



Serving 'Exempt' staff at The City of Calgary since 1950!

March 2009

Member Newsletter

Number 5

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APTEA Website
www.aptea.org

Contact Us

APTEA@shaw.ca
403-283-3100

President's Update

Déjà vu! Looking at the APTEA historical notes of 1962, it seems like it was just yesterday. Wait...I wasn't here then, but it was just last week that I discussed the same with the Director of Human Resources, George McLaughlan (who incidentally wasn't here in 1962 either).

Several times throughout the year, your APTEA Executive engage in discussions with the City Manager, the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT), the Director of Human Resources, and members of the HR Management Team to share insights and concerns as seen and affected by exempt staff. This month, George and I shared good discussions about:

- role, functions, events and achievements of APTEA in 2008
- upcoming areas of interest and activity particularly around the desire to jointly review the Exempt Policy statement which may lead to APTEA Bylaw amendments
- potential opportunities for APTEA to discuss and work with the HR management team on initiatives such as the Corporate Workforce Strategy implementation
- vacation 'unfunded' secondary liability and entitlements
- plus implications and mitigations within current 'economic times'

These discussions will be refined and carried forward during my upcoming meetings with Owen Tobert (April) and the ALT (June). We are engaged in discussions with the City of Calgary Society of Professional Engineers (CCSPE) on similar topics plus event planning for the year.

With respect to earned vacation, please remember to use your vacation in accordance with Exempt Policy. Creating a secondary vacation bank is an 'unfunded' liability to the Corporation and it does not contribute to a work life balance that we all deem personally important; it's good for your health and those you supervise!

If you have an opportunity or a concern that should be brought forward to City Administration, please feel free to contact any member of the APTEA Board or me.

Sincerely,
Terry Wong, ISP, PMP
APTEA President 2008, 2009

LAPP Update

As we watch our RSP portfolios, we must rely on the Local Authorities Pension Plan to manage our pension portfolios well. For further updates, you'll find a 2008Q4 Market Commentary published on the LAPP website at: http://lapp.ab.ca/fs_fin.htmhttp://lapp.ab.ca/fs_fin.htm

Also, please be aware of upcoming changes to pension commuted value calculations effective April 1, 2009. Details about this change are available at: <http://lapp.ab.ca/index.html>

If you're thinking of retiring in the next 5 years, be sure to attend one of several LAPP Pension seminars hosted by Human Resources on Friday, March 13 at 0900-1100 and 1200-1400 hours in the Large Banquet Room, Civic Cafeteria, Municipal Building.

Finally, if you're curious about your pension entitlements, go online at: <https://www.mypensionplan.ca/mos/PublicHome.pbl?planId=2>

Travel Trivia

If you're lucky enough to be travelling out of the country this year you may want to ensure that your shots are up-to-date.

Hepatitis A - is contracted via contaminated food and water. This vaccine is NOT needed if you have had the disease or have received two doses of the vaccine AT LEAST six months apart. (Two doses are good for 10-20 years). If you have only received ONE dose it is good for 1 year.

Hepatitis B - is recommended if you might be exposed to blood or body fluids; for example, health care workers, have sexual contact with the local population, stay longer than six months in the region, or be exposed through medical treatment.

Typhoid - is contracted via contaminated food and water. This vaccine is recommended if you will be spending time in small cities, villages and rural areas (particularly developing regions) for an extended period of time. The longer you spend time in regions with questionable sanitation of food and water the higher your risk is for contracting typhoid fever. We have the injection or oral typhoid vaccine. Both are only about 60% effective so food and water precautions must still be practiced. The injection is good for two years and the oral vaccine is good for five years.

Td - (Tetanus/Diphtheria) a routine booster dose of Td is recommended every 10 years.

Great Travel Websites

TripAdvisor.Com – this site provides great insights and ratings on accommodations around the world.

HostelWorld.Com – looking to backpack or travel light around the world in a hostel or a good hotel – motel – bed and breakfast to stay with a comfortable bed, check this site out.

Travel.GC.CA – travelling out of the country, check this site for travel warnings, country profiles, global issues and quick links to passport, visa, and supplemental health insurance considerations.

Event Notes

Brown Bag Sessions

Thursday, March 12 – MEBAC Benefits Update

Large Banquet room by the cafeteria at the municipal building
Noon – 1 PM

If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers please email Meredith at APTEA@shaw.ca

APTEA / CCSPE Ski Day – March 20 CANCELLED

Despite the great effort and collaboration with CCSPE plus the interest of some, we have had to cancel this ski event. Perhaps next year.

APTEA / CCSPE Annual Spring Golf Event – May 22

We're at par on price--we've kept the price the same as last year: \$115 for members and \$135 for guests / non-members. This year, look for some new and exciting concepts to make your round even more memorable! More information will be coming out soon, so keep your eyes peeled! Fore!

APTEA Family Picnic – June 6

Grab your sunglasses, shorts, and kids...the annual spring family picnic is on again at Riveredge Park. Stay tuned for details.

Membership & Value Added Benefits Information

Due to FOIP regulations APTEA is not privy to changes in member locations and business units. The member must send these changes to APTEA so that the membership listing is kept up to date.

Retirees from the City and APTEA are invited to the Annual General Meeting each year and the same FOIP rules apply. If you are retiring in the next year please send your home contact information to APTEA so that you will receive your invitation to the next AGM.

The Social Club Discount Listing sends last minute specials to APTEA for a variety of goods and services. As these are time sensitive they are posted on the APTEA website as soon as they arrive. Please visit the website often so that you may take advantage of these specials.

The 2009 APTEA membership cards and SCDL key tags were sent to all APTEA members on February 17, 2009 by internal mail. If you have not yet received yours please email APTEA.

APTEA Historical Notes

1962 – Items being discussed: vacation accumulation plan; adjustments to fringe benefit, group insurance and MSI; time off in lieu of overtime.

2009 APTEA Executive Committee

President – Terry Wong, Infrastructure Services 403-268-5806
Vice President – Robb Fergusson, Information Technology 403-268-1038
Secretary – Blake Kanewischer, Information Technology 403-268-1537
Treasurer – Robin Brooks, Finance 403-268-2640

Directors At Large

Bill Doxsee, Water Resources 403-268-4481
Wendy Jelinic, Finance & Supply 403-538-6149
Vickie Megrath, Customer Services & Communications 403-268-1696
Gord Ellis, Information Technology 403-268-1960
Donna Franzon, Asset Management & Capital Works - Infrastructure Services
403-268-5429
Catherine Humeny, City Clerk's 403-268-4679
Frank Assen, Information Technology 403-268-2669
Sue Mackie, Past Pres. (Non-Voting) Assessment 403-268-2049

Executive Administrator

Meredith Helgeson 403-283-3100

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