

Recruitment & Retention Committee Report

BCGREA AGM April 23, 2026

The R & R Committee thanked two departing members: **Al Coccola** and **Edna Park** for their long-standing participation. We welcome **Ulrich Janisch** from Fraser Valley Branch 100 as our newest member. There is room on this committee for up to three more members. Anyone interested in joining may contact a member of this committee listed on the BCGREA website.

The R & R Committee Terms of Reference remain valid as reviewed on February 26, 2026.

A priority for this year's work plan includes a potential subcommittee to gather information and make recommendations to create a *Pre-retirement Member Category*. A resolution from the R & R Committee has been approved by the BCGREA Resolutions Committee for presentation at the AGM on April 23rd.

Merchandise Committee update: Branches are now responsible for managing their own purchases and sales as the role of *Merchandise Coordinator* is now vacant. Anyone interested in stepping up, please contact Bonnie Billington: chair.branch800@bcgre.ca. Temporary guidelines for branch merchandise orders are posted on the BCGREA website. The few remaining items on hand will be available at the AGM.

Western Communities Branch 2700 hosted an interactive peer workshop in January 2026 on "Navigating Retirement," facilitated by members Tammy Welsh and Mike Kelley. This in-person session was well received by the 26 participants, with another scheduled for April 14, 2026.

Assistance for branches: Committee representatives attended the Vancouver branch annual general meeting to encourage new executive volunteers and assist with their elections. Assistance was also provided to encourage new executive members in the Northwest, Kamloops and North Island branches.

The All-branch chairs meetings led by George Bowden from Victoria Branch, have been well attended on zoom, providing participants with an opportunity to share and distribute best practices and suggestions. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 10, 2026.

As we look ahead, an ongoing goal for the R & R Committee is to investigate and develop strategies for informing *potential* members in government agencies and by reaching out to non-direct public service employers.

Bonnie Billington, Chair