

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
VANCOUVER BRANCH (BC 08)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) Minutes**

Location: Italian Cultural Centre, Burnaby, BC

Date: April 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION LIST (Board): Tom Chang (P), Murray Bryck (VP), Danielle Rehm (S), Deborah (Deb) Turner, Ian Sanderson, Paul Davis, Randall (Rey) Fox, George Scott (PP)
(Staff): Jocelan Caldwell

Notice of the AGM was published in the Spring 2025 edition of Sage Magazine and sent to BC 08 members via email.

1. Call to Order

The AGM was called to order at 11:30 a.m., with 99 members and guests in attendance.

Branch President George Scott welcomed all participants and introduced our guest, Steve Sawchuk, the Branch Services Coordinator for Western BC and the Yukon.

2. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by Diane Scott, seconded by Anita Den Dikken. Motion carried.

3. Motion to Approve Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Moved by Chris Clark, seconded by Diane Scott. Motion carried.

4. Board Report/Update from President

George Scott began by stating that this would be his final report as Branch President. George is stepping down at the end of his term, but noted that he has been nominated for election to the National Board of Directors, so we may hear from him again in June. In the meantime, George will continue to serve our membership in his role as past Board President.

The President's annual report emphasized the Branch's efforts in advocacy and recruitment. Our advocacy strategy prioritizes meetings with elected officials to discuss Federal Retirees' priorities and ensure that party platforms address issues of importance to older adults. George commended Ian Sanderson, the chair of our advocacy committee, and expressed gratitude to all committee members for their commitment to engaging with local MPs.

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Advocacy volunteers in the Lower Mainland attended several meetings throughout the year where they had the opportunity to speak with Jagmeet Singh (MP for Burnaby Central and Leader of the NDP) and Peter Julian (MP for New Westminster–Burnaby and House Leader of the NDP). They discussed various important issues including: Long Term Care; the National Seniors Strategy; support for veterans; cost of living concerns; NAFR representation on the Public Service Pension Plan Board; ongoing issues with the Phoenix pay system; and the transition of the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) from Sun Life to Canada Life.

Additionally, Paul Davis (BC08 Director for the Yukon), met with Yukon MP Dr. Brendan Hanley to address concerns regarding: medevac operations from northern communities to advanced care centers in the south; Long Term Care; retirement income security; the National Seniors Strategy; support for veterans; and a universal Pharmacare Program.

George reminded the audience that engaging with the 19 MPs in the Vancouver Branch's catchment area requires significant time and energy, and we are always seeking more volunteers to assist.

Regarding recruitment, the Vancouver Branch is one of only two branches in Canada that continues to participate in pre-retirement seminars for federal employees. George credited Tom Chang and Helio de Costa for their ongoing work.

Murray Bryck, Branch Vice President, and Paul Davis were recognized for their efforts in organizing a recruitment event in Whitehorse.

George mentioned that he is participating in the Special Committee on Association Structure. This committee is chaired by NAFR President Roy Goodall and is tasked with reviewing organizational structure, branch size, and geographic boundaries.

We will hold a luncheon with a guest speaker at the Italian Cultural Centre on June 23. Members can expect to receive an e-invite with more information soon.

George acknowledged the office volunteers and the office manager for their valuable contributions in organizing events and responding to members' inquiries. We are always in need of more volunteers to help in the office.

5. Treasurer's Report

Branch Treasurer, Tom Chang, presented the 2024 Bank Reconciliation and Financial Statements, the Reserves Motion, and the 2025 Budget. The Board reviewed these financial documents during their meeting on March 12. Copies were made available at each table for members to review during the AGM.

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a. Financial Statements of 2024/2025

There were no discrepancies between the ledger balance and the bank balance.

The 2024 Financial Statement indicates a surplus of \$2,753.80. Tom explained that the primary source of Branch revenue comes from membership fees, but we also earn interest from a savings account and GIC. There was a slight increase in revenue in 2024 due to membership fees being adjusted for inflation.

Expenses include three membership events in 2024, with costs for food and beverages aligned with previous years.

Tom noted a slight increase in Volunteer Support and Engagement expenses, due to the decision to reimburse Branch volunteers for parking and other expenses related to their shifts.

Office rental costs increase slightly each year in accordance with our lease agreement, which expires in 2028. As we approach the end of the lease, we will assess our needs and determine whether we still require a physical space.

The estimate for National Meeting expenses is lower in 2025, as we do not anticipate sending observers to the meeting.

b. Budget and Forecast for 2025/2026

Tom explained that the budget for 2025 is similar to the 2024 budget, and we do not anticipate any major increases. The budget shows a forecast deficit of \$495, but this figure could change based on the costs of events and conferences.

A member inquired about the lower estimated food costs for 2025. Tom clarified that this reduction is due to sponsorship by preferred partners, which allow us to avoid costs associated with food and facility rentals. For example, the preferred partner event at Arbor Memorial in September 2024 was organized at no cost to our members. Tom acknowledged Murray Bryck's efforts in securing Arbor Memorial's sponsorship for the event.

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6. Motion to Approve Reserves

The December 31, 2024 Reserves Template, totaling \$ \$55,975 was presented for approval. Tom noted a slight increase compared to year-end 2023 due to reallocations within categories after review.

Motion to approve by Tom Chang, seconded by Patty Palm. Motion Carried.

7. Motion to approve the appointment of a reviewer for the 2025 Financial Statements

A member asked whether the reviewer is a paid position, and if so, whether the expense is included in the proposed budget. The answer to both questions is yes.

Motion to approve by Tom Chang, seconded by Ian Sanderson. Motion Carried.

8. Motion to Approve the 2025 Budget

The 2025 Budget showing a projected loss of \$495 was presented for approval.

Moved by Tom Chang, seconded by Suresh Prasad. Motion Carried.

9. Motion to Approve the 2024 Financial Statements

The Reviewed Financial Statements for 2024 showing earnings of \$2753.80 were presented for approval.

Moved by Tom Chang, seconded by Beverly Segal. Motion Carried.

10. Review and Approve 2024 Bylaw Amendment

The Bylaw Committee, which includes Ian Sanderson, Murry Bryck, Tom Chang, and Danielle Rehm, dedicated time in 2024 to review and update the Branch Bylaws. Copies of the proposed 2024 Bylaws and the Schedule of Changes were made available at each table for members to review during the AGM. Ian explained that the changes are primarily housekeeping updates to align the bylaws with national requirements. In addition to editorial adjustments, we propose increasing the number of Directors to nine, with one position reserved for a nominee from the Yukon.

Motion to approve by Ian Sanderson, seconded by Diane Scott. Motion Carried.

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11. Board Elections

Deborah (Deb) Turner, the Chair of the Nominations Committee, oversaw the elections for four available positions on the Board. She explained that these positions were vacant due to either a Director reaching the end of their term or an individual resigning.

Deb outlined the rules regarding the election and clarified that only BC08 members and partner members were eligible to vote.

There was one nominee for each vacant position. After inviting further nominations from the floor and receiving none, all four nominees were elected to the Board by acclamation.

The new Directors are: President, Tom Chang; Secretary, Danielle Rehm; Director, Ian Sanderson; Director, Randall (Rey) Fox.

Deb thanked the outgoing Directors and welcomed the new members to the Board.

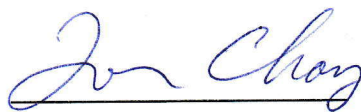
12. Closing Remarks

Steve Sawchuk thanked the Vancouver Branch for inviting him to the AGM. He noted that the branch is well-organized and recognized for its strong advocacy efforts.

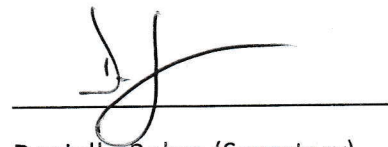
Ian Sanderson urged members to participate in the upcoming federal election and to actively support seniors by promoting our shared goals.

13. Adjournment

George Scott thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 1230.



Tom Chang (President)



Danielle Rehm (Secretary)