



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

FRASER VALLEY WEST

BC 04
Branch Update (#3)
March 2022

Annual general meeting — March 17—Bring a friend!



Please plan to attend the Fraser Valley West Branch annual meeting on Thursday, March 17. And if you know someone who is eligible** to become a member, bring him/her/along!

****Who is eligible? Veterans and their spouses and anyone who receives or contributes to a federal superannuation pension. You do not need to be retired to become a member of Federal Retirees!**

Location: Newlands Golf and Country Club, 21025 48 Ave., Langley, BC V3A 3M3

Doors: 11 a.m.

Meeting: 11:30 a.m.

Buffet luncheon to follow: \$25 per person

Guest speaker: Anthony Kupferschmidt, Executive Director, Langley Senior Resources Society

Register on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/annual-general-meeting-and-luncheon-fraser-valley-west-branch-tickets-267121025177>

If you need help with registration, contact Katherine at kettlerk@gmail.com or (778) 995-6136.

Note: The meeting will include the **election of officers and directors**.

(Contact **Bernd Hirsekorn** by email at bh45jh@shaw.ca to place your name in nomination).

We will also discuss **branch financial reserves and a proposal to update branch bylaws** by deleting sections relating to a Defense of Benefits Emergency Reserve Fund (now administered by the Association at the national level rather than the branch level).

Connect by Zoom? If you would like to be counted and connect to the business meeting by Zoom, please contact us at nafrbc04@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.



Guest Speaker

Anthony Kupferschmidt is the Executive Director of the Langley Senior Resources Centre. We have invited him to tell us about the Centre and to touch on strategies for dealing with isolation and enabling older Canadians to age in place at home.

Anthony has been with the Centre since August 23, 2021, bringing with him extensive experience developing services and programs for older adults and seniors as the Executive Director of the West End Seniors Network in Vancouver.

He holds a Masters Degree in Gerontology, with a focus on mental health and aging.

PSHCP Administrator Changing

You will have received notification that the contract for administering the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) has been awarded to the Canada Life Assurance Company, effective July 1, 2023. In the meantime, continue to file any claims with Sun Life and make sure your information on the Sun Life Plan Member Services website is current. Your enrollment info will be transferred to the new administrator and, as long as it's up-to-date, the changeover should be seamless!

Congratulations!!! Leslie Gaudette

—New President of Council of Senior Citizens Organizations BC (COSCO)

On Feb 11th, 2022, Leslie Gaudette was elected President of COSCO BC , the non-partisan seniors’ advocacy group that represents 80,000 members in BC. Leslie is a long-time member of Fraser Valley West and served on the Branch Board as Health Benefits Officer and VP. In 2014, she was awarded the Association’s “collaboration” award for her work establishing ties with COSCO and the Office of the Seniors’ Advocate. In 2018, she became Federal Retirees’ Advocacy Program Officer for BC/Yukon and was a steady hand on the rudder as we negotiated the squalls of a snap (pandemic) election in BC in 2020 and federally in 2021. Leslie was a primary organizer of the provincial virtual townhalls that Federal Retirees co-hosted in partnership with COSCO during both elections.

Leslie brings to her new role the perspective and insight gained through her years working in health research and epidemiology (in Alberta and Ottawa) with a focus on cancer and chronic disease control. She plans to carry on as APO for another term as she learns the demands of her new role with COSCO, exemplifying the adage: if you want something done, you assign it to a busy person!

COSCO is affiliated with the National Pensioners’ Association, which has a collective membership of 1 million across Canada. There are 65 organizations under the COSCO umbrella, including major affiliates such as the BC Federation of Retired Union Members (FORUM), the BC Retired Teachers’ Association, the BC Old Age Pensioners’ Association, and the BC Government Retired Employees Association. COSCO liaises closely with many other organizations, including the Office of the Seniors’ Advocate, the Council to Reduce Elder Abuse, and the BC Health Coalition. Again, congratulations, Madame President! We look forward to working with you!



Leslie—on a recent zoom call with John Aldag, Liberal MP for Cloverdale-Langley City .

Noteworthy... National news from www.federalretirees.ca

Federal Retirees is advocating for improvements to the Pensioners’ Dental Services Plan

“The PDSP has not been meaningfully updated since it was created 20 years ago, and our message to the Treasury Board is simple: it’s time,” said Anthony Pizzino, Federal Retirees CEO. “Members have told us the PDSP has not kept up with the cost of services, with important medical advances or with the recently arbitrated improvements to the employee dental plan. Good oral health is essential to overall health and well-being, especially as one ages.”

The results of a 2019 survey that sought members’ views on the dental plan have been shared with Treasury Board and the PDSP Board. The need for dental plan improvements was also on the agenda during the Association’s

first meeting with the newly appointed president of the Treasury Board of Canada, Mona Fortier.

“It took years of hard advocacy to implement the PDSP,” notes Pizzino. “And while I can’t guarantee that we will gain needed coverage improvements to the PDSP quickly, I can guarantee that we’re working hard to make those changes happen.”

Any updates to the dental plan will be separate from the Public Service Health Care Plan renewal, which Federal Retirees is currently negotiating.

Keep in touch! If you need help updating your membership info—change of address, etc. - contact Steve!

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