Every new teacher has a different point of departure and a different destination in mind when their professional journey begins. You will surely have common experiences and collegial relationships to help you find your way. The Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation is here to help you navigate your early days in the classroom and to guide you throughout your career.

**Let’s Start by Introducing Ourselves**

The Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation has inspired and supported teaching and learning excellence in public education for over 80 years. We are the professional organization representing over 13,000 teachers in PreK-12 schools in Saskatchewan, and our members are trusted and respected leaders and partners in education.

Membership grants professional status that comes with responsibilities, rights and benefits. Working together, you and your Federation assert a credible voice on behalf of the collective, while attending to your individual professional aspirations and needs. Every program, service or resource offered by the Federation reflects the ideals of the teaching profession and is designed to enhance the well-being and success of teachers and their students.

*Inspiring and supporting teaching and learning excellence in public education.*
Stewart Resources Centre

The Stewart Resources Centre is the professional library for Saskatchewan teachers. With a collection of over 26,000 books and audiovisual resources, 140 journals, a selection of teacher-prepared units, and friendly and knowledgeable staff, the Centre is able to meet your classroom, research and professional development needs.

The Centre is located in Saskatoon but a free mailing service is also provided, which includes a mailing label enclosed with borrowed material so that they can be returned free of charge. You can also access the online catalogue to search for the materials you need at any time of day. If you are not sure exactly which materials might be appropriate for your classroom needs, feel free to contact us with a topic and grade level, and we will do the rest. For more information visit www.stf.sk.ca.

Field Services

Members have access to a variety of services and support from the Federation’s senior administrative staff. Their services are confidential and they seek to assist with timely and effective solutions that resolve issues and encourage respectful relationships. Advice and assistance is provided to teachers throughout the province regarding a wide range of professional matters, including workplace relationships, employment contracts and legal matters.

Contact the Federation and ask to speak to your senior administrative staff liaison, and they will be pleased to support you as needed or answer any questions you may have.

Provincial Collective Bargaining and Advocacy

The Federation negotiates provincial collective bargaining agreements on behalf of members to address issues related to salaries, benefits and working conditions. Teachers are provided with regular email updates on provincial bargaining.

Collective bargaining is one important aspect of the advocacy work the Federation undertakes to ensure the voice of teachers is present in discussions and decision-making in education. If there is an issue of importance to teachers, you can count on the Federation to be initiating and taking part in discussions with decision-makers and the public on your behalf.
Professional Growth Opportunities

The Federation offers various ongoing programs and services as well as shorter-term activities to support teachers’ continued learning. All of these initiatives are based on the basic principle that teachers’ professional growth should be designed and facilitated by teachers.

Staff members of the Federation and its Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit work closely with teachers and educational partners from across the province to plan and deliver a wide range of exciting and innovative resources, workshops, seminars, conferences and events.

Visit us online at www.stf.sk.ca, or look for our Professional Growth Opportunities catalogue in your school.

Professional Growth Networks

Professional growth networks are organizations of teachers and other educators interested in a specific subject field, service area or interdisciplinary group. Over 2,200 teachers presently belong to the 27 professional growth networks, which are affiliated with the Federation. From music educators to mathematics teachers, each provides their members with publications, in-service programs and other professional development assistance. For a complete listing, please visit www.stf.sk.ca.

We would like to invite you to apply for one free membership during your first year of teaching by completing and returning the coupon located on the website or in the handbook, Taking Your Place in the Professional Community.
The McDowell Foundation is an independent charitable organization that funds research into teaching and learning in publicly funded elementary and secondary schools. It was created by the Federation in response to the teaching profession’s need for greater involvement in educational research. It supports a wide range of activities aimed at the improvement of PreK-12 education including grants to teachers for classroom-based research projects, and an annual award and conference that provides networking and mentoring opportunities for teachers and researchers. To learn how you can become involved in the Foundation’s work, visit www.mcdowellfoundation.ca.

**Saskatchewan Bulletin**

Published monthly by the Federation, this tabloid newspaper provides timely news stories, features and photo coverage about important activities in Saskatchewan’s PreK-12 education sector. Each issue features a Supporting the Profession column of interest to both beginning teachers and administrators. Articles focus on topics such as mentoring, instructional practices, handling stress and classroom management – to name just a few. The *Saskatchewan Bulletin* is also available online through the e-**Bulletin** and on the connect site at ThisIsTheClassroom.ca.

**ThisIsTheClassroom.ca**

Classrooms today are a buzz of activity, filled with inspiring successes, rewarding achievements and, at times, challenging circumstances, but at the heart of it all are the teachers and students.

ThisIsTheClassroom.ca celebrates, informs and advocates for students, teachers, the profession and publicly funded education. As a central source for news and information relating to education in Saskatchewan, visitors are invited to engage in conversations with one another on topics and stories of interest. Content is presented in an assortment of formats for the viewers’ pleasure: videos, blogs, polls, articles, graphics and more. We welcome you to visit the site, share articles of interest with family and friends, and submit story ideas from your school.

**TeacherTalk**

We are pleased to provide an online discussion forum, TeacherTalk, which facilitates peer-to-peer professional networking and learning opportunities for all teachers in publicly funded schools in Saskatchewan. It provides an avenue to share teaching strategies, discuss educational challenges and collaborate on best practices in education. Visit www.stf.sk.ca and join the conversation!

For complete information on the Federation and the services provided to teachers, please visit www.stf.sk.ca. There is also a section for new teachers with tools and resources to help you navigate your way at www.stf.sk.ca > Teaching in Saskatchewan > Beginning Teachers.
We believe benefit programs are an important means to support the well-being and financial security of teachers and their families.

Your Benefits
As a member of the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation, you are eligible for a wide range of benefits while you are on a continuing, replacement or temporary contract of employment. These benefits include:

- Health Plan
- Dental Plan
- Pension Plan
- Disability Plan
- Group Life Insurance
- Voluntary (Additional) Life Insurance

If you are a substitute teacher, you are eligible for pension benefits and may purchase voluntary life insurance.

All of the above plans are administered by the Federation, except for the dental plan and mandatory group life insurance, which are administered by the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Superannuation Commission.

If you are on a temporary contract of employment, your contract must be for 20 or more teaching days to be eligible for mandatory group life insurance.

How to Enrol
An Enrolment form signed by both you and your employing school board must be submitted to the Federation. This form is available from your school board or the Federation website. Substitute teachers should submit an Enrolment form on the first occasion of substitute teaching. Your enrolment information will be shared with the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Superannuation Commission for the administration of your dental benefits. Each time you sign a new contract of employment a new Enrolment form must be submitted.

When Coverage Begins
Health and dental plan coverage begins after you have completed 20 full or partial days of teaching service, while you are on a contract of employment. Once you have completed the 20-day qualification period, your coverage is applied retroactively to the first paid teaching day.

If you purchase voluntary life insurance, coverage begins on the day the Federation receives your completed application form and your premium payment, provided you meet the requirements for insurability.

All other benefits begin the first day of your contract of employment.
Health and Well-Being

**Health Plan**

Designed to provide health care beyond what your provincial health plan provides, the Members’ Health Plan covers a wide range of eligible medical expenses for you, your spouse and your dependants while you are on a contract of employment. This Plan provides coverage for eligible prescription drugs, vision and other health-care expenses, as well as emergency medical expenses while travelling outside of Canada. This benefit is fully funded by the provincial government – teachers do not pay any premiums to this Plan.

Members of the health plan can register for Great-West Life GroupNet to submit and track most health claims online.

**Dental Plan**

Coverage for a range of dental expenses is provided by the Teachers’ Dental Plan, for you and your family while you are on a contract of employment. This benefit is fully funded by the provincial government – teachers do not pay any premiums to this Plan.

**Pension Plan**

All Saskatchewan teachers who began teaching after July 1, 1980, are members of the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Retirement Plan. The STRP is a defined benefit pension plan which means your pension at retirement will be based on your earnings and service. Monthly pension contributions are deducted from your pay. The provincial government contributes to the pension plan at the rate negotiated through the provincial collective bargaining process.

**Disability Plan**

A monthly disability benefit may be available from the Income Continuance Plan should a medical disability prevent you from working after your paid sick leave benefits have been exhausted. Rehabilitative programs that support the recovery process and return to active employment are also available. You must apply for these benefits. Since teachers pay the premiums, disability benefits from the Income Continuance Plan are not taxable.

**Group Life Insurance**

Life insurance coverage for teachers on a contract of employment is provided by the Teachers’ Group Life Insurance Plan. Coverage is equal to twice the maximum salary for Class VI, rounded to the next one thousand dollars. An equal amount of coverage for accidental death and dismemberment is also provided. The provincial government pays one-half of the premiums with teachers paying the other half through deductions from their pay.

**Portaplan Voluntary (Additional) Life Insurance**

Portaplan is a life insurance plan that offers term life, accident and dependant life insurance for you and your family at group rates. Participation is voluntary and premiums are paid fully by the policyholder.

If you purchase voluntary life insurance, coverage continues even if your contract of employment ends, you change careers or you move to another country, as long as premiums are paid when they are due.

* This benefit plan is administered by the Federation.
Prescription Drug Card
If you are on a contract of employment, you will receive a personalized prescription drug card after the 20-day qualification period. This card can be used for eligible prescriptions at most pharmacies in Canada.

STF Online Services
Log in to the MySTF section of our website, www.stf.sk.ca, to access the following self-service options available to make your life easier.

Profile Management
• Change your name, mailing address or preferred email address.

Health Plan
• Update your spouse/dependant information (for the health plan only).
• Print health claim forms with your personal information already filled in, including your health plan member ID number.
• Register for Great-West Life GroupNet to submit and track most of your health claims online, register for direct deposit and view your Vision Coverage Balances and Next Possible Purchase Date report. To register you will need the plan number (51585) and your personal health plan member ID number.

Pension Plan (STRP)
• Use the STRP Pension Estimator to estimate your pension at various retirement dates based on inputs that you select.
• View your three most recent Annual Pension Statements.

Voluntary Life Insurance (Portaplan)
• View your most recent Portaplan Annual Premium Notice.
• View your current insurance coverage, beneficiary designation and chosen payment method.

Other Online Services
Dental Plan
• Sun Life Financial online member access allows you to submit dental claims online, register for direct deposit and access your dental claims history and other benefit details.


Members of the dental plan must advise the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Superannuation Commission of any changes to their personal information. The Change of Information form for the dental plan can be found on the Commission’s website.

For easy access to information about your benefits, please visit the Federation website, www.stf.sk.ca, or refer to the information booklet available for each plan. If you still have questions, our knowledgeable staff at the Federation will be happy to assist you. Our contact information is on the back of this brochure.

If your inquiry is specific to the dental or group life insurance plan, please contact the administrator of these plans, the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Superannuation Commission, at 1-877-364-8202 or 306-787-6440 in Regina, or visit their website at www.stsc.gov.sk.ca.
Saskatoon – Head Office
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8
T: 306-373-1660 or 1-800-667-7762
F: 306-374-1122
stf@stf.sk.ca

Regina – Appointments Only
Suite 375-3303 Hillsdale Street
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