

# BRANCH REPORT

## BC08 | Vancouver and Yukon Branch

### CONTACT US

Tues & Fri 10 AM to 2 PM

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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: John Nosotti  
Director (Yukon): Paul Davis

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Luncheon and Recruitment Event**  
***Estate Planning: Beyond the Will***  
July 15, 2026 1015 AM to 2 PM  
Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan St,  
Vancouver

### President's message

Those new to our Branch, my name is Tom Chang. I was elected President at our April 2025 AGM.

Shortly after the election, I joined a Zoom meeting of BC Yukon District Directors and Branch Presidents. Discussions were held on various resolutions that were being presented at our National AGM.

This Zoom meeting also gave the attending presidents an update on the Governance structure renewal currently ongoing. There will be consultations and surveys taken in the spring of 2026 and additional feedback taken at the annual District Conference in May 2026.

Since that time, it has been, at least for me, a substantial learning curve.

On a very positive note, a highly qualified member with accounting background stepped up to volunteer for the Treasurer position. She was subsequently appointed and has been a very valued addition to the Vancouver & Yukon Branch Board.

In the summer, your branch board organized a luncheon with the Better Business Bureau to inform members of frauds and scams.

In the fall, Preferred Partner, Tradex, provided an informative talk on its financial services and strategies.

Your branch board deserves recognition for organizing and hosting a holiday celebration in December. At this event we acknowledged all our past and current Branch Volunteers — from the volunteers manning the local office, maintaining an up-to-date membership



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Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux

system, providing information on our PSHCP, organizing and running all aspects of our informative luncheons, providing pre-retirement presentations on who we are and the benefits of joining the Association, to our past and present elected board executives.

I am very grateful to our volunteers, and I thank them profusely.

If you wish to join our great team here in the Vancouver and Yukon Branch, please contact us. We would love to talk to you.

**Sincerely,**  
*Tom Chang*  
Branch President



## Holiday Luncheon and Volunteer Recognition Event December 11, 2025

Over 170 members and their guests gathered to enjoy a festive meal, share laughter, and celebrate the volunteers whose time, energy, and dedication make such a difference throughout the year. The event provided an opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues while reflecting on the spirit of generosity and volunteerism that is central to our organization.



BC08 directors, Deb Turner and Danielle Rehm, greeting members and their guests at the Holiday Luncheon.



Branch President Tom Chang kicks off the celebration, welcoming guests and highlighting the impressive selection of door prizes generously donated by our national Preferred Partners and local businesses.



Our wonderful volunteers and their guests enjoying good company and holiday cheer.



Vice-President Murray Bryck and Branch Director Randall Fox adding a little suspense as they draw the winner of the grand prize - a travel voucher generously provided by our Preferred Partner, Collette Travel.

## AGM

March 31, 2026

The AGM was called to order at 11:11 a.m. with 99 members and guests in attendance.

Branch President Tom Chang welcomed participants and presented his report, highlighting key achievements and future priorities. Teresa Lei then delivered the Treasurer's Report, outlining the Branch's financial position.

Members approved motions for the 2026 budget, the 2025 reserve equity allocation, and a bylaw amendment. Board elections were also held, resulting in the return of two directors and the addition of one new member. The Board welcomed John Nosotti and looks forward to working with him in the months ahead.

### The Vancouver and Yukon Board of Directors Welcomes John Nosotti!



The Vancouver and Yukon Branch is proud to be supported by dedicated leaders with a long history of public service and community involvement. We are delighted to welcome our newest Board Member, John Nosotti. A graduate of St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology, John enjoyed a distinguished career with the Department of Communications, where he served in a variety of progressively senior roles. In 1990, he moved to Vancouver following his appointment to Industry Canada's District Office and later served as District Director for Northern BC/Yukon until his retirement in 2006. Alongside his civilian career, John also completed an impressive 44 years of service with the Reserve Army.

John has remained deeply committed to community service through numerous leadership roles. He was President of the Greater Vancouver Branch of the Navy League of Canada for 17 years and currently serves as Secretary for the Naval Association of BC. John has also served as Chair of the Board of Directors for Computers for Schools BC.

We are honoured to have John join the Board and look forward to the experience, leadership, and insight he brings to our branch.

#### Estate Planning: Beyond the Will

**Join us for a Lunch and Learn Recruitment Event on July 15 with David Perkins, Senior Financial Planner, CI Assante Wealth Management**

Estate planning extends beyond a legally executed will. The goal is to provide your loved ones with the greatest amount of support in the event of your passing. By organizing your affairs and documenting your plans, you help ensure that assets will be distributed, and final arrangements will be made, based on your objectives. Learn how proper planning will minimize taxes; lower professional fees and other expenses; and maximize the funds your beneficiaries will receive.

# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHISHING SCAMS

*What Every Retiree Needs to Know About Email, Text & Phone Fraud*

Scammers are increasingly targeting retirees and seniors with sophisticated phishing attacks designed to steal your personal information, pension details, and money. Knowing what to look for is your best defence.

## EMAIL PHISHING — WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*Example of a suspicious email:*

**From:** service@fedgov-benefits-update.com  
**Subject:** URGENT: Your pension payment is on hold!  
 Dear Valued Member, your account requires immediate verification. Click here to avoid suspension of your benefits:  
<http://bit.ly/v3rify-now>

**Red flags in this email:**

- Suspicious sender address (not an official .gc.ca or .gov domain)
- "URGENT" pressure language to make you act fast
- Vague greeting instead of your actual name
- Suspicious shortened link (never click these)

## TEXT MESSAGE PHISHING — WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*Example of a suspicious text:*

CRA-ALERT: A \$1,247 tax refund is ready for you. Verify your SIN to receive deposit: [www.cra-refund-claim.net](http://www.cra-refund-claim.net)

**Red flags in this text:**

- Government agencies do NOT send refunds by text
- Requests your Social Insurance Number via a link
- Website is not an official .gc.ca government domain
- Specific dollar amount creates a sense of excitement



**Teresa Lei, CPA**  
 Board Member  
 Vancouver and Yukon Branch  
 National Association of Federal Retirees

## PHONE CALL SCAMS — WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*Example of a suspicious call script:*

"This is the Canada Revenue Agency. A warrant has been issued for your arrest due to unpaid taxes. To avoid arrest, you must purchase \$2,000 in gift cards immediately and call us back with the numbers."

**Red flags in this call:**

- Threat of arrest — government agencies do NOT threaten this by phone
- Demand for gift cards — no legitimate agency accepts gift card payment
- Extreme urgency — designed to stop you from thinking clearly
- Pressure not to hang up or speak with family first

### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Never click links in unexpected emails or texts — go directly to the official website instead
- Never give out your SIN, banking information, or passwords over the phone or by email
- If suspicious, hang up and call the organization back using a number from their official website
- Talk to a trusted family member or friend before taking any action
- Report suspicious calls or emails to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: 1-888-495-8501

**REMEMBER: When in doubt, don't!**

If something feels wrong, it probably is. Scammers count on you acting quickly before you have time to think. It is always okay to pause, hang up, or delete the message.