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Branch Update (#4)
April 2021

Hello, fellow BC 04 Branch members.

Branch welcomes new faces to the Board at the Branch Annual Meeting

Two new (to us) volunteers joined the ten returning members to give us a full complement on the Branch board of directors, at the Branch Annual Meeting on March 24th, 2021.

Welcome, Christine Dockman and Judy McLellan!

In other changes on the board, VP Ilene Fika stepped back to an “at large” position in order to focus on family. Ian thanked her for her significant contribution over the past year as VP and over the previous four years as Secretary, and for agreeing to stay on the board through the coming year. Katherine Kettler has agreed to serve as VP. Thelma Graham moved into the Secretary role and Stuart Wilson intrepidly stepped into the role of Treasurer.

Twenty-nine members signed on for our first-ever ‘virtual’ Branch Annual Meeting. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Ian Spence delivered the “Year in Review” report, touching on many of the challenges and achievements of a most unusual (we hope) year. Leslie Gaudette, Advocacy Program Officer, BC/Yukon, surveyed the political landscape for the coming year (see ‘Current Campaigns’).

With most regular activities cancelled or deferred, Branch finances were in surplus for the year, and the members approved motions accepting the reviewed Financial Statement for 2020, the allocations for ‘reserves’ for initiatives planned over the next three years, and the budget proposed for 2021. Members also approved motions appointing the executive officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) as financial signing authorities and giving the board authority to appoint a financial reviewer for 2021.

Positions on the board of directors were filled by acclamation (and affirmed by the members present):

President:	Ian Spence
Vice President	Katherine Kettler
Secretary	Thelma Graham
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Directors-at-large	Christine Dockman
	Ilene Fika
	Joy Hennan
	Bernd Hirsekorn
	Judy McLellan
	Sharon Riches
	Glen (Rocky) Rockwell
	Steve Sawchuk

Advocacy—Current campaigns

- Leslie Gaudette, Advocacy Program Officer, BC/Yukon

Long Term Care campaign – the FEDERAL RETIREES special campaign for long term care and home care is ongoing with emphasis on national standards. The situation with our Public Service Pension Plan owning Revera (a for-profit LTC service provider) is being monitored closely by the National Advocacy Committee and the National Board of Directors.

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Virtual 'Meet and Chat'

Personal Planning—Upcoming sessions

We are following up on the Personal Planning (Overview) workshop that was presented on March 10th, with three more in-depth sessions that look at important legal documents you may want to have in place to

- a) make sure your wishes are carried out if you are incapacitated and
- b) give your family and caregivers some confidence and comfort when they are called on to make decisions on your behalf.

Please join us for informative and lively presentations by Terry Wright, a volunteer facilitator with COSCO's Seniors' Health & Wellness Institute.

April 15 – Representation Agreements:

These legal and binding documents allow an individual to have someone else speak for them in health and personal care matters and routine financial affairs if they are incapable of speaking for themselves. There are two types of Representation Agreements in BC and we discuss the importance and differences of the two types of document, points to consider when appointing someone to be your Representative, their duties and responsibilities.

May 13 - Power of Attorney: There are four types of Power of Attorney in BC, most people are familiar with only one. In this workshop, we discuss all four types. We also consider when you need a Power of Attorney, the steps you should take to consider who to appoint as your Attorney, the duties of your Attorney, problems with having a Power of Attorney and how to change your Attorney if needed.

May 20 - Advance Directive: Many seniors in BC are not familiar with what this legal document is and is not. In this workshop, we discuss what a person should do to prepare to create an Advance Directive, when a person should have an Advance Directive, what it is and what it is not, when it can be used and when it may be ignored.

All sessions are at 1 p.m. **To get your invitation to these Zoom sessions, please email Ilene at imfika@shaw.ca or phone (604) 372-1109.**

Advocacy (cont'd)

New campaigns in February 2021

Responding 'nimble' to unfolding events, National Office very quickly put together two campaigns that were launched through emails from our National President, Jean-Guy Soulière.

· **Federal Budget input on our priorities** – see the national website – <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/news-views/news-listing/february/lets-talk-budget-2021-have-your-say>

FEDERAL RETIREES made six key recommendations for budget priorities:

1. **Reform older adult care** by implementing a national seniors strategy, which includes national standards tied to funding for long-term care and home and community care, and investments to expand home and community care and address the social determinants of health.
2. Improve financial supports and investments in tools and programs to assist **informal caregivers**.
3. Move forward with implementing a **national pharmacare program so that all Canadians have access to the medications they need**.
4. Ensure long-term **retirement income security** for low-income seniors who qualify for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
5. Address gaps in direct funding programs for those whose income has been affected by COVID-19.
6. Protect pensions over the long-term by creating a strong policy environment that encourages innovation and makes defined benefit plans more readily available to Canadians.

· **Support for Bill C213 on pharmacare**

FEDERAL RETIREES supported this Bill as it was well aligned with our position on Pharmacare, calling on members to join in a letter writing campaign to MPs. Despite efforts by Federal Retirees and many other retiree, labour and health organizations the Bill was defeated with the NDP and Green Party members voting for and nearly all Liberal, Conservative and Bloc MPs voting against. This may well reflect very strong lobbying by pharmaceutical and insurance industries. The importance of this issue for our members is underscored by the fact that they sent up to 5,000 letters in 24 hours. For more information see: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/news-views/news-listing/february/lets-talk-about-pharmacare>

Federal Election: Will it be Spring? Will it be Fall? Current thinking is that we will most likely have an election this year, and with the Federal Budget now set for April 19, it could be Spring. So be prepared!

Numbers...

President	Ian Spence	(604)753-7845	spence.ian@telus.net
Vice President / Communications	Katherine Kettler	778 995-6136	kettlerk@gmail.com
Secretary	Thelma Graham	604 309-2538	graham_tm@msn.com
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson	604 542-1560	s.k.wilson@shaw.ca
Director Health & Benefits (HBO)	Glen (Rocky) Rockwell		grockwell@shaw.ca
Director Membership Administration	Steve Sawchuk	604 574-2939	s.sawchuk@shaw.ca
Director Membership Marketing	Joy Hennen	604 856-0310	joyj@shaw.ca
Director Volunteer Engagement	Bernd Hirsekorn	604-531-0997	bh45jh@shaw.ca
Director	Sharon Riches	604 946-2434	slriches@me.com
Director	Ilene Fika	(604) 372-1109	imfika@shaw.ca
Director	Christine Dockman		
Director	Judy McLellan		

Introducing the BC 04 Board (2021)...

Christine Dockman

I joined FSNA in 2011. Worked in the Federal Public Service in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves as a Commissioned Officer and for Health Canada, in the Medical Services Branch as Director of Nursing, Inuvik Gen. Hospital and in the Health Protection and Health Promotion/Population Health Branches as a Program Consultant. Volunteered on the Boards of various non-profit organizations and professional associations. Nine years' experience as a Chief Steward, then RVP for BC/Yukon Region with the NHWU/National Health Union, PSAC. Retired from the Public Health Agency of Canada, BC Region.

Ilene Fika

I joined FSNA (as it was known at the time) in 2012 upon retirement from the Canadian Forces in Edmonton, having spent 34 years with the CAF in Canada and Europe. Moved to Surrey in 2013 and transferred my membership to Fraser Valley West Branch. Started volunteering with the Branch in fall of 2014 and was elected in 2015. Filled Advocacy Director role for 1 ½ years, then Secretary for 4 years and VP for one year. It is a pleasure to volunteer with such fun and devoted people.

Thelma Graham

I joined FSNA in 2011, I have been on the Board of Directors since 2012 and have been Health and Benefits Director and Treasurer. I was employed with the Correctional Service of Canada for 30 years, my career started as one of the first woman Living Unit Officers at Matsqui Institution. I retired as Manager. Assessment and Intervention at the Regional Reception Assessment Centre.

Joy Hennen

I joined FSNA in 2012 and was elected to the board in 2016, becoming director for Marketing & Recruitment. My Public Service career began with Consumer & Corporate Affairs in 1973. My oath (they were still doing that) was administered by Leo Leavy, one of the famous Leavy Twins at the "Frog Hollow" building at Lougheed & Boundary. I later moved to Manpower & Immigration and finished with Service Canada.

Bernd Hirsekorn

1970 – 1985 Project Manager, BC Hydro High Voltage Power Projects
1985 – 2006 Programs Implementation Mgr, Transport Canada (Airports, and Harbours & Ports)
2006 - Joined BC04 Branch, FSNA
2009 - volunteered on the Branch Board in many positions including Branch president 2016-2020.

Katherine Kettler

I joined Federal Retirees in 2017 and have served in a few volunteer positions including Director, Social events, and Director, Volunteer Engagement. Worked in the Public Service in HRSDC, Statistics Canada, Justice and Fisheries and Oceans.

Judy McLellan

I retired in December 2013. Worked in the Public Service for the RCMP as an administrator. I was also the USGE (Union of Solicitor General Employees) Local Union President and then RVP for RCMP, Justice & Firearms for B.C. & Yukon - roles I was very honoured to hold. Then moved to Veterans Affairs as a Mediator/Conflict Resolution Advisor for the next 7 years till retirement.

Sharon Riches

I joined the FSNA in 2010 while still working as a Food Processing Specialist and HACCP Coordinator for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Retired in April, 2012 and continued my membership. I joined the BC04 Fraser Valley West Branch in 2014 as a Director of Speaker events. Now I am a Director-at-Large to assist with various events. I think we have a great Board and I always enjoy working with them.

Glen (Rocky) Rockwell

I joined the FSNA several years after retiring from a 37 year career with the RCMP ending as a unit commander in Federal Enforcement (Drugs, Immigration. Terrorist matters for example). As a volunteer I spend about 25 of those years with the Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition, ending as "Rodeo Chairman". Upon joining the FSNA/NAFR I accepted the position of branch Treasurer, and for the past couple of years have been the Health Benefits Officer.

Steve Sawchuk

Steve's career spanned 37 years with Service Canada, starting out as an enquiry clerk and ending as Regional Advisor employer / client services. Shortly after retiring he joined the National Association of Federal Retirees, Fraser Valley West Branch in 2011, being elected to the Board in the capacity of Treasurer, following which he took over as the Branch Membership Administration Coordinator

Ian Spence

I joined FSNA/Federal Retirees in 2008, and have served in various volunteer positions including Regional Services Officer for Western BC and VP and President, Fraser Valley West. Worked in the Public Service in Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Industry Canada (Consumer Products & Spectrum Management) and the Competition Bureau.

Stuart Wilson

I joined FSNA in 2006, and served as Secretary to the Branch and then President 2008-2011. Retired from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency from the position of Regional Director for British Columbia, Mainland Interior Region.