



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

February 4, 2025 (by ZOOM)

At 1:00 pm Al Coccola welcomed everyone to the ZOOM call. There were 34 people in attendance including 3 guests and 2 speakers.

Al introduced the members of the branch executive. New attendees and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

Al acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live.

Al introduced the first guest speaker, Sarah Bennett from Canada Revenue Agency. Sarah delivered an interesting presentation on RRSPs and Income tax credits. She cautioned that we need to be on the lookout for fraudulent emails and scams (for more information <https://antifraudcentre.ca>).

The second guest speaker Tzena Russell from Service Canada talked about OAS and CPP. Tzena reminded us not to carry our SIN or other important cards in our wallet.

Al thanked Sarah and Tzena for their informative talks. They both provided a number of useful links and information that will be posted under Minutes on our website [Western Communities \(Branch 2700\) – British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association](#).

Al called for a moment of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues.

Treasurer's Report (Tammy Welch): The current bank balance is \$1,211.28. We have completed the financial review for 2024 and it has been accepted by the Provincial treasurer. The budget for 2025 is comparable to 2024.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): Our current membership is 346 members.

Face Book Report (Sharon Stewart): There are currently 94 members on Face Book.

Report on Hike (Dale Chandler): The next hike is scheduled for Feb. 19th at 1pm at Devonian Regional Park. We will meet in the parking lot at 4749 William Head Road. The walk to the ocean is about 20 minutes and can be extended by walking along the beach. There is a picnic table at the entrance where we will enjoy coffee after the hike.

Cowichan Valley Branch: Our branch has been assisting in the creation of a new branch in the Duncan area. While we will lose approximately 60 members from our branch, it is better for the association and the individual members. This is the second new branch in the last 20 years.

Next Social Gathering: on March 4th. Guest speaker is the president of the Victoria Electric Vehicles Association.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$60. Gilles Pellerin's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not on the call. \$20 will be added to the pot and the amount to be won at the next meeting will be \$80.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary