

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

An Interim Report from the President

At our last Annual General Meeting in October 2007 MUNPA's Executive turned over significantly. The mixture of experience and new blood has encouraged vigorous activity on which I'll report more fully at the 2008 AGM. I hope to see you there. Meanwhile, let me note a few items of interest.

- We have created several new committees to serve you. These include a Services to Members committee responsible for informational events and an Administration committee meant to ensure that messages and inquiries are answered promptly.
- Another *ad hoc* committee undertook to bring the Constitution up to date. The result of their long and hard work is in the package included with this report.
- Human Resources have continued to provide generous assistance to MUNPA, including development of a mail-back card to help make the membership list current.
- HR also provided the new newsletter editor, Dan Stewart, with software that makes his job of composition much easier. You will have noticed the results.
- Under-representation on the Board of Regent's Benefits and Pensions Committees remains a concern. We are preparing a brief on the structure and composition of these committees.
- Along with the Faculty Association and other Memorial unions, we encouraged the Regents to do the right thing by raising survivors' pensions for those whose spouses retired before 1997. We were disappointed by their response.
- When the Regents declined to take this action we joined a coalition of public-sector retirees' associations that has rectification of the pension anomaly as a priority. We hope to be more effective by speaking with a common voice.
- At your Executive's suggestion the University has added MUNPA to the list of internal organizations that take part in the Ceremony of Remembrance each November.
- At our urging the retirees' page on Memorial's web site has been made more welcoming to pensioners, survivors and beneficiaries. We hope you will agree.
- Among MUNPA's responsibilities is the protection of our members' interests. A special instance of the function arose this spring when a retiree was denied full library privileges at Grenfell College. We have sorted the problem out in conjunction with MUNFA.

At the AGM this sampling of initiatives will be reported in more detail. Together with the election of a new Board for 2008-09 in a new place (Bally Haly) and members' opportunity to explore retirees' issues, it should be an interesting and lively meeting. Please join your colleagues on that occasion.

Evan Simpson
MUNPA President, 2007-08