

BC GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

LANGLEY/SURREY BRANCH 2100

September 16, 2024 1:00 pm. Royal Canadian Legion, 17567 57 Avenue, Surrey

MINUTES

Speaker: Alex Muir and Margaret Landstrom, Dying with Dignity Canada

- Charitable organization
 - Advance care planning
 - Canada is at the forefront of end of life care
 - At end of life, people can:
 - Die naturally
 - Opt for ‘no CPR’ aka “DNR”. The form is on the BC Health website. Link circulated on September 16 and [again here](#).
 - Suicide (which is legal in Canada)
 - Voluntarily stop eating, drinking and personal care
 - Palliative care and sedation, at home. Often made by doctor and family because the patient is not capable of making the decisions
 - Medical assistance in dying (MAID), which has been available since 2016
 - history of MAID
 - Sue Rodrigas, 1994 brought awareness to the issue
 - 2015 Supreme Court of Canada Carter Criteria Bill C-14
 - Carter decision 2016 requiring reasonable foreseeable death
 - 2019 removed the ‘reasonable foreseeable death’ condition
 - C-7 March 2021. But mental disorders excluded
 - C-39 pushed out until 2027
 - What is MAID?
 - In Canada, medically administered or self administered oral ingestion with a doctor supervising
 - in Canada, a federal law, administered by each province. Medical insurance coverage
 - In US, only 10 states allow. There it is a Pharmacist Oral prescription to take at home
1. MAID eligibility criteria and how to access MAID in BC
- Covered by health care
 - Must be least 18 years old
 - Must have a grievous condition. 2 assessors must independently assess.
 - Voluntary, no pressures. Includes a rigorous exploration of treatments
- Current restrictions and proposed changes to the legislation
 - Track 1 ‘reasonably foreseeable death’. No waiting period, once approved.
 - Track 2 ‘no reasonably foreseeable death’. One assessor must be expertise in the condition; must offer all possible alternative treatments, so there is a 90 day waiting period
 - Until DATE, must have mental capacity on the day of implementation

- Waiver of final consent, track 1, sign right way, pick a date in the future, if I lose capacity prior, can go ahead with MAID immediately.
- Canadian life insurers cannot refuse payment if a patient chooses MAID. But since MAID is not legal in GB, any British insurer will decline to pay out
- How does MAID work in BC?
 - Form 1632 MAID BC
 - Regional health authority MAID teams are very helpful, for witnessing, assessments, planning
 - Track 1 can activate at any time. Do the prep work while you still have mental capacity
 - Can withdraw at any time
- Track 2 is for Neurological – Huntington’s, Parkinson’s, must qualify prior to losing mental capacity
- Advanced requests
 - 83% of Canadians surveyed support MAID, with a medical condition
 - 71% support the right to choose even without a medical condition
 - MAID is an exemption to the Criminal Code. The feds have been asked to change the code, but hasn’t been done so far
 - Quebec – now going ahead anyway, allowing doctors to activate advance requests (Bill C-390)
 - Ask questions at all candidates meetings regarding this
 - Some hospitals do not allow MAID, which results in ‘forced transfers’ between hospitals
- Patient initiated, nobody can change the decision
- If you’re in the hospital, mention to a nurse, who will bring in a social worker, to start the paperwork.
- In Vancouver days, there is no data as to timelines

A separate issue, and possible future topic, is ‘Medical orders for scope of treatment’
 When you are hospitalized, staff will you questions in order to understand your wishes for care.
 There are 5 levels of care.

Possible future topic ‘advance care planning’

The meeting was called to order: 2:26 pm

Adoption of Agenda: M/S/C

Adoption of Minutes from May 13, 2024 M/S/C

Acceptance of Notes from June 17, 2024 M/S/C

Reports:

President: Wilf Broderick

- AGM October 16. Three committee meetings on the 15th: Treasurer, Membership, Bylaws and Resolutions

Motions circulated for consideration:

- Membership definitions

- AGM dates, will change to April, with delegates
- Branch dissolution
- Quorum on sliding scale from 2/3 to half of directors

1st Vice President: Robin Rutherford- no report

Secretary: Carol Paulson – no report

Treasurer: Lu Gaudet – our bank statement went to the Chilliwack branch (HSBC changed to RBC)

- Treasurers meeting Oct.15 mandatory in person, reception, non-voting delegate
- Honorariums paid to branch members must go to provincial officers for approval and payment. Branch 2100 does not pay honorariums.
- Spending limits legal and uses. BCGREA policies and procedures
- All dues to national organizations will be made by the provincial level only, not by Branch
- Letters from National Pensioners Federation re: insurance

Membership: Janice Leonard – 699 total members; 4 new members; 4 transfers in; no deceased; 2 no contacts

Merchandising: Janice Leonard – if you are interested in receiving information about merchandize, select this option on your profile on the BCGREA website

Newsletter: Janice Leonard – next one at the end of November.

Phoning: Chris Roberts – no report

Good and Welfare: Surrindar Angl – no report

Walking Group: Benita Antonio – next walk is October 23 at Reifel Observatory. Reserve parking is required.

Convenor: Christine Sereda – the meeting expressed their appreciation for the selection of snacks that Christine chooses

Guest Speaker Committee: Darryl Walker

October – Winter gardening

November – wellness

December – social

January – tbd

COSCO: Margaret Mubanda has appointed to the Order of BC.

See the COSCO website for election issues. Party responses to questions will be published after the nominations close.

Motion to accept all reports: M/S/C

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Official delegates to the AGM in October: Wilf Broderick as president, Carol Paulson
- Committee attendees at the AGM: Treasurer Lu Gaudet; Membership Janice Leonard; Bylaws and Resolutions Carol Paulson.
- COSCO – our Branch has 2 people who are active in COSCO: Rene Poley and Margaret Mubanda. Moved that the provincial body pay dues for our representatives.
M/S/C

Draws: Janice Leonard distributed

Registration: Marina Stevens

Total: 38 members and 2 guests

Member Donation: \$37

Adjournment: 3:08 pm

Next Meeting: October 21, 2024. Rescheduled from Oct 14 due to Thanksgiving.

Approved October 21, 2024

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