

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners (ADRP)

NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Number 4, November 2014

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

University Hall, MacDonald Building, Dalhousie University

Thursday, 11 December 2014

1:30 Meet & Greet

2 – 3:30 Meeting

(Elevator available)

**Reception to follow, 3:30 to 5:30,
Earl of Dalhousie Pub, University Club**

**Membership fees for 2015 may be paid at the meeting
(if not already paying through Monthly Payroll Deduction).**

Day Parking tickets for ADRP members are available from the Security Office, McCain Building

NOTE: If you change your e-mail address, postal address, or telephone number please send an email to ADRP@dal.ca or ADRP Tel: (902)494-7174 to alert the Membership Chair.

Table of Contents

Cover & Table of Contents	1
From the Editor	2
General Meeting December 11, 2014 Agenda	3
Minutes of Annual General Meeting April 24, 2014	4 - 6
President's Report	6 - 7
Treasurer's Report	7 - 8
Benefits Committee Report	8 - 9
Communications Committee Report	9 - 10
Membership Committee Report	10 - 11
Report on Pension Issues	11 - 12
CURAC Report	13
SCANS Report	13 - 14
Do You Favour Creating an ADRP Academic Award?	14 - 15
Membership Payroll Deduction Application Form	16
ADRP Mission and Objectives	17

From the Editor

As you are aware, the committee, organizational representation, and dissemination work of the ADRP is carried out by member volunteers. There is no paid help. As you can see from this Newsletter, those members commit significant time and brain power to issues of relevance for us all, with some Board members wearing more than one “hat”. The General Meeting on December 11, 2014, provides you with an opportunity to add your voice to the discussion of issues highlighted in this Newsletter. Such feedback is essential to the continued healthy growth of any system or organization. As well, your input will always be heard via adrp@dal.ca.

You may have noted that Dalhousie University was recently named one of **Canada’s top 100 Employers for 2014**. One of the primary reasons cited (link at <http://adrp.dal.ca>) was “...retired employees can also stay active through the Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners (ADRP) which organizes social events and represents its interests on the University’s pensions and benefits committees”. Do you have any thoughts on that?

To support our efforts to increase the ADRP membership to the more than 50% of retirees level referred to in the **Membership Report** (pp. 10-11), you might think about helping recruitment by bringing a non-member retiree or a soon-to-be retired colleague to the General Meeting. Perhaps print off a membership application form (as well as that for the **memory-free dues-payment method**) from <http://adrp.dal.ca> to further encourage joining. Following the meeting, take them along to the reception at the Earl of Dalhousie. You never know who you might meet as you enjoy some seasonal cheer, and perhaps we will end up with new members to bolster our membership count.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome **Joanne Clovis**, a recently retired professor of the Faculty of Dentistry, as a Co-Editor of this newsletter. Joanne graciously has agreed to come aboard to learn the ropes of the Newsletter production process as well as the active business of the ADRP.

Denise Sommerfeld, Co-editor

Editorial Policy: The ADRP intends to publish the newsletter every three months. We hope the newsletter will serve the following purposes: To provide pertinent information; To provide a forum for the free exchange of views on issues relevant to our membership; and to serve as a documentary record of matters relating to the ADRP. The Editorial Board, under the ultimate direction of the ADRP Board, takes responsibility for the contents of the newsletter. Signed contributions will take the form of short articles and letters to the editor; these will normally represent the opinions of the author, and need not represent the views of the ADRP. Anonymous material will not be considered for publication. The Editorial Board retains the right to edit or reject contributed material and to elicit similar and opposing views surrounding any issue raised.

The Editorial Board: Denise Sommerfeld, Co-Editor; Joanne Clovis, Co-editor
Ex-officio: Carolyn Savoy, ADRP President; Randy Barkhouse, ADRP Secretary
 ADRP Phone (902) 404-7174 E-mail adrp@dal.ca Web Site <http://adrp.dal.ca>
Postal Address: Association of Retirees and Pensioners,
 Rm. 2831, Life Science Building, Dalhousie University
 1459 Oxford St. PO Box 15000
 Halifax. NS B3H 4R2

DRAFT AGENDA
ADRP GENERAL MEETING
2:00-3:30 pm on THURSDAY, December 11, 2014
University Hall, MacDonald Building

1. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda (Carolyn Savoy)
2. Recognition of deceased members (Carolyn Savoy)
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 24,2014 (Carolyn Savoy)
 - a. Approval
 - b. Matters arising
4. President's Report. (Carolyn Savoy)
5. Treasurer's Report (Anne Dunsworth)
6. Reports from Standing Committees (*discussion of these reports is greatly encouraged*):
 - a. Benefits Committee (David Tindall)
 - b. Communications Committee
 - i. Website (Randy Barkhouse)
 - ii. Newsletter (Joanne Clovis for Denise Sommerfeld)
 - c. Membership Committee (ColinStuttard)
 - d. Pension Advisory Committee (Randy Barkhouse)
7. Representatives' Reports
 - a. SCANS (Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia) (Colin Stuttard)
 - b. CURAC (College and University Retirees Associations of Canada) (Randy Barkhouse)
8. Any Other Business
 - a. Discussion of potential for an ADRP Academic Award Fund.
9. Adjournment

Draft Minutes
ADRP Annual General Meeting
2:00-3:30 pm, Thursday, April 24, 2014
University Hall, MacDonald Building

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**
 With about 35 members present, 1st VP Sommerfeld called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. By motion (Stuttard/Barry) the agenda was ADOPTED as circulated.

2. **Recognition of deceased members:**
 The Chair asked for a minute of silence to recognize the recent deaths of members - Ruth-Ellen May, Blanche Potter-Creighton.

3. **Minutes of the General Meeting, December 12, 2013:** By motion (Stuttard/Ryall), the minutes were APPROVED as circulated.

4. **President's Report:**
 President Savoy's report had appeared in the newsletter, noting the work of board and committee members on behalf of the general membership. In it she had noted the excellent new travel insurance benefit secured by those serving on the the ADRP Benefits Committee and the Retiree Benefits Advisory Committee. Both rates and terms appear excellent in comparison to alternatives.

 President Savoy's report also remarked on the draft Memorandum of Understanding sent to Dalhousie's President Florizone as a follow-up to an initial meeting with him in early November.

 The report closed with mention of the need to grow our membership in order to better represent, and be seen to represent, Dalhousie's retirees and pensioners. All members were urged to assist recruiting those from their former departments who have not yet joined.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 Colin Stuttard reported on behalf of Treasurer Anne Dunsworth who was unable to attend. Her report had been previously circulated in the newsletter. It noted the increase in membership and dues revenue, but also the substantial increase in postal rates. With increased reliance on circulation of the newsletter by e-mail, the effect of the latter should be mitigated. Member Morris Givener commented that he was much opposed to the increase in postal rates.

 On motion (Stuttard/Rodger), John Rutherford was appointed to continue as auditor of the ADRP Financial Report.

6. **Standing Committee Reports:** At this point 2nd VP John Barry assumed the chair.
 - A. **Benefits** – David Tindall referred to his written report in the Newsletter, and noted that although the new travel insurance came into effect as of February 1, 2014, the online brochure had not yet been updated to reflect that coverage or its terms. He also mentioned the matter of premium holiday eligibility for a surviving spouse, and whether it could continue to be based on the late

pensioner's birth date, rather than that of the surviving spouse. This question was still before the RBAC. On motion (Tindall/Huber) the report was adopted.

A special motion of thanks to the Benefits Committee (Farmer/Rodger) was also passed.

B. Communications Committee

- i. **Website** - Randy Barkhouse reiterated that the ADRP website (<http://www.adrp.dal.ca/index.html>) is updated regularly, with news on upcoming events, pensions, benefits, and reports and articles. Each issue of the ADRP newsletter is also posted to the web site, and a link made to each issue of the CURAC newsletter when released.
- ii. **Newsletter** – In her report circulated previously in the newsletter, editor Sommerfeld noted the use of e-mail addresses to circulate the newsletter to most members. Keeping the membership chair informed of any change in that address is therefore essential. Circulation by e-mail is far quicker, less expensive, and less laborious than printing and mailing hard copies.

C. Membership – Colin Stuttard reported a paid membership of 420 with 355 paying by monthly dues deduction. The task of contacting members in arrears is time consuming. Use of the monthly deduction is greatly preferred as it requires no further effort by the member, and much less for the membership chair.

8. Pension Advisory Committee:

Paul Huber commented on his extensive written report in the Newsletter. The letter sent to all pensioners by Morneau-Sheppell, under contract from Dalhousie, as a process to audit pension payments eligibility, had a few glitches. It aroused suspicion among many pensioners of being a scam since it did not come from Dalhousie, and did not ask for responses to be sent to Dalhousie. Quite a few pensioners did not respond. Dalhousie will be making a further round among those non-respondents.

Huber remarked that the Joint Committee, established under the most recent collective agreements with the employee groups, to review the terms and governance of our Plan, had yet to meet, some two years after it was supposed to commence. He mentioned the upcoming actuarial valuation which, given favourable returns to January 31, 2014, should have some encouraging news. However there was also bad news. Pensioners were living longer than predicted, and new mortality tables to reflect that would add significant liabilities to the valuation.

Huber also commented that the trend towards balance in our pension plan was better than reflected in the recent annual report from the administration. The 2010 figures reflected a smoothing that increased assets ("phantom assets"), and removal of smoothing in the 2013 report made an actual improvement in the going concern deficit look like a worsening.

Huber also commented on the discretion exercised by the RTF trustees with respect to the award of catch-up indexation. He thought in fact that the trustees had acted in

accordance with the Plan's funding status given the effect of the new mortality tables.

- 9. Nominating Committee** (Barkhouse (chair), Butt, Farmer, Meagher-Stewart): The Committee's written report, published in the Newsletter, was amended by the addition of further nominations: 1st VP (rather than Member-at-Large), Paul Huber; 2ndVP, Philip Welch; 3rd VP, Dianne Pothier; Members-at-Large, David Mercer, Doug Rasmusson. After the requisite three calls for further nominations from the floor, the slate of nominees was declared elected:

President, Carolyn Savoy; VP1, Paul Huber; VP2, Philip Welch; VP3, Dianne Pothier; Secretary (and Immediate Past President), Randy Barkhouse; Treasurer, Anne Dunsworth; Members-at-Large, Pat Farmer, Donna Meagher-Stewart, David Mercer, Doug Rasmusson; Chairs of Standing Committees (and thereby also Board members-at-large), David Tindall (Benefits), Denise Sommerfeld (Communications), Colin Stuttard (Membership). Paul Huber continues as our observer on the Pension Advisory Committee.

10. Representatives' Reports:

- A. SCANS (Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia)** – In addition to his written report (see April Newsletter), Philip Welch, a former President of SCANS, commented that the special resolution of April 11, 2014, had not passed, so ADRP may still appoint a member of its board to that of SCANS, and the new Board of ADRP will have to decide who to appoint. SCANS continues to be very active.
- B. CURAC (College and University Retirees' Associations of Canada)** – Barkhouse noted that CURAC has an active Board, and expects the upcoming annual conference at McMaster will be very informative.

- 11. Adjournment:** On motion by Stuttard the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

President's Report: November 16, 2014
Carolyn Savoy

I have continued to pursue getting an agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding with Dalhousie University.

We had a request from an ADRP member to pursue direct deposit of his pension to his international bank account. We pursued this and now have support from Human Resources to allow direct deposit of pensions to international bank accounts. It is currently a work in progress as it is not a procedure at this time.

The ADRP Board is in discussions about establishing an academic award for a current Dalhousie student. Further explanation is included in this newsletter (pp. 14-15). Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

The ADRP continues to work to improve relations with Dalhousie University and to advocate on behalf of our members. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Treasurer's Report, November 18, 2014 : Anne Dunsworth

Financial Updates:

Interim update regarding expenditures for the 2014 Budget: An interim update will be presented at the General Meeting in December.

Checking Account: As of November 16, 2014, the BMO checking account balance is \$6,306.28. Of that money, \$786.02 is being held in trust for a future Atlantic CURAC conference.

Memorial Travel Bursary: An annual travel bursary for attendance at CURAC, or other retiree/pensioner relevant conferences, the **Blanche Potter-Creighton Memorial Travel Bursary** has been established. This bursary will come from ADRP's yearly budgeted Travel Expenditures money but will not be taken from the portion of the Travel Expenditures received as grant money. The yearly amount of the bursary will be dependent on monies budgeted for Travel Expenditures.

Investment Report: We have 3 'Cashable RateRiser GIC's' with BMO. Their total current value is \$32,881.83. One of the GIC's, in the amount of \$20,000, reaches its maturity in December of this year. At the November 4, 2014, ADRP Board of Director's Meeting, re-investment options were presented and discussed. It was decided to re-invest this money as a Rate Riser GIC again.

Membership Dues: Our current membership dues being paid currently, project well towards meeting the budget goal of \$8,260 for 2014. With regard to 2013, the amount of dues collected was \$7,514.82.

Signing Authority with BMO:

As of October 23, 2014, Donna Meagher-Stewart, a Member-at-Large on the ADRP Board of Directors, has Signing Authority for ADRP, along with the Treasurer and Membership Chairperson.

Travel Expense Claim from 2014 CURAC Conference:

One travel expense claim is outstanding due to extenuating circumstances. Arrangements are currently underway to have this expedited. This will be the first Travel Expense Claim payment to be issued from the Blanche Potter-Creighton Memorial Travel Bursary.

Grant Money Request to Human Resources for CURAC Conference:

As was done in previous years, and with the approval secured at the November 4, 2014 ADRP Board of Directors Meeting, this coming January a request will be sent to the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, Katherine Frank, requesting grant money to assist with costs of attending the annual CURAC Conference.

CURAC Membership Dues:

A cheque was sent in October, in the amount of \$300.00, to cover ADRP's membership dues for 2014/2015.

Registry of Joint Stock Companies:

The yearly fee, in the amount of \$30.25, for ADRP registration with the Registry of Joint Stocks Companies, was paid in October.

Report of the Benefits Committee (BenComm) - November 16, 2014
David Tindall, Chair

Cross-Experience rating of the Blue Cross Plan:

No progress on this issue since our last report in September. As reported in April, the DFA committed their support of our proposal, however other employee groups and the Employment Benefits Committee itself have not made a decision.

Semi-Private Hospital Coverage:

Just as a reminder, the Plan's Semi-Private Hospital Coverage ceased as of September 1st. We are advised that Semi-Private coverage, if available, will be provided at no charge, if recommended by the attending physician.

Travel Insurance Coverage:

The Travel Brochure detailing coverage has been updated. For the latest information, see the Human Resources page at:

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/hr/employee-resources/employee-benefits/travel-coverage.html>

If you don't already have the "SSQ travel card", you should print it (at that webpage) before travelling.

Dalplex Rates for Retirees:

As the situation stands, ADRP members now get treated no better than over-60 members of the general community – and much worse than they were as regular employees! We continue to pursue the Administration to open up the restriction on access hours that presently applies to our members.

Access to University Club Facilities:

You are reminded that all members of ADRP are now members of the Club without having to pay a membership fee. Further information can be found at **www.daluclub.ca**.

As always, we look forward to your suggestions and contributions!

The **BenComm Membership** is unchanged:

Randy Barkhouse, John Barry, Michael Bradfield (Secretary), Dianne Pothier, Carolyn Savoy, David Tindall (Chair), Peter Wallace and Philip Welch.

The ADRP nominees to the Retirees Benefits Advisory Committee (RBAC) are: Michael Bradfield (Secretary), Dianne Pothier and David Tindall (Chair).

From the BoG: Lee Crowell (Vice-Chair) and Darryl Warren with Kirk Shand (Mercer) as advisor.

Communications Report, November 2014

Webmaster Report - Randy Barkhouse

ADRP's web page (ADRP.DAL.CA) provides members with an archive of information on pension and benefits issues, the latest and past issues of the ADRP and CURAC newsletter, plus notices of upcoming events, and other information relevant to retirees.

ADRP
Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners

Site Navigation

- » [About Us](#)
- » [Mission, Objectives, etc.](#)
- » [Officers and Board](#)
- » [Information Services](#)
- » [Constitution & By-Laws](#)
- » [Membership Application](#)
- » [Minutes AGM Meetings](#)
- » [Upcoming Events](#)
- » [ADRP Newsletters](#)
- » [Work in Progress](#)
- » [SCANS Site](#)
- » [Links](#)
- » [Site Map](#)
- » [Contact Us](#)
- » [Webmaster](#)
- » [Disclaimer](#)

Important Messages/Announcements Relating to Current Event

ADRP December General Meeting

NEW!

Thursday, December 11, 2:00-3:30
University Hall
Meet and Greet at 1:30
Reception Following in Earl of Dalhousie Pub

[Request for Research Study Participation](#)
[Payment of Dues by Monthly Pension Deduction](#)
[ADRP Newsletter, posted September 2014](#)

NEW! [CURAC Newsletter - Linked October 2014](#)

[Why Dalhousie was selected as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2014 - ADRPI, posted December 2013](#)

[Pensions](#) [Reports and Articles](#) [Benefits](#) [CURAC](#)

Contact information for the ADRP executive, the constitution and by-laws, and a link to the SCANS site are also provided. Regular updates are posted to provide members current information.

Newsletter – Denise Sommerfeld

The ADRP normally produces 4 issues of the ADRP newsletter annually, with reports from the Board and its Committees, and articles related to issues of concern to the membership.

As you are aware from the previous issue, henceforth the newsletter **will be circulated by email only**. We continue to make every attempt to keep the formatting of the e-mail copy user-friendly for newer as well as ‘more senior’ computers, as well as for website accessibility.

We are **very very** slowly getting the cooperation of those members who, when they originally became members, had and chose the option to request hard copy of the newsletter be mailed to them due to lack of computer accessibility or simply for personal preference. If that sounds like it might apply to you, please read the **Membership Report** below and contact Colin Stuttard with a preferred e-mail address **which will be for ADRP use only** – we do not share with others. Your cooperation will save Colin much effort and time in making those 50+ follow-up telephone calls.

We do realize that there are a few more senior members who simply may not be able to access a computer personally, through a family member, or a local library. We will accommodate those folks with mailed copies because your continued membership, and that of all our members is definitely valued.

Membership Committee Report – November 19, 2014 Colin Stuttard, Chair

There has been minimum “turnover” since my last report and current members still include **366 paying dues by monthly pension deductions**, another **68 who pay by cash or cheque**, and one honorary member, for a total of **436**. So we remain tantalisingly close to our goal of having at least 50% of Dalhousie retirees and pensioners as members of our Association. Most members probably could contact one or two past colleagues who also have retired, but may not yet have joined the ADRP. With a little combined recruitment we should be able to achieve that elusive goal and gain more leverage in our struggles to improve the benefits available to our members.

Our Newsletter appeal directed at 61 “postal” members yielded three new email addresses, and one request to continue receiving a paper copy. Follow-up phoning is now indicated.

It is never too late to help us out. Call me at 902- 429-0252 and let me know your preferred e-mail address, or better yet, e-mail me (c.stuttard@ns.sympatico.ca).

To any pensioner members who have not yet registered for the **memory-free dues-payment method**, please seriously consider doing so [a copy of the monthly deductions application form is at the end of this Newsletter]. And please remember: You only need to do this **ONCE**.

For those without a Dal pension, paying dues (\$20) by December for the following year would be most appreciated, as the fiscal year of the Association is the calendar year.

Also, as a retiree you can continue to use your Dal ID card (e.g., for Library access), which can be updated at the DAL ID card office located in Howe Hall, 6230 Coburg Rd.

A reminder too that membership dues to the ADRP are not income tax deductible as the ADRP is neither a registered charity nor an employee union.

Report on Pension Issues to the ADRP GM – November 16, 2014
Randy Barkhouse (for Paul Huber, ADRP Representative to the
Pension Advisory Committee)

This reports provides an update on the Pension Plan's funding status, indexation payment possibilities, and the deliberations of the special Joint Committee on pensions.

The latest Pension Plan valuation report presented to the Pension Advisory Committee on November 5th had very encouraging news. A year of stellar asset returns in the year to March 31, 2014 resulted in a funding status of the \$1 billion Pension Plan that was greatly improved. This occurred in spite of a one-time addition of \$59 million in liabilities due to adoption of new Canadian public sector mortality tables, which reflected the increase in longevity over the past several decades.

The going concern deficit decreased to \$68 million, comprised of a \$100 million deficit in the Pension Trust Fund (PTF) for active employees, and a \$32 million surplus in the Retirees Trust Fund (RTF) from which pensions are paid. When an active employee retires a transfer is made from the PTF to the RTF sufficient to pay the pension for the new retiree.

The former 13% deficit in the 3-year average of asset returns for the RTF, accumulated during 2009 and 2010, is down to about 3%. This deficit must be completely made up before automatic indexation can resume. It is possible that some automatic indexation will resume in January 2016 unless another sharp decline in asset returns should occur in the year ending June 30, 2015.

Recent market volatility shows how quickly the asset picture can change. Good equity market returns from April to August were wiped out in September and early October, but a swing to positive returns has reduced much of the loss. Your Dalhousie Plan's assets

include equity investments, fixed income investments, and other investments. That mix is intended to reduce the effect of returns for any single investment class. Over a dozen external investment firms manage these funds for Dalhousie, reducing the dependence on returns from any one firm in any investment class. The Plan trustees exercise oversight of asset management.

No announcement has yet been made with respect to any discretionary award of catch-up indexation by the RTF trustees. That may be known by the December 11, 2014 date of ADRP's general meeting.

The impact on the Dalhousie operating budget of the continuing going concern deficit is unreduced. The going concern deficit decreased, but the required payments to amortize that deficit have not. Although Dalhousie's plan was granted solvency deficit relief, when a plan has a solvency deficit, provincial pension regulations do not allow a reduction in going concern deficit amortization payments. That continues an \$8 million annual charge on the operating budget until the going concern deficit is paid off. This rule does not encourage any discretionary payments from the RTF that would work to continue the going concern deficit although that deficit is entirely in the PTF.

The Joint Committee on the Pension Plan continues to meet. The Board representatives introduced four proposals for changes in the Plan. Only two have had detailed presentations, but the Dalhousie Faculty Association, now bargaining a new Collective Agreement, has announced to its members the rejection of all four proposals.

The rules and funding required for indexation continue to be of interest to the Joint Committee, and of noticeably heightened awareness by the employee groups. This awareness is encouraging as it indicates that the negative effect of declining purchasing power during retirement is understood. Whether this understanding will result in any proposed changes to Plan rules is uncertain. The Joint Committee has yet to formally discuss indexation, or any of the proposed areas of governance outlined in the agreement to set up the Committee.

The March 31, 2014, valuation, the Annual Financial Report to June 30, 2014, for both the RTF and PTF, and the report to retirees from the RTF trustees should all be posted to the Financial Services web site before our December 11, 2014, General Meeting.

Members are encouraged to read them and to ask questions at our meeting or by e-mail.

I close this report by mentioning another remarkable recovery in addition to that continuing for the Dalhousie Pension Plan. ADRP's regular observer on the Pension Advisory Committee, **Paul Huber**, surprised everyone, not just by attending the November 5th meeting, but by walking up three floors in the Mona Campbell Building to get to it. Whether Paul's previous fitness regimen aided his recovery from almost three months of hospitalization is unknown. Both Board and employee group representatives were delighted to see again this multi-decade attendee of the PAC.

CURAC Representative's Report: November 17, 2014
Randy Barkhouse

The College and University Retiree Association of Canada (<<http://www.curac.ca>>) to which ADRP belongs continues to be very useful to its member organizations. The annual conference at McMaster in June was summarized in the September issue of the ADRP newsletter, and also reported in CURAC's own fall newsletter linked on the ADRP web site.

In addition to providing "birds of a feather" information on typical issues experienced by all member associations – e.g., dealing with university administration on pensions and benefits, membership and board challenges, projects – the CURAC board has initiated reports on seniors issues and commenced lobbying of federal and provincial politicians respecting them. Among the latter are the Canada Health Transfer and In-Home Care.

The extremely modest CURAC annual dues were raised this year to \$.75 per member from \$.50 to enable the CURAC board to fulfill its mandate. Maximum dues are capped at \$300, which now applies to ADRP given our membership count. This remains a bargain rate for the utility of membership in CURAC.

The annual CURAC conference for 2015 will be held in late May at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Although member organizations may have only one official delegate in attendance, the conference is open to anyone. At \$150 for registration, it has been a bargain.

The head of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) this year is Dr. Chris Simpson, a 1992 Dalhousie Medical School graduate, and cardiologist from Queen's University and the Kingston General Hospital, with a special mission to make seniors' care an issue in the 2015 federal election. It would not be surprising to see him making a keynote presentation at the CURAC conference. His inaugural address in August 2014 to the CMA, in which he articulates policy issues related to the health care of seniors in Canada, can be found at: <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/about-us/CS-Inaugural-Speech-CMA-2014.pdf#search=dr%2E%20chris%20simpson>.

Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS): Nov. 19, 2014
ADRP Representative: Colin Stuttard

The fall term's 25 courses are now mostly finished, and all seem to have been very well received. Curriculum Committee members have worked very hard to ensure all went smoothly, and several have been very busy compiling a list of courses for the coming winter and spring terms. Registration for the winter term will begin in the 2nd week of January, and the list of courses on offer will be available in December on the SCANS website (www.thescans.ca)

The board has still been experiencing some misunderstandings and rancour, despite the circulation of draft “Guidelines for SCANS email use”. However, at the last meeting (November 18) one experienced member declared the meeting to have been the best he had attended and felt greatly encouraged. The board recognizes that currently it has too many members (up to 20 are authorized by the existing by-laws) and has not been performing efficiently. Re-structuring proposals are likely to be a priority item on the new board’s agenda after the Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled for March 10, 2015.

In the meantime, after an initial call for board nominations had been distributed to all SCANS members, the board agreed to democratize and render transparent the nomination process. The deadline for the Nominating Committee to receive nominations (including brief personal statements) will be February 1st; the list of nominees will then be distributed to all SCANS members in good standing at least 30 days before the AGM. The current by-laws call for a board with a minimum of 12 and maximum of 20 members, comprising four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), the past-president, an ADRP appointee, and between six (or seven, if the ADRP appointee had been elected an officer) and 14 directors at large. Since all board members have one-year terms, all elected positions become vacant and are refilled by election at the AGM. As usual, nominations can be made from the floor before votes are taken at the AGM.

I’d like to encourage all ADRP members, who are also College members, to participate in the process of finding candidates for positions on the SCANS board next March, especially to fill the elected officer positions. A new call for nominations will be distributed from the SCANS office and should soon appear on the website www.thescans.ca. Self-nomination is perfectly acceptable. I’ll be happy to respond to any questions you may have (Tel: 902-429-0252).

Do You Favour Creating an ADRP Academic Award?

Your ADRP Board would like to hear if members support establishing an ADRP Academic Award. Several university retiree associations across Canada have created such awards, and there may be good reasons for ADRP to do likewise.

Although we individually, as retirees from the university, may strongly support Dalhousie’s academic mission, few of us have the means to fund an award to demonstrate that support. Collectively it would be possible for us to show that support by contributing small amounts toward the necessary capital fund.

For each \$1000 of an annual award, an endowment of just under \$24,000 is required by terms of the University’s endowment spending policy. A \$2,000 annual award would require that almost \$48,000 accumulate in the associated capital fund.

Why would we want to establish such an award? As mentioned, it would demonstrate our collective support for the University’s academic mission. It would also be good publicity for ADRP when each annual award is made, and perhaps add to the motivation for new Dal retirees to join ADRP. We may not want to be perceived only as a group that

lobbies for our pensions and benefits, although that has already been demonstrated over the past decade as reason enough to have an association.

What initial goal should be set for our fund if there is sufficient support to proceed?

An amount of \$50 from each of our current membership would total well over \$20,000. It would not be necessary to reach a goal of \$50,000, for example, in a single year.

Voluntary contributions of smaller amounts over 3-4 years would also accumulate to a \$50,000 target. The fund can be open-ended with contributions continuing indefinitely as new members join, and existing members continue their voluntary contributions. Those already donating funds to the University annually or on an *ad hoc* basis, might wish to direct all or part of those donations to the ADRP Academic Award Fund.

To kickstart a Fund, should we designate a certain amount of our accumulated surplus, which totaled \$18,000 at the end of 2013, and now being held in GICs, as a 1-time measure towards achieving any initial target amount? That accumulated surplus is in addition to our contingency fund that is now about \$16,000. Should an annual percentage of any future accumulated surpluses be directed to an Academic Award Fund? In 2013 our accumulated surplus grew by over \$2600.

The idea of creating an ADRP Academic Award is on the agenda of our December General Meeting for discussion. Members who will not be able to attend are encouraged to send comments for or against to ADRP@dal.ca. Should there be sufficient support indicated a formal motion would be presented at our Annual General Meeting next April.

Should a motion pass at that time, the process to formally set up the award, and to receive donations, will be completed with Dalhousie External Relations. Its procedures for receiving donations makes the process completely confidential. Dalhousie's procedures for receiving donations, issuing tax receipts, and selecting recipients of any award also avoid any administrative burden on ADRP for doing so.

ADRP would define the nature of an award (prize, bursary or scholarship), and the criteria for selection of recipients (eligible fields of study, year of study, etc.), but Dalhousie's established mechanisms would handle all administration.

Please send any comments you might wish to make to ADRP@dal.ca, or present them at our General Meeting on December 11, 2014. You may also relay your comments through any member of the ADRP Board, or discuss any thoughts you have on the concept with them.

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners



Room 2831 Life Sciences Centre
 Dalhousie University
 PO BOX 15000
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 B3H 4R2
 Telephone: (902) 494-7174
 E-Mail: adrp@dal.ca

Membership Application for Payment by Pension Deduction

Employee Number (from your pension stub): B _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Retirement: _____

Dalhousie Department: _____

I request that ADRP monthly dues (\$1.66) be deducted from my pension starting (month and year) _____, and continuing until I inform you otherwise in writing.

 (Signature)

Please return this form to:

Payroll Office
 Room 152, Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building
 Dalhousie University
 PO BOX 15000
 Halifax, N.S. B3H 4R2

The information you provide to us will be used for our records and to allow us to contact you or distribute to you information. Information that identifies you will not be shared with any other organization.

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners (ADRP)

Membership

Open to all Retirees from the University staff, Non-Academic and Academic. Associate membership is available to those within 5 years of retirement.

Mission

To facilitate and promote the dissemination of information of interest to Dalhousie Retirees; and

To enhance and promote the sense of continuing membership in the Dalhousie Retirees' family.

Formal Objectives

To represent the interests of retirees from Dalhousie University, their spouses and beneficiaries;

To further the understanding of the retirement pension and benefits;

To cooperate with other groups that have similar objectives; and

To provide a conduit for information, when necessary, between the university and retirees.

Informal Objectives

To promote social interaction among its members;

To investigate and negotiate group benefits that a significant number of members may desire;

To provide information to its members about general and specific retirement issues; and

To pursue other issues as the membership directs.

For Further Information

Visit us at our Web Site: <http://adrp.dal.ca> or phone us at (902) 494-7174. Our E-mail is adrp@dal.ca . Our office is in the basement of the Life Sciences Centre, Room 2831.