



PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

Clubs for Retired & Semi-Retired Professional & Business Persons, Former Executives & Others

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NEXT MEETING

Date: February 17, 1998
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Topic: **B.C. Labor Law**

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion
Speaker: Mark Startup
President of the Retail
Merchants of B.C.

Minutes - Probus Club of Vancouver - January 20, 1998

Fred Cotton opened the meeting at 9:50 am with 84 in attendance. Pidge McBride then distributed badges to those who had not received them. Bill Manson then discussed the trip to the Boeing plant. There will now be two trips:

- 1) Mon, February 9, 1998 Oakridge pick up at 7:45; Delta Town & Country Inn at 8:05
- 2) Wed, February 11, 1998 Oakridge pick up at 8:45; Delta Town & Country Inn at 9:05

Neither of these trips will involve the Museum of Flight.

Fred Cotton then discussed salient points from the minutes of the executive meeting of January 7, 1998. A copy of these minutes is enclosed. Brice McDougall reported that our February speaker will be Mark Startup, President of the Retail Merchants of B.C. Peter Wilson then reported the Mel Smith will be speaking February 10, 1998 at Sutton Place, time 4:30.

Bill Ibbott then introduced our speaker, Dr. Granger Avery, President of the B.C. Medical Association. Dr. Avery opened his speech by describing his background, medical training, and practice. He stated his main topics would be the degradation of our medical system and two-tiered medicine. He stated degradation has occurred by underfunding of hospitals and medical services personnel, and a shift of control from doctors to a bureaucracy. This underfunding has resulted in reduced hospital beds, crowded emergencies, long surgical waiting lists, one thousand lay offs in nursing, and many other problems.

He then discussed the multiple factors that influence our access to medical care. Factors such as where you live, who you work for, who you are, or who your doctor is. He feels the average person is definitely affected by the degradation of our medical system.

He recommends the following to help resolve these problems:

- 1) Put more dollars into the system.
- 2) Re-organize the system based on outcomes.
- 3) Put doctors back into the decision making process.

In regards to two-tier medicine, it needs to be defined by (1) access and (2) how you pay for it. The BCMA does not advocate two-tier medicine, it is up to the people of B.C. to decide if they want it.

A lively question period followed and then Dr. Sandy Pinkerton thanked our speaker for his comprehensive and thought-provoking talk. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Al Knudsen, Secretary