



# BRANCH REPORT

## BC08 | Vancouver Branch

### President's message

On April 26, 2023, we held a successful annual general meeting (AGM) that was well-attended by our members at the Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) in Vancouver. We were pleased to have our branch services coordinator (BSC), Stephen Sawchuck, in attendance. Our treasurer, Tom Chang, gave a very detailed report on the state of branch finances and we are in good shape. Paul Davis, director responsible for the Yukon region of our branch, was elected.

In May, Murray Bryck, Tom Chang and I attended the B.C. & Yukon district conference in Abbotsford. The focus this year was advocacy training, and featured Renate Sutherland, our new advocacy program officer (APO) for the district.

Prior to the district meeting, our branch advocacy committee, Ian Sinclair, Deborah Turner, Beverly Segal and I got together with Renate on Zoom to discuss advocacy priorities for our branch.

From June 19-23, our branch was well represented at the national annual meeting of members (AMM). As in past years, the AMM was held in Gatineau, Que. at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel. Branch attendees included myself, Murray Bryck, Tom Chang, Paul Davis and Federal Retirees life member Dennis Jackson. It was a full agenda, and all business was completed within fifteen minutes of the end of the conference. This was also a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the National Association of Federal Retirees, and the theme throughout the week, which included the volunteers recognition dinner gala.

Speaking of which, our own branch's 60th anniversary will be celebrated with a very special event on Sept. 12, 2023, at the ICC. It will be the best meeting in our history, with great food, entertainment, many prizes and gifts and our special guests will include our national president, Roy Goodall.

In addition, please mark on your calendar that our Christmas luncheon will be on Dec. 7, 2023, also at the ICC.

Sincerely,

**George Scott**  
Branch President



Refer a member to Federal Retirees  
for a chance to win terrific prizes.

Fill out a ballot at [federalretirees.ca/mrd](https://federalretirees.ca/mrd)  
for a chance to win.



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## Celebrating Federal Retirees' 60th at the AMM



*B.C. & Yukon district director Paul Davis (pictured centre in the hippie bandana) represented the Vancouver Branch in the "Dress for the Sixties" competition at the AMM in June.*

In honour of the Association's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the theme of this year's volunteer recognition dinner gala was the swinging sixties. Volunteers were encouraged to dress in period-appropriate attire and even joined in a friendly "best dressed" competition during the ceremony. The Vancouver Branch's own Paul Davis dressed for the occasion, sporting a daisy-coloured bandana to top off his flower power outfit.

## Volunteer wanted

The Vancouver Branch is looking for a volunteer to help out in its main office. The time required is just one day per month for roughly four hours. Duties include answering the telephone and handling member requests. Training will be provided. If interested, please call the branch at (604) 681-4742. We look forward to having you on our team!

## The Iron Soldier



*Capt. Trevor Green with his wife and son, pictured in front of the Legion Veterans Village in Surrey, B.C.*

Capt. Trevor Greene was on duty in 2006 in Afghanistan and, while meeting with tribal elders, was attacked by a Taliban member with an axe to the head. He was removed from the situation and eventually came back to Canada. He could not walk or talk for the first year back but was assisted that year by his wife, Debbie, and his physician, Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, to be able to communicate. Over the years that followed, it was decided to build a medical complex to support war veterans with PTSD and other neurological conditions like Greene's that affect veterans, police officers, paramedics and firefighters. It is called Legion Veterans Village and is located in Surrey, B.C. The hospital complex — built exclusively with poppy funds — also aims to address veteran homelessness with 91 affordable housing units

and another 495 condominiums to be sold at market value. The complex is the first of its kind in Canada with the hope that other locations will follow suit.

Rowena Rizzotti, project lead of the Legion Veterans Village says Mr. Greene's story inspired the building of the \$312 million complex, conceptualized in 2015 and breaking ground in 2019.

## Obituaries

The Vancouver Branch extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following members:

Derek Booker, Garry Elwood Buchanan, Sheila Cox, Mary Cecilia Hobbs, Doris Irvine Berthe Jean Labert, Doreen Malinowsky, Ralph Ryan, Francis Square-Briggs and Grace Unger

## Christmas luncheon

Our next event will be our Christmas luncheon, to be held Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Italian Cultural Center (Trattoria Hall), 3075 Slocan St., Vancouver, B.C. Doors open at 11:15 p.m.

If we have your email address, you will receive an invitation to this event by email one month before the event, including the Eventbrite registration information). If you have not been receiving the branch's email, please contact us by phone at (604) 681-4742 or by email at [fsnavan@shaw.ca](mailto:fsnavan@shaw.ca).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Christmas luncheon

Thursday, Dec. 7

Doors open at 11:15 a.m.

Italian Cultural Center  
(Trattoria Hall)  
3075 Slocan St.  
Vancouver, B.C.

Registration details will be  
sent by email one month  
before the event date.

### General meetings

Held in April (AGM), June,  
September and December

*Details to be announced in  
Sage and by email.*

### Board meetings

Held the week before  
each general meeting

## BRANCH REPORT

Four-page report  
published with the fall  
and winter editions of  
Sage magazine

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

# VANCOUVER BRANCH INFORMATION As of September 2023

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** George Scott

**Vice-president:** Murray Bryck

**Secretary:** Ian Sanderson

**Treasurer:** Tom Chang

**Director:** Beverly Segal

**Director:** Deborah Turner

**Director (Yukon):** Paul Davis

### VOLUNTEERS

**Office Manager:** Jocelan Caldwell

**Recruitment:** Helio Da Costa

**Membership:** Sylvia Mechler

**Membership:** Edward (Ed) Tam

**Health and benefits:** Connie  
Cameron

### CONTACT US

Vancouver Branch Federal Retirees  
4445 Norfolk St.  
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 0A7

(604) 681-4742

[fnavan@shaw.ca](mailto:fnavan@shaw.ca)

