



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

FRASER VALLEY WEST

March 24nd, 2018

Dear Mr. Simon Coakeley:

Re: Annual Report

In accordance with The Administrative Guidelines for Branches, Fraser Valley West Branch (BC04) submits the following documents for the fiscal year 2017, ending Dec 31st:

- President's 'BC04 Branch Report' to the Members, 2018 03 08 AGM
- Signed copy of our 2018 Annual General Meeting minutes, including two Resolutions, approved by Branch Member vote.
- BC04 Balance Statement (Assets, Liabilities, Equity) as at 2017 12 31
- BC04 Financial Statements for 2017 and Proposed Budget for 2018
- Signed 'Branch Annual Review Form F115 on our 2017 financial records
- Branch Representation Letter
- Copies of 2017 12 31 Bank Statements

Our financial institution is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, P.O. Box 88646, RPO Newton, Surrey, BC V3W 0X1. The chequing account number is 006200108819718 and the savings account number is 620 15 28734. We have additional savings at the same Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the form of Guaranteed Investment Certificates, GIC Acct 3285975, all reported in the attached 'BC04 Balance Statement'.

If you require any further information, please contact me.

Yours Truly,

Bernd Hirsekorn
Branch President



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FRASER VALLEY WEST

BC04 Branch Report

for year ending 2017 12 31

Presented at 2018 03 08 AGM

- 2017 in Review
- Br. Treasurer Summary
- Br. Advocacy
- Membership Admin.
- Membership Marketing
- Br. Communications
- Br. Social Events

• 2017 in Review

For Fraser Valley West Branch, 2017 was a year with fairly stable Branch Membership. We carried out very effective Advocacy, as we connected with our Members of Parliament, especially on issues surrounding Bill C-27. In this constructive endeavour, we have come to better appreciate our MPs and feel fairly well prepared to call on them on a regular basis. And, soon we plan to call on them with respect to the looming 2019 federal election campaign.

The 'Survivor Benefits workshop', presented by our Branch in March 2017, was so successful, we are about to present a related 'Advance Care Planning workshop', in March 2018. We coordinated a new initiative, a Preferred Partners' Expo, 21 September 2017 with 10 partners and 70+ members in attendance.

On the social scene, our Branch presents occasional 'Let's do Lunch' events, a scrumptious BBQ in July, and a happy Christmas Buffet. Additionally, we continue our informal 'Meet & Chat's where any Branch Member is welcomed to come and talk 'retirement issues' amongst knowledgeable Members with complimentary coffee or tea, first Thursday of any month.

The business of our Branch is conducted by a very dedicated and inspiring Board of Directors, all volunteering their substantial skills and wisdoms in the pursuit of our Association goals. Still, we are all retirees with ever diminishing abilities to contribute energetically.

For our Branch to continue with a high degree of strength, vibrancy, and significance, we need to re-staff our Board every now and then with younger, newly retired NAFR Members. In this way, we ensure infusion of modern perspectives and contemporary approaches. We welcome volunteers who wish to bring their modern skills and wisdoms, allowing a dignified retirement of long-serving Branch volunteers. On this count, we have been partially successful; still, we need more modern zest. I call on our younger Members to recognize this grand opportunity to contribute on behalf of all Canadians.

The positions held by our Directors at Large are not 'cast in stone' – we are flexible. Currently, we seek especially an eager retiree with Human Resources skills and expertise.

I invite you to **dare to thrive as a 'change-maker' on our NAFR team of innovators.**

It has been a pleasure and an honour to have served on our Fraser Valley West Board.

Respectfully,

Bernd Hirsekorn, Branch President



- **Branch Treasurer Summary - Report for year 2017**

Branch BC-04 operated under a financial system consistent with the motion duly passed by the Membership in March of 2017, along with the direction of The National Office in Ottawa.

The financial reports and proposal for the 2018 budget is included with the AGM Report to members.

The Branch has four reserve funds, duly passed at the end of 2016 held in March 2017. These reserves must be voted on each year by the association members. They are:

1. **Defense of Benefits Fund.** (Designated as Maintenance of Members Retirement Funds) for the future in the event the Association must defend any reduction in our benefits the government may impose. Value of the fund: \$7,000.00.
2. Branch & District Volunteer Training (the **Member Support Fund**) to support Branch 04 operations. Value of the fund: \$7,000.00.
3. Branch and Volunteers appreciation (the **Special Members Events Fund**) for events that are not regularly scheduled. So far, this fund is being used to hold Branch 04's Fortieth Anniversary in 2018. The money is being used to secure a venue for the event. Value \$7,000.00.
4. At the 2017 March AGM, our Branch Members approved a further **Equipment Reserve Fund** of \$3,000 for equipment and replacement funding, bringing the total in Allocated Reserve Funds to \$24,000.00

- The four funds are supported by our Savings Account and GIC(s).

A further motion is required (item 7. in our Agenda) to give our BC04 Board the authority to appoint a Financial Reviewer for 2018.

Another motion is required (item 8. in our Agenda) to approve signing authorities to conduct financial transactions on behalf of the branch to the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Glen (Rocky) Rockwell, Branch Treasurer

- **Branch Advocacy:**

Bill C-27 Campaign: Bill C-27 provides for federally-regulated industries to offer target benefit pension plans to their workers and convert defined benefit plans for retirees into an inferior target benefit plan. A major concern of our Association is that it is very challenging to ensure that an elderly pensioner or survivor can truly make an informed choice to convert from a defined benefit to a target benefit plan. Second, we are very uncertain as to just what type of annuity payment could be put in place in some circumstances to replace the defined benefit pension.

- MPs visited between March and May 2017 include: Minister Carla Qualtrough, Delta; Randeep Sarai, Surrey-Centre; Ken Hardie, Fleetwood-Port Kells; Sukh Dhaliwal, Surrey-Newton; Dianne Watts, South Surrey-White Rock; Dan Ruimy, Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge; John Aldag, Cloverdale-Langley City; Mark Warawa, Langley-Aldergrove;



- Thanks to all the volunteers: Leslie Gaudette, Bernd Hirsekorn, Thelma Graham, Ilene Fika, Terry Senft, Ian Spence, Diana Townley, Martha Fry, Edna Mackey, Lloyd Mackey, Joy Hennen, Sharon Riches, Peggy Gauthier, Stuart Wilson, Rocky Rockwell and Sandi Britton-Lougheed, plus we were joined by District Director Brian Strongman and Advocacy Program Officer Richard Simpson for our meeting with Mark Warawa.

Follow-up letters were sent to all MPs in December in alignment with a National campaign. As of writing Bill C-27, which received first reading in October 2016, has remained dormant.

National Seniors Strategy: Our Association continues to advocate for a National Seniors Strategy and the national website at www.federalretirees.ca continues to update information. Our National Office staff presented a submission to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities in an ongoing consultation, Advancing Inclusion and Quality of Life for Canadian Seniors. The study aims to determine how the federal government can improve: a) access to housing for seniors, b) income security for vulnerable seniors, and c) the overall quality of life and well-being for seniors including community programs, social inclusivity and social determinants of health. We are now awaiting the final report of the Committee!

Provincial Election May 2017: Our Branch provided packages to candidates in the two Langley ridings at an All-Candidates Meeting focused on Seniors Issues to introduce candidates to our issues.

Federal By-Election in South Surrey-White Rock: December 2017: Various Branch members submitted questions received from National Office to the organizers of the All-Candidates meeting, one of which was posed to the seven candidates. Several Branch members attended the All-Candidates meeting at which time packages were provided to all Candidates. Congratulations to Liberal Candidate Gordie Hogg who was elected as the new MP!

Leslie Gaudette, Branch V.P. & Director Branch Advocacy

• **Membership Administration:**

Fraser Valley West Branch Membership Report, March 2018

The year 2017 has seen a slight growth in our Branch net membership of 1%, (14 new members), giving us a total membership in the Fraser Valley West Branch of 2,166. This minimal increase is not restricted to our branch only, as a review of NAFR's total membership year over year reflects this same trend.

The Fraser Valley West Branch encompasses an area from White Rock to Maple Ridge with our members spread out accordingly. Branch Members living within our boundaries are broken down as follows: Surrey 54%; Langley 24%; White Rock 8%; Delta 2%, Maple Ridge/ Mission/ Pitt Meadows 5%, and Aldergrove 1%.

- 6% of our members reside outside our area but prefer to keep Fraser Valley West as their home Branch.



Our membership is made up of 3 different branches of the Federal Government:

Public Service 62%; RCMP 24%; Canadian Forces 14%

Steve Sawchuk, Dir. Branch Membership Administration

• **Branch Membership Marketing**

Last summer, I attended the PSAC convention in Vancouver and provided a handout on our association, a copy of SAGE, membership application, and an overview of our association to all 200 plus delegates and observers.

As a result, I recommended to our National Office that the membership application be amended to include a query on how the applicant heard about the association so that future attendance at these functions can be measured for success.

I also managed to get our web site link included on the PSAC BC web site, and I continue to explore the same success at National PSAC.

In the coming year, I plan to contact national officers through the PSAC for inclusion on component web sites. I am open to attending assorted functions for the purpose of recruitment and letting people know about our NAFR. If anyone has ideas or thoughts, please don't hesitate to contact me at joyj@shaw.ca.

Joy Hennen, Dir. Branch Membership Marketing

• **Branch Communications**

In the later months of 2017, we initiated a new e-mail distribution service. It is called Mail Chimp and allows us to send notices to members efficiently. It also provides improved tracking statistics on the messages we send out. This service also allows members to personally manage and update their subscription. If members do not wish to receive further electronic notifications, there is an ability to unsubscribe using the "Unsubscribe" link at the bottom of the e-mail. Once a member chooses to unsubscribe, the member will be removed from the mailing list immediately. Please note, once a member selects to unsubscribe, the only communication from the Branch will be through the quarterly Sage publications, mailed from Ottawa. Members may request to be added to the distribution list at any time by sending an e-mail to our Branch at info@nafrfraservalleywest.ca.

Stuart Wilson, Dir. Branch Communications

• **Branch Social Events**

2017 saw our first full year of the 'Let's Do Lunch' series. Members gathered on two occasions for lunch at the *Fox and Fiddle* Pub on the Langley Bypass and once at *Dublin Crossing Irish Pub* in Surrey. In total 65 attended and enjoyed good food and conversation with fellow branch members and friends. Thank you for supporting this new initiative.

Our March AGM/Buffer Luncheon and December GM/Christmas Buffet at Newlands Golf & Country Club drew one hundred and sixty-four members and invited guests. The ever-popular annual BBQ, wrapped around our mid-year GM, was once again held at the pristine park setting and chalet at Peace Arch Provincial Park –South Surrey. Sixty-two members enjoyed the superb BBQ chicken while at the same time celebrating Canada's 150th birthday.

Keeping on top of future social events and important branch meetings has never been easier. You can reach us online through our branch website: www.nafrfraservalleywest.ca, and the quarterly branch newsletter.

Charles Louth, Dir. Social Activities



National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

FRASER VALLEY WEST

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