



**BC 15 General Meeting and Recruitment Event Minutes
Sep 23rd, 2024
Elder Citizens Recreation Assn Prince George BC
1692 – 10th Avenue
Lunch at 12:45 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm**

President: Deb Nilsen
Treasurer: Kim Usipuk
Webmaster: Cameron Sutherland

Vice President: Marian Muir
Secretary: Deb Tomlinson
Director at Large: Diane Froelich

Meeting called to order by: Deb Nilsen

Time: 1:00 pm.

Quorum: Yes, 24 members attending and 2 by Zoom.

Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional, was our Zoom Host along with Marian the VP of our Branch. Round table introductions were made.

AGENDA

Additions: Add to the Agenda the appointment of Kim Usipuk as Treasurer.

Motion to accept Agenda with addition made by: Barb Mazur

Seconded: Pat Frank. All were in favour.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Jun 24th, 2024

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

Motion to accept previous minutes made by: Steve Hryciuk

Seconded: Cameron Sutherland. All were in favour.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT

-It was advised that the Zoom meeting that had been in the planning stages for B.C. Elections candidates will not be going ahead. Only one candidate had responded. So, all members are encouraged to speak to candidates to express the priorities of Federal Retirees. There was an eblast that members should have received this morning that provides a letter for members to express their concerns to the B.C. Elections candidates. A member only has to complete specific information, and the letter will be forwarded by National Office to the candidates that are in that members riding. The email that members received would be from Sayward Montague. There was also an earlier email.

-A Branch board meeting was held on Sept 9th, 2024.

-On Sept 18th information was updated at the Integrus Credit Union for the change in signing authorities. Kim Usipuik was added as Treasurer, and Rose was removed due to her resignation.

Recruitment:

-On Thursday Sept 26th, DebN, Kim, and Diane will be going to Quesnel and Williams Lake to visit the Federal Government offices and meet with our members in each community. The purpose of the trip is for recruitment of new members and the retention of current members.

-We have had success in gaining new members by making our general meetings recruitment events and inviting eligible members to attend. Today's membership count for our Branch is just over 400.

District Information:

-We will have an update on district information shortly from one of our B.C. and Yukon District directors, Scott Hodge, who is attending this meeting.

Sage Report:

-The Branch report for the quarterly Sage magazine has been submitted.

Minimum Branch Remittance Pilot Project:

-Our Branch had applied for extra funding under the (MBRPP) Minimum Branch Remittance Pilot Project. The purpose was to meet with members in outlying areas for retention of members, and to visit federal offices in these areas for recruitment of new members. A trip to Smithers and towns in between was done in May of this year, and this Thursday, Sept 26th, will be the last trip which will be to Quesnel and Williams Lake. The additional funding we received is specifically for this purpose and any funding that is not spent has to be returned to National Office.

A full report on this project will be done at the AGM after all the trips have been completed.

Appointment of New Treasurer:

-At the Branch board meeting of Sept 9th, 2024, a motion was put forward to appoint Kim Usipuik, who is a current director, to the position of treasurer. This was due to the resignation of the previous treasurer.

Advocacy

-Advocacy is focused on the upcoming election in BC and then the Federal election which will be happening sometime next year.

DebN introduced Scott Hodge, who is one of our directors of the District of B.C. and Yukon and who also sits on the National board.

GUEST SPEAKER: Scott Hodge, Director, NAFR District of B.C. and Yukon

-Scott informed us that the recent focus has been on the introduction of a new Strategic Plan for the organization. This strategic plan was introduced at the May 2024 District meeting to directors for input and was then presented at the AMM held in June to the Branch Presidents. A National meeting was held in August and the plan will be issued to Presidents again.

-Scott stated the other big thing that is happening at the National level is the Special Committee on the Association's structure. In some districts, branches are having difficulty in getting new members as the federal offices closed in those areas. National is looking at possibly changing some Branch areas as well as looking at the full structure of the organization. They want to be able to make it better and easier for Branches. There could be a lot of changes, or maybe none.

-There will be a BC Regional meeting in November and then the District Annual Training Conference will be held on May 16th, 2025 in Abbotsford again. The AMM in 2025 will be held in June. Further details on these will be forthcoming. Brian Strongman replaced one of the BC

District directors this year that had resigned, so Brian's term will be up next year which will leave a position open.

-Canada Life seems to be running more smoothly with the PSHCP. There have been lots of issues, but these are gradually getting resolved. National Office has a direct line with Canada Life so please contact them with any issues or concerns.

-The dental plan will be moving to Canada Life as of Nov 1st, 2024. The transition will be somewhat different as Canada Life is doing the positive enrollment. If you have not received an email on enrollment from Canada Life please contact them directly. If you have received confirmation of your enrollment then it is a good idea to log into your account at Canada Life and ensure that all the information is correct. The pensioner's dental plan is separate from the regular public service.

-Scott stated he will be available after the meeting if there are any additional questions.

VICE PRESIDENT

-The new calendar is ready for 2025 and there are some copies on the information table. It will also be posted on the Branch website.

- Our Christmas Lunch will be held at D'Lanos Family Restaurant again. It will be Mon, Dec 16th at 1:00 pm. Prices have gone up so the cost to each member will be \$20. If any members have special requests such as gluten free or other, please send that information to the Branch email address and Marian will look after these requests.

TREASURER, ADVOCACY and MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

-Kim reviewed the financial statements. Investments are sitting at nil at the present time as the term deposit was cashed for the purpose of reserve spending.

-Part of our reserve spending involved sending an observer to the AMM for succession planning as well as an amount set aside for the recruitment/retention project being done this year. There is one more trip to Quesnel and Williams Lake for the project which is happening this week. Once the projects are completed and a full report done, the board will review and determine if there are monies that can be reinvested again.

-The Branch received \$3,580 in funding from National for the purpose of outreach activities in outlying communities. The Branch also had \$1,200 set aside in reserves for this purpose. The spending for travel and meeting venues to the west trip to Smithers and towns in between amounted to approx. \$2,400 and the remainder is available for the Quesnel and Williams Lake trip. This trip will cost somewhat less as board members will complete as a day trip. Our reserve set aside for this purpose has to be used first, and then whatever amount is not used from the funding received from National Office has to be returned to them.

-Reserved equity was also reduced in the amount of \$89 for the purchase of a microphone for meeting use.

-The present financial statements will be posted to the Branch website. Not all transactions have been accounted for or posted at this time. We are still waiting for costs from National to send our observer to the AMM, and our recruitment project is not yet completed. This should all be accounted for by the year-end and financial statements and project details will be presented at the upcoming AGM.

-It was noted that members would like printed copies of the Financial Statements along with the Agenda and Minutes.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

WEB REPORT

-Ben and Cameron are getting together so Ben can relay information on posting to the Branch website.

SENIORS LIAISON REPORT

-Marilyn Hinton is our Seniors Liaison and once a month she attends the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS) Advisory Committee meeting on behalf of our Branch. There are about 30 groups that belong to the PGCOS, and each group sends a representative to the meeting. Representatives are invited to share any current news or information on upcoming meetings of their organization.

-At the PGCOS meeting a report is delivered on behalf of the BC Seniors Advocate. This is usually done by Dawn Hemingway. Dawn is also the voice of "Senior Moments" on the radio station 93.1 which provides a lot of current information to seniors.

-The Prince George Library is a very active group. Seniors can take their phones or tablets to the library and get one on one technical assistance for 30 mins at no cost. The phone number for arrangements is 250-563-9251 ext.100.

-The PG Library is also offering seated Tai Chi now for adults which is drop in and held on Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30.

-The PGCOS offers house cleaning services through their Better at Home program as well as a Meals on Wheels program. The phone number is 250-564-5888. The charge is on a sliding scale per income, and they do look at what is needed for individual cases. Emergency food services are also available through the Meals on Wheels such as when a person is just released from the hospital and needs help.

-Marilyn also spoke about AWAC, (Association for Women and Children). They have a program where if you call they will come and offer help to persons who are wandering aimlessly or possibly intoxicated. This provides help to persons from trained individuals without possibly needing to get law enforcement involved. The number to call is 250-562-6262 and the vehicles responding are well signed.

-Marilyn brought up that you are a member of the PGCOS as you become a member at large through your organization. So, anyone who has a Federal retirees membership also has access to the PGCOS Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter is about 30 pages and has news on everything that is happening all around Prince George.

-The phone number for the PGCOS is 250-564-5888.

-A question was asked about links to the PGCOS on our Branch website. Cameron will look into this.

NEW BUSINESS

-It was mentioned that it would be nice to have new members listed in our minutes so we will look into doing that.

-On another note, it was brought up that we need new board members, so please consider volunteering.

Next Meeting Date: Christmas Lunch on Dec 16th, 2024 to be held at D'Lano's Family Restaurant.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:49 pm.

Branch email: princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca

Branch website: federalretirees.ca/princegeorge