

Plan with Seniors, not for Seniors!

SSAI 2020 Policy – Health Care

The Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated hereby establishes the following policy on health care in Saskatchewan:

1. The five historic principles of the Canada Health Act (1984) (universality, access, comprehensiveness, portability and public administration) shall define any vision, current or renewed, for publicly funded health care in Saskatchewan.
2. The Federal Government is an essential partner with the provinces in the provision of health care. Among other things, it has the responsibility to define national standards for health care and to provide funding, supplementary to provincial funding, adequate to ensure the implementation of such national standards.
3. Timely access to health care and required services and treatment, provided by qualified medical personnel, shall be the right of all residents of Saskatchewan, irrespective of their place of residence, financial circumstances, or state of health.
4. Health care shall be deemed to include education, prevention, diagnosis and counselling, and shall be the core element of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Association Incorporated upon which all health care revolves in a Saskatchewan comprehensive health care system.

5. Seniors constitute an increasing proportion of Saskatchewan society. Seniors have special needs and SSAI, on their behalf, urges health care policy makers to take an integrated approach to health care, one that will ensure seniors a measure of independence commensurate with their history; will ensure a quality of life and death with dignity through care at home, in long-term care facilities, and in hospital settings.

6. Many Saskatchewan residents rely on medications for their very lives. Given the proportion of seniors making up the Saskatchewan population and their special needs, a review of costs in providing necessary drugs is mandatory. This review should include the way pharmaceuticals are prescribed to an aging population and the benefits to be derived from more holistic approaches to medical treatment. SSAI believes that adequate provision of medication should form an essential component in the provincial health care program.

7. All citizens of Saskatchewan have a right to health care. System efficiencies, streamlining operations, and restructuring health care facilities should not be accepted as sufficient reason to deny citizens this right, regardless of location or wealth. It is conceded, however, that such services need to be provided as efficiently as possible.

8. Health care shall be provided out of revenues gleaned by governments from public taxation.

9. Possible expansion of publicly funded health services should not compromise the availability and quality of those medical services currently

insured, except for those services no longer deemed basic or required.

10. SSAI will continue to be involved with the development of health care strategies intended to benefit Saskatchewan residents of all generations, in a meaningful and continuing way.

11. SSAI urges all levels of government to determine, in concert, their share of the costs of health care and make a commitment to paying such shares each year for several years and that information concerning such agreements be made public.

12. SSAI believes that home care should constitute an essential element of the provincial health care system.

ELECTION TOPICS TO ADDRESS - SENIORS

Across Canada, and especially in Saskatchewan, the main issues facing seniors are:

1. Pharmacare – the lack of it
2. Funding for seniors – covid costs, increased utilities, insurance, travel , prescriptions, etc. This is due to being on a fixed income.
3. Housing – for maintenance and operations
4. Access to medical services – distance, wait times, medical specialists

5. Isolation – in communities and between communities. Funding for programs so that seniors can engage with each other and the community.
6. Privatization of Health Care Services

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE CANDIDATE YOU SUPPORT, SUPPORTS YOU.

SASK SRS CEL. MJK

The Celebrating Seniors event held in Regina in late September 2019 was special for one SSAI executive member – Mike Kaminski. Thank to his nominators, he was selected as the recipient of the Advocacy Award provincially from among all the other submissions.

**ENCOURAGE SENIORS – PROV –
SPEAK UP FOR SENIORS**

By 2020, one of every five citizens in Saskatchewan will be a senior. Forty percent of the population live in rural Saskatchewan. Yet most programs are streamlined for the large urbans and do not really work in rural Saskatchewan. In addition, government Ministers tend to meet more frequently with urban clubs versus rural ones. This makes it very difficult to have programs designed that address both rural and urban situations. In addition, the collective understanding of many of the departments is based on their urban discussions, and do not reflect the real issues faced by seniors in rural Saskatchewan. This underlines the need for rural

seniors to become more involved, more outspoken, more engaging and more proactive with regards to their issues.

PROV ELECTION 2020

While all the citizens and seniors want a good quality of life, efforts have to be made to ensure that it is possible. The seniors of the province, especially rural seniors, are prepared to work hard with any government. However, it seems that it is time to review structures and processes in government to make them more sensitive to engaging seniors through communications and collaborations.

SSAI - Primary Goals and Objectives :

- a. promote older adult issues;
- b. provide an organized forum for all seniors;
- c. resolve housing and transportation issues;
- d. offer leadership in programs and activities;
- e. work with all levels of government to benefit seniors;
- f. co-operate with organizations across Canada.

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

- Email – MLAs, Min., Premier
- Public Forums
- Brochures
- Visitations
- Meetings, AGMs
- News Articles
- Press Releases
- Emotional Responses – stories

Members & Clubs are asked to engage.



THE VOICE

**OF SENIORS IN
SASKATCHEWAN**


ELECTION – OCT. 26/2020

**VOTE FOR UNIVERSAL
HEALTH CARE**

Walking the Road Together

COVID-19 

ALERT

<p>WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP AND WATER.</p> 	<p>PHYSICAL DISTANCE. STAY 2 METRES APART FROM OTHERS.</p> 	<p>IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, STAY HOME. CALL HEALTHLINE 811.</p> 
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