



**Monthly BC04
Branch News
Update**

February 2020

Hello, fellow BC04 Branch Members;

Branch Advocacy – “Reach 338”

As the new government settles in and MPs find their desks in Ottawa, the national Federal Retirees Advocacy Team is working on “Reach 338”. This is the project name for a national initiative to establish a Federal Retirees contact in each of the 338 federal ridings to liaise with the Member of Parliament and her/his constituency office. Our contacts would be key communication links - keeping the MPs and their offices apprised of Federal Retirees’ concerns and priorities, while listening closely and gauging how MPs are responding to our messages. The hope is to build on successful relationships and learn how to communicate more strategically and effectively with our elected representatives.

The plan is to roll out “Reach 338” over a four-year term (while recognizing that a minority government may not ‘survive’ that long), focusing on developing contacts in 75 ridings in each year. In the next few weeks, we will learn which ridings covered by BC 04 will be included in the first round. Stay tuned! And if you have an interest in getting to know your local MP better, please let us know!

BC04 Branch Membership Recruitment

For the past several years, BC04 and the other Western BC branches have been mulling over how to connect with potential members who are still working. Since Federal Retirees’ national by-laws were re-written in 2014, membership has been open to include “current contributors” to a federal superannuation plan – obviously a significant untapped pool. But getting access to government worksites and a place on the agenda at pre-retirement seminars seemed to be problematic for various reasons. But at our Christmas general meeting, I was approached by a member who suggested that some of his contacts may be able to help. And early inquiries indicate that we may soon have the opportunity to make the case for the benefits of NAFR membership in a number of forums including the council of senior government managers in BC and a number of worksites and union local meetings. I am very optimistic and grateful to the member for his help in this regard.

We are now working with the Abbotsford and Chilliwack branches to hone our presentation materials and sharpen our message. If you would like to work on our recruitment initiatives – and these should become very enjoyable volunteering and info-exchange opportunities for our Members – or if you know of worksites or employee groups that may be receptive to a NAFR presentation, please contact **Ian Spence 604 753-7845** spence.ian@telus.net.

Our objective is to introduce NAFR to current Federal Employees and advise them of the benefits of Membership in retirement and pre-retirement.

In Memoriam

Federal Retirees' national magazine, SAGE, has an "In Memoriam" section to honour recently deceased members by listing their name and Branch. To have the name of your loved one included in the "In Memoriam" section, please contact the Branch membership director, **Steve Sawchuk**, 604 574-2939, s.sawchuk@shaw.ca in writing (by mail or email).

Please note that SAGE is published quarterly and branch submissions are required several weeks in advance of the publication date (for example, for the Spring edition to be distributed in March, submissions were required early in January).

It has also been suggested that there could be an "In Memoriam" page on our Branch web-site, where friends or family may post brief memory pieces about their loved one – maybe a photo? If that idea appeals to you, please contact **Ian Spence**.

AGM preparations for our Board Directors' Elections

For various reasons, our Board is currently operating with a complement of 10 elected Directors. For BC04 to function optimally, however, we seek 12 elected Directors. This means BC04 seeks 12 or more nominees from our Branch Membership at our March 12th 2020 AGM Elections.

In compliance with our Branch By-Laws Part VI, Ian Blake has been appointed to be our Nominations Committee Chairman.

All nominations for elections to the BC04 Board of Directors should be directed to **Ian Blake** at iansblake1@gmail.com. Nominations will also be accepted at the BC04 AGM on March 12th.

Registering and pre-paying for Branch Events

For a number of reasons, we have not yet been able to set up an on-line registration and pre-payment system with Eventbrite.

On-line registration remains a high priority for us; perhaps in time for our July 16th GM & BBQ. .

Please check out our 'Branch Calendar' tab on our website, giving a quick overview to anyone seeking **Branch Events schedule information**. Give it a try:

https://www.nafrfraservalleywest.ca/images/PDFs/2020_Events_Calendar_1_to_12_R_Nov14.pdf

This Event Calendar is being updated as and when Event Information evolves.

Upcoming Branch Events:

- **February 6th 2020** HearingLife Canada "Lunch & Learn" - an **upbeat**, and **motivational** Speaker event; **+ hearing screening tests will be available.**

Location: **Timms Community Centre,**
20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley, BC

Cost/person: **No cost** to Federal Retirees.
Light lunch provided.

Pre-registrations required by January 30th, 2020. (Hope this gets to you in time!)

RSVP: (604) 372-1109, nafrsecretary@gmail.com

Doors open at: 10:30 a.m. Event starts at: 11 a.m.

Branch Events (continued):

- **February 13th 2020 Medoc Insurance Lisa Hansen Speaker Event,**

Location: Cloverdale Rec Centre, 6188 – 176th Street, Surrey, BC

Cost/person: No cost

Pre-registrations required by February 5th, 2020.

To register, please contact Sharon at: slriches@me.com

(Final Event Details will be provided upon pre-registering)

Doors open at 12:30 PM, Speaker starts at 1 PM



- **Next Meet & Chat: 2 pm – 3:30 pm, Thursday, Feb 6th, then, March 5th.**

Come & join us in the meeting room at Ricky's Restaurant on King George Blvd, near 22nd Ave, in South Surrey. Coffee or Tea is on us. Let's chat retirement.

- **March 12th 2020 BC04 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Location: Newlands Golf & Country Club, Langley, BC

Cost/person: \$20 / person, payable at the door

Please pre-register with Katherine at: kettlerk@gmail.com

Doors open at 11 am, AGM starts at 11:30 am, Buffet follows

Pre-registrations required by February 26th, 2020.

(Newlands requires 2 wks notice on contracted meal quantities)

- **March 19th 2020 Let's do Lunch with Charles Louth**

Location: Dublin Crossing Irish Pub on Fraser Highway, Surrey

Time: Noon

Please pre-register with Charles at: kabot21@gmail.com

- **April 15th 2020 Survivor Workshop** – details to follow
- **wk. of May 5th 2020 Speaker Event** - details to follow
- **wk. of June 23rd 2020 Speaker Event** – details to follow

- **July 16th 2020 GM & BBQ**

Location: Peace Arch Provincial Park, South Surrey, BC

Cost/person: \$20 / person

Please pre-register with Katherine at: kettlerk@gmail.com

Doors open at 11 am, GM starts at 11:30 am, BBQ follows

We wish you a very **Happy Valentine's Day !**

Let's stay in touch.

Come on out and join us.

Bernd Hirsekorn, BC04 Branch Pres.