



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association  
Western Communities Branch 2700

ZOOM Meeting May 2, 2023

At 1:05 pm Al Coccola welcomed everyone to the ZOOM Meeting. There were 17 people in attendance.

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

Two new attendees were asked to introduce themselves. One person was on the call from New Zealand.

Al introduced the guest speaker - Tom MacLean, Co-Founder and Director of Sales and Marketing for Trip Merchant. Trip Merchant offers BCGREA members exclusive discounts with a variety of travel suppliers. Tom has been in the travel industry since 2001 and has traveled to over 60 countries. He was born and raised on Vancouver Island, lived in Vancouver for 20 years and now lives in the Okanagan.

Tom gave an overview of the Trip Merchant site and provided highlights of some upcoming trips. Tom noted that friends and family who travel with you will receive the same savings. There is a new feature being added to their website whereby members can create their own trip itinerary. At the end of the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions. For more information on trips, you can contact Trip Merchant by email at [info@tripmerchant.com](mailto:info@tripmerchant.com) or phone 1-800-481-9739 ext. 0. To sign up for newsletters, visit the website [bcgrea.tripmerchant.ca](http://bcgrea.tripmerchant.ca).

**Up-coming Activities:**

- ❖ **Hike on May 18** at 1 pm Matheson Lake Regional Park. Meet in the parking lot. Respond to [secretary.branch2700@bcgrea.ca](mailto:secretary.branch2700@bcgrea.ca) if you would like to attend.
- ❖ **Year-End gathering - June 13** at 12pm. Poncho's catering will provide lunch at Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, 2637 Sunderland Road in Langford. Guest Speaker is Brian Green, President of the Provincial Executive. Tickets to be sold in advance - \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Branch Treasurer at [treasurer.branch2700@bcgrea.ca](mailto:treasurer.branch2700@bcgrea.ca).  
There will be door prizes. This event is limited to 40 people.

Helen Prince won the door prize that was provided by the branch executive.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary