

Resolutions to AGM – Oct 14, 2021

Resolution: Number of Directors – Non-profit Corporation

Whereas the number of directors on SSAI Executive Board, as a registered non-profit corporation, has been set at a minimum of 15 according to the Articles of Incorporation. and Whereas, the current number of member clubs and active members has declined. and Whereas SSAI is operating below the required number of directors as incorporated.

Therefore be it resolved that SSAI approve the Amendment that the minimum number of directors on the SSAI board be reduced from 15 to 6. Further, that the resolution effecting the change be filed with Information Services Corporation (ISC).

MOTION (April 19, 2021) by Pat, 2nd by Linda, that SSAI recommend resolution amending articles of incorporation to change minimum number of directors from 15 to 6. None opposed. Carried.

ACTION: Because our AGM has been postponed and in order to meet filing deadlines with ISC, this Resolution was circulated to clubs/members by mail/email and votes returned by email and mail.

RESPONSE: received from 22 clubs with unanimous support in favor of the resolution. Amendments to Articles were filed with ISC.

Resolution: Needles, test strips and lancets for Diabetics

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan goes to great length to provide safe injection needles and other supplies to known drug addicts free of charge and Whereas, all diabetics need their needles and test strips and lancets are not covered under private health (Blue Cross) Insurance

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of Saskatchewan provide “free of charge” all needles, test strips and lancets required for all diabetics. This would result in Diabetics having better control over their disease, resulting in reduced hospitalization saving the health care system considerable resources.

Blaine Lake Senior Centre
and SSAI Executive

Resolution: Improving Public Health (Long term) Care services

Whereas the COVID 19 Pandemic has shown Canadians the real conditions of long term care homes; Seniors need help to stay in their own homes.

and Whereas, Seniors who decide to stay in their homes pay for the help that they need.

Therefore be it resolved that the Public Health Care services be improved for long term clients. This would mean an increase in longer hours and services, resulting in clients not having to take bed time medicines at 4:00pm.

Blaine Lake Senior Centre
and SSAI Executive

Resolution: Shingles Vaccine

Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan supplies regular yearly influenza vaccines through the Sask Health Care system, along now with the COVID 19 Vaccines.

and Whereas, Shingles is a horrible disease, causing great discomfort and hardships and has become more prevalent. The cost for a single shot is almost \$200.00, and it requires 2 shots. Seniors on fixed income can not afford this and therefore are taking the chance that they will

not get sick.

Therefore be it resolved that SSAI lobby the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Health to make the Shingles Vaccine available at no charge for seniors in Saskatchewan.

Blaine Lake Senior Centre
and SSAI Executive

Resolution: Reducing costs for seniors aids

Whereas Saskatchewan Seniors are in need of aids – hearing, dental, eye care, walking and wheelchair, etc

and Whereas, the cost of these supplies are out of the range of most Seniors who are living on fixed incomes,

Therefore be it resolved that cost need to be brought into an affordable range or be better subsidized by the Saskatchewan Government, so that Seniors in this province may enjoy a happier and less isolated lifestyle.

Ruby Wall, Blaine Lake Senior Centre
and SSAI Executive

Resolution: Emergency Response Information Kit (E.R.I.K.)

Whereas Emergency Response Information Kits are available in other provinces (kit includes: place for Health info, health care directive, organ donor card, sticker for front entrance to tell emergency responders that you have this info on your fridge, a plastic folder and a magnet).

and Whereas, at present, we know of only 1 local similar program in Saskatchewan.

and Whereas, it would benefit all residents of Saskatchewan

Therefore be it resolved that SSAI take leadership and consult with EMS First Responders and the Ministry of Health in taking steps to make Emergency Response Information Kits available to residents in Saskatchewan.

Warren Cooper, Colonsay Senior Citizens
and SSAI Executive

Resolution: Special Care Homes in rural centres

Whereas Saskatchewan has an aging population, and will require more Special Care beds, and Whereas, many surgical procedures have to be postponed time and time again, due to acute care hospital beds being taken up by seniors waiting to be transferred to Special Care Homes,

Therefore be it resolved that more Special Care Homes be expanded or built in rural centres, nearer Seniors' home base and their families.

Rationale: This would help our smaller communities remain viable, provide local employment, keep families close to their older generation, reduce waiting times (both surgery and Special Care beds), and increase efficiency in the provision of Health Care.

SSAI Executive

Resolution: Wardell/Gillis Letter – Long term care

See attached letter for background information.

MOTION – SSAI lend our support to their future endeavors to improve conditions in Retirement / Senior Care Homes.

SSAI Executive

Long term care facilities and the treatment of residents

“If you allow it, you approve it.”

The need for long-term care is growing. People are living longer and the need for some form of assisted living or intensive personal care is becoming more likely for everyone in our twilight years.

Unfortunately, we all tend to hope that our last years won't be spent in a “senior's home.” Many of us have visited a loved one in care home and felt a sense of unease after the visit:

“Dad seemed healthy, but lonely, and perhaps a bit disheveled. I worry that he isn't being treated with dignity and respect when we aren't around. I noticed his fingernails and toenails were not maintained.”

“I hope I don't end up in a home when I'm older.”

Particularly during the COVID pandemic, residents in long term care are often the voiceless citizens that are overlooked or ignored. There are many reasons:

- aging can bring gradual loss of capacity, but we default to protecting autonomy of the resident, so support people (often family members or a power of attorney) are not contacted unless there has been a critical incident, like a fall;
- care can be substandard due to a lack of staff, particularly during evenings, nightshift, and the weekend;
- the ratio of staff to residents should be increased and a minimum time of one-on-one care per resident considered;
- there is insufficient oversight of care homes to ensure standards are followed;
- there is no bill of rights for residents of long term care homes;

Long-term care homes should provide the highest quality of life possible for residents and we should certainly be protective of residents' civil rights. The question before us (which society tends to regard with a sense of willful blindness): Are protections for the civil rights of residents in long-term care (special care and personal care homes) adequate at present?

It is time to address the quality of care in long term care homes rather than pretend we will not end up there.

Our law office is interested in pursuing advocacy for law reform related to long term care. In our practice, we have encountered numerous stories of elder abuse. In institutional settings, these abuses may not necessarily be physical. Sometimes emotional abuse can be subtle and difficult to prove. Other times the abuse is more appropriately characterized as neglect or sub-par care when the resident's care plan is not followed or not updated.

Our office is proposing to embark on a project to address and improve care in long term facilities in Saskatchewan (and perhaps Canada). We acknowledge that this process may take many years to bring about the necessary changes to our laws, but we are looking to build a coalition of interested parties and are seeking the support of SSAI to inform and guide our work.

Law reform often requires political pressure. Political mechanisms for change are most often related to *normalization, capacity building, and coalition building*. There is no political will without public will.

Our office is interested in working with various stakeholders interested in advocating for better quality of care in long-term facilities. We believe that this requires building a coalition of support, educating the public about the scope and significance of the issue, and normalizing the expectation for better care of seniors in institutional settings.

Our preliminary work will involve creating a coalition of interested parties including: academics, interested private parties who have witnessed troubling treatment of their loved ones, human rights advocacy groups, seniors, and seniors advocacy groups.

We are seeking an expression of interest from the Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated. We are conducting preliminary work on a pro-bono basis, but our goal is to draft a proposal that would include a budget and cost sharing proposal once we determine how many stakeholders are interested in our coalition for better long-term care. It would be helpful to have a representative from SSAI join our coalition working toward the development of an action plan and more detailed project proposal.

Yours truly,



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Wardell Gillis is a full-service law firm in Saskatoon, SK, offering a broad range of legal services to our clients. Our lawyers have experience handling matters at various levels of court including Provincial Court, the Court of Queen's Bench, the Court of Appeal, Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal, as well as various commissions and tribunals.

Our lawyers believe in making a positive impact in the community both as legal professionals and as individuals.