

The Association Executive Report 2006

The UVic PEA is represented on the Professional Employees Association Executive by Bill McGhee and John Foxgord. In addition, Tom Gore serves as the Association's Secretary-Treasurer. UVic members serve on a number of Association committees, John Foxgord is on Grants & Donations, Bill McGhee is on Staff Relations, Organizing and Finance & Investment; Tom Gore is on Policy Review, Finance & Investment and Education and Lynn McCaughey is on Education.

With a total of 2,651 members, the last year saw the PEA grow by 226. UVic led the growth with an additional 83 people, bringing our chapter to 698 members. In spite of this continued growth, the PEA needs new bargaining units so the organization can become even more effective. A newly formed Organizing Committee has met and identified independent schools and colleges; libraries; and parallel professional groups as target groups for organizing new bargaining units. A highlight of the past year saw the PEA gaining certification for the lawyers at the Law Society of BC, making them our tenth chapter.

After a period of very difficult bargaining in the face of government imposed deadlines, a new **CHSS** collective agreement was ratified by 100% of PEA members in the bargaining association; a new **FMEP** collective agreement was ratified by 85 per cent; a new **PGSD** collective agreement was ratified by 91%; a new **GLP** collective agreement was ratified by 92 per cent; a new **LSS** collective agreement was ratified by 60 per cent and a new **UVic** collective agreement was ratified by 96 per cent. The Association Executive thanks our wonderful staff for their exemplary efforts and we thank all bargaining committee members for their work during this round.

As a result of a motion approved at the 2005 convention, the Association now holds biennial conventions and an education conference in alternate years. This year the PEA held its first Education Conference in Victoria with Sebastien Anderson from Victory Square Law Offices presenting a session on collective bargaining and related labour law while Vaughn Palmer talked about recent political events in BC and Stuart Ellis-Meyers led a session on leadership skills and red rubber noses. The feedback from members was that this was a very good event.

Having looked at issues involving LTD claims, all chapters are encouraged to

negotiate a Claims Review Committee, or other similar mechanism, into future collective agreements. At the same time the Association will seek legislative changes to provide better consumer protection for disabled employees and the Association intends to fund access to up to three hours of legal advice to members denied LTD benefits, subject to a review of the proposal by the Association's legal counsel. The Association has introduced a bursary program and both of this year's winners, Jillian Ashenbrenner and Heather McRae, are UVic members

The Association executive recently approved its 2007 Budget, predicting a 12% increase in revenue to \$1,421,932 and a 12.5% decrease in spending to \$1,330,312. The 2007 Association Convention will be held on Friday, May 25th and Saturday, May 26th at the Laurel Point Inn in Victoria.