

## Association Executive Report - 2010

2010 has been a year of changes and challenges for the PEA. Most chapters have been at the bargaining table, with most agreements being settled under PSEC's net 0%, 2 year mandate. In addition to this some chapters (Government Licensed Professionals, St. Margaret's School, Legal Services Society Lawyers, Health Science Professionals, Community Health Services and Support Staff) have had the additional challenge of layoffs and reduction in working hours. The effect of this was brought home to the Association Executive when its Chair, Kathy Kendall, had to step down after being laid off in a decimation of the Legal Services Society Lawyers chapter.

In 2009 the PEA Executive had decided to amalgamate the Richmond office with the Victoria office, and to pursue the purchase of office space in the Victoria area. That search continues, and leasehold options are also being considered, with the office amalgamation being completed in the early 2011. The PEA has also seen a number of staff changes this year. Scott McCannell joined the team, serving as LRO for us here at UVic as well as St. Margaret's School. Rhianon Bray moved from an Admin Assistant in the Victoria office to being a LRO (for the Health Science Professionals, Oil & Gas Commission and Okanagan Regional Library). Kyle Russell, the PEA Communications Officer left to start an MBA at York University, after being responsible for the PEA being named "Best CyberUnion" for 2009 and 2010. He is replaced by Kate Hildebrand who has joined the PEA from the provincial government.

Finally, it was announced in September that the PEA's long-serving Executive Director, Jodi Jensen, would be stepping down at the beginning of next year after years of dedicated service to the union. The search for her replacement is underway.

This year saw the launch of the PEA's "Giving Back" campaign, in which PEA members were asked to nominate, and then vote on, charitable donations. Nearly 300 members cast their votes in our first e-ballot election for 14 potential recipient organizations, with the top five receiving a donation of \$2,000. They were

- British Columbia SPCA
- Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness
- Parent Support Services Society of BC
- Salvation Army
- Victoria Women's Transition House

In May we had a successful Education Conference in Vancouver where 75 members and six staff Members discussed a variety of topics including member engagement (Pond Parties!) and received reports from the staff and executive. Next year will see the bi-annual PEA convention in Victoria on April 8th & 9th. We also look forward to the launch of a new Strategic Marketing plan for the PEA as well as further developments on the office location and the appointment of a new Executive Director.

Jonathan Foweraker, Association Executive