



**BC 15 General Meeting and Recruitment Event Minutes
June 24th, 2024
Elder Citizens Recreation Assn Prince George BC
1692 – 10th Avenue
Lunch at 12:45 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm**

President: Deb Nilsen

Treasurer/Advocacy: Rose Bowker

Webmaster: Cameron Sutherland

Director at Large: Diane Froelich

Historian: Rose Bowker

Vice President: Marian Muir

Secretary: Deb Tomlinson

Director at Large: Kim Usipuik

Meeting called to order by: Deb Nilsen

Time: 1:01 p.m.

Quorum: Yes, 17 members in person. 1 person as guest.

Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional, was our Zoom Host along with Marian the VP of our Branch. Round table introductions were made. There were no members attending by Zoom.

AGENDA

Additions: There were no changes or additions to the Agenda.

Motion to accept Agenda made by: Eileen Leinweber

Seconded: Pat Frank. Motion was carried.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Sept 25th, 2023

Errors or omissions: There were no noted errors or omissions.

Motion to accept the Minutes of Sept 25th, 2023 made by: Diane Froelich

Seconded: Cameron Sutherland. Motion was carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT

-Deb N. introduced the current board members (as noted below). Board positions were decided at a Director meeting held on April 29th, 2024.

Deb Nilsen – President – 2 years

Marian Muir – Vice President – 1 year left

Deb Tomlinson – Secretary – 2 years

Rose Bowker – Treasurer and Advocacy – 1 year left

Cameron Sutherland – Director and Webmaster – 1 year left

Diane Froelich – Director – 2 years

Kim Usipuik – Director – 2 years

AMM:

The 2024 AMM took place from June 18th-20th at the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau Quebec. DebN attended as president and Diane Froehlich attended as an observer. We had provision in our Branch Reserves to send an observer to the AMM as succession planning for the Branch President role.

CEO Report – Anthony Pizzino

-Anthony spoke about the association strengthening its visibility, fighting for members, and continuing relationships with our MPs.

-Membership is steadily increasing and has shown that promoting by word of mouth is as valuable as the mega recruitment drive. A new record for growth was set in the last 7 months.

Organization Structure: A special committee is looking at the structure of the association, such as whether there should be amalgamations or satellite branches. We would like to keep a distinct Prince George Branch.

Advocacy: Advocacy efforts have centered on amplifying Federal Retirees voice and building strong relationships and ensuring that members concerns are addressed at the highest levels. A meeting was held with Minister Seamus O'Regan who is representing our interests in the House of Commons and shares our vision of a Canada where people can live in retirement with dignity and security.

PSHCP: The transition to the Public Service Health Care plan was challenging for many members and the association added temporary staff to deal with the inundation of calls and emails. The new plan with Canada Life for our dental is now being negotiated.

Communication and Marketing: The Association is always working on increasing communication channels and is working on improving the National website.

President's Report – Roy Goodall: The President met with the federal Seniors Minister on three occasions. During the year, the leadership team and some directors met with individual members of all parties to promote the Association requests for a Long-Term Care policy, a seat on the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, a seat at the non-existent Pensioners Dental Service Plan table, and improvements to the Public Service Healthcare Plan.

Membership Survey: The Association membership survey conducted by ABACUS Data in Ottawa reported 21% (18,000 members) responding. The board was briefed on it and branches received an analysis of their members' responses separately. The most significant findings were: 93% of all members have a primary care provider; b. 73% of all members are happy with the Association; c. 86% of all members are happy with the perceived value of the Association; d. 89% of all members consider advocacy to be the Association's primary priority; e. 63 % of all members think branches are important, but only 10% have attended a branch meeting; and f. 29% of all members have never volunteered.

District Information:

-DebN, Rose, and DebT attended the B.C./Yukon District Conference held in Abbotsford May 6th to May 8th, 2024. There were some very good presentations by Alzheimer's BC, Johnson Insurance, and Hearing Life.

-There was a governance presentation. We are a Non-Profit Organization and are self-directed. We have one employee which is the CEO, otherwise our association is volunteer driven. The CEO also maintains a staff which are paid.

-Rick Devlieger headed a presentation on the new strategic plan. The President, Roy Goodall, continued with a feedback exercise on the plan. It was emphasized that our priority is working on protecting our pensions, however, what we do helps all seniors and by extension other Canadians.

-There was discussion on realigning Branch boundaries. (Diane is going to start working on boundaries again as it seems more logical if our Branch could service Terrace and Prince Rupert.)

Webinars/Zoom:

-May 30th, 2024– Meet the Candidates - Zoom Meeting - Spoke with several of the candidates regarding why they are running for director positions with national office.

-June 27th, 2024 – upcoming Zoom Meeting regarding upcoming BC Election – Amy Baldry hosted. Deb Nilsen and Deb Tomlinson will attend.

National Office:

-National Office continues to work on ageism as a worldwide issue. The President, the Vice-President, the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Advocacy team participated in a UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

-National also continues to promote the Associations request for a Long-Term Care policy which not only includes care facilities, but the treatment of care workers which includes work scheduling and pay.

Sage Report:

-It is with sadness that we announce our member Gerald Cook has passed away. This will be noted in our Sage Magazine.

Minimum Branch Remittance Pilot Project (MBRPP):

-Our Branch was successful in obtaining funding from National Office under the MBRPP. We received \$3,580.00 for the purpose of travel to outlying communities. The Branch also has a reserve of \$1,200 set aside for this purpose. We have to use our reserve first and then the monies received from National. If at the end of the project there are funds remaining the monies must be returned to National Office.

-The travel is for advocacy and recruitment purposes. The plan is to visit government offices, Royal Canadian Legions, and senior centers in towns outside of Prince George, but within our branch boundaries. We would share information, drop off NPSW related information, and meet with our current members and/or recruit new members.

-Our first trip was to Smithers on May 27th and 28th and was completed by DebN, Diane, and DebT. Marian and Rose assisted in preparing the slide presentation, preparing the recruitment packages and “Merci” chocolate purchases.

-The recruitment packages delivered contained 1 or 2 copies of our Sage magazine, the “History at a Glance” poster, a National Public Service Week poster – “Thank you for serving Canada and Canadians,” the brochures – “Join today”, Johnson Insurance, and Preferred Partners and “Merci” chocolates.

-Recruitment packages were delivered to federal offices in Vanderhoof and Smithers, as well as all the RCMP detachments, Royal Canadian Legions, and some Senior Centers in and between these two towns.

-On Monday we had a Meet and Greet coffee for members in Vanderhoof. This was not very successful as we only had two members attend. On Tuesday we had a Coffee/Lunch Meet and Greet in Smithers. This was much more successful with several of our members attending as well as some RCMP detachment personnel.

-We had budgeted \$2,900 for the Smithers trip and spent approximately \$2,400.

-Our members in these outlying areas as well as the federal offices were very happy to see us.

-The next trip to Quesnel and Williams Lake is planned for Sept 16 and 17.

VICE PRESIDENT

-Marian confirmed that our Christmas Lunch will be at D’Lanos Family Restaurant.

-Marian reviews emails and information received from the PGCOS and reported on the following:

United Way

- Java Social. Meet neighbours for social engagement and How to organize.
- July 3, Wednesday noon Webinar

Aging in the Right Place (already done) Zoom June 27, Thursday, at 2:00 pm.

Dementia Education:

<https://alzheimer.ca/bc/en/help-support/programs-services/education-workshops>

Alzheimer's Association of BC

TREASURER, ADVOCACY and MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

Advocacy

-The main focus for advocacy at this time is the upcoming provincial general election. There will be a Zoom meeting regarding this on Jun 27th. DebN and DebT will attend.

-There was no treasurer's report available at this time. A question was asked regarding the status of the term deposits that had expired in April 2024. It was explained that these have been terminated and deposited to the Branch account. The Branch is responsible to pay for an observer to attend the AMM, and our Branch had a reserve set aside for this purpose. Once costs have been paid, the directors will review at a future meeting if there are funds available to reinvest in a term deposit.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

WEB REPORT

-Cameron is working with Ben to learn how to post Branch items on the National website.

SENIORS LIAISON REPORT

-Marilyn Hinton, as liaison, provided current information on the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS). She attended the AGM for the PGCOS, and is on the phoning committee.

-Two co-ordinator positions remain unchanged: Better at Home with Terry Runion that helps keep seniors in their own homes with grocery ordering/delivery and housekeeping, and Caregiver support services.

-The new Executive Director is Malhar Kendurkar, Meals on Wheels Co-ordinator is Andrew Agbenin, Seniors Housing Navigator is Janine Bortolon, Community Connector is Melanie Babbitt, and Volunteer Coordinator is Autumn Sahota. All positions are funded through the United Way B.C.

-The Meals on Wheels program is always looking for drivers. The PGCOS receives calls even from the hospital for people being released, as well as people that have injuries or have lost their spouse. ECRA also has frozen meals kept on hand for purchase.

-To access information please call Prince George Council of Seniors at 250 564 5888 between 9 am and 3 pm. Or call Marilyn Hinton at 250-962-8967.

OLD BUSINESS

-A thank you was given to Cindy from ECRA who does our lunch.

NEW BUSINESS

-Nov 1st, 2024 our Dental plan will be moving from Sun Life to Canada Life. We understand that enrollment will be done automatically.

-Steve Hyrciuk brought up privacy issues. National Office is very proactive with this, and member email information is kept at National level. Steve reminded everyone to ensure they sign out of websites to protect access to their information.

Provincial Election

Arlene Krueger, our member, is a District Electoral Officer for the upcoming provincial election and provided us with information.

-There are new provincial boundaries. One may find they are voting in a different electoral district than previously.

-Because of voting modernization, a person may vote anywhere in the province.

The voting calculators are not connected to the internet but are run at the end of the day for security reasons.

-They are in the process of hiring office staff. If interested in working in the office you can go to the BC Election website and click on the job tab or contact Arlene.

They will also be looking for election officials in the near future.

-Arlene has worked in many elections since retiring and says it is an exciting process.

Next Meeting Date: September 23, 2024

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:03 p.m.

Branch email: princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca

Branch website: federalretirees.ca/princegeorge