

1998-1999 Activities of the Chair in Insurance, Risk Management and Employee Benefits at the University of Calgary

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[See table of contents](#)

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**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
IN THE CANADIAN INSURANCE
AND RISK MANAGEMENT CHAIRS**

by **Norma L. Nielson**

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Risk Management and Employee Benefits
at the University of Calgary**

Increasing the research output and research reputation of faculty in risk management and insurance at the University of Calgary remains an important goal for me. However, progress toward achieving that goal has been unavoidably slowed during the past year as colleague Dr. Anne Kleffner spends her sabbatical year away from Calgary. As well, I spent a good deal of time during the winter semester serving on the selection committee for our Faculty of Management's new dean and chairing the committee to fill a new faculty line shared with finance.

Early this summer work was completed on a project funded last year by the Institute for Health Economics (formerly the Institute for Pharmacoeconomics). The 72-page literature review by Gillian Currie and Norma Nielson entitled *Models for Funding Prescription Drug Programs* is available as a working paper from the Institute or can be downloaded from the research page linked into our web site (at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/MG/inrm/>).

In addition to this completed work, several articles by our faculty are nearing publication:

- "Automobile Insurance in Canada: A Comparison of Liability Systems" by Anne Kleffner and Joan Schmit has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Insurance Regulation*.

The author:

Norma L. Nielson is Director of the Chair in Insurance, Risk Management and Employee Benefits at the University of Calgary.

- “Work and Nonwork Predictors of Employees’ Retirement Ages” has been conditionally accepted by the *Journal of Vocational Behavior* by Terry A. Beehr, Sharon Glazer, Norma Nielson, and Suzanne J. Farmer.
- “Using Technology to Create Uncertainty—Intentionally!” by Norma Nielson has been submitted to *Risk Management and Insurance Review* and is expected to appear in the Education Insights section of that journal.

Several exciting presentations have occurred at academic conferences this summer, indicating a broad range of publications to appear in the next year or so. Mary Kelly and Alli Nathan presented “Mega Mergers in the Financial Services Industry: Canadian Banks and Insurance Companies” at the International Insurance Seminar held in Berlin in July 1999. Also, faculty participated in three separate presentations at the August 1999 American Risk and Insurance Association annual meeting in Vancouver, BC:

- “Optimal Loss Mitigation and Contract Design” by Mary Kelly and Anne Kleffner
- “The Impact of Cost Sharing on Prescription Drug Usage” by Gillian Currie and Norma Nielson
- “Mega-Mergers in the Financial Services Industry: Banks and Insurance Companies: The Canadian Experience” by Mary Kelly and Alli Nathan

Another positive signal for our future is the success of our faculty hiring committee. I am pleased to announce that Ryan B. Lee, a Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia, will join us as our newest faculty colleague in January 2000. Ryan already is published in the *Risk Management and Insurance Review* and the *CPCU Journal* and offers research interests that will strongly complement the ongoing research activities of other faculty members in the area of mergers and acquisitions within the financial services sector.

With the addition of Ryan Lee in January and the return of Anne Kleffner, my motto for the year 2000 is “Full strength and full speed ahead.” I plan to aggressively pursue my personal research interest in issues of retirement planning while continuing to support and encourage risk management and insurance research among my colleagues.