

I am writing as a member of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated (SSAI), which represents over 3000 seniors across the province. **We strongly urge the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Health to provide the Shingles vaccine free of charge to all seniors aged 50 and older.**

Shingles is a painful and debilitating condition that disproportionately affects seniors, particularly those over 50. Its complications can significantly disrupt daily life and last for many weeks and months. The cost of the Shingles vaccine (2 doses required), ranging from \$150 to \$200 per dose, is often prohibitive for many seniors, making it harder for them to access this crucial protection.

Research shows that the Shingrix vaccine reduces the risk and severity of shingles by 4-12 times, and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that all individuals aged 50+ receive it. By removing the financial barrier, the province would help protect seniors from unnecessary suffering, preserve their independence, and reduce the strain on the healthcare system.

Jurisdictions like Ontario and British Columbia have already made the vaccine available for free to seniors. It is time for Saskatchewan to follow their lead and ensure all seniors have equal access to this vital vaccine.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,