

BC09 BOD MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2024

We acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on the Traditional Lands of the Lekwungen-speaking Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292,
411 Gorge Road East, Victoria, B.C.

Time: 9:45 a.m.

In Attendance: Jim Dallimore, Patricia Francis, Jennifer Furry, Erika Kanczula, Elizabeth (Libby) MacRae, David Stinson, Gordon Usipiuk, J. Ray Webber, Bennie Wong

Regrets: n/a

Quorum: Yes

Approval of Agenda:

M/ Libby S/ Patricia Carried

Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2024, meeting

M/ Patricia S/ Ray Carried

A. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Libby

- a. November Bulletin to Branches
 - i. Association 2025-2028 draft Strategic Plan was provided to all volunteers for comments and discussion at the regional meetings. Comments were sent to District Directors NO by Nov. 30; The draft strategic plan will be reviewed and agreed upon by the Board in December.
 - ii. Work continues with the Special Committee on Association Structure.
 - iii. The three-tier advocacy proposal is progressing: national, provincial and local continues to be discussed along with the review of current advocacy priorities.
 - iv. The 2025 AMM will be held in person at the Hilton Lac Leamy Hotel in Gatineau on June 17 and 18, 2025, Five three-year positions are coming up for election at the 2025 AMM: President, directors from B.C./Yukon, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic districts. Nominations close March 19, 2025.
 - v. Roy Goodall wrote to the prime minister and several members of cabinet to express retirees' frustration at being excluded from the one-time \$250 payments. He noted that vulnerable older persons will be left behind if they are excluded from this initiative. Given this and older persons' contributions through unpaid volunteer work, retirees should receive the \$250 payments.
 - vi. The report sponsored by our Association and written by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has been released. It can be accessed on the website. It demonstrates the Association's thought leadership on retirement security and the results align with our longstanding commitment to the idea that people who retire with income security can and do contribute significantly to the economy, government finances, local communities and equity for historically disadvantaged groups. That fact

- aligns well with our core advocacy priority of defending members' hard-earned pensions and advocating for dignity and security in retirement.
- vii. The Board has approved a membership fee increase of 2.45%, or slightly more than \$1.30 per single annual membership.
 - viii. The pension indexation rate effective Jan 1, 2025 is 2.7%.
 - ix. The Branch's work should focus on the Association's advocacy priorities: retirement income security, a national senior's strategy, veteran well-being and pharmacare.
- b. Mega Recruitment Drive on until December 31; most recent NO Bulletin sent November 15.
 - c. Reminder: Sage Cross-Canada Roundup Photo Story – NO is encouraging Branches to send in photos of their local events.
 - d. NO E-mail: Information on the Governance Review – Diagnostic Survey was sent Nov. 25, 2024; widespread engagement with the Association's key governance stakeholders (the national board, branch presidents, the Association's executive team, volunteers and members) will take place. As part of this, the consultants, Watson Board Advisors, is sending out an initial diagnostic survey to stakeholders close to the Association's governance and will be sending a separate and different survey out to members before the close of the calendar year.
 - e. President's Actions since last meeting:
 - i. sent out the Record of Minutes from the Regional meeting held October 22, 2024 to BODs; also forwarded an e-mail to BODs referencing Defined Benefit (DB) Pensions and Defined Contribution (DC) Pensions.
 - ii. placed the Branch's order for Holiday e-cards with NO; will be e-mailed to prospective members too.
 - iii. contacted the District Directors and suggested that CoActive Communities might be an option for presentation at the District meeting. They agreed and I advised CoActive Communities.
 - iv. approved the ZOOM renewal through NO.
 - v. forwarded an e-mail to BODs from Rick Roberts, Nanaimo Branch President, re: Christmas General meeting on Nov. 28 at the Tigh Na Mara Resort in Parkville.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: An update of financial standings has not been provided by NO but it appears that there was only a change of just over \$5. Erika advised that NO paid twice the amount of the invoice she had submitted. It was decided that she would keep the excess until such time as NO reviews and adjusts their accounting.

It was suggested that NO be approached to see if we can access petty cash of \$2000 going forward.

M/ Erika **S/** David Carried

2024 Excess Surplus Return – The choice as to where the surplus amounting to \$25,181.10 may be returned is between the National Defense of Benefits or National Branch Infrastructure Reserve. It was suggested that the surplus be allocated to the National Defense of Benefits. The motion was amended to read that \$20,000 be provided to the National Defense of Benefits and the remainder to the National Branch Infrastructure Reserve.

M/ Patricia S/ David Carried

C. ADVOCACY: Gordon/Libby

We are liaising with the Duncan Branch to send congratulation letters to winning candidates of the eight electoral districts in the provincial election.

D. HEALTH BENEFITS: David

David mentioned that his Dental office has indicated that everything has gone smoothly with the transition to PDSP. David is researching what items Canada Life has discretion on. This question has been raised with regard to payment for orthotics.

E. MEMBERSHIP: Ray

Thirty-six members attended the last general meeting.

F. RECRUITMENT: All

G. SPEAKERS PROGRAM: Patricia

The Executive Director, who was the speaker for Seniors Serving Seniors is retiring and now is not available to speak at our December meeting. Patricia has arranged for a travel person to talk about Uzbekistan. Patricia is working on speakers for January. Alzheimer's have not responded to her email. However, she has also been working on bringing in a fireman to talk about fire safety in the home. A motion for payment of the fee of \$600 for the Police Choir was made.

M/ David S/ Jim Carried

H. PREFERRED PARTNER PROGRAM: Gordon

Gordon advised that we have 7 partners. The following four preferred partners are enthusiastic but are reducing their benefits.

- Simply Pure and Ice Water
- The Victorian at MacKenzie
- Digital Rabbit-Cell phone and computer repair business
- Restart Computers-Especially for Apple users

Gordon has been unable to get in touch with the following:

- Mother Computers-no response from manager
- Senior Care-no response from manager
- Wickerland Patio-no response from manager.

I. WEBSITE:

Gordon had forwarded the data reports. For October 163 views across all webpages, 89 users; for November, 163 views across all webpages, 87 users.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Meeting Frequency

It was suggested that we have four general meetings in 2025 including the AGM which needs to be held in March in order to meet the legislative requirements. It was discussed that general meetings should be held January, March, September and

December in three different locations for the meetings: Victoria/Saanich, the Saanich Peninsula and the West Shore.

Moved by: David Seconded: Ray Carried

Erika has suggested that we hold our meetings via Zoom. It was decided until we have a volunteer versed in the technology and the proper equipment this would be on hold.

B. December General Meeting

Vouchers will be provided for lunch. Patricia has an Iris gift certificate, Soap for Hope gift basket and a Purdy's gift certificate. Poinsettias will also be placed around the meeting room.

C. Committee for Meeting Venue Options

Erika has spoken to other committee members. The Board requested that the committee look at date and location options for September and December. 2025.

D. Review Membership Engagement Survey and Townhalls

Libby reviewed her notes and commented that there wasn't a lot of input or concrete suggestions for change or improvements from our members. There were some suggestions that can and will be investigated such as zoom meetings.

E. Data Analysis Report: e-blasts and Sage

- a. Appendix: Data Analysis Report (attached)
- b. Click Dimensions email platform and Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation

Gordon reviewed the information provided in the report.

F. Remembrance Day 2024 wrap up

A summary of the 2024 activities has been put on the secretary's laptop for reference for the next year.

G. Business Cards update

They will be ordered in the new year.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Spring Sage Report

Libby has not yet been advised of the dates for the Spring editions of Sage. She will be sending out draft for comment probably next week.

B. Recruiting

- a. Web Content Editor/Audio Visual Support – Benny and Erika will discuss with Gordon.
- b. Vice-President
- c. Director

C. Annual General Meeting

As discussed, we will continue to hold it in March in order to meet the timeframe set out in the governing legislation.

D. Branch Communication and Contact Information

Our Branch email is now on our e-blasts. After some discussion, it was moved that we purchase computers for the health benefits and membership positions.

M/ Gordon S/ Benny Carried

In order to be consistent and provide everyone with similar operating systems, it suggested that the 365 Microsoft platform be used.

It was moved that we purchase one Microsoft 365 additional licence to be used by all directors.

M/ Gordon S/ Benny Carried

4. ROUNDTABLE

UPCOMING BOD MEETINGS: January 7, 2025

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: December 10, 2024

ADJOURNMENT:

M/ Libby S/ Patricia Carried