

## **Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President to October 2025 EGM/Directors' Meeting**

I want to start by saying that I am happy that Brian is on the mend and that I sincerely hope he is feeling well enough to return to his duties as President soon.

As you are aware this meeting is divided into two parts, the first being the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The reason for the EGM is we need to consider resolutions that require the authority of an AGM or EGM.

The first resolution proposes a one time annual Dues increase of \$5.00 per year. We have not had a dues increase for many years, and with the very large increase in membership, and increasing technical demands to properly serve our members at the level they expect, the Table Officers believe this increase is both moderate and necessary. I should mention that the members were strongly in favour of this level of dues increase when asked about in the recent survey.

The second resolution addresses housekeeping changes related to the position of Immediate Past President. We currently make the Immediate Past-President hold the position, with its mandated duties until there is another change in President. That can be many years, no matter how much the person would like to leave. The resolution proposes utilizing the expertise and knowledge of the Immediate Past-President for one year and then letting them move on. The Table Officers have discussed both of these resolutions and support both.

Additionally, there is the housekeeping resolution dealing with Honorariums. This resolution needs to be adopted if Table Officers and Branch Executive members are to receive the specified honorariums for 2026.

For the Directors' meeting part of the day, I hope that we can hear the questions and concerns of those attending. We will do our best to answer your questions and try to address any concerns you may have. If we can't immediately answer any questions, we will do our best to find the answer and communicate it to the members.

One area that I feel needs some discussion is the relevance of some sections of our Bylaws. I would be interested in hearing members' ideas on how we can make the BCGREA work even better.

### **Recent Activities**

I would like to give you a brief recap of some of my activities in recent days. I attended the BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) Conference on behalf of president Brian Green. The guest speakers were very interesting and informative.

Devona Putland, of Moosomin, Saskatchewan gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Age Friendly Cities, and how to make that designation more than just a title.

Crawford Killian, Writer and Tyee Columnist discussed teaching from the stone age to the age of AI, with implications for the future.

Vicki Robinson gave an informative talk on Steps To Consider Before The End (and I don't mean the end of the world).

As a Delegate to COSCO BC, I worked as a volunteer at the COSCO BC Conference, Human Rights and Ageing: Advocating for an Equitable Future. I would like to again thank the BCGREA for being a major sponsor and ensuring the outstanding success of this important event.

There were many powerful speakers and panellists speaking at this Conference. Some of the speakers were:

Susue Chant MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors and Long-Term Care  
Margaret Gillis President International Longevity Centre (ILC) Canada and Co-Founder  
Canadian Coalition Against Ageism  
Stephanie McLean MP, Secretary of State for Seniors  
Kasari Govender, BC Human rights Commissioner  
Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate  
Eric Doherty Transportation Planner, Human Rights, Ageing and Transportation

The Panel Discussions covered the following topics:

Ageism and Human Rights  
Continuum of Seniors Care In The Community  
Understanding Inequality for Seniors in BC  
Seniors Centres: At The Nexus Of Aging And Community  
Transportation

In addition a dinner was held to celebrate COSCO BC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Comedian Charlie Demers entertained the participants, and a new video produced by Simon Fraser University about the long history of COSCO BC was premiered at the event.

Immediately following this event I attended the National Pensioners' Federation (NPF) Convention, representing the BCGREA. I was joined as a Delegate by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Tammy Welch and Langley/Surrey Branch VP & COSCO BC Treasurer Renee Poley (replacing Brian Green). Your Delegates played an active role in the discussion and activities during the Convention.

In addition to discussion on issues of interest to seniors guest speakers included:

Zena Simces Board Member, International Longevity Centre  
Dan Levitt, BC Seniors' Advocate  
Alex Hemingway, Senior Economist at BC Policy Solutions  
Chris Chan, TransLink

I believe that this was the first NPF Convention that the BCGREA has sent Delegates representing the organization directly, rather than through COSCO BC, and I feel that it was a worthwhile effort. As I said, I believe our Delegates played an active role in ensuring seniors' issues will be forcefully presented on a National level.

My personal recommendation would be that we continue to affiliate to the NPF, and to take an active role in their activities and campaigns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wilf Brodrick, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President