

Federal Superannuates National Association

Nanaimo & Area

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Aug 2004



NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th September , 2004



Location: 256 Royal Canadian Legion Branch at 1630 East Wellington Street, which is located between Bowen and Townsite Road. Doors will open at 10 a.m.

Following a short business meeting, by way of a change, we will be offering Soup and Sandwiches, together with sumptuous desserts, tea or coffee. This is by way of an experiment to see how you like it and the cost will be reduced to \$9 per person for this occasion. We are assured by the friendly folks at the Legion that all will be of superior quality and that there will be plenty for all.

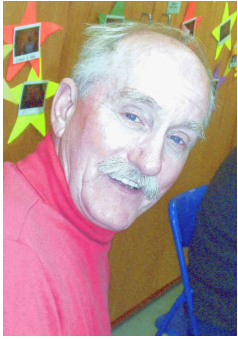
After the lunch, the guest speaker will be Judith Reid, one of our local MLA's, who will talk about the present government's vision for the present and future of Central Vancouver Island.

You will be asked by your local telephoner if you plan to attend and reserve your meal and, if you do, you are reminded of our cancellation policy. As we are required to pay for all meals we order, if you find you are unable to attend, you are asked to cancel your reservation to avoid being charged for the meal. To do so, please call **Pat Mason** at 753-6008 or **Barb Campbell** at 954-0733. The last date for cancellation to avoid billing will be Thursday, 9th September, 2004.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time this Newsletter will have been distributed, summer will be fading into fall and a new season will be upon us. Marg and I will have returned from Convention 04 and hopefully guided our organization into the next ten years. You will hear more on the Convention in the next issue.

Our last General Meeting at the Bayside Inn in Parksville was a resounding success. So many of you indicated that you were coming that the meeting and meal venues had to be changed with the meals being served sit down in the restaurant rather than the meeting hall. Our speakers were excellent and hopefully they were enlightening and interesting. We are looking forward to going to Parksville again in 2006. Some, unfortunately, booked but did not attend. Please remember that we are required to pay for all meals we book and consequently those who book and do not show will be billed unless cancelled in advance.

There is not much from National at this time of the year, only the negotiations for the PSHCP ongoing, the death benefits lawsuit is proceeding through the courts and some perusal of the PSDP. The RCMP pension problem has been resolved. All monies have been returned and safeguards put in place to ensure this will not happen in the future. We expect that the diligence shown by FSNA surely aided in bringing this to a satisfactory conclusion.

There will be a LTCI seminar on 01 November 2004 to be held at the Howard Johnson's Motel (formerly the Tallyho). Proceedings will start at approximately 10.00 a.m. All those who are interested are encouraged to attend. More in the next Newsletter. Don't forget the General Meeting at the 256 Branch Royal Canadian Legion on 16 September 2004. Start will be at the usual time. The scheduled speaker will be Judith Reid, MLA for Nanaimo/Port Alberni. For those of you who may prefer a lighter lunch menu, we will have soup and sandwiches at this meeting. We would be interested in your comments. See the printed notice in the body of this issue. We hope to see you all there!

As the song goes " See You in September "

Bob Hoogerbrug



President Bob takes great pleasure in presenting a well deserved award to Nes Mostowy who has given so much of himself to this Branch and the Association.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

as at 14 Jul 2004



ASSETS

Bank Balances	1325.54
Petty Cash Balance	100.00
Float Due—Membership	100.00
Float Due—Marg Mostowy	1000,00
Prepaid Stationery & Postage	425.83
G.I.C. Investments	14200.00
Accounts Receivable	4440.08
DOB Contingency Fund	2,000.00
Equipment	7649.38
Less Depreciation -6,469.22	1,180.17
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	24771.62

LIABILITIES

Per Capital Payable	66.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES	66.50

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	19,787.50
Current Earnings	4917.62
TOTAL EQUITY	24705.12

24771.62
(Liabilities & Equity)



How to Contact Your Executive



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| President— | Bob Hoogerbrug | 751-8735 |
| | r-choog@shaw.ca | |
| Vice President & Membership— | Vic Ashdown | 248-2027 |
| | ashdown@shaw.ca | |
| Past President— | Marg Mostowy | 756-1069 |
| | fsnananaimo@shaw.ca | |
| Treasurer— | Bob Stitt | 758-7681 |
| | stittar@shaw.ca | |
| Secretary— | Cathey Hoogerbrug | 751-8735 |
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| Recruiting and Retention— | Darrell Hamilton | 756-3895 |
| | dh@telus.net | |
| Historian— | Cliff Pickton | 723-1136 |
| | pfmcj@telus.net | |
| Program Director— | Pat Mason | 753-6008 |
| Awards/Speakers— | Charles Scrivener | 758-2240 |
| | scrivener@shaw.ca | |
| Services & PSHCP/PSDO Liason - | Leroy Wood | 758-0078 |
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| Newsletter— | Ron Gladstone | 751-2940 |
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| Hospital Visiting Nanaimo— | Alex Kohuch | 755-3040 |
| | | |
| | Parksville Harold Goodman | 248-3269 |
| | Port Alberni—Marg Pierce | 723-9791 |
| Director Nomination Committee/Volunteer Co-ordinator | —John Ablett | 752-7572 |
| Phone Chairs & Area Coordinators, etc | | |
| Parksville | Barbara Campbell | 954-0733 |
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| Ucluelet | Sandy Henry | 726-7086 |
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| Port Alberni— | Marg Pierce | 723-9791 |

LCTI SEMINAR

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A further update on this Seminar has been received. Brian Morin of Vorain, Morin and Associates of Nepean, Ontario has confirmed that he has arranged to be in Nanaimo from the 1st November. He will be forwarding his complete schedule as soon as it is available.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT



MEMBERSHIP REPORT – August 12th, 2004

MEMBER NUMBER COUNT

As of August 12th, 2004, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1528 members comprising 1013 superannuates and 515 spouses. There were 1138 on DDS and 390 pay at Branch. Since the last Newsletter (May 13th), the following membership changes have taken place:

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS

Frances & Don Graham, Nanaimo
Mark Keith-Murray & Janet Gorham, Qualicum Beach
Pete Kuryluk, Nanaimo
Laila Strain, Parksville
T C Wagstaff, Nanaimo

TRANSFERRED IN

William & Patricia Byers, Qualicum Beach, from ON38 Kingston & District
Warren Gahr, Nanaimo, from BC01 Central Fraser Valley
Al & Kathy Heinrich, Qualicum Beach, from BC07 Central Okanagan

Dennis McMahon, Nanaimo, from BC06 North Vancouver Island
Whitney & Barbara Moyer, Port Alberni, from BC09 Victoria 'Fred Whitehouse'
Alban Turpin, Nanaimo, from BC07 Central Okanagan

TRANSFERRED OUT

David & Lucy Delorey, Parksville, to BC01 Central Fraser Valley

MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATIONS

Virginia Bond, Parksville
William Mathews, Nanaimo
Isobel Ouellette, Nanaimo
Olive Walton, Parksville

In Memorium

Ted Francis, Nanaimo, survived by wife Paula
Michael Whiteaker, Nanaimo, survived by wife Susan

WEB-BASED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

(WMS) Nothing to report.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005 For those paying dues at Branch,, renewal is now open and you are encouraged to renew as soon as possible to maintain your valuable embership.

Vic Ashdown

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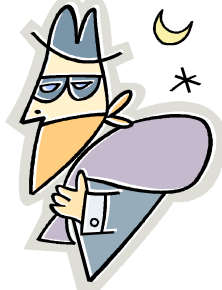
So! Where do I join?



WE SHOULD ALL BE AWARE OF THIS NEW THREAT

You wouldn't believe what happened in Barrie Ontario a short time ago!

Imagine: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. then you lock all your doors, start the engine and shift into REVERSE, and you look into the rear-view mirror to back out of your parking space and notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into PARK, * unlock your doors and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, that is when carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off!! Your engine was running, and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car..



What to do? If you see some paper on your rear window, just drive away and remove it later, and be thankful that you read this. Call your police on the non-Emergency line and report it. Ladies particularly, since you usually leave your purses in your car and a purse contains all your personal identification, and you certainly do NOT want someone getting your home address. **They already HAVE your keys!!!**

I BET YOU LWAYS WONDERED WHERE KIDS CAME FROM

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was...**"DON'T!"**

"Don't what?" Adam replied. "Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said. "Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!!!!!" "No way!" "Yes way!"

"Do **NOT** eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why?" "Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked. "Uh huh," Adam replied. "Then why did you?" said the Father. "I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said "Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.



THE WORD FROM NATIONAL

Countdown to Convention 04

As you know, the Triennial Convention will be held on August 12, 13 and 14, 2004. All accredited delegates have now been selected by Branches and the Workbook to Delegates was sent to all of them as well as to branches. The result of the votes by branches on the resolutions is attached and reflects the branch positions received as of July 15, 2004. Also included is the rationale advanced by the National Board of Directors for its non-concurrence with some of the resolutions.

There have been some modifications on the program resulting from invited speakers not being able to attend. The final program will be handed out to delegates when they register at Convention. Among confirmed speakers are the National President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the President of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, the Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Public Service Health Care Plan Trust.

National Office Hours During Convention

The National Office will be opened during the two weekdays of the Convention (Thursday August 12 and Friday August 13) at normal working hours. Since most of the staff will be busy at the Convention, it would be appreciated if you contact the National Office only for urgent matters.

Meetings of the Executive Committee and of the National Board of Directors (NBOD)

The last meeting of the current Executive Committee will be on Monday August 9. The last meeting of the current National Board of Directors will be on August 10 and 11. The focus of both meetings is to finish business items and to focus on the final touches for Convention 04. Immediately after Convention, on Sunday August 15, there will be a meeting of the new National Board of Directors followed by a meeting of the new Executive Committee.

Public Service Health Care Plan Negotiations

The third session of negotiations on the renewal of the Public Service Health Care Plan Trust Agreement was held on June 29, 2004. The meeting focussed on the governance process and some of the areas of governance that need to be further discussed and/or clarified. The next scheduled meetings are in mid-August.

Federal Elections: Participation of Branches

Very few branches reported participating in the Federal Elections. Branches that participated did so by sending letters to local candidates, as suggested in the 2004 Federal Election Workbook for Branches. National Board of Directors, Meeting of May 28-29, 2004

Status Report on Federal Pension Plans Surplus Litigation (Bill C-78)

The following is a status report was just released. It was prepared by the lawyers representing the plaintiffs in this legal challenge. It concerns both the employees and the pensioners. (FSNA is one of the plaintiffs).

June 29, 2004

Where are the Lawsuits Now? Oral examinations for discovery of the Federal Government have now been completed, apart from follow-up required to obtain undertakings and compel answers to certain questions. The examinations for discovery of the Plaintiffs are scheduled to begin in September 2004. It is likely that one representative will be examined in each of the three lawsuits involving the Public Service Superannuation Plan, the Armed Forces Superannuation Plan and the RCMP Superannuation Plan. We expect that the discovery phase of the litigation will be substantially completed by the end of 2004 and we have begun developing plans for presenting this very complex case at trial. This work will intensify as the discovery phase winds down. No date has yet been set for the trial. Trial scheduling will follow a Pre-Trial Settlement Conference, which we hope will be held later this year or early 2005.

What have we Learned? The discovery process has shed a great deal of light on how and why the Government dealt with the surplus as it did. Briefly, we now know that the Government's approach to dealing with the surplus was intimately linked to its desire to reduce the federal budget deficit in the mid-1990's. The Government discovered that accounting rules permitted it to quietly "amortize" the surplus and reduce the size of the stated budget deficit, even though the balances reported in the Superannuation Accounts would not be reduced. The net results, which was effectively hidden from employees was the equivalent of a contribution holiday for the Government for much of the decade - a period in which employees continued to make their contributions in full. To make matters worse, one of the basic reasons for the emergence of the surplus in the first place was wage restraint and salary freezes! By 1995, \$14 billion in surplus was already built into the Government's internal plan to reduce the deficit. None of these manoeuvres were disclosed to Treasury Board's Advisory Committee on Pension Reform, which included members from the federal unions.

In 1999, Treasury Board proposed a new "pension deal", but the Department of Finance refused to permit any discussion of sharing of surplus or transferring of the existing surplus to the new pension fund. Although it didn't say so at the time, the Government needed to use the surplus to meet its deficit reduction targets. When the employee side refused to agree the Government's "deal", Bill C-78 was the Government's answer. Under this version of "pension reform", employee contributions increased and the Government retained all the surplus which had by 2000 grown to about \$30 billion.

Amendment to the Claim In January 2004 an amended Statement of Claim was filed with the Court in the Professional Institute et al v. AG Canada action. The claim was substantially amended to reflect information obtained from Government documents and witnesses through the discovery process and to take account of recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada dealing with the Canadian Bill of Rights.

Our Case Because the Superannuation plans are legislative plans not subject to normal pension plan regulation, the interpretation of the Superannuation legislation is at the heart of the case. When "pension reform" was enacted by Parliament, legislators were informed and understood that withdrawal of the surplus would not impact on employees because the Government "owned" all the surplus. However, we now know that privately the Government recognized that employees had a basis for claiming some or all of the surplus. In an internal Treasury Board Circular, for example, Treasury Board said this about the Superannuation accounts: "The ownership of the funds remains with the participants in the plan or program, at least for the portion they personally contributed and any interest applicable thereon". Our position is that enacting Bill C-78, Parliament did not intend to take any surplus in the accounts belonging to employees and the legislation should be interpreted accordingly. As with the interpretation of any legislation, a full understanding of the context in which the legislation operates is critical. In this case, the factual and legal context in which the plans operate has many dimensions: pension administration; actuarial issues; employee compensation; public finance and accounting rules; and fiduciary responsibility.

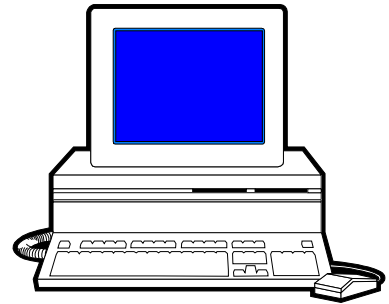
We believe that a full understanding of this context and the way in which the Government exercised its power as administrator of the plans does not support the Government's contention that it owned the surplus. We remain committed to doing everything possible to persuade the Court to reverse the largest surplus seizure in Canadian history

Check the FSNA Website at www.fsna.com for updated details.

Seniors On-line

This issue we would like to pass on some sites that are fun but also useful. How often have you despaired of finding the address of that old friend? The next time this happens try

www.findaperson.canada411.ca. You will be surprised at how much information, other than the address you can get. You can also go by links to other countries and, in Australia for example, you even get a map showing the location of the address. There just isn't any privacy any more!



Want a map of anywhere in the world? Go to

www.multimap.com - You can select any country and, by using the zoom control go right down to every street in Nanaimo or any other city or town!

For ladies traveling alone you might like to explore

www.TravelAloneandLoveIt.com—which helps finding cheaper ways to avoid supplements for single bookings and provides many useful tips for women wishing to travel but are a little apprehensive. It also has booking links and access to travel schedules.

Happy surfing!

The Last Word



Well, here goes another one. This time I was a bit hurried because I was cramming my editorial duties into my program before going into hospital on August 18th for knee replacement surgery. Its no big deal, Marg Mostowy our Past President has had both knees replaced recently and she is hopping around like a two-year old. I'll follow your example Marg and start by waving my toes at the pretty nurses as they wheel me out of the operating theatre. (No kidding! That's what the physiotherapist told me to do at my pre-op briefing).

Since all good things come in threes, we are moving at the end of October and I will have to get another issue out by then for our last meeting of the year. I would crave both your indulgence and your cooperation by forgiving me any obvious errors and omissions and getting any items you have for me for the next edition in as early as possible. Luckily, I do not produce this newsletter with my feet, although I am often accused of putting my foot in it.

If I'm not able to attend the September 16th meeting, just remember its not from shyness, just necessity, so have an extra dessert for me.

Cheers!

“Ron Gladstone

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