



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com)

January 2010

**Next Meeting:** January 12, 2010  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** Point Grey Golf And Country Club  
**Speaker:** Ken Hardie  
Director of Communications, Translink  
**Topic:** *The road so far – the route ahead*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Presidents' Luncheon - Tuesday  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Point Grey Golf  
and Country Club

No other events planned until after  
the Olympics

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## KEN HARDIE



Ken Hardie is a senior communication / public affairs executive with TransLink, responsible primarily for media relations and issues management. Prior to TransLink, he served as a senior public affairs manager at the

Chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society in 1990-1991. Combined, his communication, media and community experience has given him a unique perspective on the dynamics and challenges of building and maintaining public confidence in Metro Vancouver's regional transportation authority.

Vancouver Police Department and the Insurance Corporation of BC.

In his 'first career,' Ken spent 15 years in the media, mostly in radio, where he began by producing open line programs at CJOR Vancouver for the likes of Pat Burns, Jim Nielsen and Chuck Cook, and then programmed stations in Northern BC, Northwest Ontario, Manitoba and the BC interior.

His community service activities have included a number of years with the Kinsmen and he was President of the BC



## Report of the December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Attendance: 236 Members and Guests*

**President Nick Thornton** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. **Ted Horsey** acted as secretary.

**David Scott**, Chairman of the Speakers Committee stated that Dr. Larry Goldenberg, Dr. Max Cynader and David Emerson would be our speakers for February, May and June respectively.

Activities Chairman **John Cruickshank** said upcoming activities following the Olympics include a tour of SFU, the Woodwards site, a walking tour of old Vancouver, a golfing event and a three day winery tour.

The guest speaker, Preston Manning was introduced by Vice President **Bill Sexsmith**.

Mr. Manning said that he would speak on two particular subjects: firstly, the difficulties faced by western based politicians in Ottawa, and secondly on how to improve the performance of politicians in Canada.

In Canadian history, the two areas that have produced innovative political parties are Quebec and the West. He gave as examples in Quebec: the Bloc Populaire Canadien, the Social Credit Rally, and the Bloc Quebecois; and in the West: Louis Riel's followers, The Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), the Progressive Party of Canada, the Social Credit Party, and the Reform Party of Canada.

Mr. Manning said that most governmental people in Ottawa had little knowledge of the West. He said that, for example, when the new Reform Party members were coming to Ottawa for the first time, the staff in the Parliament Buildings had heard that these members might ride horses into the Buildings, and actually had a staff meeting to make plans for cleaning up after the horses.

He gave the further example of when his father, just before he retired as Premier of Alberta, met with Pierre Trudeau, then the Prime Minister to suggest that a pipe line right-of-way be set aside running from Tuk-

toyaktuk to Chicago, that it would be worth millions of dollars in the future. Mr. Trudeau gave it short shrift.

The Foreign Affairs Department looks to the east and Europe, not west to the Asia / Pacific. When George W. Bush was elected President of the United States, Mr. Manning spoke to Bill Graham, then involved in the Department of Foreign Affairs, suggesting that three Albertans had close connections with some Texan friends of George Bush, and that they be contacted as useful connections with the U.S. Administration. At that time there were a dozen flights a day going from Alberta to Texas. Connections are helpful to Canada in dealing with the United States. The Department of Foreign Affairs did nothing to follow up.

There is a lack of understanding in Ottawa of the strategic importance of petroleum. He said that there is, and will be for the foreseeable future a world wide need for 80 million barrels of petroleum per day, and western petroleum is important in fulfilling that need.

The second part of his critique is the inferiority complex of westerners in Ottawa. Traditionally, the West had very little influence in Ottawa because the population was so small. In 1900 less than 5% of the parliamentary seats were held by westerners. The westerners have failed to appreciate that 33% of the Gross Domestic Product, 33% of the population, and 50% of Canada's exports come from the West. Westerners have traditionally negotiated from a position of weakness. They have not pushed sufficiently hard for an EEE (elected, equal and effective) Senate.

The population of Canada is now such that no one region controls Parliament. Quebec is strong enough to deny a party a majority government, but if Ontario and the West were in agreement, it wouldn't matter, vote-wise, if Quebec were part of the agreement.

Mr. Manning said that there is declining respect for politicians and political leaders. This is evidenced by the low voter turnout at recent elections. He believes that

political parties are a necessity for the proper governing of the country, but that most political parties are marketing organizations for fighting elections, and they do very little for intellectual development and the training of people involved with government, such as constituency officers and campaign managers.

The job of politicians is to make laws, but most political parties do not train their elected members to do this. In former times it was believed that elected members could "learn of the job", but now, with instant communications, that is no longer possible. Mistakes instantly become public knowledge.

The Manning Centre for Building Democracy was set up to build a free and democratic Canada where conservative principles are well articulated, understood, and implemented. It provides training and education to raise the capacity and increase communications for a democratic infrastructure for governing Canada. It's mission is to equip the next generation of political leaders, particularly those who share its conservative values with ideas, skills and networks necessary to serve the best interests of Canadians. Communications are important because Canada is an expansive country where many persons in government are unaware of what others are doing, and mistrust each other.

The Manning Centre has set up meetings for networking. Stephen Harper has spoken on substantive matters at some meetings. The Manning Centre has set up a conference to discuss the future of Alberta. Alberta has a peculiar pattern of elected governments, governments remain in power for a long time, and then there is a convulsion and change. Rarely does an opposition party become the government: the new governing party is usually a new party. Three questions were discussed at the Conference:

1. What is your vision of the future?
2. What should be done about such things as: welfare, application of tax moneys, the environment, democracy, and alternating leadership?
3. What would you be prepared to do to improve the performance of

government?

It prepared a matrix of 120 things that politicians should be familiar with, such as aboriginal matters, urban affairs, fiscal matters, tax, trade, law and order. Mr. Manning compared the amount we spend on training politicians on how to govern and legislate to the amount a large corporation may spend on a corporate take-over. He suggested that grants of \$200 million over 10 years would permit investment in education and training and better performance by politicians in governing the country. When cabinet ministers meet with their deputy ministers to discuss courses of action usually the deputy ministers are better informed, so their views are accepted.

The Manning Centre proposes practical training for volunteers, campaign managers, and others who work in the 1041 constituency organizations in Canada. Some Canadians place more importance on choosing a rink manager for the local ice rink than on choosing a mayor.

Since the election laws have been rewritten in Canada, the manner of fund-raising for political parties has changed. Before the change in election laws a Liberal organizer told him that 200 entities (corporations and unions) contributed 80% of the funds the party raised. Now the laws require small amounts of money from large numbers of persons, firms and corporations.

The Manning Centre must persuade people to take its training programs before elections, when there is time available. After being elected most politicians don't have the time to take the training. He suggested that politicians should enter political life following the exhortations of Cicero "Enter Prepared".

Mr. Manning was then asked a number of questions, including:

What path should be followed to get an EEE senate. Mr. Manning said things were progressing slowly, but that, for example, all new appointees were asked to confirm, before they were appointed, that they would support senate reform. Elected senators could either be elected by federal elections (which would require constitutional change) or more simply be appointed if they had been chosen in provincial elections. Mr. Manning said that the question period in the House of Commons is not productive,

but is really grandstanding. He suggested getting rid of the TV cameras for a start.

Mr. Manning did not favour compulsory voting, as is done in Australia, because voters would probably not ensure that they were sufficiently informed to vote wisely.

Mr. Manning said that voters should decide whether they want this voting system. He had no firm views.

After the questions, Mr. Douglas Seager thanked Mr. Manning for his presentation, and gave him, as an honourarium, a cheque payable to the Manning Centre for Building Democracy.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is no accident that we have such a strong Probus Club in Vancouver. At our upcoming Presidents' lunch on January 12<sup>th</sup> at Point Grey Golf Club, we will have the chance to honour those who have led us to this point over the past thirteen years, and who still contribute to our ongoing success. We have limited seating at this event, so if you are planning to attend, please register as soon as possible. If you have internet access, our new Probus web site is the easiest way to do this.

2009 was another great year for our Club, with a continuing high caliber of both speakers and events. My sincere thanks to all our volunteers who made this possible.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year to you and your families, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the luncheon on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Receipts

Annual & Initiation Dues	\$14,050
Monthly Meetings & Special Events	<u>4,712</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$18,762</u>

### Disbursements

Expenses for Meetings & Events	\$ 5,296
Newsletters, Postage & Supplies	1,508
Website Development & Operations	3,221
Other	<u>931</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$10,956</u>

Net Receipts for the 4 Months \$ 7,806

Cash in Bank, November 30, 2009 \$23,721

The Management Committee has established a financial budget) for the current fiscal year.

Wayne Audette  
Treasurer

## **Tenth Annual Presidents' Luncheon**

Probus Club Vancouver has traditionally held a year end event. Initially it was a December Christmas Luncheon at the Stanley Park Pavilion after our regular meeting there—cost \$5.00. With the year 2000 we survived Y2K and held a Millennium Lunch at Hollyburn Country Club. It was the next year, 2001 that the Presidents' Luncheons began with a January lunch at Point Grey Gold & Country Club and this annual event has continued to the present day.

The Presidents' Luncheon provides an opportunity to recognize and thank the Past Presidents of our Club who had contributed their service. At the first Presidents' Luncheon the honoured guests included Charter founder: Fred Cotton, Pidge McBride, and Roy Williams. Today the list has grown to include John Hopkins, Norm Weitzel, Don Farquhar, Tom McCusker, Gordon Thom, Denis Creighton, Jack Farley, Ted Daem and George Adams in order of service. Annually most Past President



## 2010 MEETING DATES

January 12<sup>th</sup> – *meeting is at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club*

February 9<sup>th</sup>

March 9<sup>th</sup>

April 13<sup>th</sup>

May 11<sup>th</sup>

June 8<sup>th</sup>

July 13<sup>th</sup>

August 10<sup>th</sup>

September 14<sup>th</sup>

October 12<sup>th</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup>

## Membership Services Team

**Membership Services Desk:** Jon Collins

**Cash Desk:** Ed Lien, Barrie Lindsay & John Macgowan

**Greeters:** Brice Macdougall & Bev Machesney

## NOTICES

are present for this event and are duly recognized. Sadly, this year our First President, Fred Cotton, who passed away since our last luncheon, will not be with us for lunch.

### PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 2010 Point Grey Golf and Country Club

In recent years, we have had difficulty with the overcrowding at this event. **Therefore, no guests will be allowed. Since space is limited, attendance will be on a "first come, first served" basis.**

The charge for the luncheon will be \$25.

***It is important that we determine the exact number of members who plan to attend. If you have not registered to date, you can confirm your attendance by:***

- 1 .*Going on line at: [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com) and paying your \$25.00 using Pay Pal or your credit card.*
- 2 .*Phoning the office at: (604)261-6818*

Please help us by acting on this request immediately.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS CORRECTION

We wish to correct an error in the December Newsletter: the occupations shown for Dr. Amir Soltan and John Wheeler were reversed.

Dr. Amir Soltan is a General and Thoracic Surgeon and John Wheeler is a Geological Engineer.

Our apologies for this error.

### WEBSITE

Members using e-mail can register for Probus Vancouver activities easily and quickly by using our website at: [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com).

Just go to the site and "log in" in accordance with the instructions sent to you a few weeks ago. You will then be in the "Members Area" where it lists "Upcoming Events". Click on the event (eg. President's Luncheon) and follow the instructions. You can pay for an event easily using PayPay or your credit card.

If you require assistance please contact Jon Collins at (604)261-2468 or [jonkay@telus.net](mailto:jonkay@telus.net)

### 2010 Calendar

Following up on Darren Entwistle's November talk to Probus, Telus has sent us 300 calendars for 2010. Copies will be available from the office, the January meeting, and if members can pick up extra copies to give to fellow Probus members who may not be able to do so themselves.