

BCGREA Branch 2000 Cheam View General Meeting

Draft Minutes March 19, 2024

1 Meeting called to order: 12:00

- **Number of attendees:** 16
- **Any first-time attendees:**

Stan Smethurst and Mike Kassian

2 Moment of Silence to honour and remember past members, friends and family, our military and those we rely on in emergency services. We shall not forget them.

3 Grace given by: Pat

4 Opening Remarks by Chair

Two items were received in Correspondence:

1. I just got the information from our ED contact at the Pension Corporation. It might be time to consider some responses as individual or collective associations. FYI and discussion. Note this was after a letter that the public service plan trustees had written expressing concern about how exclusionary the eligibility criteria may be

Hi Brian

Thank you for checking in on this item. By way of an update:

- The Public Service Pension Board has not received any response to the letter it sent to the Federal Government in December outlining its concerns with the eligibility criteria for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP).
- The issue of retirees being ineligible for the CDCP if they have, or have previously, been offered coverage in a private dental plan is gaining media attention. The Pension Corporation has also seen an increase in members asking about eligibility for the CDCP.

- Earlier today, the federal government updated its website to confirm that opting out of a dental program will not make them eligible to receive benefits from the CDCP. Do you qualify - Canada.ca. This is consistent with information that we had previously received from the CRA.
- The Pension Corporation will be required to declare on retiree members' 2024 T4 slips that they were offered access to a dental plan when they retired, regardless of whether they elected to accept coverage.
- The board is keeping a watch brief on this matter and will review the options available to support plan members best.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you would find it helpful to discuss any of the above.

2. Choose to Move – a free program for seniors 55 and older, starting in April both in person in Chilliwack and on line.

5 Minutes of the Last General Meeting

posted on website – accepted as circulated

6 Pause for Lunch: 12:12 – 12:42

7 Reports and Items for Discussion:

Vice-Chair: Patrick Harkness

The Abbotsford Branch (100) has approached us for amalgamation. This was not recommended by the executive as there is a formal process for disbanding a branch. Members can choose what branch they want to go to. If Branch 100 disbands, members could join Surrey, Mission, or we could potentially get new members from them as our area goes all the way to Hope.

m/s/c: The Cheam View Branch (2000) membership endorses the executive position not to amalgamate with Abbotsford Branch (100).

Branch meetings will be improved if we have guest speakers. George Gidora will contact Jane Bouey from Parent Support Services Society of BC for the next meeting. The group also supports grandparents and other kin caregivers.

Members are encouraged to put names forward for future guest speakers.

Treasurer: Brian Taylor

Opening balance Feb. 01, 2024: \$1,090.45

Closing balance Feb. 29, 2024: \$1,035.46

On March 01, 2024, \$ 1,143.43 was submitted from the Provincial association to Branch 2000, based on our membership of 236 as of Dec. 31, 2023

Membership: Rhonda Sexsmith - regrets

Secretary: Hanne Gidora – reminder that minutes are posted on website

COSCO (Council of Seniors Citizens' Organizations of BC): Patrick Harkness

There is a new Seniors' Advocate – Dan Levitt - replacing Isobel McKenzie.

At the last meeting it was decided to support rural communities in their endeavours to keep health care providers such as doctors and nurses in their communities. Funding was received from United Way.

The next meeting with the Seniors' Advocate will focus on supports for aging in place.

Communications/Web Master: George Gidora

Members are encouraged to check out our website. There are links to partner organizations and other resources. Branch Meeting minutes are posted on the website as well. Executive minutes are not posted; if a

member wishes to review executive minutes they can contact the web master.

Directors/Past Chairs:

none

8 Old Business:

none

9 New Business:

none

10 50/50 Draw

1. Stan Smethurst: \$16
2. George Razzo \$15

11 Next Meeting dates

April 16th 2024 (3rd Tuesday)

12 Meeting adjourned 12:54