



**BC 15 General Meeting and Recruitment Event Minutes
Jun 12th 2023
Elder Citizens Recreation Assn Prince George BC
1692 – 10th Avenue
Lunch at 12:30 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm**

President: Deb Nilsen
Treasurer/Advocacy: Rose Bowker
Webmaster: Ben Wiebe
Director at Large: Eileen Leinweber
Historian: Rose Bowker

Vice President: Marian Muir
Secretary: Deb Tomlinson
Webmaster: Cameron Sutherland
Membership: Deb Nilsen

Meeting called to order by: Deb Nilsen **Time:** 1:11 pm

Quorum: Yes. 29 members and 5 non-members attended in person.

Invitations were made to NAFR eligible non-member guests to attend the meeting and the PSHCP presentation by National Office. This is to promote the activities of NAFR and encourage recruitment of new members. 5 NAFR eligible non-member guests attended in-person.

Total number attending in person was 34.

Rick Devlieger, BSC, Regional, was our Zoom host along with Marian Muir from our Branch. There were 9 other Zoom attendees which included our 3 National Office presenters.

ZOOM PRESENTATION ON PSHCP RENEWAL CHANGES BY NATIONAL OFFICE

Our National Office presenters were Sayward Montague, Director of Advocacy, and Heidi Modro and Jessica Searson.

-Sayward provided some Zoom information and advised that Zoom attendees should use the chat feature for questions.

-Sayward did an overview of the enhancements to the PSHCP. A detailed list of the changes and enhancements can be found in the PSHCP Bulletin #45.

<https://www.pshcp.ca/articles/category/bulletins/>

-After July 1, 2023 a printed booklet can be requested from Canada Life.

-Claims should be submitted to Sun Life until June 30, 2023.

-The agreement is for 4 years starting July 1, 2023 to 2027. A mid point review will be conducted by the Partners Committee (NAFR is a partner) in 2025.

-One of the features will be mandatory generic substitution. There are exceptions if necessary with forms to be completed by the appropriate physician. There is a 180 day transition period so members should talk to their doctor if this applies.

-The Pensioners Dental Service Plan (PDSP) is not part of the PSHCP and will remain with Sun Life for the time being.

Where to find more information on the PSHCP:

-Email for questions regarding Canada Life
advocacyteam@federalretirees.ca

-Plan Directive (June)
See "Official PSHCP Documents"
<https://www.pshcp.ca/forms-and-documents/>

-Federal Retirees
www.federalretirees.ca/pshcp

Contact Canada Life
Phone: 1-855-415-4414 (toll-free)
Web: www.canadalife.ca/pshcp
Mail: Winnipeg Benefits Payments (Canadian residents excl QC)
P.O. Box 6025 Station Main
Winnipeg MB R3C 3C7

Regular meeting commenced at 1:50 pm.

AGENDA

Additions: There were no additions to the Agenda.

Motion to accept the Agenda: Barb Tompkins.

Seconded: Raj Sidhu.

Motion carried.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Sept 19, 2022

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

Motion to accept: Barb Tompkins.

Seconded: Maria Orozco.

Motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT

-A board meeting was held Mar 28, 2023 to determine board positions and terms for those nominated at the Mar 20th, 2023 AGM.

Positions are as follows:

Deb Nilsen – President – 1 yr term	Marian Muir – Vice President – 2 yr term
Deb Tomlinson – Secretary – 1 yr term	Rose Bowker – Treasurer & Advocacy – 2 yr term
Ben Wiebe – Director and Webmaster – 1 yr term	
Cameron Sutherland – Director and Webmaster – 2 yr term	
Eileen Leinweber – Director – 1 yr term	

AMM:

Deb Nilsen, Branch President, will be attending the 2023 AMM which will take place from June 20th to 22nd, 2023, in Gatineau Quebec.

District Information:

The BC/Yukon District Annual Training Conference was held May 16th to 18th in Abbotsford, B.C and was attended by Deb N, Rose, and Deb T.

-Isobel Mackenzie, the BC Seniors Advocate was one of the guest speakers. She spoke about the challenges of long-term care and what they are trying to achieve in that respect.

-NAFR is now a partner with the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism which supports recommendations to the Canadian government and the United Nations on fighting ageism.

-We took part in training presented by Sayward Montague, Director of Advocacy and Amy Baldry, the Advocacy Coordinator, from National Office. The focus was on the federal election in the near future and plans for lobbying the MPs on issues affecting seniors. Our Branch was one of three that were asked to do a presentation on an advocacy success story. Deb N gave a power-point presentation on our town hall "Meet N Greet" held for the 2019 election.

-Andrew McGillivray, the Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment at National Office, spoke on the challenges of upgrading the NAFR website as a lot of members find it hard to navigate. Although our membership is growing again after the pandemic, he talked about the recruitment challenges facing the organization and that they are working on a national strategy in this regard. He reported on new preferred partners. For vision, Iris Advantage will be effective July 1st, and negotiations are in process to obtain Rogers as a new phone and internet partner.

-Donna Hansen, Director of Human Resources and Volunteers at National, did a presentation on finding ways to recruit volunteers to help in branches.

-Two of our preferred partners did presentations. Cheryl Anderson from Hearing Life and Shawn McCord from Johnson Insurance. Shawn noted that when signing up with Medoc travel insurance we also get access to Perkopolis and also that there will be a 60th anniversary travel contest coming up. The cost of travel insurance for NAFR members is very reasonable so check it out.

National Office:

-Deb N attended a Zoom meeting on May 11th, 2023, which was to meet and speak with candidates that are running for director positions with National Office. The final nominees will be elected at the AMM in June.

NPSW June 11-17, 2023:

-Our Branch will be delivering posters, pamphlets and chocolates to the federal offices including the RCMP in Prince George this week. Rose, Deb T, and Cameron will be doing this.

-We will be hosting a 60th Anniversary and RCMP 150th Celebration on Oct 18, 2023, at the Brunswick Street Senior Activity Centre, downstairs. This will be a coffee break from 10 am to noon and we'll be extending invitations to federal offices and MPs along with others. If you can help at all with this event please call or contact the board on the branch email.

-Our last board meeting was May 24th, 2023 and the next board meeting will be Sept 11th, 2023. The next member general meeting will be Sept 25th, 2023.

VICE PRESIDENT

-Marian reported that the bylaws are finished and were voted on at the Mar 20th, 2023, Branch AGM. They were previously reviewed by National Office, and we are now just waiting for their final approval.

-Marian looks after booking our facilities for meetings and events and hosting participation by Zoom at our meetings.

-Our next Christmas Lunch will be December 11th, 2023, again at D'Lanos Family Restaurant.

TREASURER, ADVOCACY and MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

(See Financial Statements attached for full details)

For the period ending May 31, 2023 our branch financial statements are as follows:

- Branch revenues totaled \$773.08; expenses \$693.17; for net earnings of \$79.91.
- Branch net assets total \$9,303.47 with a corresponding total equity of the same amount.

We had a term deposit that matured Apr 25, 2023, and 2 maturing June 13 and Jul 25 (each approx. \$1000). In order to coordinate the funds so we may possibly send an additional member to an AMM we decided to put into one deposit of \$3,000 that will mature on Apr 25th. Therefore, at the April renewal this year, we increased that term deposit to \$3,000 and the other two term deposits maturing will be rolled back into the chequing account. The end result leaves the balances in the chequing account and term deposit roughly the same, but will allow for access to the funds needed for the Branch to send an observer to the AMM in a future year.

Motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented: Cameron Sutherland.

Seconded: Mike Racicot.

Motion carried.

-NAFR is instrumental in protecting our retiree pensions and benefits. Rose reviewed items from our 60th poster, "History at a Glance."

Some of the highlights:

1973: Years of lobbying from the Association resulted in legislation providing for full pension indexation.

1985: Fought the government announcing the termination of guaranteed indexation. The legislation is never passed.

2000: The Association is officially recognized as one of the three parties governing the PSHCP.

2001: Association advocacy efforts lead to the creation of the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP), a dedicated dental plan for all federal retirees.

2015: The Association pursues the federal government in court following news that the PSHCP retiree contribution rate would change from 25 per cent to 50 per cent.

2022: The Association's hard work at the negotiation table pays off, and Treasury Board approves the proposed PSHCP renewal deal.

-Rose reported that membership has been gradually climbing back after the pandemic. The Branch presently has 375 members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

WEB REPORT

-Ben reported that he works on updates to the Branch website. He encourages members to use the Branch website as there are very useful links noted. Ben will post a link to Bulletin #45 and other related information regarding the PSHCP as well as the Branch financial reports and minutes.

SENIORS LIAISON REPORT

- Deb N reported that we work closely with the Prince George Council of Seniors (PGCOS). Marilyn Rayner keeps the board updated with news from the PGCOS.
- If any meeting attendees want further information on the PGCOS, Marilyn Hinton, who is a PGCOS member, is at the meeting today and can answer any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

The 60th Anniversary and RCMP 150th Celebration on Oct 18, 2023, 10:00 am at Brunswick Street Senior Activity Centre was noted again. Volunteers are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

- Marilyn Hinton brought up a serious matter that is facing seniors. The provincial government encourages the path for seniors to stay at home with help from home care and/or respite care for their caregivers.
- Marilyn stated that the majority of calls to PGCOS are for someone to come and stay to provide some relief to the caregiver. The amount of respite care provided by the government is minimal, and the lack of this support forces seniors to turn to private practices to provide these services. The cost from the private sector can range anywhere from \$35 to over \$65 an hour and this is not affordable for most seniors.
- Our health care is turning on stay at home care and respite care. When speaking to our MLA's and health professionals please raise this issue. This is causing a lot of stress on seniors and their families.

Next General Meeting Date: September 25, 2023

Door prize draw was held.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:21 pm.

Branch email: princegeorgebranch@federalretirees.ca

Branch website: federalretirees.ca/princegeorge