



MINUTES - BCGREA DIRECTORS

October 14, 2026 at 10 am by Zoom

Attendance: Table Officers– Wilf Brodrick, Merrilee Ashworth, Tammy Welch, Al Barclay, Kathy Torhjelm, Johanna Morrow, Jodine Ducs, Brian Green,

Branch Delegates:

Dianne McNeill (200)
Morgan Bridger (300)
Dan Harlow (400)
Lea Campbell (600)
Allen Pollard (700)
Bonnie Billington (R&R) (800)
Maurice Davidson (900)
Kirstin Hill (1000)
Teresa Dobrozdravich (1100)
Sarf Ahmed (1200)

Robert Low (1400)
Grace Kramer (1500)
Art Kaehn (1600)
Michelle Schilling (1700)
Patrick Harkness (2000)
Renee Polley (2100)
Dan Anderson (2300)
Barb Armstrong (2400)
John MacLucas (2500)
Lynda Hoel (2700)
Pamela MacDonald (1200)
Doug Beckett (1600)
Beverly Burleigh (2000)
Carol Paulson (2100)
Janice Leonard (2100)
Kathy Ford (2500)
Valeska Campbell (2700)
Jean ??

Observers:

Gary Casperson (300)
Cathy Phillips (300)
Gail Harmer (800)
Darcy McGifford (900)
JoAnn Fowler (1000)
Christopher Dabrowski (1100)
George Bowden (Branch Chairs)(1200)

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“As an association of provincial scope, the BCGREA recognizes that its members occupy the lands and territories of B.C. Indigenous peoples. BCGREA asks its members to reflect on the places where they reside, work, and play, and to respect the diversity of cultures and experience that form the richness of our provincial heritage.”

Wilf Brodrick chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. He called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Approval of Agenda – M/S Patrick Harkness/Sarf Ahmed that the agenda as distributed be accepted.
Carried.

Approval of the 2025 Directors' meeting minutes. M/S Merrilee Ashworth/Cathy Phillips. Carried.

TABLE OFFICERS / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- PRESIDENT –Wilf Brodrick - see attached report - M/S Wilf Brodrick/Brian Green that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.
- RECOGNITION OF JOHN MACLUCAS – Branch 2500 – for Long Service and Dedication to the BCGREA. President Wilf Brodrick read a tribute prepare by Kathy Ford. A certificate and pin will be mailed to John
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Merrilee Ashworth
 - Constitution and Bylaws Committee Update
Merrilee gave a power point presentation on the work of her committee (Wilf Brodrick, Sue Powell, Carol Paulson and George Bowden). Merrilee presented the work they are doing in updating the BCGREA bylaws. There will be amendments presented at the 2027 AGM in April. One of the challenges is that the present bylaws are no longer compliant with the current Societies Act, and no longer match how the BCGREA operates, which creates an administrative burden. The goal is to pass at the AGM bylaws that are clear, proactive and legally aligned with the Societies Act. We also require governance clarity. It will be recommended that the Directors be the President, 1st and 2nd Vice-presidents, the past president, the secretary, treasurer and membership secretary with two branch members elected by their branches and the standard will be each member will have one vote. Rather than an AGM and a Directors' meeting, there will be two General meetings per year. It will be recommended that there be changes in notices of meetings. The preliminary notice will be sent out 120 days before the meeting with a call for resolutions with the official notice sent out 30 to 60 days before the meeting and include the agenda, resolution(s) and special motions.
 - Affinity Partners – There are several in a number of categories: Protection – Bel-Air, Manulife. Health and Vision – Hearing Life, Specsavers. Travel – Trip Merchant, Park N Fly, Accent Inn. Everyday Savings – Endless Savings and More. Wills- Upper Canada Wills. Bel-Air will be having travel insurance in January. Future partners include Snore MD, EMC Mortgage, Heart to Home Meals, Silverts Canada Adaptive Clothing. It was suggested that the retirement groups work together with the Affinity partners in order to secure improved benefits/revenue.
M/S Renee Polley/Patrick Harkness that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.
- 2nd VICE PRESIDENT- Tammy Welch
 - Affinity partners are now being handled by Merrilee Ashworth.
 - Website and Social Media –
 - Social media usage is down after ending the Folks Digital contract, and so the committee is reviewing whether to carry on with it. Facebook traffic remains steady.
 - Thanks to the communication team for all their hard work.
 - New Postcards have been developed – 4x6 – to be used at fairs, bulletin boards, meetings, etc. There is a QR code so people can easily access our website.
 - Tammy is requesting article and pictures for the December issue of the Pen.
 - The winner of the draw from the last issue of The Pen is Diane Lundy, Branch 1200, who correctly identified 8 Western Red Cedars,

M/S Brian Green/ Morgan Bridger that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Brian Green – no report
- SECRETARY -Kathy Torhjelm – The date for the Workshops and AGM have been booked at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn – Tuesday, April 20 for workshops and Wednesday, April 21 for the AGM.
- MEMBERSHIP / CENTRAL SUPPORT - see attached.

M/S Al Barclay/Kathy Torhjelm that the report be accepted as presented. Carried

- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – Bonnie Billington - see attached.

M/S Bonnie Billington/Tammy Welch that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

- ALL CHAIRS MEETING – George Bowden – [SLIDE LINK](#). George showed some slides on the value of the All Chairs Group. M/S Renee Polley/Tammy Welch that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.
- TREASURER’S AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT –see attached.

M/S Johanna Morrow/Tammy Welch that the report be accepted as presented. Carried

- TRUSTEE – see attached.

M/S Tammy Welch/ Bonnie Billington that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

- ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm by Wilf Brodrick

President s Report – Wilf Brodrick

Since the BCGREA AGM held April 23rd 2026, your Table Officers have been continuing to work hard on your behalf. We continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss current matters of concern to the members, and take action on your behalf when necessary.

In my role as BCGREA President, I have attended many meetings since our AGM as an ex-officio member. These include the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Committee, the Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Branch Financing, and the BCGREA “All Chairs” meetings. I would like to thank Merrilee Ashworth (C&B), Bonnie Billington (R&R), Johanna Morrow and Sarf Ahmed (Ad Hoc Financing) and George Bowden (All Chairs) for chairing these meetings, as well as all the Committee members for their contributions on behalf of the members.

Shortly after our AGM, and the excellent keynote address by Connie Jorsvik, three terrific webinars were made available to all members. The webinars were hosted by Tammy Welch and Jodine Ducs and presented by Connie Jorsvik. The subjects were Advance Care Planning, Levels of Care, and Medical Assistance In Dying (MAID). The presentations were useful and informative and attendance was excellent. I think this type of presentation can be a useful educational tool for our members, and I hope we can do more presentations like this in the future.

On June 1st, 2026 I met with BCGEU President Paul Finch to discuss areas of common concern between the BCGREA and the BCGEU, particularly on the subject of pensions. While no decisions were made at this meeting, it was agreed that improved two-way communications could benefit both organizations, and that finding ways to work together to improve pensions and benefits for current and future

pensioners would benefit members of both organizations. We both expressed a desire to meet again in the future.

The BCGREA has continued to work with the BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA), the Municipal Pension Retirees' Association (MPRA) and the College Pension Plan Retirees (CPPR), the organizations which make up the Public Sector Retiree Group (PSRG). The aims of the group are to work together to ensure we can speak with a unified voice when seeking improvements to our members' pensions and benefits.

On September 1st, the PSRG met with the senior staff of the BC Pension Corp, to discuss ways to improve communication and cooperation between the two groups. The fact that the four Pension Associations attended as an organized group clearly showed that we intend to work together for the benefit of all our members. While no firm decisions were made at this meeting, interest was expressed by both groups in having future discussions on areas of mutual interest.

Your BCGREA Table Officers are continuing to work hard to represent the best interests of the members, and to keep you informed of our activities. We will continue to look for new ways to do this job better, and suggestions that will help us in our task are always appreciated.

I look forward to your comments.

Respectfully submitted

Wilf Brodrick, BCGREA President

Membership Report – Al Barclay

On September 29, 2026, the BCGREA membership totalled 11, 029 which is an increase of 46 members since the April report. It is nice to have regained the 11,000 mark following several months with declining membership numbers, but we are still lower than the 11,400+ that we achieved following the 2022 recruitment campaign.

Findjoo continues to impress us as our corporate database with a variety of features that make it easy to reach out to members. We have sent out member surveys for several branches to help them decide what is important to their local members. If you would like to survey your branch members, please reach out to Jodine or me and we will make it happen.

Findjoo also allows members to set their personal preferences for which type of information they receive from the BCGREA. If you want to adjust your preferences, simply click on the Member Portal or the Email Preferences links at the bottom of emails that you receive from the association.

The Central Support contract with Jodine Ducs was renewed for 2 years until June 30, 2028. The 2-year term provides additional certainty and stability for both Jodine and the BCGREA. Jodine has hired an assistant to relieve her of some of the more repetitive tasks. Our overhead costs continue to be significantly lower than the BCRTA and MPRA.

Jodine has expanded her role with the Communications committee and is also working with Merrilee Ashworth on the Affinity partnership initiatives. In addition, she continues to strengthen her working relationship with the support staff of the MPRA and the BCRTA. These closer connections with the other associations benefit us by hearing about their best practices as well as any challenges they are facing.

The Northwest Branch is facing serious challenges as there is only one executive member willing to continue serving on the leadership team. This is a reoccurrence of the situation that faced the branch in 2024-25 and the Table Officers will be notifying the branch members of their options in accordance with the branch dissolution process.

Several people have inquired about Life and Honoured Member status and the topic is worthy of wider circulation. The following is copied from the Membership Chair Guidance document.

1. *Members are eligible for Life Member recognition after 20 years of continuous dues payments and this is done at the branch level. Some branches provide a certificate, pin and life membership card. Pins are currently available for purchase through the Merchandise Committee and life membership cards can be requested from CS. The Branch establishes recognition practices.*
2. *Members who have rendered distinguished service to the Association at either the Provincial or Branch level are eligible for Honoured Member recognition. Candidates for Honoured Membership are nominated and recommended at a regular Branch meeting and the recommendation is forwarded in writing to the Provincial Secretary to be presented at a Provincial Directors Meeting or AGM for approval or rejection by a majority vote. The approved candidate is presented a certificate and pin at time of approval. The Branch Membership Chair will request a laminated Honoured Card from Central Support for presentation to the member.*

If you have questions about this, please contact me or Jodine for clarification or assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Barclay, BCGREA Provincial Membership Secretary

Recruitment and Retention – Bonnie Billington

Since last report, the R & R Committee held two meetings and one subcommittee meeting on zoom. As the R & R Committee followed up on the resolution passed at the AGM on April 23rd for research into the feasibility of a pre-retirement member category, a discussion paper and concept proposal was circulated at the June 18th meeting. Subsequently a subcommittee was established, resulting in one meeting on Sept 3rd with recommendations brought forward to the Sept 24th R & R Meeting. Since no clear mandate was established, the committee will reconvene in late October to follow up on this topic i.e. whether to set up tracking of “Pre-retirement contacts” on Findjoo as an interim step or pursue changing the BCGREA Bylaws to allow a special pre-retirement member category. Tammy Welch (2nd V.P) attended the last R & R meeting for input and approval on promotional materials produced by the Communications Committee i.e. an updated version of the ‘Join the BCGREA Today’ pamphlet for inclusion in the Public Service pension packages and a new advertising postcard for distribution at meetings, events and community bulletin boards.

Secondly, Tammy gave an overview of the interactive in-person workshops ‘Sorting out Retirement Life’ that have taken place at two Vancouver Island branches with two more planned. There is opportunity for a session in the Lower Mainland with one branch hosting and inviting representatives from adjacent branches to “train the trainers.”

George Bowden attended the meeting to discuss the importance of branch sponsored activities and events that are relevant at the local level; an area that is worthy of expansion.

The committee discussed the inactive status of Northwest Branch 1900 and potential for the dissolution process to begin if no one steps into the vacant executive positions. The 55+ Games in 2027 will be held in Surrey from Sept 14 -18. Adjoining branches are encouraged to involve members as participants, volunteers or spectators. Larry Martin is asking members who participate in sporting events to ensure they are signed up to receive notifications from BCGREA Athletics. An article will be forthcoming in the Pen (Dec. issue).

Submitted by
Bonnie Billington, Chair

All Chairs Group – George Bowden

Treasurer's Report – Johanna Morrow

As of September 30th, the provincial finances are on budget and we expect to end the year with a very small surplus.

In 2023 we changed the way our branches are funded. Instead of automatically paying each branch \$8 (of the \$20/member annual dues) we implemented a new funding model that paid each branch the funds required to raise their prior yearend cash to \$10 per member. While this change was successful in reducing the surplus cash being held at the branch level and generally worked well for most branches, there were some concerns. Basing funding solely on membership disadvantages small branches who have many active members that regularly attend meetings and social events, compared to large branches with a much smaller proportion of active members.

An Ad Hoc Committee, co-chaired by the President and Provincial Treasurer with 14 other members from a variety of branches, has been created to consider alternate funding models that will better meet our needs. The goal is to present a new branch funding model for approval at the April 2027 AGM, to be implemented in 2028.

I will be presenting our 2026 year end financial statements and 2027 budget at our Annual General Meeting in April 2027. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, you can reach me by e-mail at: treasurer@bcgre.ca.

Sincerely,
Johanna Morrow
Treasurer,

Trustee for the BC Public Service Pension Plan Report – Johanna Morrow

I am pleased to report that the Public Service Pension Plan's funds grew to \$51.5 billion over the last fiscal year. We continue to be in a surplus position. The plan's investment portfolio returned 6.6 per cent exceeding its actuarial return of 6.0 per cent. Our pension plan continues to be well funded and well managed. This is good news especially considering the volatile and uncertain economic times we are facing. For more information about how our plan is positioned to weather U.S. tariffs and trade wars, please read the message from the Chair of the Public Service Pension Board of Trustees. And for those interested in learning more about where our pension funds are invested, our Annual Report provides great information about our assets (public markets, private equity, real estate, infrastructure and renewable resources), responsible investing, views on divestment and engagement, and managing investment costs. The 2026 Annual

report will be available in December on the Public Service Pension Plan website. For anyone not yet registered with Pensions BC *MyAccount*, now is a good time to do so. Simply go to the *MyAccount* website click 'register now' and follow the steps. *MyAccount* allows you to view your pension payment details and history, review your retirement health care and/or dental coverage, download your annual tax information, and update your banking information. It also offers a secure communication link with Pension Corporation staff.

Sincerely,

Johanna Morrow, MTMS*

Trustee, BC Public Service Pension Plan

**Master of Trust Management Standards (MTMS) credential from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans*