

## National Association of Federal Retirees Prince George Branch BC15

### Historian Archive Report for the March 20, 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

January 1, 2022 through to March 20, 2023

#### AGM Mar 14, 2022 and Executive:

The AGM for the financial year ending December 31, 2021 was held March 14, 2022 in person and virtually using Zoom. Zoom guests included: Steve Sawchuk (BSC Fraser Valley West) and Rick Devlieger (BSC, Regional). Rick D hosted the Zoom portion of our meeting. 23 members attended in-person and 5 members attended by Zoom. Invitations were made to promote the activities of NAFR and 3 non-members attended in person. The AGM for the December 31, 2022 year-end was set at March 20, 2023.

Member, Hennie Cook, chaired the election of the board directors. Seven (7) branch board members were elected by acclamation to serve until the next AGM in 2023. The directors met after the AGM and assigned executive roles as follows:

President, Deb Nilsen – Deb N represented our branch for many virtual meetings and webinars at various levels of our association. To highlight a few, the 3 day Annual Meeting of Members in June and a special meeting of members on Sept 23, 2022 to elect a new VP at the national level (virtual attendance). The Regional Conference was held Feb 18, 2022 in Aldergrove, BC (Rose also attended). The District Conference was held May 17-19, 2022 in Abbotsford (Deb T and Rose also attended). Expenses for the conferences were covered by the District.

Deb submitted responses to a questionnaire from a Special Committee on Branch Financing. The branch hopes to get additional funding of \$1,000 to assist with recruitment, outreach to our members in outlying areas, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, and possibly other advocacy.

Deb kept our branch informed and well organized.

Vice President, Marian Muir – Marian continued her role as VP. Her and/or Ben shared the Zoom computer projection duties at meetings. Marian and Marilyn R finalized the by-law review. Amendments were scheduled for presentation at the March 20, 2023 AGM.

Secretary, Deb Tomlinson – Deb T recorded all meeting minutes on the branch laptop and continued to be the central point for archiving branch information on the laptop. Deb T attended the District conference in 2022, the Regional conference in 2023 and took part in various webinars.

Treasurer, Rose Bowker – Rose maintained the branch's financial records on the CRM system. She stayed on as the advocacy liaison. Rose attended the Regional and District conferences and took part in various webinars.

Seniors Liaison, Marilyn Rayner – Marilyn continued her role as our representative on the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS) Advisory Committee and was elected to the PGCOS Board of Directors. She attended monthly meetings for the Board of Directors as well as the Advisory Committee (Chairperson). Marilyn kept us informed on PGCOS matters. Marilyn resigned from her director position in February 2023.

Director at Large, Eileen Leinweber – Eileen continued her role as director at large for our branch.

Director / Webmaster, Ben Wiebe – Ben continued his roles as a director and webmaster.

#### Financial Position:

For the year ending December 31, 2022 our branch financial statements were reviewed by Billie Sherwin and Hennie Cook. Finalized statements prior to reserve allocations are as follows:

- Branch revenues totaled \$2,749.34; expenses \$2,522.12; for net earnings of \$227.22
- Branch net assets total \$9,223.56 with a corresponding total equity of the same amount.

The COVID pandemic restrictions continued to limited branch advocacy activities in 2022. Reserve funds previously set up in the amount of \$6,000.00 were reduced by the purchase of a printer \$259.63 in 2022. The board reviews the reserves on an annual basis based on directives from National office. For the period ending December 31, 2022; reserves total \$6,100.00.

### **Branch Meetings Held in 2022 to March 20, 2023 AGM:**

The 2022 AGM and general meetings were held in-person, with a Zoom component, and a recruitment focus. Members were encouraged to bring eligible members. We did note that several members were recruited. A light complimentary lunch was served, hall and equipment rental were included in the cost.

AGM (In-person and Zoom) – Mar 14, 2022 (28 members, 3 non-members).

Executive Meetings (In person) – Mar 7, May 30, Sept 12, Nov 28, 2022 and Feb 14, 2023

General Meetings (In person and Zoom) – June 13, 2022 (16 members – 3 of which attended by Zoom, 3 non-members); Sept 19, 2022 (20 members)

Christmas Event – A Christmas / Volunteer Recognition event was held on Dec 12, 2022 at D’Lanos Family Restaurant. Three volunteers were recognized for their years of service: Stephen Hryciuk (15 years), Al Loerke (10 years), and Marian Muir (5 years). Two other volunteers were unable to attend. Sandra Allen (5 years) was recognized at the March 20, 2023 AGM. Marilyn Rayner (5 years) will be recognized at a later date. 32 people attended. An email Christmas message was sent out to all branch members.

### **AGM 2023 Election Nominations and Phoning Committee:**

Member, Marilyn Hinton, was appointed to chair the election of the board directors at the 2023 AGM on March 20, 2023. Ben Wiebe, Cameron Sutherland, Deb Nilsen, Deb Tomlinson, Eileen Leinweber, Marian Muir and Rose Bowker were elected by acclamation as directors for the upcoming year. An organizational meeting for the directors is to be held on March 27, 2023 at ECRA at 11:30 am.

Marilyn also joined Rose Bowker on the phoning committee as of September 2022.

**Branch Website and Email:** The National Association of Federal Retirees continues to host our branch web page and updates are completed through our webmaster, Ben Wiebe. Ben continues to communicate with the national office to streamline this process and develop our web page. Branch meeting minutes and the various corresponding reports are posted on our web page. To access the web page, go to: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/british-columbia/prince-george-branch>

The branch email address is: [princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca](mailto:princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca) .

### **Branch Initiatives:**

Prince George Council of Seniors – Our branch remains a member.

National Public Service Week (NPSW) June 12 to 18, 2022 – The branch recognized current federal employees for their service to Canadians. Thank-you posters and email messages were sent to 12 federal departments and one union.

Reach 338 Advocacy Work– *Reach 338* is an on-going campaign. It’s our national strategy to ensure that the National Association of Federal Retirees, our members and our key priorities are seen and understood by every

single Member of Parliament in all 338 constituencies across Canada. In 2020, our branch was selected as one of the first 75 branches to participate in and implement this strategy. Our branch completed Reach 338 advocacy work and continues to reach out to Federal MPs and Provincial MLAs from time to time as directed by National initiatives.

The national strategic plan covers the period between July 2019 and June 2024. The three main goals are:

- 1) To advocate in the best interest of our members and seek to be recognized as a respected national voice supporting secure, healthy and dignified retirement for federal retirees and all Canadians;
- 2) To promote membership retention and growth.
- 3) To pursue organizational excellence at all levels of the Association.

In March 2022, Deb Nilsen and Rose Bowker met for coffee with MP Bachrach from the Skeena-Bulkley Valley constituency.

Membership- Prince George branch membership is at 371 as of January 2, 2023. We continued to promote the Association's main priorities:

- Retirement Income Security
- National Seniors Strategy
- Pharmacare
- Veterans

Contacts in Various Communities – A few members from Smithers joined us for meetings this year via Zoom.

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Association of Federal Retirees in 2023 -

-The branch started gathering ideas for a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event to be held in 2023. We continue to advocate with our Association who has advocated for members since 1963. Our branch hopes to highlight the important historical victories for our members:

- 1963 - The association (Federal Superannuates National Association) was established due to the need for changes in pensions.
- 1973 – Years of consistent lobbying by the Association results in full pension indexation.
- 1983 – Compensation restraint legislation imposed on public sector pensions, Association gains an additional 0.5 % for federal pensioners.
- 1985 – Following the government announcement of termination of guaranteed indexation, the Association wages its greatest battle yet. The legislation is never passed.
- 1988 – FSNA is formally chartered and begins business as a non-profit corporation in June.
- 1992 – Bill C-55 is passed, extending the option of survivor pensions to those who marry in retirement and substantially increase Public Service and Canadian Forces Supplementary Death Benefit.
- 1994 – FSNA spearheads the formation of the Coalition of Seniors for Social Equity (to ensure any changes to seniors' income security programs are thoroughly examined).
- 1999 – FSNA and 14 other plaintiffs challenge the government's appropriation of a \$30-billion pension surplus.
- 2000 – The Association is officially recognized as one of the three parties governing the PSHCP.
- 2001 – Association advocacy efforts lead to the creation of Pensioners' Dental Services Plan.
- 2007 – Pension income splitting is implemented after years of lobbying.
- 2015 – The Association pursues the federal government in court following the PSHCP retiree contribution rate would change from 25% to 50%
- 2016 – the Association successfully lobbies against Bill C-27, dangerous legislation that would put pension security at risk. The legislation never passed.
- 2017 – The Association launches the veteran outreach initiative, bringing veterans voices forward.
- 2019 – After calling for a dedicated voice for seniors in the federal government for years, the Association sees the creation of a new cabinet role – seniors minister.

- 2022 – The Association’s hard work at the negotiation table pays off, and Treasury Board approves the proposed PSHCP renewal deal.

**Branch Information:**

The Historian and Treasurer information/records are stored in the branch’s file cabinet at the Treasurer’s residence. Branch meeting minutes, various reports, and other information are kept in electronic format on the Branch laptop.

Rose Bowker

March 20, 2023