## April 27, 2009

## **Benefit Facts Article**

## **Certainty in Uncertain Times**

The economic world is changing all around us. Businesses large and small are looking at their operations and trying to navigate through uncertain waters. This means looking at all aspects of their operations and searching for ways to reduce costs - from capital expenditures, to labour costs and even employee benefits.

Employee benefits can be viewed as a cost in the short-term or as an investment in your company's future success. Employee benefits are an important tool for employers to attract and retain the best employees. Although the current economic pressures have affected individuals across the country, long term projections still show a shortage of skilled workers in the future.

Employee benefits should be viewed as an investment in employee engagement and retention. Your employees are your most important asset, and an engaged and healthy workforce is a key component to any firm's future success.

Even giants of industry struggle with the issue of providing benefits for their employees. According to the New York Times, Wal-Mart's benefit costs have risen by 15% per year on average since 2002.

Your Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan is available exclusively through your membership in your local Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade. For over 35 years, the Chambers Plan has provided affordable and competitive benefit plans to businesses like yours all across Canada. Your financial concerns are understood and the renewal rates for participating firm's have averaged less than 5% a year over the past 5 years.

The need to satisfy the needs of many employee groups in your organization is also well understood. Young Generation Y employees (born after 1980) want their employers to be interested in them and their good health. Generation X employees (born 1965 - 1980) have competing responsibilities - working on their careers, raising a family and perhaps contributing toward the care of elderly parents. And Baby Boomers (born 1964 and earlier) have started to focus on health issues as they grapple with the effects of aging.

Whether it's covering prescription drugs for Baby Boomers, having Best Doctors or Employee Assistance Programs available for Generation Xs, or the services of a Massage Therapist or Dietician for the Generation Yer's, the Chambers Plan's goal is to give you and your employees security and peace of mind.

If you want to achieve certainty in uncertain times think Chambers of Commerce Group Benefit Plan for you and your employees.