

Grace McCarthy, BC's first lady, dies at 89

Grace McCarthy, the irrepressible grande dame of the Social Credit Party, died May 24 at age 89.

"Amazing Grace" was a cabinet minister in the governments of all three Social Credit premiers and revitalized the party after it was crushed by the NDP in the 1972 provincial election.

It was her tireless promotion of BC, and her high profile at a time when influential females were uncommon in provincial politics, that made her well regarded by friend and foe.

"Her political career is almost unparalleled in BC, and her role as a booster of BC, as a promoter extraordinaire of B.C.," says historian David Mitchell.

"We have a female premier in BC and we may take that for granted, but Christy Clark's emergence may owe something, at least indirectly, to Grace McCarthy's pioneering and breaking the path for female leaders."

McCarthy was born in 1927 in Vancouver's Grace Hospital, less than a month after it opened. After building a successful flower shop business, she made the leap into politics in the 1950s, serving on the Vancouver Park Board for three terms.

She ran for the Social Credit Party and won in Vancouver-Little Mountain in 1966 and was quickly named to cabinet, where she served for the rest of W.A.C. Bennett's tenure as premier.

During that time, she successfully persuaded the federal government to introduce a law that allowed unmarried women to apply for mortgages without a male guarantor.



Photo credit: John Yanyshyn/Visions West Photography

"It didn't seem right to me and when I got into politics I saw the broader picture of very capable women, equal in ability to men, being denied the right to get a mortgage without having a man to back them," she said in 2011.

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Her Honour

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Thank You and Miscellany

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Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

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Association Membership (former MLAs) dues are \$60.00 per year. Annual subscription rate is \$40.00 for those who are not Association Members.
Payment can be sent to the above address.

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From the Editor's Desk

Rob and I thought we had the June issue of OOTD in the bag when we got the sad news that Grace McCarthy had passed. Obviously, it was back to the drawing board and 16 pages grew to 20 overnight.

We got a lot of help to do right by Grace. I want to thank Jess Ketchum and Jim Bennett who scrambled to provide special tributes. Jess and Jim were both very close to Grace and share some special moments with us on Page 4.

I also want to thank the many former colleagues of Grace who quickly responded to our request and filed their tributes that you will find on Pages 5, 6 & 7.

I first met Grace in the 1970s after W.A.C. Bennett and Social Credit had fallen to Dave Barrett and the NDP. I was a reporter at the Nanaimo Free Press and Grace was escorting Bennett around BC to rally the troops. Bennett was a mess, tearing up as he spoke to fellow Socreds. Grace was a rock. Many years later when I was a marginally well-known political columnist at the Tab she talked me into doing a painting for a silent auction to support her CH.I.L.D Foundation. The painting sold for about \$700 and went straight into someone's basement. There was no saying no to Grace.

Donna and I had a delightful encounter with Pat Carney in May at the Campbell River Museum where she was doing a book signing for her just published work of fiction *On Island*. It is a good read. Check out the review on P-14.

The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

from Page 1

Grace

It was after she and her government went down to defeat in the 1972 election to Dave Barrett and the NDP that she became best known. "People thought Bennett was defeated, and the Social Credit party would go the way of the dinosaur because it was so strongly associated with W.A.C. Bennett," says Mitchell.

"But she took over as president of the party, and went on a campaigning, zealous missionary travel tour throughout BC, with some others who wanted to try and revive the party."

Three years later, with W.A.C.'s son Bill Bennett as leader, the Social Credit Party defeated the NDP, and McCarthy was re-elected in Little Mountain, where she would serve for another 16 years.

McCarthy was appointed by Bennett as deputy premier, and it was her experience that helped steady an inexperienced cabinet in its early days.

"She was the person that Bill Bennett relied upon in the very early days to get us all through the trouble that comes to every new cabinet, particularly when you have a lot of rookies, and she was absolutely tireless," says Rafe Mair, who served in the Bennett cabinet before his career as a CKNW radio broadcaster.

As both tourism minister and the senior cabinet minister from Vancouver, McCarthy did much of the lobbying that resulted in the city receiving the World Exposition in 1986. "Vancouver became the Expo 86 home due in part to Grace McCarthy's campaigning, locally, nationally and internationally," says Mitchell.

As minister responsible for BC Transit, she oversaw construction of, and named, the SkyTrain line that was built for Expo. And after negotiating with the Guinness Family, sparkling white lights were installed on the Lions Gate Bridge as a gift for the exposition and have stayed there ever since.



Grace at a 2006 Association social event

Following the opening of Expo '86, Bennett resigned and McCarthy was considered a favourite to replace him and become the first female premier in Canadian history. However, it was the charismatic Bill Vander Zalm who was chosen by delegates instead, and McCarthy resigned from cabinet two years later.

"One of the regrets that many of her friends and supporters have is she never did actually become premier, a role that she seemed to be made for in many respects, but she was denied that opportunity," says Mitchell.

Vander Zalm's premiership was marred by controversy, and after he resigned in 1991 over a conflict of interest scandal, McCarthy again put her name forward to lead the party.

Instead, delegates narrowly chose Rita Johnston as leader, and the party was decimated in that year's provincial election, going from 47 seats in the legislature to seven.

For just the second time in 39 years, the Social Credit Party was out of power in British Columbia - and again, its members turned to McCarthy to rebuild, this time as party leader.

But it was not to be. McCarthy ran in a 1994 byelection in Matsqui but lost by 42 votes to BC Liberal candidate, and current finance minister, Mike de Jong.

McCarthy resigned and all but one of the party's remaining MLAs switched affiliations soon afterward, symbolically marking the end of one era of centre-right politics in British Columbia and the official beginning of another.

In retirement, McCarthy started the CH.I.L.D Foundation, which has raised millions in research funds for children suffering from Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and liver disorders.

She was awarded the Order of British Columbia in 2004.



The Association is pleased to provide space for selected not-for-profit children's organizations at no cost.

Amazing Grace? You bet!

By Jess Ketchum

From the first day I met Grace McCarthy, when I was a newly minted Executive Director of the Cariboo Tourist Association in 1975 to the last time I had the pleasure of speaking with her, several months ago, I knew I would never encounter anyone with more passion for the betterment of British Columbia.

If you ask the people who really knew tourism in those days they will confirm that Grace's energy, drive and creative spirit shaped BC's tourism businesses into an actual industry.

I remember receiving a call from her saying she was bringing a multi-projector slide presentation to the Cariboo and wanted me to arrange for a crowd of at least 500 in Williams Lake for her presentation. I told her, with considerable nervousness, that you needed to have a hockey game, rodeo or funeral to get that size of crowd.

Of course we had over 500 as Grace set the bar high and made you stretch. You can imagine what she wanted me to do when I ended up in Victoria as assistant to her colleague Alex Fraser.

There are many great projects that have Grace's fingerprints on them including the rebuilding of the Social Credit Party under Bill Bennett, Expo 86, Skytrain, the Vancouver Convention Centre and the lights on the Lions Gate Bridge.

Everyone knows of those Grace McCarthy passions. What you might not recognize so readily is another side of this iconic British Columbian. I remember giving her a ride out to the Victoria Airport the day of the cabinet shuffle when Premier Bennett surprised many by appointing Grace as the Minister responsible for Social Services. Thinking she was as disappointed as I that she was vacating tourism I raised it only to be told that she was appreciative of the opportunity as this new role was actually her real passion as it was all about helping those who need help.

And you only have to consider that after her many years of public service she founded the CH.I.L.D. Foundation to research pediatric gastroenterology and went on to raise millions for the cause.

Order of BC, Order of Canada, never saw a glass ceiling she didn't drive through. Amazing Grace McCarthy? You bet!

Those 4 a.m. ideas were visionary

By Jim Bennett

Grace woke up at 4 a.m. most mornings. Thank God she never phoned her staff at that hour. Instead, this remarkable BC politician frequently began her day dictating notes on her portable recorder at her Vancouver home.

A few hours later she would arrive in Victoria where her legislature staff would await with anticipation to see just how many new tapes she would hand over upon arrival that day.

I heard industrialist and noted British Columbian Jimmy Pattison remark on the radio the day the sad news of her passing was reported that she was a "people servant."

Former members will recall many things about Grace Mary McCarthy such as debates in the Legislature, big projects she was spearheading, or her constant promotion of British Columbia. I had the pleasure of working for her and with her from 1987 to 1991 and I remember her untiring commitment to helping individual British Columbians with their problems.

Grace would not only respond to calls for help, but she would go out of her way as a representative of their government to thank people she didn't know for a contribution they had made to all of us.

Our Grace had that certain something called "vision." It was great to witness it up close when she was on a mission. Two examples of that unique "vision" I recall:

When Premier W.A.C. Bennett did the deal with the Americans in 1964 for use of 'downstream benefits' from the flow of waters from BC dams, the Columbia River Treaty paid long term benefits to the province. Grace introduced a private member's bill to promote the idea that some of those monies should go to the benefit of children as part of a legacy fund. It was an idea that was lauded in almost every newspaper in the province and set in motion the general idea for young people's education that was later copied.

Another great idea that has been kept inside the legislative walls for more than 25 years was a proposal regarding affordable housing that she took to the full Social Credit caucus in the dying days of its final mandate.

It was a proposal that we should be using our abundant supply of Crown land to make land available for young people on long-term leases to reduce the cost of start-up housing. It was brilliant. Boy, do we need her thinking today!

It was probably an idea that came to her one morning at 4 a.m. We'll miss you Grace.

(Jim Bennett lives in Qualicum Beach and served with Grace in the Legislature from 1987-1991.)

Tributes to Grace

She was intelligent, warm and tough

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Grace McCarthy.

At a time when female leaders were hard to find in Canadian politics, Grace McCarthy was an agent of change. When she was first elected, women could not even apply for mortgages without a male guarantor - until she worked with the provincial and federal governments to fix it.

From playing an instrumental role in bringing Expo 86 to Vancouver, to starting the first toll-free help line for children, to becoming Canada's first female deputy premier, she left an indelible mark on our entire province.

Equal parts intelligent, warm, and tough, she led by example, inspiring more than one generation of women in BC and Canada to stand up and pursue a career in politics. 'Amazing Grace' indeed.

My thoughts are with her family, friends, and colleagues who miss her, and all those she inspired.

- Premier Christy Clark

She stormed the studio

I first met Grace McCarthy in 1973 when I was a rookie radio news director at CKKC Nelson. She, W.A.C. Bennett, Wesley Black and Dan Campbell stormed into my studio and commandeered the open line show I hosted while they were touring the Kootenays as part of a campaign to revive Social Credit Party fortunes.

After introducing the other two in a straightforward fashion, the former premier announced Grace in dramatic tones as "BC's number one freedom fighter, Grace McCarthy!"

She loomed larger than life to me in that moment and remained so forever more, even after we became friends in the 1990s. Thus, when I was appointed president of Simon Fraser University in 2010, I was delighted to discover that Grace was an honorary degree recipient and that some of her papers were stored in our W.A.C. Bennett Library.

Better still, she made it her practice to attend SFU events, including a university dinner just over a year ago at which I recalled our original radio encounter. "Oh yes I do remember," she replied flashing her famous smile. "Those were remarkable times."

Indeed they were, and made all the more so because Grace was such a remarkable woman.

- Andrew Petter

An outstanding friend

One of the saddest bits of news for me in a long time - not only a great politician but truly a great and outstanding friend - will be very much missed!

- Cliff Michael



Grace and British PM Margaret Thatcher at an Expo 86 event

Great lady, damned tough

I served in the Leg with Grace when she was House Leader for Bill Bennett, another fine name in our history.

She was a great lady, damned tough as a political opponent but always fair. In later years, we became maybe a bit more friends than just acquaintances and I always admired her community work so much.

There were the shenanigans of the Vander Zalm convention in the 1980s and all was not happiness. But, she soldiered on.

I think it no exaggeration that had she won the by-election in 1993 the Socreds might well have come back. She was just that strong a force. We could have seen a Premier McCarthy rather than Campbell in due course. The actual 1993 winner, Mike de Jong, I venture, would have been around in some important way later, but for Grace it was a last political hurrah and the end of an era.

I would put her down as one of the great British Columbians of my time.

- Gordon Gibson.

A great political teacher

I recall when I was in opposition that she came to a meeting in Port Alberni (the Chamber of Commerce I believe) and, as I was a past president now the opposition MLA, she made this wonderful comment about me.

"I see your MLA is here and I can tell you he always speaks up in the house about Port Alberni and your interests."

I always remembered that. And, when I was in government and visiting opposition ridings I made a point of recognizing the MLA.

And as my very proper European mother pointed out to me about Grace. "That lady knows how to dress well."

- Gerard Janssen

Grace changed lives

Grace was a dear friend and mentor. In 1989 at the unveiling of the Statue of the Goddess of Democracy at UBC, I was seated between Grace McCarthy and Pat Carney. We were seated outside, there were many hours of speeches and the sun was shining.

Grace conferred with Ray and a short time later he returns with matching sunglasses for the three of us. I had declared my intention to run in the 1991 provincial election at that point and thus began the best mentorship ever. Both these amazing women called me on election night in 1991 to offer congratulations.

Grace was a shining star in BC politics. Her love of the province was legendary. Her love of family was unsurpassed. Her willingness to give back has changed lives. I will miss you Grace McCarthy. There is none better.

- Linda Reid

The “Winning Team”

I remember the 1983 all night sittings of the legislative assembly, when the rotating NDP squads came with buttons saying the A team, the B team, and the C team. Grace came up with buttons with the words the ‘Winning Team’. She was always one step ahead.

- Russ Fraser

A great BC booster

She certainly had a full life of contributions to others, and served as one of the greatest boosters for British Columbia. We will miss her ever positive personality and beaming smile.

- Ken Jones



McCarthy had “class”

I knew little about Grace McCarthy until I was elected in 1989, when I learned rapidly that Grace had "class". From the Social Credit front benches (although no longer a cabinet minister), she welcomed me "Graciously" to the Legislative Assembly. She was interested to meet my wife and young children.

On the relatively rare occasions when I met her after her retirement in 1991, Mrs. McCarthy always inquired about my family and seemed to remember my children's names. I found it impossible not to respond warmly to this courtesy. It was already rare in her time, but has become rarer since.

But, I remember her even more for something younger people may not recall. It was Grace McCarthy as minister responsible for tourism who pushed for billboards to be eliminated from Crown land along BC highways, and promoted anti-littering laws. As I drive around Beautiful BC, I have often thought we have Grace to thank for our mostly-uncluttered vistas.

- Tom Perry

She embodied her name

Grace McCarthy embodied her name - grace. She always had a smile, even when people were hurling nasty comments at her; I never saw her lose control. She was probably unaware of the great number of women she mentored, because it was indirect. By just paying attention to her style, her wit, and her leadership was enough to guide any political novice, including myself.

I was grateful to have had the opportunity to meet her when she advocated on behalf of the foundation dealing with children's intestinal and liver diseases. She will be missed by many.

- Ida Chong

Sad news for all

It is sad news for everyone, all British Columbians and our country. She will be remembered by all.

- Patrick Wong

She found solutions

Grace McCarthy was everything that has been written and said about her. Amazing - innovative - progressive and British Columbia's greatest booster. When others saw problems, Grace found solutions. She will be missed.

- Bruce Strachan

There was no holding her back

From long before the date she won a seat on Vancouver's (elected) Board of Parks and Public Recreation, anyone who met her knew there would be no holding back "Amazing Grace."

I was fortunate enough to meet Parks Commissioner McCarthy in the mid-60s, as a junior radio reporter covering the Monday night park board meetings. We remained friends and contacts throughout the decades that she so generously devoted herself to the public service of the Province of British Columbia.

But I really knew I had 'arrived' with Grace when, one night while dining with my soon-to-be wife at a local restaurant, my date whispered to me: "Don't look now, but I think that's Grace McCarthy coming over to our table." Sure enough ... hugs and handshakes later it turned out that Grace and my future mother-in-law had even gone to school together in east end Vancouver.

The real "payoff" lay in the fact that my date was so impressed that the one and only "Amazing Grace" - MLA, cabinet minister, deputy premier - would seek out a mere scribe at the dinner table for a social encounter. (Today, obviously, my wife is no longer as easy to impress ...)

To Ray and the family: Our condolences. And our thanks for so unselfishly sharing Grace with all of us for so many

memorable years ... before, during and after her outstanding career in the service of all British Columbians. You truly were "Amazing."

John Ashbridge/Yvonne Eamor

A legacy of enrichment

How may mere words pay homage and tribute to Grace McCarthy, a good and gracious lady. A person who helped shape this beautiful province that we live in and who truly embodied the spirit of British Columbia.

When I think of Grace I visualize the beauty, strength and vitality of Beautiful British Columbia. The dynamics of our province and the dynamo that was Grace McCarthy are intertwined and were a superb match.

Her long term role in provincial politics has provided all British Columbians, in all walks of life, with a lasting and incredible legacy of enrichment.

The most remarkable Grace McCarthy helped create a British Columbia that is greater, better and more beautiful in all ways.

It has been an honor to know Grace as a friend and colleague and most of all to have touched the hands of her greatness.

- Cliff Serwa.



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A message from the President

To the family and friends of Grace McCarthy: We, the Association of Former MLAs of BC, extend our most sincere condolences.

Grace McCarthy has left a significant imprint on the history of politics in BC. She was a committed and passionate politician. She also served as a role model for women in politics. Her message was clear, if you care about it make it happen and she did.

The lives of many children in BC have been made better by the CH.I.L.D. Foundation which she established when her granddaughter was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. She will be honoured and she will be missed.

When reporters from central Canada come out here to cover elections they often leave saying that BC politics is different here than in the rest of the country. Well, we have proved them right again.

We have interesting times ahead. What I noted in my city during the election was the large numbers of younger people who were actively involved in election activities.

They were working for Elections BC, working in campaigns, door knocking and acting as scrutineers. It reinforced for me that young people are interested and active in deciding their future.



His third election - photo by Penny Priddy

This is clearly a perfect time to be planning to get your tickets for our September 22nd Annual Dinner at Government House. It is timely this year that Dr. Angus Reid is our guest speaker since the topic of public opinion polling has been prevalent in our media.

Penny Priddy

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\$10 bank note celebrates Canada's 150th

Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance Ginette Petitpas Taylor have unveiled a commemorative \$10 bank note celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

This special note - showcasing our history, land and culture - was revealed during a ceremony at the bank's head office in Ottawa. It went into circulation June 1st.

"This bank note is intended to captivate our imagination and instill pride in what we, as a nation, have accomplished," said Governor Poloz. "It celebrates the natural beauty and majesty of our land and some of the important parliamentarians who helped shape our great country."

The intricately designed note is unique in many ways. For the first time, four individuals are portrayed on the front of a Canadian bank note: Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir George-Étienne Cartier, Agnes Macphail and James Gladstone or Akay-na-muka - his Blackfoot name. With Parliament's Hall of Honour in the background, these four parliamentarians remind us that Canada has been shaped by the vision, courage and effort of people of different backgrounds.

Upon circulation, the commemorative note will mark the first time that a Canadian woman and an Indigenous Canadian are depicted as portrait subjects on a Bank of Canada bank note. The design also incorporates Inuit and Metis cultural elements: a colourful reproduction of the artwork Owl's Bouquet by world-renowned Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak; and the distinctive arrow sash pattern, an important symbol of the Métis nation.

"Canada's diversity is our greatest strength," said Ms. Petitpas Taylor. "As we celebrate Canada 150 we are reminded of what makes us who we are - from our shared history, to our cultures and languages to the breathtaking natural beauty that is instantly recognized around the world."

The Canada 150 note also showcases Canada's natural beauty and unique landscapes. Five different landscapes representing the various regions of Canada are featured on the other side of the note: the Lions/Twin Sisters (Western Canada), a wheat field (Prairie provinces), the Canadian Shield (Central Canada), Cape Bonavista (Eastern Canada) and the Northern lights (Northern Canada).

The commemorative \$10 note also has new security features, including a colour-shifting arch depicting an arch



Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance Ginette Petitpas Taylor unveil the commemorative \$10 bank note.

found in the Memorial Chamber on Parliament Hill, as well as three-dimensional maple leaves.

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken by the bank to ensure that this commemorative note reflects the input of Canadians. The ideas and suggestions received through public opinion research, consultation and focus groups influenced the note's content and have been carefully incorporated in the design.

Starting this month, the Bank of Canada will issue 40 million of these commemorative bank notes and distribute them through financial institutions to be broadly available across Canada by July 1st.

The Canada 150 note will circulate alongside the current Polymer series \$10 note, but it does not replace it. Both the current \$10 note and the commemorative \$10 note are of equal value and can be used interchangeably in transactions.

As announced in December, human rights and freedoms icon Viola Desmond will be featured on a new \$10 note, which will mark another historic first: Desmond will become the first Canadian woman to be featured on a regularly circulating Bank of Canada bank note, expected in late 2018.

This is the fourth time that the Bank of Canada has issued a commemorative note. The first, issued in 1935, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V; the second, issued in 1967, marked the Centennial of Confederation; and the third, issued in 2015, honoured the historic reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who became the longest-reigning sovereign in Canada's modern era.

CANADA 150



Celebrating Canada's 150th at the Legislature

On Saturday July 1st more than 5,000 red and white sesquicentennial celebrants are expected to gather on the front lawn of the Legislature to recreate the Coast Capital Savings Living Flag.

The event will cap 11 days of "Spirit of 150" celebrations. From June 21st through July 1st there will be non-stop free outdoor events in the picturesque Inner Harbour. The public will celebrate and enjoy our nation and city's multicultural artistry, and diverse food and beverage offerings, all culminating with a spectacular firework display on Canada Day.

It will be a wonderful celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial with numerous acts on the Main Stage and loads of activities for the whole family. The Legislature lawn will host a diverse lineup of locally and nationally renowned performers including the Arkells, Delhi 2 Dublin, Tegan and Sara, Valdi and the Children's Choir and many more.

Starting on Friday, June 30th, the site will open at noon with The Family Zone, food trucks along Belleville Street, and various other activities. On Saturday, July 1st, the site opens at 11 a.m.

To learn more about the 11 days of festivities starting on June 21st go to <http://calendar.spirit150victoria.ca/victoria-celebrates>.

A summer to savour at the Legislature

As well, you can grab the grandkids and join the staff at the Legislature this summer for a free, interactive program during the weeks of July 4th and August 8th. This hour and a half program is designed for families with children aged 6 to 10.

You will explore the Parliament Buildings with a facilitated tour and learn about history and parliament.

Put these dates in your summer calendar: July 4th to 7th (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and August 8th to 11th (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.).

Adriana Ayers, Lead Interpreter at the Legislature, says that based on the great success of a one-week spring break pilot program in March of this year, the Parliamentary Education Office is thrilled to offer these summer programs.

This free, interactive program is not exclusive to local families, but open to all who have an hour and a half to spend at the Parliament Buildings exploring and learning.

The program will introduce the Parliament Buildings and demystify the parliamentary process through an art



and architecture focused tour, scavenger hunt, craft activity, and who knows... there may even be a special visit by a famous person from British Columbia's past.

All children must be accompanied by one adult. To register: Email tours@leg.bc.ca.



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Angus Reid Institute strives for bipartisan research

On Sept. 22nd at Government House, Canadian pollster Angus Reid will share his passion for independent research and big public policy issues with the Association of Former MLAs of BC as its members celebrate their 30th anniversary.



Reid is Chair of the Angus Reid Institute, a federally incorporated charitable foundation dedicated to measurement and advancement of public opinion in Canada on critical social, economic and policy issues.

We thought this brief Angus Reid Institute primer would be of interest to members planning to attend the annual dinner.

The institute is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to enhance and encourage better understanding of issues and trends affecting economic, social, governance, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and foreign policy in Canada and its world.

Its activities have been funded through an initial endowment from the Reid family and project-based funding provided by fellow not-for-profit organizations and selected partners in Canada.

The institute commissions, conducts and disseminates original, publicly accessible and impartial statistical public opinion polling research and policy analysis. Its public education program makes this information available primarily through its website www.angusreid.org as well as through publications, news media, consultations and presentations via social media channels and through our partners.

Neither the Angus Reid Institute nor the poll data it releases is intended to explicitly communicate a public call to political action for the purposes of retaining, opposing or changing the law, policy or decision of any level of government in Canada or a foreign country.

Here's how the institute positions itself to appear studiously bipartisan: "Neither the work we do, the materials we produce, nor the public statements we make (including those of our staff or associates) are for the purposes of inciting or organizing to put pressure on elected representatives or public officials to retain, oppose or change the law, policy or decision of any level of government in Canada or a foreign country."

All polling research carried out by the Angus Reid Institute is designed to assist the development of sound social and economic discourse and awareness by providing reliable and verifiable data on important public issues.

Studies are conducted by qualified researchers that possess the training and experience necessary to competently and effectively carry out the goals of the Institute. Research conducted by the Institute is disseminated to the public on the website. The Institute also uses social media resources, as well as traditional media and academic channels as appropriate.

As a non-profit organization, Angus Reid Institute and all of its employees, when acting in their professional capacity, are prohibited from participating, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign activities on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. In addition, the Institute has a strict prohibition against partisan political activity by senior staff, even when they are acting in their individual capacity and on their personal time.

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The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds

It is 50 years since Canada's 1967 Centennial and Canadians are once again celebrating a major milestone in their history, and once again, celebrations have started with a collective yawn.

Will the national spirit once again burst into flame? It could if Canadians take a cue from the unlikely, inspiring story of *The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country*.



On the eve of Canada's 150th anniversary, Victoria writer and Munro's book seller Tom Hawthorn offers Canadians a look back at the unlikely and inspiring story of the 1967 Centennial.

The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country is a quirky and nostalgia-laced reflection on the celebration of Canada's Centennial and the birth of modern nationalism. It is richly illustrated with period photos, ephemera, and Tom's own personal stories in addition to a lot of research.

As he says in the preface: "Trudeaumania; the state getting out of the bedrooms of the nation; women demanding an equal place in society; and massive changes to the population through immigration - was made possible during Centennial Year... The Canada of 2017 owes more to decisions made in the wake of 1967 than to the negotiations conducted in 1867."

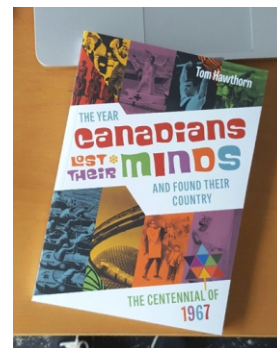
At first, Canadians showed little interest in marking the Centennial. The announcement of a federal program to plan the celebration was met with initial indifference. After all, the event to be celebrated was spectacularly uninteresting - the nation was founded not in blood and revolution, but by discussion and negotiation, bewhiskered men in nineteenth-century frock coats sitting around tables for palaver.

But, a funny thing happened in the weeks leading to New Year's Day, 1967. Canadians embraced the official plans for a celebration and, encouraged by government largesse, began making plans of their own. For one happy, giddy, insane year, a normally reserved people decided to hold a blockbuster party from coast to coast to coast.

Initiatives ranged from epic canoe trips and dangerous dogsled treks to bathtub races. An Albertan town decided to build a UFO landing pad. Hundreds of other centennial projects can still be found in almost every city and hamlet across Canada. The best athletes in the hemisphere gathered for the Pan American Games in Winnipeg. The climax of the party was the world's fair held on man-made islands in the middle of the St. Lawrence River near Montreal.

The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country is the story of that fun, exciting year, told in the same giddy spirit with which Canadians celebrated.

Uncover the strange and unique ways that individual Canadians marked the occasion, the birth of traditions, and the moment when Canadians discovered who they were and got a hint about who they would become in this modern age. Once hewers of wood and pliers of water, they discovered a talent for literature, for design, for athletics, for innovation. And above all, it was a party never to be forgotten.



(Tom is an award-winning journalist whose byline has appeared in publications large {Reader's Digest, Canadian Geographic} and small {South Bend Tribune in Indiana and the Sanger Herald in California}. Tom has been a regular contributor to The Globe and Mail since 1984. He is also the author of *Deadlines: Obits of Memorable British Columbians*, Harbour Publishing, 2012.)



Serving Every Community

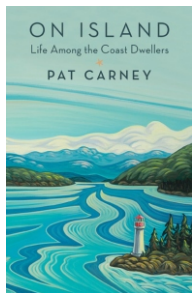
Throughout BC there are thousands of insurance brokers ready to serve our community. We help families and businesses protect their most valuable assets. We're right there to help settle claims, offer the best advice and deliver helpful information to keep everyone safe. By being close by, we develop a personal relationship and intricate knowledge of every customer's needs. You can't do that on the phone or a website. That's why we're right there.



ibabc.org

A good read from a friend of AFMLABC

Members of the AFMLABC who know Pat Carney as a good friend and a great story teller are in for a treat when they pick up her new fiction "On Island - Life Among the Coast Dwellers" for a good read.



CBC Radio host Bill Richardson says it well: "Pat Carney can now add 'adept fiction writer' to her impressive catalogue of credentials. These stories about the pleasures and perils of life on an unnamed island are fond, wry, funny, and delivered in a tone that's both confiding and arch. On Island gave me much pleasure. I hope there's more to come."

On Island is a collection of stories chronicling the characters and dramas that capture life in small coastal communities.

In this story collection, Pat follows the rhythms of day-to-day life in coastal BC. Featuring a revolving cast of characters - the newly retired couple, the church warden, the musician, the small-town girl with big city dreams - Carney's keen observations of the personalities and dramas of coastal life are instantly recognizable to readers who are familiar with life in a small community. With her narrative of dock fights, pet shows, family feuds, logging camps and the ever-present tension between islanders and property-owning "off-islanders," Pat's witty and perceptive voice describes how the islanders weather the storms of coastal life.



Photo credit: Nancy Angermeyer

The opening story, "Cat Dump," sets up the rest: A woman arrives on the ferry and releases eight scrawny cats, then immediately gets back on the ferry and disappears. The cats meet different fates. Some are adopted, one is run over, and one disappears. Just like people, the cats adjust to island life. Or not. Some have help, and some do not.

Pat writes evocatively of the magical landscape of the British Columbia coast, where she has lived and worked for five decades. At the same time, she addresses the less-idyllic moments that can also characterize coastal life: power outages, winter storms, isolation. *On Island* brings the West Coast landscape - human and natural - to life, and gives islanders and mainland dwellers alike a taste of what it means to be "on island."

Former Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo says: "Islanders like to think of ourselves as uniquely and happily distant from some of the constraints that bind mainlanders. Pat's *On Island* collection of short stories will leave you wanting more. Possessed of humour and whimsicality, Pat's years in public life inform a compassionate and realistic portrayal of our distinctive Pacific Island ethos."

And, the Peninsula News Review writes: "Throughout Carney's active and varied life, she has gained a unique perspective of human nature and the interaction of people of every age and occupation and she's done it without ever losing her ability to observe life through a lens of wry humour. . . . *On Island* is a clear reflection of that fundamental ability. It also, once again, establishes her as a light-hearted and insightful author whose observations of life on an anonymous West Coast island perfectly capture island life."

Born in Shanghai, China, and educated in Canada, Pat Carney worked as a journalist and economic consultant in the Northwest Territories and Yukon before entering politics. She was first elected to the House of Commons in February 1980 in the riding of Vancouver Centre. Carney was called to the Senate in 1990 and retired in 2008.

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A razor thin mandate ... just like old times

By Jim Hume

Tough times ahead for our Legislative Assembly remodelled somewhat indecisively in May. Times that will test the true mettle of those so nervously asked to govern our affairs for the next four years in a world of fear and uncertainty.

Members of the Association of Former MLAs of BC who served in the late 1970s will be aware - none more so than those who survived the election of 1979 – that the NDP came within six seats of regaining the right to govern they had lost in 1975.

Social Credit had a majority of five seats, reduced to four with the appointment of Harvey Schroeder as Speaker – but still a seemingly, comfortable and safe majority when push came to shove on a vote in the House. By today's measure, it would look like a landslide.

But, it wasn't. There came a day when George Mussallem, a veteran MLA from Dewdney and the government "whip" responsible for making sure in-house voting strength was solid, noted he needed only a couple of MLAs sick, one or two others out of the city on government business or attending to constituency problems for a four-seat majority to vanish.



George Mussallem

Whether it was George's idea or one floated down from a higher authority, he never said. But, early in the 1979 legislative session, George began to maintain what he once told me was his "whereabouts" book. He wanted to know where all MLAs were if they were not in their seats in the debating chamber. Cabinet members were not exempt. If they had business outside Victoria, they needed to give George notice to enable him to make sure key government votes would always be strong enough to resist challenge.

It was restrictive and some felt an invasion of privacy, but it was accepted as essential by the government to maintain its slim majority lifeline.

Lacking the perfect crystal ball to forecast the future, we must now wait with understandable apprehension to see how our new Legislature of 43 Liberals, 41 New Democrats and three Green Party MLAs will handle what could be a daily voting crisis once the new Legislative Assembly gathers in normal session.

Will they remember that in the excitement of the photo finish to the May 9 epic that 1,356,668 registered voters opted not to vote? Much has been said and written about the result being an indicator that the voters wanted change. Little has been said about the close to 1.4 million who took the time to register but failed to vote. Could it be that they were happy with the status quo? Or maybe convinced that whoever holds power will do a bad job? Were they just too lazy? Sad, really. Such a great, genuine, balance of power not persuaded to support any party or candidate.

The last time BC had a minority government was in 1952 when the Liberal-Conservative coalition listened to those

demanding change and called an election that was held with a new electoral system. It was called the preferential ballot or the transferable vote system. I have mentioned it before but it needs repeating as the cries for electoral reform increase without too much explanation as to how they would work.

In the 1952-53 experiment voters had a list of all candidates in their riding and were required to place "1" for a first choice, "2" for a second choice and so on. The candidate with the least votes in each riding would be crossed from the list with his or her second votes assigned as requested to alternate choices still in the race.

On the June 12, 1952, voting day, Frank Calder of Nisga'a native fame made it on the first vote count in Atlin with 56 per cent. Ralph Chetwynd won a first count for the Social Credit League with 52 per cent in Cariboo. Social Credit newcomer W.A.C. Bennett waltzed across the finish line in Kelowna with a first count of 51 per cent and CCF leader Harold Winch swept Vancouver East with 51 on the first count.

They were the only four out of 212 candidates to break the 50+ per cent mark on the first count. Most winners needed at least three counts, a few four and two ridings – Vancouver Burrard and North Vancouver – needed five and six counts respectively before a winner was declared.

The final seat count was Social Credit – 19, CCF – 18, Liberals – 6, Conservatives – 4 and Labour – 1. The CCF topped the popular vote with 34 per cent; Social Credit won with 30 per cent; and Liberals got 25 per cent. It's an old story in BC ... the party with the most seats wins elections, not necessarily the party with the most votes.

In its few weeks of life the government of 1952 featured crackerjack exchanges between Winch and Bennett. On March 24, 1953, the government engineered its own defeat on a question of financing for schools. Winch wanted to govern, but Bennett asked Lieutenant Governor Clarence Wallace to dissolve the parliament and let the people decide. Wallace agreed to the dismay of Winch.

Premier Bennett set June 9, 1953 for his re-match of the June 12, 1952 cliff hanger he had won by one seat. It was a gamble that paid off. Social Credit expanded its popular vote to 46 per cent over the CCF at 29 per cent and increased the Socred's seats from 19 to 28 after innumerable counts and distributions of alternative votes. But, although alternative balloting had undoubtedly helped Bennett and his infant Social Credit Party win two elections over well established rivals, he never again used it during his 20 years as premier.

Whether history is about to repeat itself remains unknown, but there are lessons to be learned from experience by those who govern and those who strive to govern. Waiting to see what they have learned will be fascinating – as BC politics have always been.

(More great yarns from Jim Hume, esteemed Honorary Life Member of the AFMLABC, can be found at www.jimhume.ca/.)

Member News

Where Are They Now?

Each issue we ask a former Member of the Legislative Assembly a series of questions. What drew them to public service; what lessons have they taken away; and, most important, what are they doing now.



This month we are pleased to profile Ida Chong, the MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head from 1996 to 2013. She held several cabinet posts including: Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative, Minister of Technology, Trade, and Economic

Development, Minister of Community Services, Minister Responsible for Women's and Senior's Services and Minister of Advanced Education.

1. What prompted you to seek public office?

I always had an interest in current affairs and as a teenager, read the newspapers to keep abreast of what was happening in my community and across the country. I was curious to know what was going on around me including the public's reactions to the specific decisions. I wondered what influenced the politicians to make decisions and choices that impacted my community, my neighbors, my family and friends. I realized there were few (if any) elected persons that actually reflected who I was - a young, single, self-employed professional woman with an ethnic heritage. I began to ask how my views, my concerns and my values could be appropriately represented if there was no-one sitting "at the table" who looked like me. That is when I decided to offer myself to public service so that I could not only make a difference, but also bring a voice that was different and diverse.

2. Which political figure most influenced you?

I have always admired trailblazers and "independent-minded" political figures. It was also difficult to find women in these roles. I was impressed by the approach both Liberal Iona Campagnolo and Progressive Conservation Pat Carney displayed. Both women were passionate and determined. As a teenager, I also watched with interest the Andersons (David and Malcolm) who were then provincially involved. I admired their eloquence and ability to connect with the everyday person. While I did not meet her until after I was elected as MLA, I also found that Grace McCarthy was generous with her non-judgmental advice and encouragement. Her recent passing has reminded me how important it is to mentor other women (young and old) to be involved in their community.

3. Was it hard making the transition from private life to public life?

Making the transition from private life to public life was actually not as difficult as I had anticipated. Prior to being elected, I was senior managing partner in my accounting firm and was accustomed to working long hours, to meeting with clients, and to problem solving. I had also volunteered extensively with my accounting association both at the local and provincial levels and so "giving back" was not a burden. However, I did not realize how much the public is "interested" in your private life. The perception that you are living in a fish bowl is quite real.

4. What was your biggest challenge returning to private life?

Returning to private life has been a challenge for me as I am not familiar with having spare "time." Since graduating from high school four decades ago, I had always worked (or studied to become an accountant) long hours and rarely took vacation or personal time. Being busy 12-18 hours each day, six days per week was natural for me. To suddenly have the opportunity to sleep in 'til 7 a.m. and shop for groceries in the afternoon was foreign to me. However, most difficult is the lack of academic and intellectual stimulation that I enjoyed in public office. Consequently, I have taken several professional development courses and recently was granted a "Certificate in Executive Leadership" from my accounting association.

5. What was the biggest lesson that has stuck with you since being an MLA?

Being an MLA taught me that we live in a diverse community and all viewpoints matter whether you agree or disagree with them. Exercising patience and tolerance even when people are angry at you, or being derogatory is necessary if you are to continue to be an effective MLA. If you wish to succeed, you must genuinely like people (and I do) and always be prepared to listen before speaking. People will say you will develop a "thick skin" but it is important that it is not so thick that you become insensitive that you stop caring as that will render you ineffective.

6. Tell us a bit about your active or part-time professional interests.

Currently, I am active volunteering on three boards. As a member of the Board of Governors at the University of Victoria and as Chair of the Finance Committee, I believe in supporting the university's goals of providing the best educational experience possible to both domestic and international students. As a director on the Rick Hansen Foundation, I am impressed by the founder and the organization in their efforts to create a more accessible country (world) for persons with disabilities and barriers. And, on the Provincial Health Services Authority I contribute to ensuring our health care system provides the public with good service and achieves the results as mandated by our government.

7. Finally ... pet projects? Hobbies? And, the value of remaining involved in the Association and OOTD.

I have not had time for pet projects or hobbies lately. Unfortunately, my dear mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and for the better part of 2016 until March 2017, I had taken on the role of being her primary caregiver. I was devoted to her well-being and providing a good quality of life 24/7 for about six months prior to her recent passing. This will always be my greatest achievement - giving back to my mother, the person who gave me life.

I have always enjoyed reading OOTD and can still "hear" Hugh Curtis' booming voice on my telephone. He reminded me that after public life, it was even more important to "give back" by staying involved and connected with the association and former colleagues because as former MLAs, we were granted a distinct honour and privilege of having one of the very limited jobs that are offered every legislative session.

Letters

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed is my payment for 2017. I enjoy reading about people who worked hard to keep British Columbia the greatest Province in Canada.

Agnes Peterson
(wife of Leslie R. Peterson, former MLA),
West Vancouver

Rob and Brian:

Enclosed is my cheque for renewal of my subscription, plus a little for postage, etc.

Keep up the good work - Hugh would be very proud that you are carrying on.

Jas Gandhi,
Victoria

Brian:

Always look forward to receiving OOTD! Many thanks.

Graeme Roberts,
Brentwood Bay

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Centennial memories

With the Canada 150 celebrations fast approaching, I have looked back on my memories of 1967 and our country's centennial. One moment stands out in particular.

I was in Grade Four and our elementary school participated in the centennial celebration by having the students perform a dance at the old Memorial Arena on Blanshard Street. Each student was to wear a stunning costume that included (for boys) a neon coloured lace up vest, colour matched head covering (I wouldn't call it a hat), white shirt and black pants. You can imagine my joy upon donning the neon green outfit for the first time.

Our group of dancers was composed of Grades 3 and 4 students, and I was paired with a Grade 3 girl by the name of Michelle L. She was taller than me, kind of skinny, with a blonde bob haircut. I didn't hang out with girls much at that time (they weren't big hockey card collectors back then), and Michelle would probably have picked just about anybody else in the school yard to hang out with other than me (A boy? A Grade 4 boy?)



In the spring of 1967 we got to spend one or two days a week in the gym practicing the intricate steps of the dance, instead of playing dodgeball or floor hockey or anything resembling fun. The best way to describe the dance was, it was kind of like square dancing except much slower and very sombre. And it required touching and holding a girl.

So my first experience touching and holding a girl was with Michelle. We were grouped with three other pairs of students, each octet a subset of the large group of kids that were practicing a dance when we collectively could come up with several hundred better things to do. But after a while, it wasn't so bad dancing around the gym with Michelle.

The magic day arrived and we were transported down to the arena. I remember being puzzled by the fact that we were dancing on a concrete floor – "hey, I thought this was a hockey rink." Michelle and I and the dozens of other kids danced our hearts out, as much as we could considering the somnambulistic rhythm of the music. As the dance ended I recalled how happy I would be that would never have to wear a neon green lace up vest again (and I haven't.)

Fast forward seven years, and I'm now in the second highest echelon of high school society i.e. a Grade 11 student. Michelle L. enters our school as a newbie Grade 10. She's still taller than me, she's still a bit skinny, her blonde bob has grown out to shoulder length hair, and she's drop-dead gorgeous. We hung around in different circles of friends and we would exchange nothing much more than pleasant "hellos" when we passed in the hall, but remember thinking, "I danced with that girl!"

Rob Lee

50 years ago this month ... wars were shorter

Wars don't need to last long to have lasting consequences. Take, for example, the Six-Day War that took place 50 years ago in June 1967.

In mid-May 1967, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser mobilized Egyptian troops along the Israeli border after Soviet officials told him, incorrectly, that Israel was poised to attack Syria. After the 1956 Suez Crisis, the United Nations had established a presence in the Middle East, especially at sensitive border areas. The United Nations was only there with the agreement of the nations that acted as a host to it. By May 1967, the Egyptians had made it clear that the United Nations was no longer wanted in the Suez region.



Nasser evicted a U.N. peacekeeping force then took the step that Israel had said it would consider an act of war: He closed the Straits of Tiran, thereby cutting off Israel's only access to the Red Sea.

The Israelis weren't bluffing. At 7:45 a.m. on June 5, they launched Operation Focus, a series of devastating airstrikes against Egyptian airfields. Syrian and Jordanian forces immediately joined the fighting.

Although numerically outnumbered, the Israelis quickly routed all three Arab militaries. On June 11, a U.N.-brokered cease-fire took effect. In just six days, Israel doubled the territory under its control, gaining the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and, most important, East Jerusalem.

Fifty years later, the results of the Six-Day War still reverberate in the Middle East.

The war was a massive blow to the Arabs' morale. Here were four of the strongest Arab nations systematically defeated by just one nation.

The success of the campaign must have surprised the Israelis. However, it also gave the Israeli government what would prove to be a major problem for decades. By capturing the Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Israelis had captured for themselves areas of great strategic value.

However, the West Bank also contained over 600,000 Arabs who now came under Israeli administration. Their plight led many young Arabs to join the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), a group that the Israelis deemed a terrorist organization. Israeli domestic policies became a lot more complicated after the military successes of June 1967.

The U.N. Security Council called for a withdrawal from all the occupied regions, but Israel declined, permanently annexing East Jerusalem and setting up military administrations in the occupied territories. Israel let it be known that Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai would be returned in exchange for Arab recognition of the right of Israel to exist and guarantees against future attack. Arab leaders, stinging from their defeat, met in August to discuss the future of the Middle East. They decided upon a policy of no peace, no negotiations, and no recognition of Israel, and made plans to zealously defend the rights of Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories.

Egypt, however, would eventually negotiate and make peace with Israel, and in 1982 the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt in exchange for full diplomatic recognition of Israel. Egypt and Jordan later gave up their respective claims to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to the Palestinians, who opened "land for peace" talks with Israel beginning in the 1990s. A permanent Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement remains elusive, as does an agreement with Syria to return the Golan Heights.



The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

*Under the distinguished patronage of
Her Honour Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia*

Association Annual Dinner

**Friday, September 22, 2017
Government House, Victoria**

***With thanks to Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon
you and your guests are invited to our 2017 Dinner.***

- Time: 6 pm for 7 pm
- Dress: Business attire please
- Cost: \$95 per person, taxes included.
- Special Guest: **Angus Reid**
Renowned Canadian Pollster; Founder of the Angus Reid Institute

This event is open to all. You and your guests need not be former MLAs. Join us for dinner and enjoy! *Please advise soonest.*

Please make your cheque payable to the **Association of Former MLAs of BC** and mail it to the address below. (If you wish, you may post-date your cheque, but **no later** than September 1, 2017). Sorry, no refunds after that date. If you have already reserved, thank you!



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I/we plan on attending Dinner at Government House on Friday, September 22, 2017.

My cheque for _____ persons @ \$95 is enclosed. Total \$ _____

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(please list additional guest names on the reverse side of this coupon)

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The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia

This is to notify all Members of our A.G.M.

Official Notice of 2017 Annual General Meeting **Friday, September 22, 2017**

Time and place at the Legislative Buildings to be announced

Our Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner

Angus Reid

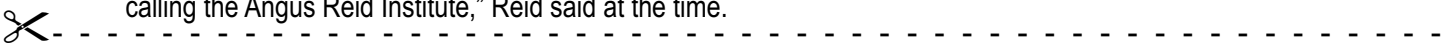


On September 22nd Dr. Angus Reid will be the guest speaker at the AFMLABC 30th anniversary dinner at Government House.

Angus brings with him a weighty list of credentials and credits. Through the 1980s right up to 2002 he was Founder, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Angus Reid Group in Winnipeg following his early career as a university professor. The company became the largest, most recognized market research organization in Canada with 300 staff and significant international operations. The company sold to Ipsos in 2000 and is now branded as Ipsos Reid.

Next Angus and son Andrew started Vision Critical in 2000. The company became one of Canada's largest cloud based private technology companies with 700 employees, \$110 million in revenue and offices around the world. Vision Critical online software powers the market research and customer insight programs of many of the top 500 companies worldwide.

Angus stepped down as CEO in 2014 to engage in his original passion, public opinion research. He saw big public policy issues, from youth voter-engagement to attitudes and understanding of energy projects and pipelines, begging for truly independent research. "I really want to focus my remaining years on this thing we're calling the Angus Reid Institute," Reid said at the time.



Additional guest names

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

