



PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

#252 - 2025 West 42 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5
Telephone: (604) 261-6818

NEXT MEETING

Date: March 17, 1998

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Topic: **Why Freedom of information and Privacy
Protection are necessary in the information age.**

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion

Speaker: Gordon Wilson, M.L.A.

Executive Director

B.C. Freedom of

Information & Privacy Ass.

President
Fred Cotton
266-7060

Vice President
M.P. Pidge McBride
274-0446

Special Adviser
John Hoyle
926-2667

Secretaries
Al Knudsen
943-6748

Jim Gilley
948-1131

Treasurer
Bill Wallace
222-2365

**Speakers
Committee**
Brice MacDougall
922-5321

**Membership
Committee**
Pidge McBride
274-0446

**Visits and
Entertainment
Committee**
Jim McPherson
922-2742

Bill Manson
988-2365

House Committee
Doug Lambert
266-2422

**Greeters
Committee**
Norm Weitzel
925-3574

Rotary Liaison
John Hoyle
926-2667

Minutes - Probus Club Vancouver - February 17, 1998

Fred Cotton opened the meeting at 9:45 am with 70 in attendance. He congratulated Jim McPherson and Bill Manson for arranging the very successful trips to the Boeing plant in Everett. Bill Manson discussed the financial status of the Boeing trips and asked about interest in a possible golf tournament and dinner in early May.

Fred Cotton introduced John Hopkins as our new membership Chairman. Brice MacDougall then reported our speaker for March would be Darrell Evans, Executive Director Freedom of Information and Privacy Association and for April, David Bond, Chief Economist of the Hong Kong Bank of Canada.

Jack Croll introduced our speaker, Mark Startop, President and C.E.O. of the Retail Merchants Association of B.C. Our speaker started by discussing some of the background to our present labour situation in B.C., and How the Asian economic downturn, layoffs, and potential Provincial deficit will affect labour - business relationships in 1998.

In 1992 Moe Sihota appointed three people to tour the province to find what changes should be made to B.C.'s labour laws. As a result in November 1992 Bill 84 was passed which: Removed the workers secret ballot vote with no secret ballot, once 55% of employees signed a union card, that union could then act in any bargaining negotiations. As a result from 1993 to 1997, certification of small companies significantly increased.

He then discussed the attitude of unions and Government toward collective bargaining, and that they do not understand the competition that exists for small companies in the market place. The business community is not against collective bargaining, it is against bad labour laws.

In 1997, with no consultation with the business community, the government attempted to pass Bill 44 with further changes to our labour laws. There was much negative reaction to this Bill so Gien Clark killed the Bill and promised consultation. He then established two committees to speak to the community. One committee, the section 3 group, to consult in the areas not involving construction, and the other to be a construction industry review committee. Reports and recommendations from these two committees will be presented to the labour minister on February 23 1998, and Government proposals will then be announced.

The section 3 group has already recommended no return of the secret ballot and also removal of a strike vote for first contract negotiation after certification. Our speaker felt that sectoral bargaining will again be introduced and that sectoral bargaining in the construction industry could be the most important component of any proposed new legislation. He felt very strongly that there should be marked resistance to this legislation that the public be more knowledgeable about the legislation and its long term effects.

A question period following and then Peter Dunkin thanked our speaker. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am

Al Knudsen
Secretary