

BCGREA BRANCH 1000 Shuswap/Columbia March 5th, 2026

Meeting and luncheon at Fifth Avenue 50 Plus Activity Centre

11:30 am - 1:00 pm 170 5th Ave. SE Salmon Arm, B.C.

Kirstine Hill, Chairperson, welcomed 15 members in attendance and called the meeting to Order at 12:20 pm. The Agenda & Minutes from October 9th, 2025 were distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Reynolds reported a balance of \$388.45 as of February 28, 2026

Membership Report: Carol Swank reported that we have 167 members in our Branch.

Kirstine Hill, Chairperson Report:

1. Table officers/Provincial Executive Meeting: February 10, 2026

AGM on April 23, 2026: planning is underway. Brian Green is not standing for re-election due to health concerns. Will Broderick is willing to stand for President. All other current table officers are willing to continue.

Pre-retirement contact: a request is being formulated to ask that better information be given to Pension Corp employees as they prepare to retire

2. Branch Chair Meeting: January 14, 2026

- Key topics were a new membership type for pre-retirees, the AGM, merchandise needs, and discussion about pension benefits and insurance options
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3. Branch Chair Meeting: March 4, 2026

Focus on recruitment: 401 new members have joined between January 1, 2025, and February 7, 2026. Overall membership has stayed static due to the number of members who were deceased or resigned during that time. Three main ways that new applicants heard about BCGREA were from a member or former colleagues, Pension Life Advertisement, and PSPP documentation. There was discussion about advertising including cost and responsibility (branch vs provincial)

Preliminary notice for the AGM on April 23rd has gone out. There will be standing committee meetings during the day and a reception in the evening of April 22nd. The draft agenda includes a presentation by Connie Jorsvik of Patient Pathways, who will introduce her upcoming webinar on "Navigating the BC Healthcare System". This webinar will be available to all BCGREA members in May 2026. Stuart Morgan, Executive Director for Pensions BC, will speak. Also there will be reps from our Affinity partners available and elections and resolutions.

There were cautions about financial presentations to branches, specifically reverse mortgages and investing. It is encouraged to use a disclaimer to say this is for information only; want to avoid commercial interest.

Discussions:

Were members pleased with our Christmas Luncheon and venue, all members who attended thought it was an excellent time.

Members were asked to suggest Speakers on subjects that they would find informative.

Topics that were requested were as follows:

Seniors Homes in Salmon Arm

Caregiver Support

Drivers licence tests at 75 years

How can we effect change to get more physicians

Hospice

Victim Services (through RCMP)

Gardening

Travel insurance

Scam awareness

Neighbour links

Affinity Partners

Embassy (when travelling)

Taxes – resources, where to get taxes done for free, deductions, medical deductions

Andree Maxwell volunteered to approach Hospice on making a presentation for our next meeting which is June 11, 2026. Thank you Andree.

Kirstine Hill brought a fun Trivia Quiz for the members.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Elaine Koskimaki, Secretary , Branch 1000