

UVRA BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 6/2011-5/2012

This year, the Committee's activity has focused entirely on the Extended Health/Travel Insurance proposal submitted by Johnson Inc. to the Tri-Universities (UBC, SFU, UVic) Retirees Associations.

Note: UVRA is not able to negotiate on behalf of all UVic Retirees. The University of Victoria renews the retiree insurance package with Pacific Blue Cross at the same time as it renews the employees' packages. Unlike some other Canadian universities (UBC, UofT) the UVic retirees' package is separate, and different from the employees' policy. The Committee therefore keeps UVic Human Resources informed of our discussions.

Initially, the Johnson proposal was based, with only minor amendments, on the plan of the Alberta Retired Teachers Association. UBC chose to recommend the package as a possible alternative to their membership in March 2012, in part as a strategic maneuver to try to gain amendments to their existing agreement with Sun Life.

UVRA, on the other hand, had several fundamental questions regarding the proposal, thanks to a detailed comparison prepared by Lois Jones (formerly of UVic HR). Without a response to those questions, it was felt inadvisable to recommend any next steps to the UVRA Board.

As a result of a UVRA Board recommendation at the May meeting, a meeting was held on May 22nd of this year between Johnson representatives, David Docherty, Lois Jones, and myself. Following that, we have now entered a new stage in our negotiations with Johnson, which is aimed at defining a package more specifically aligned to the needs of UVic Retirees.

It is to be anticipated that any results of these discussions would be finalized early in 2013

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Liddell