



Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association (MUNPA)

P.O. Box 206  
Memorial University  
St. John's, NL A1C 5S7

March 19, 2008

Board of Regents  
Memorial University

Dear Colleagues:

We wish to express our dismay at the University's failure to act decisively upon the proposal that the administration use discretionary monies to fund the shortfall of 5% in pre-1997 survivors' pensions. The reasons in support of such provision for the least well-off group of Memorial's pension recipients appear to us to far outweigh any offsetting disadvantages. We rehearse the most important of those reasons here:

It is morally anomalous to withhold this small benefit when internal funds are employed to top up highly paid administrators' pensions above the Revenue Canada maximum. The discrepancy of treatment undermines Memorial's self-perception as a community fair to all its members.

It is harmful to the University's autonomy to be guided by external agencies in matters having to do with the functioning of its internal structures. If the University declines to exemplify good practices it surrenders much of its social value.

We take seriously the need to acknowledge the government's support of the University -- its assistance in dealing with the solvency deficit in the pension plan, for example -- but this reality is irrelevant to the situation of pre-1997 survivors. The amounts of money in question differ by many orders of magnitude and the proposed resolution of the survivors' situation is not significantly connected with the government's grant to the University.

Time is running out for the survivors but enough remains for the University to do the right thing.

Sincerely yours,

Evan Simpson  
President, MUNPA