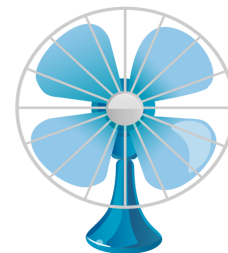


BC 04
Branch Update (#7)
September 2025



Greetings!

A few notes as we wind up summer and (hopefully) dust off our umbrellas...

- ⇒ The **general meeting and summer barbecue** on July 10th was well-attended. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this happen! Much appreciated! The weather was great, there was still peace at Peace Arch Park, and we had a full roster of guest speakers at the meeting: newly-elected South Surrey-White Rock **MP Ernie Klassen**, Surrey-White Rock **MLA Trevor Holford**, and the National Directors for BC/Yukon: **Scott Hodge and George Scott**, and **Leslie Gaudette**, President of the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC.
- ⇒ Branch volunteers teamed up with members of Vancouver Branch to staff an information/recruitment table at the **Labour Day Picnic** (September 1st) in Humphries Park, Burnaby. The event was co-hosted by the Vancouver District and the New Westminster District Labour Councils. This event is a great way to get a little publicity for the Federal Retirees' brand. And volunteers got special queue—jumping tickets for the free hot dogs. (You may want to tuck that bit of information away for future reference, when we are looking for volunteers next year.)

A couple of 'Personnel' notes:

- **Stuart Wilson**, who returned to the board at the last Annual Meeting, reviewed his calendar for the coming months and saw that it didn't leave room for attending Board meetings or Branch functions. Accordingly, he submitted his resignation to open the position for other volunteers. His service over many years has been much appreciated and we are grateful to report he will continue to work behind the scenes, posting information and updating the Branch website.
- **Bernd Hirsekorn**, past president 2016-2020, and his wife, Marilyn, are moving to Kelowna in mid-September. We are glad for them but definitely sad to see them go. As soon as the unpacking is done, we expect Bernd will be getting in touch with our colleagues in the Central Okanagan Branch

Java with Judy and Sharon, October 1st.



Special presentation:

By **Heather Martin*** *Comfort Keepers Home Care*
"How to Determine when It Is time for care".

The presentation is about 30 to 45 minutes and covers the following topics:

- Determining if it's time for Help
- Home Safety
- Initiating the conversation
- Evaluating Care Options – what to look for
- Financial considerations
- Resources

When? Wednesday, October 1st, 1-3 p.m.

Where? CENTRE FOR ACTIVE LIVING
 1475 Anderson Street, White Rock
 (Next to the Centennial Arena)
 Note: All day parking is \$2.50.

RSVP (please) by September 28th,
 to nafrbc04@gmail.com
 or call Ian at (604) 753-7845
 (so we can be sure to have enough cookies!)

*Heather Martin is also the long-serving Chair of the Semiahmoo Seniors Planning Table

NOTES (Cont'd)

- ⇒ In accordance with the national Advocacy strategy, the Branch sent letters to the eight MPs whose ridings fall within Branch boundaries, congratulating them on their recent election / re-election, and asking for a meeting in the upcoming weeks. In the letter, we also stressed the priorities the Association wants to see addressed by the new Parliament. Here is an excerpt from the letter to MP Klassen :

With Canada's over-65 population projected to reach 11 million in the next two decades, the need for a comprehensive plan to support healthy aging has never been more pressing. That work starts in communities like ours. Here in South Surrey-White Rock, 25.5% of your constituents are already over the age of 65. Our association is proud to represent 786 members in your riding, all of whom are invested in shaping a future where retirement is secure, dignified, and supported.

Our key priorities and the actions that will help achieve this vision include:

- Comprehensive, accessible, and affordable dental care
- Stronger, more secure pensions to protect the retirement Canadians have worked hard to earn
- Higher national standards in long-term care, to ensure safety, dignity, and quality of life
- Robust support to build equitable outcomes for Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP veterans
- A universal, national pharmacare program that guarantees access to the medications that Canadians need

These issues affect not just our members, but all Canadians – including many in your riding – today and for years to come. The Fraser Valley West Branch would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how Federal Retirees is prepared to be a collaborative partner in this important work.

- ⇒ **We have already received some responses to the letters and have meetings scheduled with MP Tako Van Popta (Langley Township-Fraser Heights) for September 10th and with MP Klassen for September 27th.**



- ⇒ On July 21st, **Ian Spence** and **Rob Terris** had a 'getting acquainted' meeting with **Gurbux Saini**, Member of Parliament for Fleetwood-Kells. Mr. Saini held the seat for the Liberals in the last election, succeeding Ken Hardie, who held it for 10 years from 2015. Mr. Saini said he would be happy to attend a branch meeting—perhaps in December?

← Ernie Klassen addresses BC04 members on July 10th

→ Actually, we were way happier than we look (July 21st)



Remembrance Day

Interested in helping the Branch pay our respects by laying a wreath at a Remembrance Day ceremony?

Let us know by email: nafrbc04@gmail.com

or by phone (604) 753-7845 as soon as possible.

Christmas? Eek. We know. But it's not too early to mark your calendar and register for the

December general meeting and Christmas buffet:

When? **Monday, December 8th—11:30-2:30 (doors open at 11 a.m.)**
Where? **Morgan Creek Golf Club, 3500 Morgan Creek Way, Surrey, BC**
RSVP (required): By email to nafrbc04@gmail.com or by phone to Ian (604) 753-7845
Tickets: \$35.00 per person, pay by e-transfer to nafrbc04@gmail.com or by cash or cheque at the door (Sorry, no credit, no debit).
Special seating requests: Please include requests when you register.

