

SSAI Resolutions 2019

Resolutions Submitted

1. Whereas, a good number of Saskatchewan seniors are in need of quality and affordable assisted living and nursing care and,
Whereas, a good number of these seniors are living at or below poverty levels having not been able in the past to find employment that paid a living wage and, therefore, having not been able to save enough for their care and,
Whereas, quality affordable care costs are increasing but seniors' revenues are not,
Be it moved that the SSAI lobby our provincial government to increase the level of subsidies given to seniors in assisted and nursing care to reflect the needs of these seniors and the dignity that they deserve.

St. Joseph Seniors' Club, Inc. #208861
151 River Street, St. Louis, SK S0J 2C0

Resolutions from SSAI Executive

2. SSAI to urge SSM to affiliate with NPF

SSM - NPF MOTION AFFILIATION

Be it resolved the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism amend their policy to include the provision to become an affiliate member of the National Pensioners Federation.

BACKGROUND:

The National Pensioners Federation (NPF) is a national, not for profit, non partisan, non sectarian organization of 350 seniors chapters, clubs, groups, organizations and individual supporters across Canada with a collective membership of 1,000,000 seniors and retirees devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of ageing Canadians.

The NPF strives to work with our members and like minded organizations to promote positive change for aging Canadians. NPF recognizes the importance of communicating with members and supporters regarding current issues that affect them. As ageing Canadians, NPF provides a clear, unified, national voice to influence government policy and legislation. Senior organizations working together, can accomplish the basic goals for a better life for all ageing Canadians.

When we focus on a vision, differences will not divide us...

Affiliation does not require an affiliate to change or compromise the policies or principles which may or may not reflect the policies of NPF. Most organizations memberships develop policies through a process of discussion and decision about who they are and the beliefs they represent. As affiliated organizations we must respect that process that we each use to create our autonomy.

We respect affiliates autonomy while we unit together in advocacy, education, and networking to produce a clear and sound message for direction and change. Lobbying our Federal Government ministers and developing campaigns to advance our purpose and improvements for ageing citizens from coast to coast to coast creates even stronger voices for our provincial affiliates.

- 1. Organizations across Canada are evolving according to the politics of the provinces and country. A united voice voicing concerns on common issues is much stronger than voices which are many, but not united. In Saskatchewan, the united voices of seniors' organizations under the umbrella of SSM in regards to developing a Seniors' Strategy will have far more impact than each of the organizations working individually. The commonality is the focus of the advocacy regarding an advocacy strategy uniting the seniors of the province.**
- 2. The Federal Government has appointed a Minister of Seniors. This is good news at a time when there are a lot of issues common to seniors across Canada. NPF has set three goals leading into this election year – Pharmacare (cost of drugs and overprescriptions), Primary Care (affordability & care of seniors in nursing homes, and housing, etc.) and Pension Priority (protections of pensions and guarantees). While each topic has a number of components, the strategy is to advocate for these items in a comprehensive Seniors' Strategy nationally. This does not imply any support for a particular political party, but rather, for Seniors across Canada.**
- 3. By affiliating with NPF, SSM would be joining a number of other affiliates who have united for this common purpose. These others include superannuated teachers from BC and Ontario, ACER – CART – the national association of retired teachers, COSCO – similar to SSM, but much larger in operations, Unifor – labour seniors from across Canada, and the Canadian Federation of Pensioners.**

SSAI Executive

3. Be it Resolved that SSAI urge SSM to place a higher priority for funding allocations from the SLGA grant to Provincially based organizations serving seniors in rural Saskatchewan.

Background:

- a) SSFA, SSAI & FAF receive only 42.5% of the total allocation from SLGA, while the other, non-provincial organizations receive 57.5%.
- b) Costs in the provision of services, awareness and activities for seniors in rural Saskatchewan are much higher than in the cities.

SSAI Executive

Draft Resolutions for discussion and adoption at District/Regional Meetings

4. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to hire more geriatricians for the provision of services in the province of Saskatchewan.

5. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI work with NPF to encourage the Provincial and Federal governments to provide Income Tax Credits for seniors who need to access help to be able to remain in their own homes.

Background:

- a) The retirement income security issue becomes very critical for seniors in their later years when they must hire help to carry on maintenance services, and the utility costs have increased without a corresponding increase in pensions or supports.

6. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to work with the College of Massage Therapy to develop the legislation necessary to regulate massage therapists in the province.

Background:

- a) Members of the public need to be ensured that anyone calling themselves a Massage Therapist or a Registered Massage Therapist is a member in good standing of SCMT (Saskatchewan College of Massage Therapy) which will be the regulatory board.
- b) This would allow patients to be able to claim massage therapy treatment expenses as a tax deductible medical expense.

7. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI through NPF request the federal government to increase the Pension Income amount (line 314 on the CRA form) deduction from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00

8. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI urge the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health, to add the shingles vaccine to the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary.

Background:

- a) The timing of this is very important since the federal government is beginning to develop a new formulary under the provisions of the Pharmacare program.
- b) Saskatchewan also needs to ensure that its formulary includes this drug in its Pharmaceutical Information Program.

9. **Be it Resolved** that SSAI, through NPF call on the Government of Canada to take the necessary steps to establish a universal dental care program so that all Canadians have access to medically necessary dental care.

Background:

- a) 32 per cent of Canadians have no dental insurance at all, and six million Canadians avoid visiting the dentist every year due to cost;
- b) Poor dental health is linked to serious health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, dementia, diabetic complications, and premature birth;
- c) The omission of dental coverage from our universal health-care system is both a pressing public health concern and a social justice issue;