



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Actuary Magazine

October/November 2014 – Volume 11, Issue 5

RAVE REVIEWS FOR FIRST CANADIAN HEALTH ACTUARY SEMINAR

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On May 5, 2014, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) hosted the first Canadian health actuary seminar. The seminar was created for Canadian actuaries and featured eight Canadian experts speaking on the driving issues of the Canadian health care market. The featured speakers, from various backgrounds, brought a wealth of information and expertise to the discussions, making sure to engage the participants. For an enhanced experience, the speakers were very generous with the material they shared, diving deep enough in the subjects to provide participants with relevant learning that can be applied in their work.

It was a fun day, filled with sessions led by the featured speakers:

- **Stéphane Levert, FSA, FCIA**, vice president, Group & New Initiatives at SCOR Global Life Canada, presented the findings of his research, jointly sponsored by the SOA and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, on the sustainability of the Canadian health care system.
- **Marcel Théroux**, member of the Bars of Ontario and Alberta and of the Barreau du Québec, and partner with Mercer, presented recent case law and legislation applicable to the health sector.
- **Erin Crump, FSA, FCIA**, director of Group Research and Development at Munich Re, and **Maria Semak, FSA, ACIA**, actuary, Living Benefits for Munich Re, presented an overview of the Canadian group critical illness market.
- During lunchtime, **Dan Bailey, FSA, MAAA**, founder of Acumen Health, led a discussion on the health reform in the United States.
- **David Willows**, vice president of Strategic Market Solutions at Green Shield Canada, and **Atul Goela**, senior pharmacy services consultant at Green Shield Canada, presented studies on pharmacy trends and hypertension management.
- **François Joseph Poirier, FSA, FCIA**, partner and market business leader for Eastern Canada in the Employee Health & Benefits business for Mercer, presented a drug plan survey as well as strategies to control prescription drug costs in the private sector.
- **Karla Thorpe**, director with the Leadership and Human Resources Research Division of The Conference Board of Canada, presented research findings of a three-part study on absenteeism and the actions employers can take to tackle this issue.

Reviews of the seminar were really positive. Pierre Vincent, president and chief operating officer at The Excellence Life Insurance



Company, commented, “While I do not work on a daily basis on health care cost issues, the seminar provided me with a good overview of the ongoing shift in health care cost from the public sector to the private sector. The content also helped me realize some of the financial challenges that Canadians will be facing within a few years and gave me a few ideas about how insurers could help Canadians better prepare for the increased cost of health care.”

Participants who completed the survey following the seminar all agreed that the seminar provided leading-edge professional development. In fact, 95 percent of respondents would encourage their peers to participate in a similar event!

See you next year! **A**

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