

Report from the Association Executive
November 2012

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This has been, and continues to be a year of heavy bargaining, with a number of chapters involved in negotiating new contracts. Bargaining has helped to bring PEA into the media more this year, particularly around job action involving the Government Licensed Professionals (GLP) chapter, and our support of CUPE job action on campus. Both UVic and GLP have come to tentative agreements, with other chapters still at the bargaining table. The Association is also looking into increasing bargaining power and communication and coordination with other unions through a move to join the BC Federation of Labour. A membership vote to that affect is anticipated in a few months.

In the past year, many Association resources were targeted to collective bargaining, including staff time, and finances. Because of this, the Executive made the difficult decision to defer the 2012 Education Conference. The 2013 Convention will be held in Victoria this Spring. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

The Association Executive continues to support the PEA staff in their commitment to being responsive to member needs. These have taken the form of online forums, a new and improved Professional available in hard copy and online, Local Rep trainings, and the publishing of the Collective Bargaining Guide. In May, the Association launched the Local Rep website: pea.org/localreps, providing information and educational resources, including a quarterly email newsletter.

The PEA believes in giving back to the communities where our members live and work and to organizations that make a real difference. This past year, the Grants and Donations Committee distributed \$9,500 to community organizations. A full list of recipients is available on the PEA website: www.pea.org As well, \$12,000 in bursaries and scholarships were given to students and members. The names of these recipients were announced in the latest Professional.

Thanks in large part to Brett Harper, communications officer , who is responsible for the Association's online presence, the PEA won a 2012 Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM) Award for best

cyberunion. As well, Facebook fans of PEA increased by 37% this year, and PEA now has a twitter account: twitter.com/peaonline.

For more information about Association accomplishments for the past year, see the 2011 Annual Report in the Professional section of the PEA website.