



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

5846 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3N8, Phone and Fax 604-261-6818
Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

www.probusvancouver.com

February 2013

President
Wayne Audette
604-9297586
wayneaudette@shaw.ca

Past President
Don Newman
604-263-5740
The_newmans@telus.net

Vice President
Jon Collins
604-261-2468
jonkay@telus.net

Secretary
Ken Yule
604-266-4563
kjqc@shaw.ca

Treasurer
Richard Carson
604-261-0974
acarson1@shaw.ca

Speakers Committee
Brian Maunder
604-222-2391
brianmaunder@shaw.ca

Membership Committee
Norm Leach
604-733-3866
nleach@direct.ca

Activities Committee
Bill Robertson
604-269-0745
robertsonwd@hotmail.com

Web Site Committee
Jack Zaleski
604-261-7492
Jack.zaleski@gmail.com

House Committee
Doug Lambert
604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor
Roy Williams
604-926-4727
roytwitch@shaw.ca

Membership Services
Tony Weall
604-261-2144
Tony.weall@telus.net

Next Meeting: February 12th, 2013

Time: 9:30 am

Location: H.R. MacMillian Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level

Speaker: Tamara Vrooman

Topic: "Vancity: Banking on Values"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Extra Special Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 26th at 2pm
Chief Justice Beverley
McLachlin
March 19th - Triumph Tour

Tamara Vrooman Chief Executive Officer, Vancity



As Chief Executive Officer of Canada's largest credit union, Tamara Vrooman harnesses the strength of Vancity to fulfill its vision of redefining wealth for members and communities.

This vision challenges us to think differently about wealth, to return to a meaning that says you can only truly prosper as an individual if you are connected to a vibrant, healthy community that is sustainable for the long term.

Tamara considers her role a continuation of her career in public service, putting Vancity's \$16 billion balance sheet in service of members to create growth with community impact. Through Vancity's involvement with the Social Finance Task Force and the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), she sees this can be done on a national and global scale, recognizing that we play a key role in improving the quality of life for current and future generations through values-based banking.

Under Tamara's leadership, Vancity became the first carbon neutral credit union in North America, the first Canadian financial institution invited to join GABV, the largest organization in Canada with a living wage policy, and in 2011 achieved the best earnings performance in its 65-year history.

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, PC Chief Justice of Canada

Extra Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 26th—2PM
H.R. MacMillan Planetarium
And Space Centre



Chief Justice McLachlin spent her formative years in Pincher Creek, Alberta and was educated at the University of Alberta, where she received a B.A. (Honours) in Philosophy in 1965. She pursued her studies at the University of Alberta and, in 1968, received both an M.A. in Philosophy and an LL.B.

She was called to the Alberta Bar in 1969 and to the British Columbia Bar in 1971 and practised law in Alberta and British Columbia. Commencing in 1974, she taught for seven years in the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia as a tenured Associate Professor.

Her judicial career began in April 1981 when she was appointed to the Vancouver County Court. In September 1981, she was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia. She was elevated to the British Columbia Court of Appeal in December of 1985 and was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in September 1988.

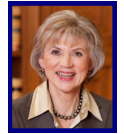


As Deputy Minister of Finance for British Columbia from 2004 through mid-2007, Tamara also served as Secretary to the Treasury Board and CEO of the Public Sector Employers' Council. Among her achievements in that time, Tamara led the strategy development and implementation to successfully renegotiate 100 per cent of expiring collective agreements in the public sector without strike or mediation and led the Ministry to two AAA credit rating upgrades. Her prior portfolio was as Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer for the Ministry of Health where she balanced the budget.

Tamara pursued her post-secondary education at the University of Victoria, earning a Master of Arts in History in 1994 and a Bachelor of Arts, with Honors in 1991.

Raised in Kamloops, Tamara lived in Victoria for more than 15 years before moving to Vancouver for her position with Vancity in 2007. A member like everyone else, Tamara, her husband and young son all belong to Vancity's Kitsilano Community Branch where the staff advise her on everything from financial planning to the West Side's best restaurants and most popular playgrounds.

Seven months later, in April 1989, she was sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. On January 7, 2000, she was appointed Chief Justice of Canada. She is the first woman in Canada to hold this position.



In addition to her judicial duties at the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice chairs the Canadian Judicial Council, the Advisory Council of the Order of Canada and the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter Armstrong - Lawyer

Peter Bradshaw – Geologist

Peter Howes – Chartered Accountant

Report of the January 8th Attendance: 155 Members and Guests

President Wayne Audette called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, welcoming all members and guest speaker Kip Woodward, whose biography appears in the January newsletter. **Ken Yule** acted as Secretary.

Norm Leach introduced three new members. (See "Welcome New Members").

The members only Special Meeting with Chief Justice McLachlin will be on Tuesday February 26 at 2:00 pm.

Mark Cullen introduced the speaker, Kip Woodward, who for three years has been the Board Chair of B.C.'s largest health authority, Vancouver Coastal Health. Mr. Woodward's subject was "Building a sustainable health care system". Sustainability is the ability to keep something going. Health care authorities can influence the outcomes of their services, but not demand for, revenues from or policies concerning them.

Although in Canada and B.C. life expectancy at over 82 years, and happiness, are among the highest in the world, and higher than the U.S., there is considerable room for improvement in our publicly-funded health care system. Canadian health care costs have doubled in ten years to over \$200 billion annually, over 10% of GDP and at the higher end of developed countries. However, in Canada primary care has not been integrated with the rest of the health care system. Only 22% of 2100 doctors surveyed reported that patients could get an appointment the next day, and only 45% had arrangements for after-hours care, both being at or near the bottom of the table of developed countries. Consequently, Canadians make more use of hospital emergency departments. We need to spend not more, but more wisely. B.C. spends \$1000 per capita less than Alberta, with equivalent health outcomes.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is the best large health authority in Canada measured by unexpected deaths in hospitals, and has the lowest administrative costs (3.4% of 2012 budget). It has 2500 physicians, 22,000 staff and 5,000 volunteers working at 556 locations, including 13 hospitals, three diagnostic and treatment centres and 15 community health centres.

On an average day there are 914 emergency room visits, 316 elective surgeries, 216 inpatient discharges, 891 home care nursing visits, 1750 clinic visits and 6200 residential care beds occupied. Geographically covering Vancouver, Richmond, the North Shore, the Sunshine Coast and central coast, it serves the downtown east side and First Nations populations both urban and remote. However its funding has grown more slowly than that of other authorities because funding is based on local population but 40% or more of VCH's care is provided to people living outside its boundaries. Patients should be seen not as a financial burden, but a revenue opportunity; funding should be tied to outcomes and incentives.

VCH focuses on People First, by asking what a decision means for patients and their families, not what is best for the provider, and by building a collegial, respectful working environment. It is committed to transparency and accountability, with financial reports, quality audits and public health reviews identified on its website at www.vch.ca. It was the first health authority in Canada to publish a Health Care Report Card showing where improvement is needed as well as what is working well. Soon it will have a real time online tracking tool for Emergency Department wait times for non-urgent treatment.

VCH encourages innovation and calculated risk-taking to improve its delivery of health services. Its Emergency Room Decongestion Project pays ERs for moving patients through more efficiently and quickly. The Richmond Hospital Birthing Unit takes deliveries out of general operating rooms, performs most of the required caesarean sections, and substantially decreases the birthing room turnover time. Efficient use of acute care facilities is essential, as Canada has 1.7 acute beds per 1000 population, compared to nearly three in the U.S. and 3 ½ in Australia. Acute care bed discharge planning sessions now occur twice a day, early morning and afternoon, freeing up many beds a day earlier. Also, the discharge planning involves social workers, rehab specialists and others in addition to doctors and nurses, giving the patients more support. The Home is Best concept assists people in their homes as long as they are independent and safe, supported by the Avoiding Unnecessary Residential and Acute Admissions program, which sends community health staff to patients' homes to identify and address potential health issues early. This frees up hospital beds and reduces the waitlist for residential care. Further, patients able to return home have fewer subsequent ER visits and hospital admissions.

Sick leave is a particular problem in the health care system. VCH's Attendance Wellness Promotion program has reduced average sick time per unionized employee by over 15%, from the highest BC authority to the lowest.

A number of challenges confront the health care system. The workforce is aging rapidly. Over 60% of medical students are women, many of whom will not practice full time. University programs (unlike Germany's) are not tailored to what is really required. Executive compensation is significantly less in B.C. than Ontario. Government ministers, deputy ministers and associate deputy ministers leave before they have gained experience. Physician funding needs to be integrated with hospital and health authority funding. When health authorities reduce the rate per procedure, physicians tend to increase the volume of services at the same rate. Canadian doctors rank last or second last among developed countries in their use of electronic health records, and in answering questions, making appointments and refilling prescriptions online. VCH will standardize acute care information systems, operating room procedures and the reconciliation of drugs provided, which will create a B.C.-wide electronic patient record system.

Sustainability of the health care system will require public awareness of health care costs and substantial reduction of expectations. Medical premiums must be adjusted to account for risks. Alcohol, diet and lack of exercise are personal responsibilities. Some jurisdictions are redefining what is medically necessary, based on outcomes. Political leaders should redefine the core principles as to when the public provides healthcare, and when others such as insurance schemes deliver other services. European countries are looking at funding and taxing alternatives. Now there are no incentives for families to share in the cost of care of their elderly, even if the patient's assets have been transferred to their children. Criminals should pay the care costs of those they injure, and monies collected from them through civil forfeiture should be available to the health care system. Visitors entering Canada should be required to prove they have adequate health insurance coverage.

Mr. Woodward concluded by asking the audience to give generously to our hospitals, and to have an 'advance directive' after discussing our personal healthcare plan with our families.

Responding to questions, Mr. Woodward pointed to physician availability and nurses' contracts as impediments to a full seven-day workweek, but scheduling models are improving. We must develop a culture of better and simpler. Overreliance on less expensive generic drugs kills new research. Health policy decisions should not be made in Victoria or Ottawa. Organ transplants are still voluntary, requiring opting-in.

Dr. Peter MacKay thanked Mr. Woodward for his outstanding presentation, and suggested he might return to discuss the role of private medicine.

NOTE: You can view the speaker's power point slides by going to Probus Website, www.probusvancouver.com.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Despite my best delaying tactics, and resistance to any suggestion from Ginny that we really should take a vacation, we are headed to the Desert for the month of February. Golf clubs in tow, sun screen nearby. I'm really going to miss the rain, the fog and the morning frost.

On a serious note, I'll miss our two Probus meetings in February, the first by Tamara Vrooman, CEO of Vancity on Tuesday the 12th and the special session on Tuesday February 26th (a 2 PM start) featuring the Right Honourable, Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada. Your capable Vice President Jon Collins will chair both of those sessions, with my thanks.

At a recent meeting last week of the Speakers' Steering Committee, chaired by Brian Maunder, the Committee identified those candidates of most interest and assigned a member responsibility for making it happen. Most of this year's schedule is now complete. The quality and variety of the slate of speakers lined up is impressive. While every person on the Committee contributes, one member who has been particularly productive this year. Mark Cullen seems to know almost everyone in Vancouver, and he must have a large supply of IOU's that he's collecting. Thanks, Mark!

One of the other eleven Clubs in our District has fielded a candidate to stand for election to the Probus Canada Board as of May, 2013. Each Club has one vote, so our Bill Sexsmith has launched a campaign of Clintonesque proportions to ensure he gets seven or more of the votes necessary to be confirmed as our District nominee.

Vice President, Jon Collins will be sending out a Survey Questionnaire regarding the Presidents' Luncheon. It will take only a few minutes to complete and submit.

Please introduce yourself if we happen to meet in the hallways of the auditorium at any future meeting.



GUIDED TOUR OF TRIUMF RESEARCH FACILITY AT UBC

TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH – 10AM

This tour was limited to 40 individuals **and was fully booked** very quickly when first announced. Also, there are about 10 on the waiting list.

Triumf, located at the University of British Columbia is one of the world's leading subatomic physics laboratories; it is Canada's national laboratory for nuclear and particle physics research and related sciences. Launched in 1968 by three Universities as a local facility for intermediate-energy nuclear physics, Triumf is now owned and operated by a consortium of 17 Canadian Universities. The Laboratory has expanded its fields of research from nuclear physics to include particle physics, molecular and materials science, and nuclear medicine. Triumf has a staff of 340 scientists, engineers, and technicians and a further 140 post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and co-op students, thereby training the next generation of leaders .

Complete details about this activity can be found under "Activities" on the Club's website. You can add your name to the waiting list by contacting Bill Robertson at: robertsonwd@hotmail.com or phone: 604-269-0745.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM

Greeters – Chandran Thiruchittampalam
Peter Bradshaw

Cashiers – Peter Armstrong, Brian McGavin

Past President Greeter – Bill Sexsmith

Member Services Desk – Tony Weall