



National Association of Federal Retirees
Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

FRASER VALLEY WEST

- 2018 in Review
- Br. Treasurer Summary
- Br. Advocacy
- Membership Admin.
- Membership Marketing
- Br. Communications
- Br. Social Events
- Health and Benefits

BC04 Branch Report

for year ending 2018 12 31

Presented at 2019 03 14 AGM

• 2018 in Review

Fraser Valley West Branch (BC04) enjoys stable Branch Membership and many retiree events.

- In late March, BC04 hosted an Advanced Care Workshop.
- In May, many of our BC04 Branch volunteers attended the very motivating Tri-Regional Meeting at the RCMP facilities in Chilliwack.
- In June, BC04 Branch won the Branch Excellence Award at our Annual Members Meeting in Gatineau - a national recognition of our Branch, chosen from amongst the roughly 76 NAFR branches across Canada.
- Our July GM & BBQ at Peace Arch Provincial Park was another huge success.
- Throughout the year, we enjoyed several 'Let's Do Lunch' events with Charles.
- Finally, in September of this year, with the incredible help from so many highly motivated volunteers, about 120 guests enjoyed our very classy and entertaining 40th Branch Anniversary party; a gala event to remember – nearly 2 years in the planning. Many dignitaries, including Jean-Guy Soulière, our National President, joined in, along with 4 supporting Preferred Partners.
- In October, BC04 sponsored a Pain Management speaker event that proved most interesting.
- Our December GM & Christmas Buffet was cordial, delicious and festive.

We are reminded of 3 priorities of our Association.

- Recruitment of NAFR members: We are now organizing to participate in a Lower Mainland wide Recruitment campaign, focusing on currently working Public Service workers as well as, Federal Retirees who have not yet joined NAFR.
- Attracting & supporting our Branch Volunteers: We seek to identify more Branch Volunteers who may want to merely participate in short-term Branch actions, such as Recruitment at local Federal offices, or Advocacy at an election event, or other brief NAFR actions. Contact our Branch Volunteer Engagement Director, who will happily connect a volunteer with a Branch event in need of volunteer participants.
- Advocating for Federal Retirees: 2019 is Federal Election year. Especially during the run-up campaigns, this is a most important time to mount Advocacy events, meet the candidates, challenge the MPs. Will you join us, as we seek to be heard?

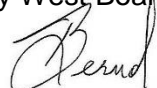
For more Branch campaign details, keep an eye on our Branch e-mails.

The business of our Branch is conducted by a very dedicated and inspiring Board of Directors, all volunteering their substantial skills and wisdom in the pursuit of our Association goals. However, all successful organizations need new blood now and then to revitalize and energize each other.

For our Branch to continue with a high degree of strength, vibrancy, and significance, we need to periodically re-staff our Board with newly-retired NAFR Members. In this way, we ensure infusion of modern perspectives and contemporary approaches. I call especially on our younger Members to join us in volunteering with us on behalf of all Canadians. We seek your modern skills, your zest and wisdom, allowing a dignified retirement of our long-serving Branch volunteers.

The positions held by our Directors at Large are flexible - not 'cast in stone'. We 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 ending December 31st 2018**

My report will be brief, as Leslie Gaudette will address the balance sheet/profit and loss report and the 2019 budget. Bernd Hirsekorn will address the issues revolving around the Reserves.

Our Bank Account Statement Balances as of 31 Dec 2018 are: **Chequing** Account \$11,188.62
Savings Account \$4,628.07
GIC(s) \$16,289.56

To facilitate the Branch BC04 40th Anniversary Celebration, two GICs were "cashed in" and transferred to the Savings Account. When the amount of required funds was identified we moved the "required" funds from Savings to Chequing, paid what was owing and the rest remains in the Savings account. Hence the changes to the Savings and GIC Balances.

In 2018 we changed from a "Ledger System" of accounting to an "Accrual System". By the end of 2018, our records balanced with National Office's in order to input our records into the Client Relations Management (CRM) System.

It has been my pleasure and honour to serve the operating and financial reporting needs of Branch BC04 and the National Association of Federal Retirees. You have a great team of Volunteers working **together** as your Board of Directors.

Respectfully, Glen (Rocky) Rockwell, Branch Treasurer

• **Branch Advocacy: Annual Report for 2018**

MP Contacts: In May, a delegation from our Branch met with Gordie Hogg, the newly-elected Liberal MP for South Surrey-White Rock. We enjoyed wide-ranging discussions on Bill C-27 as well as the well-known need for a national seniors' strategy. We pressed for the appointment of a Minister for Seniors as a necessary first step in the development of a National Seniors' Strategy. A Seniors Strategy has been highly recommended by many witnesses in the report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources and Skills and Social Development, entitled ***Advancing Inclusion and Quality of Life for Seniors***. We learned of Gordie's work to develop a pan-ministerial model to deal with seniors' health and social issues, in his years as a Minister in the BC provincial government. MP Gordie Hogg also brought to the discussion Minister Duclos' work on developing a national poverty reduction strategy and the fact that the National Housing Strategy was at the top of the government's agenda. **Thanks to:** Stuart Wilson, Charles Louth, Bob Dunlop and Ian Spence for participating in this meeting as constituents along with Advocacy Director, Leslie Gaudette.

More casual meetings with MPs this year included barbeques with Ken Hardie and John Aldag, along with coffee sessions and open houses with John Aldag and Mark Warawa. We started up a program for Branch members to deliver SAGE magazines, along with our current newsletter to our eight MPs. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this project including Terry Senft, Lloyd and Edna Mackay, Sandi Lougheed-Britton, and Sharon Riches.

Advocacy Training: Branch members attending the BC & Yukon District Meeting in Chilliwack in May took part in the Advocacy Training module developed by National Office staff.

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. This Bill is still sitting on the Order Paper in the House of Commons and is not going away. Best advice is to *Keep the Pressure Up*. Many other retiree and labour organizations continue to advocate to withdraw this Bill – it is great to have partners in this fight.

National Pharmacare Program: We received the much-anticipated report *Pharmacare Now: Prescription Medicine Coverage for All Canadians*, prepared by the House of Commons Health Committee. In June, the federal government launched The Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, which held meetings across Canada including Vancouver. Feedback received by Federal Retirees National Office was included in a submission to help inform the advisory council's recommendations to the government on how to best implement national Pharmacare. The Council's work is very important, and your support of their efforts is needed to ensure that you and your loved ones can afford the medications they need.

Campaign to appoint a Minister of Seniors meets with success - now we need a National Strategy for Seniors! Congratulations to The Honourable Filomena Tassi, who was appointed in July as the Minister of Seniors. This appointment is the result of a long campaign by many individual seniors and organizations across the country. Fraser Valley West did its part by sending in postcards about the seniors' strategy and signing the on-line petition. Every little bit helps!

Federal Election: Planning for the Federal Election started in the Fall and a great campaign with about nine partners is planned for the Spring. We are looking for Fraser Valley West Branch to be actively involved in the coming months and we will be looking for your support for various activities! Your ideas are always welcomed.

In closing, I wish to thank the members of this Branch and my fellow Board members for supporting me in various endeavours throughout my years on the Board. I was pleased to be selected to become the Advocacy Program Officer for British Columbia last Fall and will be focusing my efforts in that role over the next months. As such, I will not continue to serve on the Branch Board. Still I will not be that far away and will work with the Branch on Advocacy projects especially with the upcoming Federal Election.

Submitted by Leslie Gaudette, Director of Advocacy, February 2019

• **Branch Membership Administration: Annual Membership Report, March 2019**

In 2018 we've had 140 new members join our branch, with a net increase in membership of 22, after accounting for those of our members who have left for other areas or passed on.

This gives our Branch a total active membership of 2,188, which ranks us the 15th largest Branch in Canada.

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-----56%;
Langley-----24%;
White Rock-----8%;
Maple Ridge/ Mission/ Pitt Meadows--6%;
Delta-----2%;
Other: Outside Branch Boundaries----4%,

Our membership comes from 3 different Federal Government services:

Public Service-----903;

RCMP-----358;

Canadian Forces---184.

With the balance of our members being spouses/partners.

Submitted by Steve Sawchuk, Director Web Membership Administration

• **Branch Membership Marketing: Annual Report**

I have connected with PSAC representatives and attended some functions, which allowed for distribution of folders containing promotional information about our Association. 20 folders were distributed at a PSAC Meet and Greet evening and 15 were left with the RCMP detachment in Aldergrove. Future PSAC meetings will allow me to make more contacts and promote the benefits of membership with the Federal Retirees.

If anyone is interested in putting together folders or attending meetings with me, please contact Katherine Kettler, our Director of Branch Volunteer Engagement (kettlerk@gmail.com), and we will be in touch when I have dates and plans in place. Thank you.

Submitted by Joy Hennen, Director of Membership Marketing & Recruitment

• **Branch Communications: Annual Report**

In 2017 we initiated a new e-mail distribution service called Mail Chimp which has been functioning very well. In 2018, 33 notices of one form or another were sent out including; Monthly updates, Quarterly Bulletins, Let's do Lunch announcements, Special seminars and notices regarding our 40th Anniversary Celebration. On average 60% of the recipients appeared to open these notices.

- If members have concerns with any Mail Chimp e-mailing they can always reply to info@nafrfraservalleywest.ca with their concerns and the Communications Director, Stuart Wilson, will address them. Moreover, if any member does 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 distribution 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 the Branch at info@nafrfraservalleywest.ca .

Our Website, www.nafrfraservalleywest.ca is functioning well and is updated as often as possible. All Monthly updates and Quarterly Bulletins can be found on the site in addition to useful information for members, Branch events and contact details.

Submitted by Stuart Wilson, Director of Communications

• **Branch Social Events: Annual Report**

Our Social events and Activities calendar was very busy and highly successful thanks to a very loyal group of board and branch volunteers. Our 2018 major events included: the AGM in March, the Annual BBQ & GM in July, the grand Branch 40th Anniversary in September, and the Christmas luncheon & GM in December. Other activities included: two "Let's Do Lunch" and our regular "Meet and Chat" get-togethers.

- **AGM March 2018** – held in Newlands with 58 members and guests in attendance. Feedback on the venue and food was very positive.
- **Annual BBQ & GM in July 2018** - once again held at the Peace Arch Provincial Park indoor chalet in South Surrey. The beautiful park setting immediately outside and adjacent to the chalet once again became the focal point for our caterer - Henry's Outdoor BBQ Chicken to serve seventy-five members and guests. A delicious and enjoyable occasion was had by all.
- **Branch 40th Anniversary Celebration in September 2018** – Held in the Crystal Room at Newlands and was attended by 115 members and guests. This was a night to remember with our key speaker (Jean-Guy Soulière), a sumptuous meal, professional entertainment, special door prizes and even a little dancing.
 - We engaged a Tribute Artist to provide musical entertainment impersonating Dean Martin, Rod Stewart and Elvis Presley. Iconic Tributes (Ronnie and Marie) did not disappoint and their renditions were immensely enjoyed by all.
 - Newlands Golf and Country Club demonstrated their superb attention to detail regarding the venue set-up, an elegant ice sculpture, service and the excellent buffet dinner!

- A big thank you to four of our Preferred Partners for contributing to our fun evening! Hearing Life Canada provided wonderful table wine, a tantalizing gift basket, and a weekend voucher for 2 in Harrison Hot Springs; Nexus Holidays provided a Voucher worth \$1,000 dollars towards the land portion of a trip to China; Collette donated a lovely gift basket and CHOICE Hotels donated a Travel Voucher worth 10,000 points.
- Accolades were received from many members, visiting guests, our Preferred Partners, along with our Association President Jean-Guy Soulière. All were very complimentary about the high caliber evening that they enjoyed. Thanks again to my team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on this amazing event. We couldn't have done it without you!
- **Christmas luncheon & GM in December 2018** – Held in a beautifully decorated private room at Newlands, with 77 members and guests in attendance.
- **“Let’s Do Lunch”** Some forty members and guest attended the two events in 2018. This is a very casual event held for the most part in local pubs with a variety of pub food menus.
- **Meet and Chat** We continue meet informally most first Thursdays of each month, 2:00 pm 3:30 pm at Ricky’s Restaurant back room, 2160 King George Blvd. **Coffee/tea is on us!**

In closing, I would like to say that many members have personally expressed their gratitude to me for coordinating these events over the past several years. I am truly grateful and appreciative for having had the opportunity to serve. My job was made easier with the help and expertise of other talented branch members and most definitely by our loyal board members. So, I say to all who provided assistance in any way, **‘Thank you!’**.

Submitted by Charles Louth, Director of Social Activities

- **Health and Benefits: Annual Report**

The work of the Health and Benefits Director involves meeting the National Association of Federal Retirees’ (NAFR) goals through support and guidance to members and their families by providing information on how to contact necessary government departments concerning governmental benefits and benefits available with NAFR Preferred Partners. Should a member or their family member contact the Director, they can expect to receive a listening ear and information concerning how to contact the organization(s) that will meet their concerns.

- Two highlights of the year included: an Advanced Care Planning Workshop in March; and an informative session delivered in October, on the Medical use of Cannabis and its derivatives by Tara Cain and Kaila Motz of Releaf Compassion Centers. Both events were well-attended by many members who had not previously attended Fraser Valley West speaker events.

Submitted by Thelma Graham, Director Health and Benefit