

National Association of Federal Retirees Prince George Branch BC15

Historian Archive Report for the March 25, 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

January 1, 2023 through to March 10, 2024

AGM Mar 20, 2023 and Executive:

The AGM for the financial year ending December 31, 2022 was held March 20, 2023 in person and virtually using Zoom. Zoom guests included: Steve Sawchuk (BSC Fraser Valley West) and Rick Devlieger (BSC, Regional). Rick D along with Marian Muir from the BC 15 branch hosted the Zoom portion of our meeting. 20 members attended in-person. The AGM for the December 31, 2023 year-end was set for March 25, 2024.

Member, Marilyn Hinton, chaired the election of the board directors. Seven (7) branch board members were elected by acclamation to serve until the next AGM in 2024. The directors met after the AGM, on March 27, 2023 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; The District Conference was held May 16-18, 2023 in Abbotsford (Deb T and Rose also attended). At the invitation of our National office, Deb delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Meet and Greet provincial election event our branch hosted on October 3, 2019. This presentation was very well received. Expenses for the conferences were covered by the District.

Deb gave a presentation of the Retirees Association's achievements at our 60th anniversary event held on October 18, 2023 (the entire board assisted with this event).

She recently applied for Branch Infrastructure Reserve Funding. The branch hopes to get additional funding to assist with advocacy, recruitment, and outreach to our members and potential members in outlying areas (going west to Smithers and south to Williams Lake).

Deb kept our branch informed and well organized throughout 2023.

Vice President, Marian Muir – Marian continued her role as VP. She shared the Zoom computer projection duties at meetings, with Ben and Cameron assisting. Marian spearheaded the branch by-law review. She presented amendments at the AGM and received member approval. The bylaw amendments were reviewed and approved by National Office and subsequently posted to the Branch website. At the October 18, 2023 60th Celebration event, Marian prepared a PowerPoint presentation to run during the event.

Secretary, Deb Tomlinson – Deb T recorded all meeting minutes and continued to be the central point for archiving branch information on the laptop. Deb T attended the District conference in May 16-18, 2023; the Regional conference on Feb 23, 2023 in Aldergrove, BC; and took part in various webinars and event planning sessions.

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 and event planning sessions. Rose and Deb T spearheaded organizing of electronic and in-person delivery of NAFR info, posters, and "Merci" chocolates for celebration of NPSW, as well as the organization of the branch's NAFR 60th celebration "Coffee and Snacks" event held on Oct 18, 2023.

Director at Large, Eileen Leinweber – Eileen continued her role as director at large for our branch. She took care of our meeting / event attendance sign ins as well as information table set up.

Director / Webmaster, Ben Wiebe – Ben continued his roles as a director and webmaster (with Cameron). As well, Ben assisted with meeting computer projection set up.

Director / Webmaster, Cameron Sutherland – Cameron became a member of our branch board at the 2023 AGM. He joined Ben in his role as a webmaster and he assisted with meeting computer projection set up.

Financial Position:

For the year ending December 31, 2023 our branch financial statements were reviewed by Billie Sherwin and Kim Usipuk. Finalized statements prior to reserve allocations are as follows:

- Branch revenues totaled \$3,005.86; operating expenses \$2,910.66; reserve spending \$400.00; for net earnings (loss) of -\$304.80
- Branch net assets total \$8,918.76 with a corresponding total equity of the same amount.

Reserve funds previously set up in the amount of \$6,100.00 were reduced by the special events – 60th anniversary reserve of \$400.00 spent in 2023. The board reviews the reserves on an annual basis based on directives from National office. For the period ending December 31, 2023; additional available reserves of \$600.00 were set up, for total reserves of \$6,300.00.

Branch Meetings and Events Held in 2023 to March 25, 2024 AGM:

The 2023 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 20, 2023 (20 members, 2 non-members).

Board/Executive Meetings (In person) – Mar 6, May 29, Sept 11, Nov 27, 2023, and March 4, 2024

General Meetings (In person and Zoom) – June 12, 2023 (34 members – 5 of which attended by Zoom, 5 non-members); Sept 25, 2023 (23 members and 1 non-member). The June 12 general meeting featured a presentation by the national office on the changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan.

60th Anniversary Event – October 18, 2023 – Our branch hosted a Coffee and Snacks event to celebrate our Association's 60 years of service and to honor the RCMP 150th anniversary as well. The event took place at the Prince George & District Senior Citizens Activity Centre Society. A welcome table; a power point presentation; historical photos; NAFR information table with swag; and an RCMP related information table complimented the beverage and snack area. Invites were sent to various PG government offices, federal MPs and provincial MLAs (within our branch boundaries), City of PG mayor and council, UTE and PSAC unions, Legion, PG council of Seniors members and various potential members. 35 people attended the event (14 members). The branch had 4 new members sign up after this event.

Our branch highlighted 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.

Christmas Event – A Christmas / Volunteer Recognition event was held on Dec 11, 2023 at D'Lanos Family Restaurant. Three volunteers were recognized for their years of service: Deb Nilsen (5 years), Rose Bowker (5 years), and Marilyn Hinton for her many duties over the last couple of years. Three other volunteers, Stephen Hryciuk, Richard Leinweber, and George Hohnisch were recognized for their assistance with the 60th anniversary event. 24 members attended. An email Christmas message was sent out to all branch members.

AGM 2024 Election Nominations and Phoning Committee:

Member, Marilyn Hinton, was once again appointed to chair the election of the board directors at the 2024 AGM. After the AGM held in March 2023, the elected directors met to determine how to facilitate the revised bylaw change from one-year to two-year terms. The board's decision was to have three directors appointed to two-year terms and four directors appointed to one-year terms. As a result, four directors are to be elected at the AGM on March 25, 2024. After this AGM, all the director terms will be two years but staggered to ensure board continuity.

Marilyn Hinton also continued her role on the phoning committee with Rose.

Branch Website and Email: The National Association of Federal Retirees continues to host our branch web page and updates are completed through our webmasters, Ben Wiebe and Cameron Sutherland. 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 .

Branch Initiatives:

Prince George Council of Seniors – Our branch remains a member. Marilyn Rayner resigned from her director position in February 2023. However, she continued to forward email information from the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS) until February 2024, at which time Marilyn R resigned from that. Marilyn Hinton provided updates on the PGCOS at our general meetings. For 2024, the representative for PGCOS is Marilyn Hinton. She will report to Marian Muir. Marian will update the board on PGCOS matters.

National Public Service Week (NPSW) June 11 to 17, 2023 – The branch recognized current federal employees for their service to Canada and Canadians. This year, we sent an electronic message as well as dropped off

information packages and “MERCI” chocolates to 15 federal offices. This year’s poster and email messages highlighted our association’s 60th anniversary, membership awareness, and our local branch information.

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.

Our federal MPs and BC MLAs within our branch boundaries were invited to attend the October 60th anniversary event.

Membership- Prince George branch membership is at **390 as of January 2024; 389 Feb 28, 2024**. We continued to promote the Association’s main priorities:

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

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

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