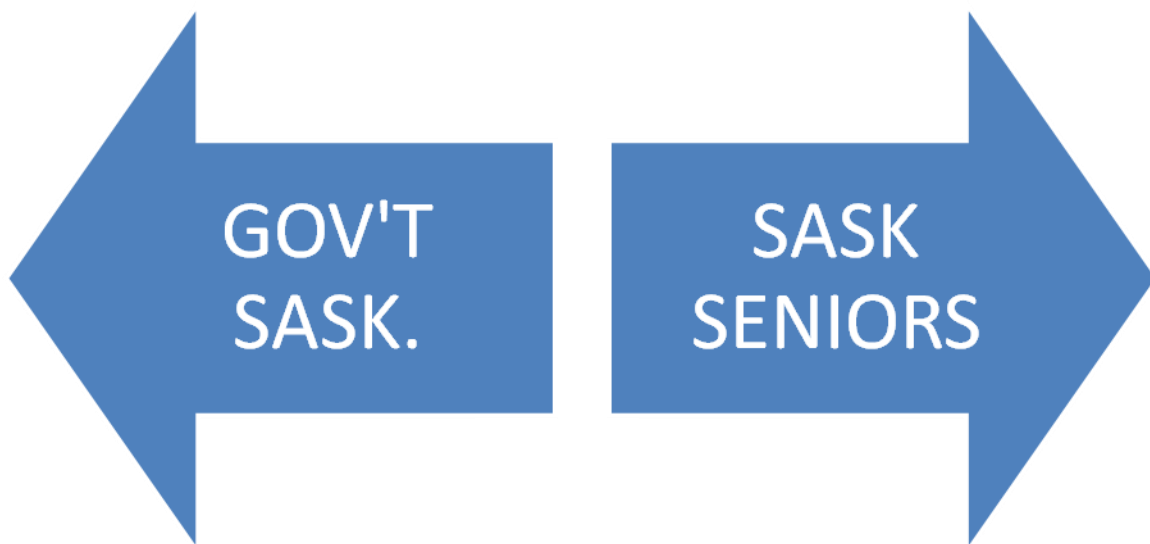


**SENIORS**  
**in**  
**SASKATCHEWAN**

**Programs, Practises, Needs**



**WHAT IS THE DIRECTION  
FOR WALKING THE ROAD TOGETHER??**

**April 2017**

# SASKATCHEWAN GOV'T

## 2015 BUDGET

Reduction of income level to qualify for the Seniors' Benefits Program

## 2016 BUDGET

- Increase of the per prescription fee by \$5/prescription. Result – increase of costs for seniors 65 years and older – approx. \$400/year
- 85 and older – increased costs of \$600 plus/year
- increased utility costs – two increases in power rates in one year

## 2017 BUDGET

### **HEALTH FUNDING**

HOW ARE PEOPLE ON FIXED INCOMES GOING TO AFFORD THESE SERVICES??

- Increased long term care charges
- Loss of hearing aid plan and podiatry services
- PST on health insurance premiums
- Elimination of funding support for chiropractor services
- Uncertainty about the provision of health services due to the merger of health regions

WHERE WILL OLDER ADULTS BE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE SERVICES THAT ARE BEING ELIMINATED??

WHY WASN'T A PHASE IN CONSIDERED TO ALLOW AFFECTED OLDER ADULTS TO MANAGE THE COST AND SERVICE CHARGES??

### **TRANSPORTATION**

HOW WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE GAPS CREATED BY ENDING STC SERVICES??

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Transportation to access services
- Affordable transportation for rural residents
- Freight services – especially medications
- Inter-library materials transportation

### **SOCIAL ISOLATION**

HOW WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT REDUCE ISOLATION OF ELDERS?

### **COMMUNITY FUNDING**

HOW WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN PROVIDING NECESSARY SERVICES TO SUSTAIN HEALTHY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES?

# SENIORS' DIGNITY OF LIFE

## 2015 SENIORS' DRUG PLAN

May 1, 2015, Saskatchewan residents who are 65 years of age and older with a reported income (Line 236) that is \$65,515 or less for 2013 will be eligible for the income tested Seniors' Drug Plan.

- **Seniors' Drug Plan Eligibility** You must be a Saskatchewan resident with a valid health card.● You must be 65 years of age or older.● You must have a net income that is \$66,100 or less in 2014 to be eligible for the 2016 calendar year

**\*\*FEWER SENIORS ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE**

## 2016 CHANGES to the Seniors' Drug Plan

- Effective midnight June 1, 2016, the cost of a prescription will increase from \$20 to \$25.
- **Benefits Covered under the Seniors Drug Plan** Eligible seniors will pay \$25 per prescription for drugs listed in the Saskatchewan Formulary● or those approved under Exception Drug Status. Maximum Allowable Cost and Low Cost Alternative policies continue to apply.

## 2017 \*\* SIGNIFICANT INCREASED COSTS TO SENIORS

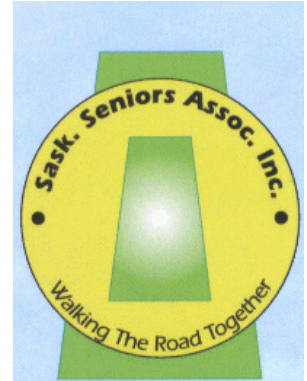
## 2018 TRANSFORMATIONAL BUDGET – IMPACTS

Many changes to programs, services and lifestyle affecting seniors – especially in rural Saskatchewan.

Restructuring of health regions while not addressing other issues of very high importance.

Little or no consultation with senior groups in the province

- *access to medical services & appointments*
- *family doctor ?? who? where?? – continuity*
- *medical health records – patient/drug files*
- *surviving on a fixed income*
- *additional costs - utilities increases & expanded pst charges*
- *lost revenue due to restructuring of health regions*



Dear Mr. Reiter and Mr. Ottenbreit:

As president of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association, I am contacting you on their behalf. You need to know that we are disappointed at the total lack of concern for seniors in this budget. We are disturbed at how easily the issues that seniors have brought forth to you have been totally ignored in your decisions.

Nowhere do we see any burdens lifted when it comes to housing, medical costs as they affect seniors, no cancelling of the extra \$5.00 fee on prescriptions, or other health services.

There will be an extreme burden placed on seniors to try to live in dignity with the increased financial costs associated with access to health services, medical care, housing, transportation and utilities. The total demise of STC as announced in your budget is total disregard for those who rely totally on it for severe medical conditions.

Despite numerous attempts to relay our message and concerns they mostly appear to fall on deaf ears.

Pat Trask,

President Saskatchewan Seniors Association

Phone (306)373-2010