**Pension Committee report – Sept. 28**

Members: Gerry Tiede (chair) Wayne Hughes, Ed Zegray

The C-27 package is completed and ready to send out to provincial associations. It has been formatted for the BCRTA but other associations are welcome to adapt it to fit their situation. The package includes:

1. Bill C-27 Campaign Plan
2. Bill C-27 Backgrounder
3. Member sample letter to MP – short
4. Member sample letter to MP – long
5. Who’s the target – Insert for newsletters
6. Listing of BC MPs with their contact information (Not included here)

The material has been introduced to the BCRTA Convention and a few people have already contacted elected members. I’ve included a ‘form’ letter received from the Minister of Finance’s office in this package – probably not for distribution beyond this group. (?) It reiterates the usual defence.

I quote some parts of the letter:

* Broaden the scope of retirement savings opportunities available to Canadians
* It does not impact the core public sector pension plans
* Allows pension benefits and contributions to be adjusted in response to changing market conditions
* The existing pension benefits of plan members and retirees may be exchanged (i.e, converted) into benefits in a TBP, but only with informed consent.
* A union would be able to consent on behalf of its membership where authorized to do so.
* the government will not move forward with the legislation in Parliament until this engagement process is closed.

None of these statements should give us any comfort as explained in the Campaign Plan and Backgrounder. IMHO, TBP Plans are designed to reduce future costs for the employer and to shift the risk to the plan member.

Next steps:

1. Post on ACER-CART website?
2. Distribute to provincial Associations?