

BRANCH REPORT

BC08 | Vancouver and Yukon Branch

CONTACT US

Tues & Fri 10 AM to 2 PM

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vancouverbranch@federalretirees.ca

Website:

<https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/british-columbia/vancouver-branch>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Chang
Vice President: Murray Bryck
Secretary: Danielle Rehm
Treasurer: Teresa Lei
Director: Ian Sanderson Director:
Randall Jason Fox Director:
Deborah Turner Director
(Yukon): Paul Davis

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Holiday Luncheon and
Volunteer Recognition Event**
December 11, 10 AM to 2 PM,
Italian Cultural Centre, 3075
Slocan St, Vancouver

AGM

March 31, 2026, 10 AM to 2 PM
Italian Cultural Centre, 3075
Slocan St Vancouver

President's message

After a dry August here in Vancouver, our September showers bring some relief to controlling the wildfires.



BC08 President, Tom Chang
and Brien Marshall of Tradex
Management Inc.

Our board hosted a Fraud and Scam presentation by the Vancouver Better Business Bureau in June. By the time you are reading this, we will have had a hosted presentation by our preferred partner, Tradex.

The neat thing about this Tradex preferred partner event was the coordination between the lower mainland branches, Vancouver BC08, Central Fraser Valley Branch BC01, Chilliwack Branch BC02, Fraser Valley West Branch BC04, and Victoria - Fred Whitehouse BC09.

Vancouver Branch coordinated the e-blast notification, registration, and confirmation of attendees from all five branches. The event was quickly sold out and was very successful.



Some presents are **BIGGER** than they look.

Give the gift of membership and support a better future for aging in Canada. federalretirees.ca/gift



Recruitment - our pre-retirement presentation group, has completed two virtual sessions with two more planned for the rest of 2025. The sessions provide awareness of our Association and our advocacy for protecting pension rights and maintaining and improving the benefits federal employees receive upon retirement as a superannuate beneficiary.

Your membership not only gives you a voice in decisions related to your pension, but it also provides access to benefits from our preferred partners. These preferred partners offer discounts and rebates for various services in financial planning, travel insurance, travel packages, and cell phone plans. In particular Belair Direct (formerly MEDOC travel insurance) tops up on your PSHCP coverage for travelling. Therefore, if you are recently retired and have friends still working, I urge you to keep in touch with them and let them know the benefits of membership in the Association. You don't have to be retired to join the Association. You only have to be eligible to receive a superannuation pension



We are aggressively ramping up our advocacy efforts. We contacted all our BC MPs, both incumbents and newly elected, with a congratulatory letter, signed by the President of the Branch and mailed to the MPs.

We followed up by contacting selected MPs either by attending the MP's summer BBQ or by arranging virtual meetings with the elected officials.

Keeping in touch with our MPs, both formally and informally, is very rewarding. We will continue to build our relationships with the MPs this year and in the following years.

July 20, 2025. MP Patrick Weiler (West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country) and BC08 VP Murray Bryck enjoying a summer barbeque event.

Our executive board members and office volunteers have reviewed our office procedures and visitation logs. After careful consideration, we have determined that having a volunteer in the office five days a week is not necessary, but we believe that having someone available for in-person assistance two days a week strikes a good balance in serving our members.

Our new office hours are 10 AM to 2 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you have any comments regarding this change, please reach out to us via email at vancouverbranch@federalretirees.ca or by phone at (604) 681-4742.

I hope you had an enjoyable fall. I look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Luncheon and Volunteer Recognition Event. Please bring along a recent retiree co-worker to show them who we are and the benefits of joining our Association.

Sincerely,
Tom Chang
Branch President



Events

On September 1, Branch Directors Murray Bryck and Danielle Rehm joined Ian Spence, President of the Fraser Valley West Branch, to staff an information and recruitment booth at the Labour Day Picnic in Edmonds Park, Burnaby. This annual event, co-hosted by the Vancouver & District and the New Westminster & District Labour Councils, attracted a lively crowd of union members, local politicians, families, and community supporters.

Our booth was strategically located between PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada) and PIPSC (Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada), providing an excellent opportunity to share information about the benefits of membership and raise awareness of the Association's work on behalf of members and retirees.



Ian Spence, Murray Bryck and Danielle Rehm at the Labour Council picnic in Burnaby on September 1



Danielle, Ian, and Murray with Susie Chant (BC Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care), Tamara Davidson (MLA for North Coast-Haida Gwaii and Minister of Environment and Parks), and BC08 member, John Nosotti

September was a busy month for your BC08 directors. Two weeks after the Labour Day event, we had the pleasure of meeting Brien Marshall, the Senior Vice-President and Chief Operations Officer of Tradex Management Inc. During a luncheon attended by members of the Lower Mainland and Victoria branches, Brien entertained the audience by sharing insights from his 35-year career as a Certified Financial Planner. He also provided an economic update and practical tips for year-end planning. We sincerely thank Tradex for hosting this event.



Smiles all around after the Tradex presentation - Branch Directors, Murray Bryck, Danielle Rehm, Deborah Turner, Tom Chang and Randal J. Fox with Celeste and Brien Marshall.

Notices and Updates

Branch email distribution list

This notice is aimed at members who do not have an email address on file with our organization, or who have indicated that they prefer not to receive communications from the Association via email. Throughout the year, the Vancouver branch sends emails to keep members informed about activities, events, and advocacy efforts. This is our most effective way of communicating with you.

If you would like to start receiving these emails, or if your email address has changed and you would like to update our records, please do one of the following:

- Email the branch office at vancouverbranch@federalretirees.ca with your request, and provide your name, membership number, mailing address, and email address.
- Call the branch office at 604-681-4742 and leave a message with the above-noted information.
- Email the National Association of Federal Retirees at service@federalretirees.ca with the above-noted information.

Branch Policy in Regard to Posting *In memoriam*

The Vancouver branch office receives death notifications from various sources, including phone calls, letters, and emails from friends and former colleagues of the deceased. Historically, we have used this information to create the *In memoriam* listings in Sage Magazine. While we understand that our members value these updates, we have privacy concerns about posting notices without the family's prior approval.

After careful consideration, we have decided that memorials will only be included in Sage Magazine when there is a specific request from the deceased's family to do so. Please note that the magazine is published quarterly, so there may be a delay before the notice appears in the next issue.

Branch Payment System for Meetings and Events

Throughout the year, the branch organizes 2 to 3 recruitment and social events in addition to the AGM. Since meals are served at these events, there is a cost to attend, and we recently updated our payment collection method. We no longer use a third-party payment platform, which allows us more control over the process and makes it more cost-effective. However, we understand that this new system may be confusing for those accustomed to the previous method.

Under the new system, members register by sending an email with their name, phone number, and the number of tickets requested to vancouverbranch@federalretirees.ca. You will receive an email acknowledging your request along with payment information. Our preferred method of payment is e-transfer, but we also accept checks mailed to the branch office. Once your payment is received, you will receive confirmation of your registration.

If you have any questions about this new system or suggestions for improvement, please feel free to contact us. We welcome your feedback.

