



## NEXT MEETING

Date: **June 16, 1998** Location: **Stanley Park Pavilion**  
Time: **9:30 a.m.** Speaker: **Dr. Colleen Nelson**  
Topic: **PROSTATE CANCER** B.C. Cancer Agency

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER: Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Attendance: 82

Fred Cotton called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. and noted that this was the first anniversary of the Vancouver Probud Club's founding. He reported with regret that Wilf Pegusch had died. He welcomed Brigadier, the Honourable Budge Bell-Irving. The golf day had 36 participants and was a financial success. Bill Kennedy wishes those with no name tags to notify him at 731-4244. Brice Macdougall announced that the next speaker would be Dr. Colleen Nelson from the Cancer Agency who will speak on prostate cancer.

Tom McCusker offered a good-natured reminiscence and introduction to the guest speaker - Dr. Patrick Lucey McGeer. Dr. McGeer gave us his view of what is wrong with the health care system in Canada and his suggestions for fixing it. He noted the various symptoms of health care malaise. He stated that the answer is not to throw more money at the system, citing competition for funding from other worthy causes, Canada's current high debt, and high unemployment resulting in an inability to raise taxes further.

Canadians can spend any amount of their disposable income on the health care of their dog or on unproved medical treatment but because of the Canada Health Care act which eliminated market initiatives in the health field they do not have the right to spend their income as they wish for health care! Therefore, as a result of the inadequate funding and the state monopoly, health care in Canada is being rationed.

His answer - remove the state monopoly by repealing the Canada Health Care Act and associated legislation to allow the market place to take over the health care system in Canada. He feels, for instance, that dropping the ban on extra billing and allowing unlimited access of physicians to Canada, would open up healthy competition in the health care field. The state's role would be to set the present health care system as the floor and allow the market place to set the ceiling. Those who wish to remain within the confines of the state floor would have easier access at the same cost. Those who wish a higher level of care would be able to pay for it.

During the question period, he stated that those with bottom income levels would still receive adequate care because the competition and the greater number of doctors would lead to an improvement in everybody's health care. In the USA, there is more care available proportionally than in Canada and most innovations in health care arise there.

**President**  
Fred Cotton  
266-7060

**Vice-President**  
Pidge McBride  
274-0446

**Secretaries**  
Al Knudsen  
943-6748

Jim Gilley  
948-1131

**Treasurer**  
Bill Wallace  
222-2365

**Speakers  
Committee**  
Brice Macdougall  
922-5321

**Membership  
Committee**  
John Hopkins  
985-8422

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

Bill Manson  
988-2365

**House Committee**  
Doug Lambert

**Greeters Committee**  
Norm Weitzel  
925-3574

**Rotary Liaison**  
John Hoyle  
926-2667