

## Benefits Committee Report -- 2014

Once again, the predominant issue has been the initiation of the Extended Health, Dental and Travel insurance policy with Johnson Inc. The policy came into effect on July 1st, 2013. For a period of two months, UVRA members without existing coverage were able to sign onto the new plan without providing medical evidence. Members in an existing **group** plan were, and are, eligible to join the UVRA-Johnson plan within 60 days of terminating their existing plan, also without the need to answer medical questions. Details are at: <http://web.uvic.ca/retirees/benefits-proposal.html>

*Note: All questions about this policy must be directed to Johnsons. UVRA cannot give personal advice. The following information is therefore summative only, reflecting a variety of individually-determined needs. Therefore, it cannot be construed as guidance for those considering joining this plan.*

As of the date of writing, policies in-force in the UVRA-Johnson plan are:

**Extended Health Coverage:** 104 policies (+ 1 in process)

- \$2,000 Drug Plan: 93 policies // \$4,000 Drug Plan: 11 policies
- EHC w/ Prestige Travel: 89 policies // EHC w/o Prestige Travel: 15 policies

**Dental:** 59 policies in-force

- Basic Plan: 11 policies // Enhanced Plan: 48 policies

In recent weeks, the UBC Association of Professors Emeriti has adopted an almost identical version of the same policy, for recommendation to its members and other UBC retired professors and eligible retirees within the next three weeks. This will have the benefit of increasing the potential pool of subscribers to what will be a joint plan, further stabilizing the viability of the plan.

In January, at the invitation of Johnsons, Los Jones (formerly Benefits Officer, Human Resources at UVic) and I met with their representatives and a group of interested SFU Retirees Association board members, to discuss our experience and respond to questions. So far, SFURA are still considering the option to join the joint plan with a similar policy (minor variations under the same collective policy umbrella are acceptable, according to Johnson).

As this will be my final report, I wish to thank my fellow committee members for their support and advice, particularly in the early months of my being Chair: Dave Clode, Trevor Matthews, Gerry Poulton, Winona Pugh, Cled Thomas. Special thanks for her uniquely important contribution to the negotiations with Johnson must go to Lois Jones.

I look forward to handing-over to our next occupant of this important chair at some point in the next month(s). Much is still to be done in terms of achieving a closer relationship to the University and greater benefits for UVic retirees, their partners and our affiliate members.

Respectfully submitted

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Peter Liddell