- Two types of corporate memberships:
 - a. Key Account Partnership
 - STS would manage registration (take applications and payment)
 - One year term commitment between STS and GoodLife
 - Minimum of ten participating employees
 - One company cheque submitted to GoodLife Fitness monthly
 - Requires a company administrator
 - Membership cost: \$379-\$450 per year (based on employee volume)
 - b. Corporate Individual Partnership
 - Members register at club
 - Members receive a 15% discount off regular rates (regular rate is \$897 per year)

2. Leisure Centres

- No corporate rates available at this time. Saskatoon intends to implement one starting in January 2016, but no details are available yet.
 - a. Saskatoon: \$540 per year
 - b. Regina: \$473.28 per year (adults), \$349.86 per year (seniors 65+)

A 4. Be It Resolved that the STS investigate changing the Extended Health Plan maximum allowance for Paramedical / Health Practitioners from \$350 to \$400 per practitioner per calendar year.

Response: On July 28, 2015, this resolution was forwarded to Saskatchewan Blue Cross with a request to provide information and cost analysis.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross response:

Saskatchewan Blue Cross determined that only 850 members have reached their maximums in the past. Likely only 60% of those members would then reach the \$400 amount, it is estimated that claims would be approximately \$25,000 to increase from \$350 to \$400. As discussed, if the STS decided to increase to \$500, the additional cost would be another \$40,000 as we would not expect to see the same number of members reaching their maximums.

At the September 24, 2015, STS Executive meeting, a motion was passed to increase the maximum for paramedical services to \$500 per person per calendar year effective January 1, 2016.

A 5. Be It Resolved that the STS investigate the process involved in adding drugs to the Saskatchewan Formulary.

Response: On July 28, 2015, this resolution was forwarded to Saskatchewan Blue Cross with a request to provide information and cost analysis.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross has indicated that they do not have any input into the process of adding drugs to the Saskatchewan Formulary. We were directed to the Saskatchewan Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch website for information.

The following information was obtained from the Saskatchewan Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch website:

Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan

Membership
Composition

The DACS is composed of 14 members, appointed by the Minister's Order.

Two of the 14 DACS members are "public members". A "public member" is selected to represent the broad public interest rather than the view of any specific interest, group, or organization. These members bring their real-world perspectives into the evaluation process and are considered as equal committee partners.

The remaining DACS members are health professionals who have sufficient expertise to represent a wide range of specialities, including family medicine, internal medicine, oncology, pharmacology, critical drug appraisal, pharmacoeconomics, health economics, medical ethics, community pharmacy practice, hospital pharmacy practice, and other disciplines.

Terms of Reference

The Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan (DACS) provides independent, specialized advice to the Minister of Health on drug-related matters. The committee makes recommendations concerning which drug products should be considered for public funding (through the Saskatchewan Drug Plan, in hospitals via regional health authorities, and by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency) based on rigorous, evidence-based reviews of the products. The committee is established by Order-In-Council under the authority of section 16 of the *Government Organization Act*.

Mandate

The mandate of the DACS is advisory in nature and is to provide:

- a) recommendations regarding the coverage of drug therapies under publicly funded drug programs (through the Drug Plan and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency) and in hospitals; and**
- b) guidance on a variety of other pharmaceutical issues.**

A 6. Be It Resolved that the STS negotiate with Saskatchewan Blue Cross to cover \$200.00 annually towards the cost of lenses for diabetics.

Response: On July 28, 2015, this resolution was forwarded to Saskatchewan Blue Cross with a request to provide information and cost analysis.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross response:

Regarding coverage of \$200.00 annually to cover the costs of lenses for diabetics, we are currently awaiting a response from our claims department as to how we can adjudicate this and support the request.

A 7. Be It Resolved that the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS) draft and forward a letter to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) conveying its support for the SARM lobby to ban the use of plastic grocery bags in Saskatchewan.

Response: On July 9, 2015, a letter was sent to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, supporting their efforts to lobby the ban of plastic grocery bags in Saskatchewan.

A 8. Be It Resolved that the STS Executive explore the possibility of obtaining a Corporate gym membership with GoodLife Fitness Gym, or similar facility, for STS members.

Response: Several gym locations were contacted to gather information regarding corporate memberships.

Please refer to Resolution A3.

A 9. Be It Resolved that the STS annual fee for 2015-2016 be \$30.00 per person.

Response: The STS annual fee for 2015-16 has been set at \$30.00 per person.

A 10. Be It Resolved that the STS annual rebate to Chapters for 2015-2016 be as follows:

<50	-	\$10.00 per member
50-100	-	\$ 9.00 per member
>100	-	\$ 8.00 per member

Response: The STS annual rebate to Chapters for 2015-16 has been set as noted above.

Resolutions Directed to Government (D)

- D 1. Be It Resolved** that the STS request the Government of Saskatchewan to extend coverage for vaccines to include the Shingles vaccine.

Response: On July 27, 2015, a letter was sent to the Hon. Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health regarding this resolution. A follow up has been done with the Minister's office and awaiting a response.

Please see the attached letter dated January 29, 2016, that was received from the Minister of Health.

Late Resolutions

- D 2. Be It Resolved** that this STS AGM express its concern to the provincial government regarding the proposed model for two-for-one MRI use in Saskatchewan.

The resolution was referred to the STS Executive.

Response: On October 19, 2015, a letter was sent to the Hon. Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health requesting information and draft legislation regarding MRIs in Saskatchewan.

The following information was received on October 27, 2015, from the Ministry of Health.

In your letter, you have requested information regarding the background and guidelines that are in place concerning the use of MRI's. There has been recent interest in addressing Appropriateness of Care issues in Canada driven by rising health care costs, fiscal restraints and an effort to focus on "patient first" approaches to better care. The Ministry is working to develop an Appropriateness of Care framework to improve appropriate uses of diagnostic testing, screening and treatment interventions. MRI lumbar spine has been selected as a prototype to test this framework in 2015-16.

The Minister of Health announced the introduction of the MRI Facilities Licensing Act on May 6, 2015. The proposed bill would remove legislative barriers to allow for patients who so choose to purchase a private MRI right here in Saskatchewan. Private-pay MRI service will give patients more choice over their own care decisions, and ensure Saskatchewan people who choose to pay for an MRI can access that service in their own province. For further information on the Bill, it can be found at the following link: <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/english/FirstRead/2015/Bill-179.pdf>

Timely access to medical imaging services is a priority for the Saskatchewan government. The Ministry of Health works closely with health regions and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to reduce wait times for imaging services and improve the patient experience.

Saskatchewan began posting current and historical wait times for Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) wait times on Saskatchewan.ca on October 22, 2015. Information can be found at the following link:
<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/medical-imaging/procedures/magnetic-resonance-imaging-exam>.

Please see the attached letter dated November 13, 2015, that was received from the Minister of Health.

Update on Disposition of Late Resolution B4 from AGM 2013 directed to the STF

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.

Please see letter dated February 12, 2016, from STF Executive Director, Gwen Dueck.

Minister of Health



Resolution D1

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Our File: 15-1404

JAN 29 2016

Mr. Fred Herron
Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
(baileyc@sts.sk.ca)

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your letter, emailed December 15, 2015, about the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan request to have provincial coverage of the Shingles vaccine. I appreciate receiving your inquiry about this matter and I am pleased to respond.

The Ministry of Health provides many publicly-funded vaccines to reduce the risk of preventable disease in our communities. The majority of these vaccines are given to infants and children with the primary purpose of preventing what were once common diseases, such as measles, mumps, diphtheria, polio, and whooping cough, which are easily spread from person to person.

Similar to some other vaccines and medications, the Shingles vaccine is not publicly-funded in Saskatchewan or any other province or territory. In all jurisdictions, the Shingles vaccine must be purchased directly by those interested in reducing their risk of Shingles. This is not an inexpensive purchase; however, for those who wish to prevent or reduce their risk, many see it as a worthwhile personal healthcare investment.

Again, I appreciate hearing from the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Durcan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dustin Durcan
Minister of Health

Minister of Health



RECEIVED NOV 17 2015

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Resolution D2

Our File: 15-1162

NOV 13 2015

Mr. Fred W. Herron
Executive Director
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
2311 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Mr. Herron:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2015, requesting information about the guidelines for MRI service in the province and legislation that was recently introduced in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Our government has an ambitious plan to further improve access to specialized medical imaging for Saskatchewan patients closer to home. We are bringing CT services to Estevan starting this fall and MRI service to Moose Jaw in early 2016.

We have also supported the development of community third-party MRI and CT services to enhance patient access, as well as the introduction of legislation that will provide an option for patients to pay for an MRI scan.

I understand that you have been in contact with Ms. Elaine Geni at the Ministry of Health and that she provided you with detailed information as per your request.

Again, thank you for writing and for expressing your interest in these services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Resolution B4



2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
T: 306-373-1660 1-800-667-7762
F: 306-374-1122
stf@stf.sk.ca

February 12, 2016

FRED HERRON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF SASKATCHEWAN
2311 ARLINGTON AVE
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Fred:

In response to your letter dated February 11, 2016, the following resolution is still outstanding:

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.

The Board discussed this resolution at their December 2015 meeting and requested more information be brought back to their June 2015 Meeting. At the June 2015 meeting the Board requested that this resolution be brought forward to the Plan Text review scheduled for 2015-16 to ensure it aligns with any other Plan Text changes that are created.

The Plan Text review will occur once the current benefit philosophy statement review is complete. The philosophy statement and the decision for this item will need to correspond with each other. Once a timeline is created, the Manager of Group Life and Health, Nikki-Lynn McKeague, will communicate this information with you as well as the outcome of your outstanding resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwen Dueck".

Gwen Dueck
Executive Director

GD/lph

cc. Nikki-Lynn McKeague, Manager, Group Life and Health, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation