

## SSAI Resolutions 2017 – By Topic

### A. HEALTH CARE

#### **1. Transitioning – The Need for Health Care Consultations with Seniors**

Whereas the delivery of health services across the 12 health regions in the province have had a wide variance in the quality and capacity;

Whereas, the transitioning to one health authority will necessitate many program delivery changes in health regions;

Whereas, the accessibility of health services for seniors in rural Saskatchewan has become a very serious concern;

Whereas the provincial financial position is affecting the manner and methods being implemented in health services delivery; the increased charges for medications and services is making it very difficult for some seniors to afford them;

**Therefore Be it Resolved** that Saskatchewan Seniors' Association Incorporated lobby the Ministers of Health and the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that meaningful consultations with each provincial seniors' organization in respect to making the delivery of health services to seniors more effective and timely, in light of the transformational changes being implemented in regards to transitioning from 12 Health Regions to one Health Authority.

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

#### **2. Cancellation of Wellness Clinics :** (note: combined #2 and #4)

Where as Seniors have dedicated their lives to improve their communities to live out their lives in comfort, and whereas the Federal Government has recently provided the provinces monies for Home Care and Mental Health, and

whereas many seniors are diabetics or have high blood pressure and need to be monitored regularly and have professional foot care.

Whereas: The Wellness Clinics in PAPHR have been discontinued.

Whereas: Rural Seniors have difficulties getting to more centralized locations.

**Therefore be it resolved That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that Wellness Clinics in the smaller rural communities be reinstated as soon as possible.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

### 3. Shingles Vaccine

Whereas ----Consider making vaccines available for the prevention of the shingles -- causing virus more readily available to Seniors who are at an increased risk for contact shingles as well an increased issue, e.g. ,, pain and health wise.

Whereas --The vaccine at present is very costly and requires a Physicians prescription. This is inconvenient or even prohibitive for many seniors. This could be a significant saving to the Health Care system in decreasing costly effects of shingles.

Whereas seniors in the province are being taxed of their finances and are experiencing extreme difficulty in being able to afford the necessities of life.

Therefore Be it Resolved -- that SSAI lobby the government of Saskatchewan to make the shingles vaccine available through Pharmacies or Nurse Practitioners (much like the influenza and pneumonia are given now) at no cost to seniors.

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

## B. LIVING WITH DIGNITY - FINANCIAL

### 1.TAXING SENIORS HEALTH BENEFITS

Whereas many seniors on fixed incomes have financial difficulty making ends meet without further off-loading and downloading of existing program costs;

Whereas Old Age Pensions and Supplements have not increased sufficiently to cover the increased financial demands due to the cost of living, increased utility costs, medication costs, property taxes, etc.

Whereas many seniors are being challenged to try to live in dignity while receiving benefits below the poverty level;

**Therefore be it resolved that SSAI through the National Pensioners' Federation to oppose the Federal Government's proposed Taxing of Seniors' Health Benefits.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

### 2.Seniors Safety

**Whereas:** Many seniors live alone and family members worry for their safety.

Whereas: Many can't afford to have a security systems installed and pay a monthly payment.

Whereas: Our Gov't encourages seniors to stay in their homes.

**Therefore be it Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to offer monetary help in the way of grants or reimbursements to help keep people safe and remain in their homes with the purchasing security systems.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 – PASSED w/o amendment**

### **3. Seniors Safety**

**Whereas:** Many seniors live alone and family members worry for their safety.

Whereas: Many can't afford to pay a monthly payment for Medic Alert.

Whereas: Many Seniors, who live alone, are more prone to falls at home – in the house, apartment, yard, etc. and are not able to get up and move to safety

**Therefore be it Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to provide Life line or Medic Alert service to seniors 65 years of age or older at no charge.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

## **C. ADVOCACY – SENIORS' VOICE**

### **1.Engaging Members in Program Delivery**

Whereas seniors live throughout the province and don't always have access to programs or services in larger centres;

Whereas SSM accesses funding from New Horizons and the Ministry of Health to provide programs services for seniors provincially;

Whereas many seniors' organization have a very close, engaging relationship with their membership and are more sensitive to their needs;

Whereas SSM is trying to serve as an umbrella organization for seniors, but hasn't involved seniors' organizations as much as they could have in the delivery of many programs – Active Aging, Isolation, Age Friendly, etc.

**Therefore Be it Resolved** that Saskatchewan Seniors' Association Incorporated lobby the Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism to review their programs for seniors and to develop strategies for engaging member organizations in the delivery of seniors' programs – especially in rural Saskatchewan.

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

## 2. SENIORS' ADVOCATE

Whereas the ombudsman's office has a very broad portfolio and cannot really be focused on the range of issues facing seniors;

Whereas some provinces have created this position to more effectively address the needs of seniors so that they can live in dignity;

Whereas the office would provide a focal contact point whereby seniors and senior organizations could more effectively communicate concerns with government

**Therefore Be it Resolved** that the Government of Saskatchewan create the position of Seniors' Advocate to enable better, more responsive proactive action to address the needs and concerns of seniors in the province.

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

## 3. Library Cuts

Whereas: Seniors depend on the regional libraries for entertainment, learning and activities.

Whereas: Seniors can't afford to buy books and need a wide variety of reading Material.

**Therefore be it Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to re-instate inter-library exchanges of books and material.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - TABLED**

# HOUSING

## 1. Seniors Housing

**Whereas: Sask. needs more affordable seniors housing. The seniors housing in** our community were built in 1977, more than 40 years ago.

Whereas: Our community has a long waiting list to get into any housing.

**Therefore Be It Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Federal and Saskatchewan Governments to provide funding for additional housing and up keep of said housing.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

## 2. Homecare

Whereas: Homecare is offered to seniors to stay in their homes longer. Whereas: Homecare workers are limited to what they can help with.

**Therefore be It Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to review the Home Care's Duties to expanded and include more housekeeping duties as well. (Laundering, vacuuming etc.)**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - DEFEATED**

### **3. Long Term Care Homes**

Whereas: Long term care homes experience violence and sexual abuse among patients.

Whereas: The case of violent or sexual offenders who have been released from incarceration and admitted to Long Term Care homes, what protection is offered for the existing residents.

**Therefore be it Resolved: That SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that thorough criminal check are done and protection is offered at Long Term Facilities.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

### **4. Affordable Housing**

Whereas: The Senior population in Saskatchewan is rapidly increasing and as the costs to maintain an individual in a Long Term Care Facility is very costly to the Government and the individual;

Whereas the government is encouraging individuals to remain independent, providing more affordable housing for them to move into when they can no longer maintain their own home would be cost-efficient;

**Therefore Be It Resolved that SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to build or make it viable for others to build more affordable housing.**

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**

### **5. Long Term Care Fees**

Whereas the government pays/subsidizes the cost of Long Term Care fees;

Whereas it costs the Government out of their pocket to cover these costs;

Whereas a person that has lost a spouse and is maintaining their home despite the fact that they have lost the income of the spouse and the costs remain the same – i.e. utilities, insurance, repairs

**Therefore Be It Resolved that SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan subsidize that surviving spouse via SIP or other appropriate programs so that ~~they~~ he/she can afford to stay in ~~their~~ his/her home.**

**D. SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 – AMENDED; PASSED WITH AMENDMENT**

## E. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

### 1. Health Services Transportation

Health services in the province are becoming more centralized due to the health services delivery model, changing demographics, and amalgamation of health regions

STC is scheduled service is going to be terminated at the end of May, 2017.

The Aging population contains more elderly residents in rural Saskatchewan, the waiting times to access services is increasing, and the ability to access services is more difficult, if not almost impossible.

Rural communities are attempting to enable seniors to access these very critically, required medical services

Therefore Be it Resolved that SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan and SGI to develop an insurance program which would provide the necessary liability protection to enable individuals to use their private vehicles for transporting individuals who require access to medical services.

**SSAI JUNE 8, 2017 - PASSED**