

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at 2025 Convention.

Senior's Housing

Whereas Seniors who have lived their lives in an **rural area** do not want to move to the cities when they are in need of **affordable assisted housing**:

Therefore, be it resolved that **SSAI lobby the Saskatchewan Government to supply more affordable assisted housing in rural Saskatchewan.**

As residents of rural Saskatchewan we are witnessing the ongoing problem of seniors couples being separated when one of the partners suffers from mental and/or physical decline and the other partner is overwhelmed with the increased responsibility of care of his/her partner. This often results in the separation of the couple and the unwell partner moved to a facility. Often distance makes it difficult to see one another on an ongoing basis.

Be it resolved that the Government of Saskatchewan and the health authority expand home care services in rural Saskatchewan to pre- year 2000 levels and provide home making, personal care, respite, or what other services required to keep couples together in their own homes longer to reduce the stress, anxiety, and worry that would exist if they were apart. This would reduce waiting lists of people waiting to be placed in long term care and the cost of warehousing them until beds become available.

RESOLUTION #1 ON ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN SENIORS' HOUSING UNITS

WHEREAS seniors in rural Saskatchewan face increasing mobility challenges as they age;

AND WHEREAS accessibility features such as walk-in showers and raised toilet seats significantly enhance the safety, independence, and well-being of older adults;

AND WHEREAS many existing seniors' housing units lack these essential modifications, increasing the risk of falls and limiting the ability of seniors to age in place;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan and local municipalities have a responsibility to support aging populations by ensuring accessible and safe housing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.** urges the Government of Saskatchewan, local municipalities, and relevant housing authorities to:

1. Implement Accessibility Standards – Require all newly constructed seniors' housing units to include walk-in showers with grab bars and raised toilet seats as standard features.
2. Retrofit Existing Units – Establish funding programs or grants to assist landlords, homeowners, and housing authorities in upgrading older units with accessible features.
3. Increase Public Awareness – Develop educational initiatives to inform seniors, caregivers, and housing providers about the importance of accessibility modifications.
4. Secure Funding & Partnerships – Advocate for increased investment from provincial and federal governments, as well as partnerships with non-profit organizations and businesses, to support accessibility improvements.
5. Monitor and Evaluate Progress – Ensure ongoing assessment of accessibility upgrades in seniors' housing to address gaps and improve policies as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be submitted to municipal councils, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and other relevant stakeholders for consideration and action.

Resolution #2 for Advancing Continuing Care Aid Education and Funding for Enhanced Accessibility

WHEREAS continuing care aids play a critical role in supporting the health, independence, and quality of life for our senior citizens, ensuring they receive compassionate, knowledgeable care within our community;

WHEREAS there is a growing need for enhanced education and training programs for continuing care aides to meet the evolving demands of health care services, particularly in rural and underserved areas across Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS increased funding for continuing care aid programs is essential to improve the accessibility and quality of care provided to seniors, enabling these dedicated professionals to receive ongoing education, certification, and professional development;

WHEREAS strengthening continuing care aid education and funding directly contributes to better health outcomes, reduces hospital admissions, and supports a more sustainable and responsive local healthcare system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.** advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan, relevant health authorities, and local education institutions for:

1. **Enhanced Funding Initiatives:** Allocation of increased funding for continuing care aide education and training programs to ensure accessibility and quality education for all prospective and current aides.
2. **Development of Accessible Training Programs:** Expansion and modernization of continuing care aide education, including online and community-based learning options, to accommodate the diverse needs of Saskatchewan's population.
3. **Partnerships with Educational Institutions:** Strengthening collaborations with local colleges, vocational schools, and health care organizations to create standardized, high-quality training curricula that reflect the current best practices in continuing care.
4. **Incentives for Professional Development:** Implementation of financial incentives and support systems (such as scholarships and grants) to encourage ongoing education, certification renewal, and advanced training for continuing care aides.
5. **Increased Public Awareness:** Launching community outreach initiatives to raise awareness about the vital role of continuing care aides and the importance of accessible, well-funded education programs in enhancing care for seniors.

**Resolution #3 for Advocacy on
Access to Primary Care Providers in Rural Saskatchewan**

WHEREAS access to a primary care provider (family physician or nurse practitioner) is essential for maintaining the health and wellness of senior citizens, ensuring timely medical intervention, chronic disease management, and overall well-being;

WHEREAS many rural communities in Saskatchewan, ~~including Foam Lake~~, face significant shortages of primary care providers, leading to long wait times, increased emergency department visits, and unmet health needs among seniors;

WHEREAS seniors often face barriers such as transportation challenges, mobility limitations, and complex health conditions that require consistent and accessible primary care;

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan government has acknowledged the need for improved primary health care services but requires further targeted investment and strategic solutions to address shortages in rural areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc.** advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority for:

1. The recruitment and retention of primary care providers in rural communities through increased financial incentives, training programs, and partnerships with medical schools.
2. The expansion of nurse practitioner-led clinics to provide accessible, community-based primary care services for seniors.
3. The development of mobile primary care units or virtual care programs tailored to meet the needs of rural seniors who cannot travel for medical appointments.
4. Increased funding and support for home care services to allow seniors to receive essential health care at home, reducing strain on hospitals and emergency services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and/or the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), as well as local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), for their support and action.