

**Memorial University of Newfoundland
Pensioners' Association (MUNPA)**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Report to the CURAC Atlantic Regional Meeting
October 1, 2011**

MUNPA exists to promote the interests of Memorial's approximately 1,500 retirees and their beneficiaries. My colleagues on the Board work hard and effectively to provide services to our members and to advocate on their behalf. Our administrative assistant has been a great resource in communications with the membership.

In March, MUNPA signed an MOU with the University that defines mutual commitments. The Department of Human Resources (HR) will normally maintain the relationship between MUNPA and Memorial on behalf of the Senior Executive Committee. The MOU provides assurance that the University will continue to provide MUNPA with the following items of in-kind support:

- An office and meeting space in a convenient campus location chosen through mutual consultation
- Telephone services normally available to departments of the University
- E-mail services normally available to departments of the University
- Periodic hardware upgrades to MUNPA's computing, printing and associated equipment
- Periodic software upgrades for this equipment
- Periodic upgrades to the editing software required for producing the MUNPA newsletter
- Routinely required office supplies and stationery
- The right to insert the MUNPA paper newsletter with monthly notices of pension deposits for those individuals who receive paper notification of pension deposits.
- Parking for members of the MUNPA Board.

The University will routinely invite MUNPA to participate in pre-retirement sessions for staff. HR and Marketing and Communications (MarCom) will consider MUNPA as "internal" for purposes of all general communications to the University community, such as Newline.

Presentation of MUNPA Tribute Awards will be hosted annually by the President as part of a suitable ceremony.

We are deeply grateful for the generous support the University continues to provide MUNPA through in-kind assistance and access to administrative systems. The Department of Computing and Communications recently provided us with a new computer, computing and network support, and space on a Memorial server where our electronic records will be stored and better protected. Retirees wanting to be listed in the University on-line directory now have that option. Retirees are also now able to purchase computing hardware and software from the Computer Purchasing Centre at substantial cost savings. Computing and Communications most recently included MUN retirees in their licence agreement which will provide retirees with a free copy of McAfee for home use. The Department of Human Resources provides us with office furniture as needed. The University Senate changed its rules to permit retirees who were eligible for

appointment to Senate committees while employed at Memorial to be appointed to these committees after retirement.

December is a month of celebration beginning with our Christmas Social in St. John's with close to 100 people attending. Our west coast representative also hosts a social for our members in and around the Corner Brook area. The Tribute Awards ceremony is hosted by the President of Memorial, where up to three well deserving retirees are honored by MUNPA.

In addition to planning the Christmas social and the information sessions at our AGM (which attracts approximately 100 members), every couple of months our Services to Members Committee hosts morning coffee and information sessions on items of particular interest to our members, such as travel, dealing with computer viruses, etc.

In addition to the normal committees of the MUNPA Board, we have appointed members to liaise with the various staff and faculty unions at Memorial in an effort to raise the profile of MUNPA with Memorial staff and faculty.

The MUNPA Board endorsed the University's Family Campaign, whose major objective is to raise endowments for scholarships and bursaries. It is our objective to secure sufficient donations to fully endow a scholarship. Of the \$22,500 needed to fully endow a scholarship, approximately \$18,000 has been contributed to date from 30 retirees.

The Board continues to work with other bodies, such as the Colleges and Universities Retirees Associations of Canada. We are pleased that Board member Ed Williams is a member of the CURAC Board. We have recently decided to host the 2013 Annual General Meeting of CURAC. Memorial University is considering signing an MOU with AHED (Academics for Higher Education and Development). Once signed, MUNPA will be the point of contact for the receipt and dissemination of information on AHED projects.

Thanks to the efforts of all members of the Board, we are able to promote MUNPA more broadly throughout the University, keep the interests and needs of Memorial's retirees and beneficiaries in the forefront, and work diligently to address them.

Doreen Whalen