

## **Membership Report to Directors' Meeting – 2025-10-15**

This report will be brief as it is only 6 months since the AGM.

Membership has decreased to 11,163 at the end of August. Part of the reason for the decrease has been the removal of members who have not paid their dues for the last several years and have not responded to requests for payment.

Following up on the general membership survey that was conducted in March 2025 and reported on by Dr. Richard Brown at the AGM, we requested a breakdown of responses for the Victoria Branch as it is the largest branch in the association. The results were sent to the Victoria Branch executive members in June. Another outcome from the survey was compilation of a list of potential volunteers for committees or roles in the BCGREA at the branch and the provincial level. Reaching out to those potential volunteers is progressing slowly but is ongoing.

The resolution to increase single member dues to \$25 **while holding dues for a couple at \$40** is largely to provide an incentive to have both the contributing member and his or her partner join the association. This should increase our total membership and also help the partners feel that they are participating, active members, with the potential to become involved by volunteering in a role that they enjoy. It also helps to convince a potential new member to sign up their partner at the discounted rate, in the same way that retailers offer “Buy one and get the second at ½ price”, or 60% in this case.

Some branches continue to have difficulty attracting members to serve as new executive members and we are working with those branches to attempt to ensure that the branches continue. Support may be available from the table officers or the recruitment and retention committee for branches experiencing challenges.

### **Central Support Report**

Jodine Ducs continued to expand her role in Central Support (CS). She has shown a willingness to take on additional duties while working with branch executive members to reduce the workload on those volunteers.

When requested, she will coordinate the collection of dues from members who are not on automatic dues deductions from their public service pension cheques and has set up a system that allows people to pay easily using their credit cards. She has also worked with several branches to ensure that meeting notices are sent to all branch members who have subscribed to the Branch News email preferences. This is particularly helpful for smaller branches who do not have a dedicated communications person or for branches that are not comfortable working with the database platform. She attended several branch gatherings in person as a guest speaker and offered branches support to arrange guest speakers for their gatherings.

A recent task that she completed was working with the Nanaimo Mid-Island Branch to publish their branch newsletter (see it at this link: <https://bcgre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Br-600-Newsletter-Fall-2025-Final-for-Email.pdf>). She is willing to assist other branches if they would like to prepare a newsletter for their branch but do not have the experience or computer knowledge.

Another initiative that Jodine continues to work on is the Tall Ships Sailing Expedition in partnership with Trip Merchant. This looks like a great holiday and is an opportunity to travel with other BCGREA members or to invite family and friends to join you. Details are found at: [Join Central Support Jodine Ducs on a BCGREA Hosted Tall Ship Sailing Expedition – British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association](#)

I am very happy that Jodine has expanded the CS role and worked with the provincial executive and branch executives to reduce the volunteer workload. Any support we can offer these volunteers makes it easier to recruit new volunteers and reduces the burn-out of the current ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Barclay  
BCGREA Provincial Membership Secretary