

Superannuated Teachers
of Saskatchewan

Disposition of Resolutions

*These were resolutions passed, tabled or referred
at the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings*



Disposition of 2020 Resolutions

Resolutions Directed to STS (A)

(Bylaws)

- A.1 BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to Bylaw 9.1, the STS Bylaws are amended by adding the following as Bylaw 5.1.4.

Notwithstanding any other Bylaw contained herein, the Executive may, in exigent circumstances, delay, postpone or re-schedule the Annual General Meeting to a date, place and time to be determined by the Executive and the current Executive members shall remain in office until an election is held at the next Annual General meeting.

Response:

This has been added to the *STS Policy Handbook* dated July 1, 2021.

(Non-Bylaw)

- A.2 BE IT RESOLVED** that elections for the 2020 Annual General Meeting be deferred to the 2021 Annual General Meeting and that current Provincial Executive members have their terms extended until June 30, 2021.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

- A.3 BE IT RESOLVED** that nominations received for the 2020 elections be considered for elections held at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

- A.4 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS annual fee for 2020-2021 be confirmed as being \$30.00 per person.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

A.5 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS annual rebate to each Chapter for 2020-2021 be confirmed as being \$400.00 plus \$8.00 per member.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

A.6 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS budget for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 be confirmed as having no changes from the approved July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 budget.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

A.7 BE IT RESOLVED that Deloitte be confirmed as the STS Auditor for 2020-2021.

Response:

This resolution confirmed the AGM's understanding of the processes followed given the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

Disposition of 2021 Resolutions

Resolutions Directed to STS (A)

(Bylaws)

A.1 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS annual fee for 2021-2022 be \$30.00 per person.

Response:

The STS annual fee for 2021-22 has been set at \$30.00 per person.

A.2 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS annual rebate to each Chapter for 2021-22 be \$1000.00 plus \$8.00 per member.

Response:

The STS annual rebate to each Chapter for 2021-22 has been set at \$1000.00 plus \$8.00 per member.

(Non-Bylaw)

A.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS implement a public information and awareness program of issues affecting the STS and seniors for political parties and candidates before the provincial election using money from the Contingency Fund.

Response:

This resolution was referred to the STS Executive and was considered at the September 15, 2021, Executive meeting. There will be no further action taken at this time as an informational pamphlet was produced and distributed to members in preparation for the October 2020 provincial election.

- A.4 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS implement a provincial public information and awareness program using money from the Contingency Fund, on issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affecting seniors, (including STS members).

Response:

This resolution was referred to the STS Executive and was considered at the September 15, 2021, Executive meeting. The Executive will continue to work with, and support, like-minded organizations such as SSM and the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) to assess and address impacts of the COVID pandemic on older adults. Two program examples are an SSM initiative funded through New Horizons to explore the potential for older adults to serve as mentors for other older adults in the adoption and use of digital technology as a way of breaking down isolation and countering ageism. Another example is SCOA's Age Friendly Community Development program called "Beyond The Pandemic - Reopening Saskatchewan: A Call to Action for a More Age-Friendly Community" that includes a survey that will be undertaken in Saskatoon and some nearby rural areas nearby to assess the impact of the pandemic on older adults.

The Provincial Executive also committed \$100,000 from the Contingency Fund which was forwarded to SSM in two installments in support of their Home Supports Initiative intended to begin to move public and government support of older adults and in particular the needs of these older adults as they age within their own homes.

- A.5 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS encourage its Chapters and individual members to actively support the STF campaign regarding class size and composition by registering for the STF online platform, Tell Them Tuesday.

Response:

In a memo to Chapter Presidents on October 6, 2021, Presidents were encouraged to engage their members in this advocacy opportunity. The celebration of World Teacher Day provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of the importance of advocacy.

- A.6 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS provide access on the STS Website to information and ideas for messages that enable members to request support for teachers during this pandemic from people in positions of authority such as school boards and the Minister of Education.

Response:

The Executive will work with the Advocacy Committee to address this resolution. A planned website renewal in spring 2022 will help to facilitate responding to this resolution.

A.7 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS encourage its Chapters and individual members to communicate their concerns for teachers during this pandemic, to the Minister of Education and relevant local education authorities, with a copy to the STS and STF.

Response:

In a memo to Chapter Presidents on October 6, 2021, Presidents were encouraged to engage their members in this advocacy opportunity. The celebration of World Teacher Day provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of the importance of advocacy.

A.8 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS adopt a position opposed to “Ageism” in all its forms including medical treatment by triage based on birthdates, and inadequate care for residents in long-term care facilities.

Response:

The Advocacy Committee included development of a policy on Ageism as part of its’ 2021-22 workplan. A proposed policy will be brought forward to the 2022 AGM.

A.9 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS develop a policy to counter “ageism”.

Response:

The Advocacy Committee included development of policy on Ageism as part of its’ 2021-22 workplan. A proposed policy will be brought forward to the 2022 AGM.

A.10 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS undertake an extensive survey of members to determine the needs, goals and wishes of members to guide the STS in adapting and emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Response:

The Governance and Handbook Review Committee included development of a survey of members as part of its’ 2021-22 workplan. Given the expression that this resolution be an extensive survey of the nearly 12,000 members of the STS, a professional survey company, Praxis Analytics, was contracted to assist with the development, distribution and analysis of the survey. The survey was available from late January to mid-March with preliminary results being provided to the Provincial Executive in late spring 2022.

A.13 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS investigate decreasing the Travel Exclusions Limitations in the Group Benefits Plan from three months to one month.

Response:

This was considered in negotiations with Saskatchewan Blue Cross. No change was made to the revised Saskatchewan Blue Cross Agreement due to cost of the benefit.

A.14 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS refund individual members of the Superannuated Teachers Extended Health Plan any rebate from Saskatchewan Blue Cross, beyond the negotiated 3.5% administrative commission, arising from the reduced claim experience as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Response:

This resolution was tabled at the 2021 AGM.

A.15 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS conduct a review of the appropriate uses and levels in the Superannuated Teachers Extended Health Plan Unappropriated Reserve Fund.

Response:

This resolution was tabled at the 2021 AGM.

A.16 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Executive conduct a study of the representation of out of Province STS members on the STS Executive.

Response:

This resolution was referred to the STS Executive and considered at the September 15, 2021, Executive meeting. The STS Provincial Executive is currently structured, elected and assigned duties by virtue of Bylaws 2, 3 and 6. These Bylaws will be systematically reviewed as part of the larger STS Policy Handbook Review.

A.17 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Executive review all aspects of the Contingency Fund including the amount of money set aside and uses for the money in the fund and make recommendations to the 2022 AGM.

Response:

On October 18, 2021, a memo to Chapter Presidents along with a background paper and questions for feedback was sent out inviting feedback to inform a Contingency Fund review being coordinated by the Executive's Governance and Handbook Review Committee. Feedback was considered by the Committee on December 7, 2021 and the Committee recognized the need to develop in a coherent way an overall set of Bylaws, Policies and Guidelines to guide the financial affairs of the organization including the various funds and has begun this development. An updated Bylaw 4 will be presented to the 2022 AGM, with renewed Guidelines following.

A.18 BE IT RESOLVED that STS work together with the host hotel for STS events to accommodate the needs of disabled and handicapped individuals.

Response:

This resolution was referred to the STS Executive and was considered at the September 15, 2021, meeting. The STS Office staff met with the host hotel staff on December 2nd to express concerns and communicate expectations regarding the accommodation of the needs of disabled and handicapped individuals. The host hotel committed to doing their best to accommodate these needs.

Resolutions Directed to ACER-CART (C)

C.1 BE IT RESOLVED that ACER-CART investigate protocols with Health Canada, making organ and tissue donation feasible from rural and remote locations.

Response:

This resolution was included in a letter sent May 21, 2021, to ACER-CART for presentation at the ACER-CART Annual General Meeting in June 2021.

The resolution was presented, debated and voted on at the ACER-CART AGM on June 4, 2021. The resolution was defeated largely based on the resolution being outside the identified priorities of ACER-CART.

Please see letter at the end of Section D, Resolutions Directed to the Government of Saskatchewan.

Resolutions Directed to the Government of Saskatchewan (D)

D.1 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, lobby the provincial government that the Minister for Seniors has sufficient staff and funding to support the needs of seniors in Saskatchewan.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent to the Minister of Seniors and Rural and Remote Health on July 20, 2021 with a response received from the Minister of October 18, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

D.2 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, urge the Government of Saskatchewan to commit financial support to Saskatchewan communities and SSM to support the Age-Friendly Communities initiative.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent to the Minister of Seniors and Rural and Remote Health on July 20, 2021, with a response received from the Minister of October 18, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

D.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, communicate concerns for teachers during this pandemic to the Minister of Education with a copy to the STF.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent to the Minister of Education on July 20, 2021, with a response received from the Minister on August 9, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

D.4 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to provide high speed internet access to low-income urban neighborhoods at no charge.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent to the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations on July 20, 2021, and a response from the Minister was received on September 22, 2021. Please see letter at the end of Section E, Late Resolutions.

D.5 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to expand internet service in rural and remote areas of Saskatchewan.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent to the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations on July 20, 2021, and a response from the Minister was received on September 22, 2021. Please see letter at the end of Section E, Late Resolutions.

D.6 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS together with SSM, ACER-CART and CARP lobby the federal government to develop and enforce national standards for long-term care residences.

Response:

A letter was sent May 21, 2021, to ACER-CART for presentation at the ACER-CART Annual General Meeting in June 2021. The resolution was presented, debated and voted on at the ACER-CART AGM on June 4, 2021. The resolution was carried.

A letter was sent May 31, 2021, to SSM for their consideration and disposition.

Promotion of a survey regarding Long Term Care Standards was posted on the STS website beginning June 21, 2021.

Please see letter at the end of this section.

D.7 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, lobby the provincial government to develop and enforce provincial standards for long-term care residences.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent on July 20, 2021, to the Minister of Health and a response was received from the Minister of Seniors and Rural and Remote Health on October 13, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

Promotion of a survey regarding Long Term Care Standards was posted on the STS website beginning June 21, 2021.

D.8 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS together with SSM, ACER-CART and CARP lobby the federal government to extend the temporary withdrawal reduction amounts for RRIF's.

Response:

A letter was sent on May 21, 2021, to ACER-CART for presentation at the ACER-CART Annual General Meeting in June 2021. The resolution was presented, debated and voted on at the ACER-CART AGM on June 4, 2021. The resolution was carried and referred to the ACER-CART Executive.

A letter was sent May 31, 2021, to SSM for their consideration and disposition.

D.9 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS Executive advocate for the inclusion of medicinal cannabis in the Saskatchewan Drug Formulary.

Response:

This resolution was referred to the STS Executive and was considered at the September 15, 2021, Executive meeting. Saskatchewan Health was contacted regarding the process of adding drugs to the Saskatchewan Drug Formulary. The following email response as received:

“The decision to list a drug on the Saskatchewan Formulary is based on advice received from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), the provincial drug review process, as well as the outcome of pricing negotiations through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA). Prescribers and pharmacists will be notified if there is a change in the listing status of medications in the Saskatchewan Formulary.”

The recently implemented Health Spending Account (HSA) allocation of \$250 can be utilized for medicinal cannabis as per the CRA eligible medical expense guidelines.

D.10 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, lobby the Minister for Seniors and the provincial government to add the shingles vaccine, Shingrix, to the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent on July 20, 2021, to the Minister of Health and a response was received from the Minister of Seniors and Rural and Remote Health on October 18, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

D.11 BE IT RESOLVED that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, lobby the provincial government to increase funding for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI).

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent on July 20, 2021, to the Minister of Health and a response was received from the Minister of Seniors and Rural and Remote Health on October 18, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors
and Rural and Remote Health
Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

OCT 18 2021

Resolutions
D.1, D.2, D.7, D.10, D.11

OCT 13 2021

Our File: 21-1199

Murray Wall
Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
2311 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7 J 2H8

Dear Murray:

Thank you for your July 20, 2021, letters about the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan resolutions passed at the 2021 annual general meeting. I apologize for the delay in response as we have been handling a very high volume of inquiries.

The health, dignity and well-being of seniors do matter and we are committed to strengthening the work being done so they are protected. Our government continues to be a strong voice for the people of this province, including seniors in care.

As you may know, the Ministry of Health provides global funding to the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) for the delivery of health programs and services. Through this funding, the SHA is responsible for the distribution and mix of health-care services and staffing needs across the province, including long-term care services.

Our government continues to put seniors first. The 2021-22 Provincial Budget includes:

- \$6 million in new funding directed to fulfill an \$18 million Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) commitment with 90 CCA FTEs added to long-term care (LTC) and 18 CCA FTEs added to home care this year;
- \$3.6 million for a LTC facility in Grenfell;
- \$7.6 million for LTC facility in La Ronge; and
- more than \$1 million for future planning of LTC in Regina, Watson, and Estevan.

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The Provincial Health Authority Act requires all special-care homes and other designated facilities providing long-term care to follow the care standards outlined in the Program Guidelines for Special-care Homes. The Program Guidelines for Special-care Homes are considered the legislated minimum standards that must be adhered to in publicly funded facilities that offer long-term care services in our province. These care standards are comprehensive, and cover such areas as resident rights and responsibilities, nutrition, resident care, recreational activities and staffing to best meet resident needs.

The SHA monitors its facilities and ensures the standards in the Program Guidelines for Special-care Homes are met. There are several mechanisms to assist in this regard such as Quality of Care Coordinators who look into complaints, region-wide accreditation, required Critical Incident reporting to the Ministry of Health, and Long-term Care Facilities Assessment.

Resident and Family Councils have been established in all long-term care facilities. Bi-annually, Resident and Family Councils complete a quality of care survey with the results being provided to the Ministry. The most recent Resident and Family Experience Survey indicated 85 per cent of residents and 83 per cent of family members are satisfied with their special-care homes.

The SHA's senior leaders take part in long-term care quality assessment tours. Results of the surveys and tours are posted online to www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health/other-reports/ceo-visits-to-long-term-care-facilities.

Our government provides many publicly-funded vaccines to reduce the risk of preventable diseases in our communities. While the majority are given to infants and children, we provide vaccines to medically high-risk adults and others including seniors who are at increased risk of complications if they become ill.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) makes recommendations for the use of vaccines in Canada. Provinces and territories review their immunization services on an ongoing basis, and new vaccines or expansion of existing services are implemented as financial resources are available.

The Ministry of Health does not reimburse individuals for their purchase of non-publicly funded vaccine or costs related to their administration. Vaccines are not therapeutic drugs and are currently ineligible for coverage on the formulary.

The introduction of a shingles immunization program for seniors is a considerable budget decision that requires advanced planning. The initial estimated investment to immunize those 65 years and older for an introductory program year would be about \$16 million and about \$3 million for following years as people become 65 years old. These costs need to be considered among other health-care pressures.

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Murray Wall
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Our government supported the initiation of the Saskatchewan Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) program as a treatment option for patients and families of Saskatchewan. The TAVI program launched in 2016-17, performing six procedures in the first year. Since launch, demand for the program has steadily increased. This program performed almost 100 TAVI procedures in 2020-21. This addition of this program has attracted sub-specialty trained cardiac physicians to our province.

We are committed to lowering wait times for Saskatchewan patients. Ministry of Health officials continue to work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to ensure that the Saskatchewan program will meet the Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines for care.

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) has been leading the Age-Friendly Saskatchewan initiative in the province, including providing opportunities for networking and supporting communities who would like to become more age-friendly. The SSM resource team meets regularly to coordinate the project and to lead introductory sessions for communities who are interested in becoming age-friendly.

The SSM request for \$70,000 for one full time equivalent Program Coordinator, and additional resources to support this work, will be considered in the 2022-23 Provincial Budget process.

Again, thank you for writing. Seniors are a vital and growing part of our province and we will continue to find ways to best support and address their health care needs in a respectful and responsive manner.

Sincerely,



Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors
and Rural and Remote Health

cc: Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance
Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Health



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Minister of Education
Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

AUG 09 2021

Murray Wall, Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
sts@sts.sk.ca

Dear Mr. Wall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the ongoing physical and emotional impacts of COVID-19 on staff and students in Saskatchewan schools. I assure you that the health and safety of students, school staff and their families has been front and centre in planning for the education sector's pandemic response.

Teachers across the province have and continue to put extraordinary effort into the safety and well-being of students as we return to normal. Our government appreciates the work of teachers and support staff in educating our students during these uncertain times.

The government provides funding to school divisions for students requiring supports through the Supports For Learning (SFL) subcomponent of the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 (Pre-K to 12) funding distribution model. These supports reflect a comprehensive array of services including occupational therapists, educational assistants, counsellors and other support services for students. The SFL funding for the 2021-22 school year is \$291.6 million, an increase of \$2.5 million or 0.9 per cent from the 2020-21 school year.

In Saskatchewan, education is a shared responsibility between the Ministry of Education and the boards of education for each school division. The ministry respects each board of education's authority and believes boards of education are in the best position to assess the needs of their division and make responsive decisions.

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While government provides funding, school divisions have the responsibility to make staffing, programming and resource decisions, including decisions on class sizes, within their allocated budget to meet local priorities and address the needs of their staff and students.

The Ministry of Education understands the importance of supporting staff and students who are experiencing mental health challenges and is committed to the safety and mental well-being of Saskatchewan staff and students. For the 2021-22 school year, the ministry will continue to offer all school divisions grant funding to provide training for their staff related to student safety and mental wellness.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also committed nearly \$500,000 to offer Mental Health First Aid training to school divisions, with the intent to have at least one staff member trained in each school. This would make Mental Health First Aid available to staff and students when needed, similar to physical first aid.

School divisions and schools have plans to support the mental wellness of staff and students including dealing with difficult topics such as suicide, depression and anxiety. The ministry works with the Kids Help Phone (KHP) to promote their professional counselling services which are available 24 hours a day via phone, chat and text. KHP's *Resources Around Me* database provides children and youth with the opportunity to search for resources in the local community including counsellor and mental health supports.

Supporting the educational needs of all Pre-K to 12 students is a priority of the ministry. A Provincial Education Council and a Provincial Education Plan Implementation Team have been established to guide the development and implementation of both a long-term plan for education in Saskatchewan to 2030 and a one-year interim plan for the 2021-22 school year that responds to the pressures experienced by school systems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interim plan includes key actions to meet the needs of all students in the areas of reading and learning responses, and mental health and well-being. Partners from school divisions and participating First Nations education authorities, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and STF Professional Learning work with senior ministry officials in this work.

Both the interim and long-term plan are guided by *The Framework for a Provincial Education Plan 2020-2030* (2019), which includes four priorities: inclusive, safe and welcoming learning environment; ensuring students have the skills and knowledge for their future; forming connections and relationships; and supporting mental health and well-being.

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Murray Wall, Executive Secretary
Page 3

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Education will continue to collaborate with its partners in learning to ensure that the physical and mental health needs for the province's students and school staff remain a priority.

Thank you for taking the time to share your resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

cc: Donna Johnson, Deputy Minister, Education
Patrick Maze, President, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
Bobbi Taillefer, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation



**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

July 13, 2021

**Sunil Pandila
President STS**

Dear Sunil,

Thank you for submitting resolutions for the ACER-CART AGM.

As per your request, here is a transcript of the disposition of your motions.

TRANSCRIPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 ACER-CART AGM.

Member Association Resolutions (AGM21-T9-001)

M1-2020 STS (C.1)

Moved by/proposé par Marie Leblanc-Warick, Seconded by/appuyé de Bill Berryman

THAT ACER-CART commit to investigate protocols with Health Canada making organ and tissue donation feasible from rural and remote locations—DEFEATED

M2-2020 STS (D.6)

Moved by/proposé par Marie Leblanc-Warick, Seconded by/appuyé de Bill Berryman

That ACER-CART lobby the federal government to develop and enforce national standards for long-term care residences.

Motion to amend

Moved by/proposé par Martin Higgs, Seconded by/appuyé de Margaret Urquhart to amend the motion by adding, "under the Canada Health Act." CARRIED

Amended motion:

THAT ACER-CART lobby the federal government to develop and enforce national standards for long-term care residences under the Canada Health Act. CARRIED

Directeur général **Roger Régimbal** Executive Director
2448 promenade Orient Park, Gloucester ON K1B 4N1 (613) 824-8384/regimbal.roger@sympatico.ca

M3-2020 STS (D.S)

Moved by/proposé par Marie Leblanc-Warick Seconded by/appuyé de Alyson Hillier

That ACER-CART lobby the federal government to extend the temporary withdrawal reduction amounts for RRIF's.

MOTION TO REFER

Moved by/proposé par Bob Fitzpatrick, Seconded by/appuyé de Alyson Hillier

THAT the motion to lobby the federal government to extend the temporary withdrawal reduction amounts for RRIF's be referred to the Executive. CARRIED

At its Post AGM meeting, the executive referred motion M-3 to the pension committee for study and report.

Thank you



Roger Régimbal
Executive director

Cc: Murray Wall Executive Director
Helen Sukovieff ACER-CART Director
Colleen Bailey Executive Secretary
Gerry Tiede ACER-CART President

Directeur général **Roger Régimbal** Executive Director
2448 promenade Orient Park, Gloucester ON K1B 4N1 (613) 824-8384/regimbal.rogier@sympatico.ca

Late Resolutions (E)

- E.2 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS Executive urge the STF Bargaining Committee to include 100% indexing on the cost-of-living adjustment when they formulate the 2022 provincial collective bargaining proposals.

Response:

A letter was sent on July 29, 2021, to STF President, Patrick Maze, with copies sent to STF Executive Secretary, Bobbi Taillefer, and STRP Manager, Kendra Dumont urging them to consider this in the next provincial collective bargaining proposals.

- E.8 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS undertake a review of policies and practices for charitable donations including but not limited to scholarships and the McDowell Foundation.

Response:

On October 18, 2021, a memo to Chapter Presidents along with a background paper and questions for feedback was sent out inviting feedback to inform a Scholarships and Donations review being coordinated by the Executive's Governance and Handbook Review Committee. Feedback was considered by the Committee on December 7, 2021, and proposed policy updates regarding both STS Scholarships and the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation Grant will be brought forward to the 2022 AGM.

- E.9 BE IT RESOLVED** that the STS, subject to STF Bylaw 4.5.1 and STS Bylaw 6.2.7.5, call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to provide free access to high-speed internet (where available) to low-income families in rural and remote areas.

Response:

In accordance with policy, a letter was sent May 28, 2021, to the STF requesting permission to advocate to the provincial government.

A letter received from the STF on June 11, 2021, authorizing the STS to advocate to the provincial government regarding this resolution.

A letter was sent on July 20, 2021, to the Minister Responsible Crown Corporations, with a response received from the Minister on September 22, 2021. Please see letter at the end of this section.

Resolutions D.4 / D.5 /
E.9

SEP 22 2021



Minister Responsible
for SaskTel

Legislative Building
Regina SK S4S 0B3

August 23, 2021

2021-0463-0816

Murray Wall, Executive Secretary
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan
2311 Arlington Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7J 2H8

Dear Murray Wall:

Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 2021, regarding the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan's 2021 Annual General meeting and resolutions passed pertaining to high speed Internet access for rural and low-income households in Saskatchewan.

I want to assure you that our government recognizes the importance of broadband connectivity and the need to ensure Saskatchewan families have access to timely information and services no matter where they live, work and pursue learning in our province.

As Saskatchewan's homegrown provider, SaskTel has taken significant steps in recent years to help bridge the digital divide between rural and urban households. Since 2018, SaskTel has invested over \$107 million to construct nearly 200 new cell towers to improve wireless coverage in rural communities and areas, as well as along highways, and in provincial parks. As part of this investment, SaskTel also expanded their High Speed Fusion Internet network to 34 rural towers and improved the wireless data capacity of towers serving 11 resort communities.

As you may know, SaskTel is also investing \$100 million to bring its fibre based *infiNET™* network to tens of thousands of rural Saskatchewan residents and businesses through its Rural Fibre Initiative. First announced in December 2020, the multi-phase project will result in a rapid expansion of faster broadband services to more than 40 rural Saskatchewan communities.

Once SaskTel's Rural Fibre Initiative is complete, approximately 75% of the province will have access to fibre broadband service, a significant accomplishment when you consider Saskatchewan is one of the least densely populated provinces in all of Canada.

SaskTel continues to look at all options to bring more services into rural areas including to identifying collaborative partnerships with independent providers to bring advanced broadband technologies into more locations. With that said, expanding broadband services into rural parts of the province remains a challenge, especially in light of the logistical issues involved in bringing service to remote locations and the high cost of deploying infrastructure.

For low-income families, there are existing programs, both provincial and federal, that can help households with the cost of high speed Internet.

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As you may know, the Connecting Families initiative launched in 2018 by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) provides eligible low-income families with access to high speed Internet service with unlimited data at a subsidized rate.

SaskTel is one of the providers in Saskatchewan who are participating in this initiative at its own cost. Through it, eligible families can receive wired Internet services with at least 10 Mbps (megabits per second) download speeds, or the fastest available if less than 10 Mbps is available, at a discounted rate. For further details, including eligibility, you can visit the Government of Canada's Connecting Families website at: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/111.nsf/eng/home>.

While there are a number of families in Saskatchewan that have benefitted from this program, it is important to note that it is not designed to provide universal broadband access to all low-income families. In addition, the federal government is only considering income details when determining eligibility, and family location within a rural or urban setting is not taken into account.

At this time, SaskTel's DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and *inFINET*[™] services are the only SaskTel services available through the program. SaskTel continues to investigate different ways and technologies to improve its rural services; however, rural wireless Internet services, such as Fusion or 4G Mobile Internet, are not eligible for subsidized rates.

In terms of provincial assistance, individuals and families struggling to cover utilities and other basic costs of living due to low income or unemployment can apply for financial help through the Ministry of Social Services. Please understand that, as a competitive business, SaskTel cannot provide free access to its services based on customer income or location. Further, SaskTel does not collect or have access to customer income details.

Our government recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic placed an increased burden on families and students, especially those who may have already been struggling with obtaining reliable access to Internet services and technology. Please be assured that our government will continue to work with the education sector and SaskTel to identify opportunities to ensure students have what they need to succeed.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for SaskTel

cc: Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Education
Doug Burnett, President and Chief Executive Officer, SaskTel

