

## Her Honour is poised for her final bow



This month at Government House when Her Honour Judith Guichon hosts the annual dinner of the Association of Former MLAs of BC most guests will be seeing her for the last time in her role as Lieutenant Governor.

Since Nov. 2, 2012, Her Honour has graced the stately mansion on Rockland with tireless energy and boundless enthusiasm. By the time she takes her final bow Her Honour will have attended close to 2,000 events inside Government House, around BC, across Canada and abroad. Lieutenant Governors are normally appointed for a period of not less than five years, and an official end date for her term has not yet been announced.

Back in 2014, Her Honour, looking toward 2017, wrote: "In June, I was fortunate to attend the Vice-Regal Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island with the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners. It was wonderful to be immersed in our nation's history as we stood on the steps of Government House in the exact place of those nation builders of 150 years ago.

"The conversation that was initiated there in 1864 carried on later that same year in Quebec City. As I stood there it struck me that this nation was born of conversation rather than confrontation. The discussion continued until all the diverse regions became part of the whole and formed this country, a country conceived through dialogue.

"As we build toward 2017, the year of Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations," she said back then, "we must continue to evolve and encourage civil, thoughtful discourse. We may not always agree, but through respect for our differences we learn to accommodate all our rich and diverse parts of this whole."

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**Her Honour**

**The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC**

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

# Thank You and Miscellany

*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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**Thank you** to all the Members and readers of OOTD who, when sending in their dues or subscription payments, add "a little extra" donation towards the cost of publishing. It is greatly appreciated.

## Dues, Subscriptions and Donations

**John Jansen, Chilliwack**

# From the Editor's Desk

Penny says it well: "It has been both a beautiful and tragic summer here in BC. Our thoughts are with those people whose lives have been altered by the wildfires in our province."

Indeed, the summer of 2017 has gone into the history books as the most devastating wildfire season ever.

As we reflect on the toll of the wildfires and on the brave efforts of the men and women who fought them on the front lines, it is important to remember that in many of our small communities the first line of defence we have are volunteer firefighters, not salaried full-timers.

Back in 2006, when I lived on North Pender Island, I started volunteering for Pender Island Fire Rescue ... no, in my 60s and in less than stellar shape I was not needed to race into burning houses. My contribution was timid compared to the other volunteers. I helped in my small way by assisting with communications.

To this day, long distance, I still edit Chief Charlie Boyte's monthly report for the island newsletter. This summer a team of Pender volunteers travelled to the Interior to join the battle.

Chief Charlie reports: "The primary role of our crews was to protect structures in the Monte Lake, Clinton and Riske Creek areas. They also helped stop large fires from crossing highways and protected sawmills and infrastructure. Our crews were amazed by the dedication and stamina of the full-time wildfire crews; and the experience was invaluable."

In this issue of OOTD, Pages 8 & 9 are devoted to the wildfires of 2017 and some historical context.

Just as we were about to send this issue to the printer, news came in of the death of an old friend, UVic political scientist Norman Ruff. Back in the day when I prowled the corridors of power, Ruff's phone number was always close at hand. His understanding of our governmental roots and his ability to accurately sniff the political wind on any given day were finely honed skills. He passed away in August at the age of 78.

We will properly celebrate his life in the October issue of OOTD.

See you all at the dinner Sept. 22nd.

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*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.*

## *A message from the President*

Hello Everyone,

**This is a final reminder to purchase your tickets for the Annual Former MLAs' Dinner to take place at Government House on Friday, September 22nd.**

There are many reasons to attend this year. It is the 30th anniversary of the Association and we have as our speaker Dr. Angus Reid.

There is another reason to attend: We need your help! We have gathered photos of many previous dinners and will be showing them. Alas, the people in the photographs are not identified. We know the names of many of the people but there are others who have not yet had their rightful names attached.

When you attend the dinner you can help us to do that. It is our history and it is important to identify all the photos. When citizens go to our Legislative Library we want them to find the right people in the right place as easily as possible.



*As Penny says, many AFMLABC moments have been saved in the Legislature Library without complete identification. Many of these pictures will be scrolling on a screen at the Sept. 22nd dinner event. Help us attach names ... for posterity.*



See you there,  
Penny Priddy



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## Her Honour from Page 1

Throughout her service, Her Honour has eagerly shared her vision for this country with its youngsters. During 2017, she has engaged in conversation with youth by visiting 150 schools in BC to speak with students about Canada's constitutional monarchy, to encourage their participation in our democracy and to share ideas about a healthy and sustainable future for all.

The most memorable event in this her final year of service was the "Pulling Together Canoe Journey and Elder's Gathering."

"This was one of the most memorable weeks during my five-year tenure as Lieutenant Governor. I was privileged to spend time in a canoe, as I joined members of the police force, cadets and First Nations youth to paddle from Britannia Beach to Squamish as part of the 2017 Pulling Together Canoe Journey.

"This 10-day event has grown since 2001, when RCMP and other public service personnel initiated the journey to help build healthy relationships between First Nations and first responders.

"What an amazing experience! Although the water may have been somewhat cold and very wet, the spirit of the canoe families was so very warm and welcoming. I even learned a tremendous new word: the verb, "reconcili-action", describing the real day-to-day work of reconciling. I have added it to my dictionary."



Her Honour Judith Guichon was installed as BC's 29th Lieutenant Governor in 2012.

Many of Her Honour's duties have involved recognizing the special contributions of BC citizens to society. She presents awards for valorous and meritorious service at Police Honours Night. Recipients of the Order of British Columbia are recognized for their exceptional service to the province and for helping inspire others. The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes individuals who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smarter and more caring nation. The British Columbia Community Achievement Awards celebrate British Columbians who go above and beyond in their dedication and service to others and who devote time and energy to making their communities more caring, dynamic, beautiful, healthy, and unique. The Lieutenant Governor's Medals are awarded to students who have excelled in their studies and who have contributed to the life of their post-secondary institution. And, the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in British Columbia Wines recognize and honour excellence in the province's wine industry.

On presenting awards, Her Honour says: "It is my responsibility to uphold our constitutional framework, but also to celebrate the accomplishments of our people. Through the presentation of Canadian Orders and Decorations and by attending hundreds of events each year that celebrate and honour the outstanding work of British Columbians, I am made aware of the incredible resilience, fortitude and ingenuity that arise during challenging times."

Clearly, Her Honour is no stranger to resilience, fortitude and ingenuity. Before assuming her vice-regal duties, she owned and operated Gerard Guichon Ranch Limited, a 1,400-head operation that has been active in the Nicola Valley region for more than 150 years.

As well, she was awarded the Order of British Columbia in 2011 and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2012 for community service and contributions to the sustainability movement in agriculture.



Her Honour meets the Queen in February 2013 at Buckingham Palace.

Born in Montreal and raised on a farm near Hawkesbury, Ontario, Her Honour moved to BC in 1972. She holds an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Vancouver Island University and is an Honorary Colonel of the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

In her former life, more than 25 years ago, Her Honour helped introduce holistic management to ranchers. This systems thinking approach to agriculture promotes sustainable management of livestock by emphasizing natural habitat, facilitating the recovery of plants and other eco-systems, using as little fossil fuel as possible and leaving the land in better shape.

As Lieutenant Governor, she developed priority programs reflecting her background of land stewardship, music and community activism including Stewards of the Future, a program for youth that aims to reconnect young people with the natural world around them and promote environmental stewardship amongst BC's future leaders.

As her tenure in Government House approaches its close, Her Honour will take away memories of meeting folks of all ages and from all walks of life, and sharing ideas about everything from leadership to volunteerism to sustainability and community involvement.

Her Honour says: "I admire that here in British Columbia, we have a wealth of smart, caring and engaged citizens who play a vital role in contributing to health of our people, our land and our communities."



Her Honour visits with members of the Canadian Rangers in August 2014 in Vernon.



A witness blanket ceremony at Government House in September 2016. Left to right: Artist Cary Newman, Her Honour, Elder Shirley Alphonse of the T'Souke First Nation and Drummer Bradley Dick of the Lkwungen Nation.



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# What are the top issues facing BC's new government?

**(On Sept. 22nd Angus Reid will be the guest speaker at the Government House dinner celebrating the 30th anniversary of the AFMLABC.)**

When Premier John Horgan's New Democratic Party government was sworn in July 18, its first priority was dealing with a wildfire season that was already one of the worst in recent memory.

Beyond that, the incoming premier said other priorities included dealing with the opioid crisis, the softwood lumber dispute, and public education issues. In addition, his party pledged – as part of its agreement with the Green Party – to introduce bills banning corporate and union donations to political parties, calling for a referendum on proportional representation, and giving the Greens official party status during the first legislative session of the new government.

At the Angus Reid Institute, research associate Ian Holliday started looking for answers to an important question: “Are these the priorities of British Columbians?”

“Public consensus around a single issue or collection of issues is uncommon, but there are certainly specific issues that are top-of-mind for significant subsections of the population,” he says.

In its final public poll taken during the election, the Angus Reid Institute (ARI) asked British Columbians to name the three most important issues facing the province. In that poll, health care was the most-mentioned issue, selected by 50 per cent of respondents. Housing prices and affordability was second, mentioned by 35 per cent.

In ARI's post-election poll, these two issues came out on top again, though in opposite order. Some 43 per cent chose housing prices and affordability, and 42 per cent choose health care.

In both polls, “the economy” was a distant third, followed by a collection of issues chosen by slightly fewer than one-in-four respondents.

Horgan's first orders of business have touched on two of the top three issues on the list (health care in the form of dealing with the opioid crisis, and the economy in the form of softwood lumber), though obviously not in the sort of holistic way that a government can over the course of years in power, Holliday says.

While the opioid crisis is a health-care-related issue – and one in dire need of attention with BC on pace for a record 1,400 overdose deaths in 2017 – it's likely not the reason most respondents chose health care in these two recent polls. Rather, there are more-systemic troubles

plaguering the province's health care system, most acutely a shortage of operating-room time, which has led to some of the longest surgery wait times in the country.

Asked how they would allocate the provincial government's budget surplus if they were in charge, the vast majority of British Columbians (86 per cent) say they would put at least 10 per cent of the \$295 million available toward health care. That's significantly more than they say they would spend on anything else.

The NDP's election platform included promises to improve access to health care through increased spending, while eliminating Medical Services Plan premiums. This polling suggests that such investment – especially if it's successful in improving access and reducing wait times – would be welcomed by many British Columbians.

That said, while polling consistently finds health care to be a top issue not just in BC but across the country, it's not typically the type of wedge issue that decides elections. Rather, it's a topic that tends to enjoy pan-partisan support. Any new NDP investment in health care would follow on the heels of promised increases from the Liberals.

Holliday says if health care were driving votes in the most recent BC election, one might reasonably expect to see it rise to the top in the region where the largest number of seats changed hands from the Liberals to the NDP: The Lower Mainland.

This is not the case, however. In ARI's post-election poll, roughly one-in-three Lower Mainland residents (33 per cent) reported health care among their top three concerns. That's significantly fewer than the number who did so in other regions of the province (46 per cent on Vancouver Island and the North Coast, and 47 per cent in the Interior).

The issue that loomed largest for Lower Mainlanders? Housing (54 per cent chose it as a top issue). More than six-in-ten (61 per cent) residents would spend at least 10 per cent of the provincial surplus on building social/low-income housing – not quite the overwhelming majority who said the same about investment in health care, but still a clear indication of support for provincial investment in new affordable housing.

“Each of these files – housing and health care – is likely to be a long-term focus of the NDP government, as are classic New Democratic priorities such as childcare, social services, and public education, all of which rate as significantly higher priorities for those who voted NDP,” Holliday says.

# Legislature summer break program may be extended

By Adriana Ayers  
Parliamentary Education Officer

Based on the great success of a one-week spring break pilot program in March of this year, the Parliamentary Education Office at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia extended our program offerings into the summer. The programs are free, interactive, and aimed at families with children aged 6 to 12.

Advertised internally, on social media, and mailed out to local community centers, the program is not exclusive to local families, but open to all who had an hour and a half to spend at the Parliament Buildings exploring and learning.

The goal was to introduce the Parliament Buildings and demystify the parliamentary process through an art and architecture focused tour, scavenger hunt, and craft activity. Depending on the day, some of our participants even had a special visit by one of our Parliamentary Players.


The program was offered once at the beginning of July and again after the long weekend in August. Although each day was a tad different based on the participants' interests, every day was filled with parliamentary fun.

We explored the public and working sides of the Parliament Buildings. We talked about the different symbols we saw, and that was good inspiration for creating our own coat of arms.



The program's highlight, as expressed by many participants, was the mock debate we held in front of the Legislative Chamber. Proposed bills included: free ice cream for all BC citizens on Sundays (peanut and dairy free options available, if needed); later bedtimes for all BC kids under 10; all bicycle helmets must be biodegradable; and all children must do the dishes at least 3 times a week. As you can imagine from the last one, the parents who accompanied their children on the program were just as enthusiastic about participating.

The success of the Summer Break Program has spilled into the fall and the response has encouraged the Parliamentary Education Office to offer more daily programs in addition to spring and summer breaks. For our 2017/2018 programming year, we hope to extend to themed Pro-D days, in addition to the other programs and tours we already offer throughout the school year.



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## Wildfire devastation reminds us of our history

By late August, as we were assembling stories for this month's issue, the BC Wildfire Forest Service had declared this year's wildfire season the worst on record and yet another out-of-control blaze was threatening homes in Kelowna.

On Aug. 24th, Chief Information Officer Kevin Skrepnek said there were 155 wildfires burning. Since April 1, there had been a total of 1,100 wildfires in the province that have burned more than one million hectares. There were 3,775 firefighters and other personnel fighting the fires, 596 from out-of-province and 1,507 contractors. As well, there were 172 helicopters and planes supporting ground crews. The previous record was set in 1958 when 855,000 hectares of forest burned.

On our deadline, there were 22 evacuation orders and 36 evacuation alerts in effect and approximately 2,500 evacuees still out of their homes.

"This year is far and away the worst we've ever seen in terms of the hectares burnt," he says. "And of course, it is only halfway through August, so there's definitely potential for that number to continue growing."

"The presence of wind and the lack of rain are going to be much more critical factors and unfortunately, on those two issues, we're really not seeing relief in the outlook right now," he says.

The provincial government reported that it was \$380 million over its \$60 million 2017 firefighting budget and

ICBC had received \$500,000 worth of damage claims for vehicle damage and loss.

Over the past decade (2006-2016) we have experienced an average of 1,844 fires a year, 39 per cent human-caused and 61 per cent from lightning. These fires have claimed an average of 154,944 hectares of forest each year and cost the provincial treasury about \$182 million annually.

Before this devastating year, these averages ranged from a high in 2014 when fires covered 370,000 hectares to 2008 when just 13,000 hectares burned.

As grim as this summer has been, one thing is certain, BC will bounce back and communities will recover. In fact, BC has been bouncing back since the first major immigrant settlements were established. On June 13, 1886, fire destroyed most of Vancouver, which had been incorporated only three months earlier.

A clearing fire blazed out of control and in one hour only two of the 400 original buildings were left standing. Due to the fire, it was decided that replacement construction should be of brick, stone or cast iron.

Two years later, on September 17, 1868, Barkerville was destroyed by fire and 116 homes were destroyed. The "human-caused" fire started because a miner tried to kiss one of the girls in a saloon. The ensuing struggle dislodged a stove pipe, setting the canvas ceiling on fire.





Some of our worst blazes occurred in the 1950s. The Wisp Wildfire in 1950 burned from north of the Fort St. John area into Alberta along the Chinchaga River. Total area burned was 1.4 million hectares. The BC portion was 90,000 hectares.

Then in 1958, the Kech Wildfire claimed 225,920 hectares in the Kechika Valley, a tributary of the Liard River. It crossed into the Yukon. That year there were also serious fires at Chilliwack and Harrison lakes, as well as near Squamish. At least four people died as a result of the fires.

History has taught us that wildfires spread quickly. The Swiss Wildfire of 1983 started on May 29th and wasn't under control until early June. The fire started south of Houston and due to dry conditions and strong winds spread at a very fast rate. In less than eight hours the fire grew to 6,900 hectares, an average rate of spread of 860 hectares per hour. The fire's final size was 18,208 hectares, and resulted in the evacuation of approximately 50 families and the loss of seven residences.

Most of us still have vivid memories of the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Park Wildfire, which became the most significant interface wildfire event in BC history.

The fire's final size was 25,600 hectares. Much of BC was affected by the fire but the communities of Naramata



and Kelowna suffered most when the blaze (captured above) caused the evacuation of 33,050 people (4,050 of them evacuated for a second time) and 238 homes were lost or damaged. The fire also claimed 12 wooden trestles and damaged two other steel trestles in the historic Myra Canyon.

Wildfires bring out the best amongst us to fight shoulder to shoulder in common cause to save our homes and our environment. They also reveal some sad truths about our society. Just two weeks after residents forced out by wildfires were allowed to return home to Williams Lake, several people were arrested for allegedly trying to start new fires in that beleaguered city.

Five male suspects were taken into custody after a number of attempts were made to set fires in the Lexington Road Subdivision, according to an RCMP press release.



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# Dunkirk the movie has the power of brutal honesty

By Jim Hume

It was quiet in the kitchen, but with the normal whispering tick of the wall clock increased in volume to seemingly loud metronomic authority. I can't remember the day but it was sometime in late May or early June 1940. I can remember my mother sitting in her usual armchair at one end of the kitchen table; my father at the other puffing on his clay pipe, as nearby neighbour Walter "Wally" Emery apologized for his shabby clothes. And my mother reaching out to comfort-pat his arm as he tightened the string holding up his oversized army issue khaki pants and tried to tuck in what was left of his shirt.

Twenty-four hours earlier Wally had been on the beach at Dunkirk trapped between the sea and an advancing German army, along with close to 400,000 Allied army soldiers being swept across Europe by a then unstoppable "blitzkrieg." Wally had been part of that great retreat – still listed as one of the most crushing defeats ever suffered by British forces. It happened between May 27 and June 4, 1940.

He was telling us how he and his army buddy would never have made it to the beach had they not stolen a horse to carry them the last desperate kilometers, and how frightening the beach was as he and his friend waited to be numbered among the 338,226 soldiers eventually rescued.

As a 16-year-old on that far off day, I was learning that an army in retreat can produce as many heroes as one capturing enemy strongholds. Wally was 20, maybe 21; hesitantly, modestly telling old friends of bombs and shells falling among the massed troops waiting for a boat ride to home and safety. How the first boat he boarded was small and was overturned by a bomb explosion as they reached deep water.

My father sat silent. I think he was back 25 years on a beach where, in April 1915, he lay wounded from dawn to dusk. It was called Gallipoli.

He understood when Wally, with the clock ticking louder than his voice, said: "That's when I lost my pants and boots. I was having trouble swimming weighted down so got rid of them and was able to swim to another boat and get home."

When he landed in England he was handed an old pair of pants, a pair of running shoes, a few days leave pass and orders to then report to re-outfit and be reassigned.

What was Wally doing in my home when his own was just around the corner? The men rescued from Dunkirk didn't have cell phones; there wasn't time for survival telegrams; poor people didn't have telephones. Like hundreds, maybe thousands of others shipped by train or



bus, Wally got home unannounced to find his dad at work and his mother out shopping.

His second home throughout childhood to young adulthood had been the home of his best friend Tom, my older brother. Wally, Tom and other neighbour Albert Panter were inseparable until 1937 when peritonitis claimed my brother and broke the link.

A year later Albert joined the RAF, Wally the army – and the three families remained as close they had always been. The day Wally came from Dunkirk looking for a cup of tea, a bite to eat and a place to wait until mum and dad come home was just "family" routine.

I made a minor pilgrimage for Wally a few days ago when my sons Nic, Andrew and Jonathan took me to see the movie Dunkirk at Silver City Imax. I think Wally (and my dad) would have given it a stamp of approval for authenticity. It was much as described and brutally honest.

Sentimentally, I looked for Wally on the beach and found him in a hundred different faces. And I shared with them the old fear experienced by any person who has survived a heavy air attack.



# A wellness “carrot” or big brother creeping us out?

By Brian Kieran

BC is one of three Canadian provinces that is funding a smartphone app that gives users points for popular consumer reward programs in exchange for engaging with government-approved messages about wellness.

The smartphone app is aptly named “Carrot Rewards,” but some critics, like the U.S. Foundation for Economic Education, says it’s just “creepy.” It tracks users’ steps and offers quizzes and tips on topics including healthy living, personal finances and the environment.

The Government of Canada has invested \$5 million in this project and the Government of British Columbia chipped in \$2.5 million in 2015 to help create, implement and promote the new app. Ontario has just announced that it is spending \$1.5 million on Carrot Rewards. Newfoundland & Labrador signed on last year.

At the time, then-Minister of Health Terry Lake said: “We’re making it rewarding for British Columbians to pay attention to their health. It’s so easy. By downloading the new innovative app and making small, sustainable lifestyle changes, you’re getting points that take you on the path to better health. Small steps can reap big rewards, and one of the best ways to prevent chronic disease is to be physically active and learn healthy behaviours.”

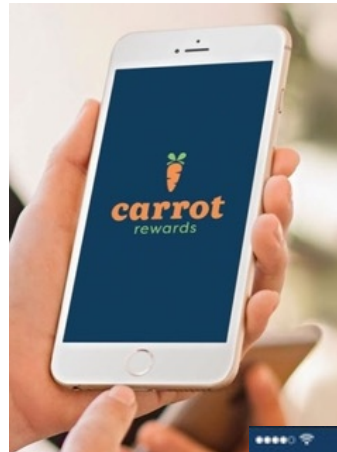
The app is sponsored by a number of companies offering reward points for their services as an incentive to “learn” how to improve wellness and budget finances. According to Carrot Insights all offers “are designed by sources you can trust like the BC Ministry of Health, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Diabetes Association and the YMCA.”

When users reach their step goal or complete a quiz, on home budgeting for example, they’ll receive points in their account for the reward program of their choice: Aeroplan, Petro-Points, More Rewards or Cineplex’s Scene.

Andreas Souvaliotis, CEO of Carrot Insights, said the app launched with a focus on health but the company and its partner governments quickly realized it was effective at modifying behaviour in other areas as well, and expanded to a more general focus on wellness that includes personal finance and the environment.

He said a typical example of government messaging is a campaign by Natural Resources Canada that gave people information on saving energy at home and buying energy efficient appliances.

“Anything that requires positive public engagement, we can now run it through a much more modern platform like this, as opposed to the old-fashioned stuff, which was advertising,” he said.



The information distributed through the app originates with the governments, but charities that work with the company help make the content more authentic, Souvaliotis said.

“If for some reason the government is at risk of making a mistake, doing something that might frustrate you as a citizen or feel to you a little Big Brotherish, we have the charities that can help us push back and authenticize the content a little more,” he said.

Eleanor McMahon, Ontario’s Minister of Sport, said the goal is to give people an incentive to act and think differently. “It behooves us to think about how we can motivate people, because we need to. We need to live differently.”

She likens Carrot Rewards to a modern-day ParticipACTION, the federally funded series of public service announcements, and Body Break commercials Canadians have seen off and on since the 1970s.

100 years ago

## The birth of the National Hockey League

When the National Hockey League formed in late 1917, few could imagine the importance it would have in the fabric of Canadian life.

In the fall of that year, a group of team owners from the struggling National Hockey Association (NHA) gathered for a meeting in the Windsor Hotel in Montréal. Elmer Ferguson was the lone reporter sitting waiting for news. The first man to emerge from behind closed doors of the meeting was Frank Calder, who would become president of the new league. Ferguson hollered after him, "Hey Frank, what happened?" "Nothing much," replied Calder.

George Kennedy, owner of the Montreal Canadiens, was more forthcoming: "It's like our old league except that we haven't invited Eddie Livingstone to be part of it," he told Ferguson.

Five of the six owners of the old National Hockey Association had finally gotten tired of the stubborn and confrontational owner of the Toronto Blueshirts, Eddie Livingstone. So they met without him and made a new league. Ottawa manager Tommy Gorman said: "Without (Livingstone) we can get down to the business of making money."

Professional hockey was barely a few years old but it had already created a familiar landscape: quarrels among owners, soaring salaries, lawsuits and injunctions, salary caps and bankrupt franchises.

The first openly professional hockey team was the Portage Lakes hockey club, founded in 1900 by dentist J.L. Gibson, a Canadian who had relocated to Houghton, Michigan. In 1903, "Doc" Gibson decided to pay for talent, and so team management hired the best players from Canada. The Portage Lakes club was so good that other teams in Canada and the United States had to follow its lead and pay players to compete.

The success of the club also led to formation of the International Hockey League in 1904, with three teams in Michigan, another in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and one in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. It also contributed to the 1906 decision by the Eastern Canada Amateur Hockey Association to officially allow professional players in the league. Teams began openly competing for players. In fall 1907, Tom Phillips, star of the Kenora Thistles, signed with Ottawa for \$1,800.

Professional teams popped up in the most unlikely places, such as Cobalt and Haileybury, Ontario, where wealthy mine owners purchased the best players that money could buy. The George Steinbrenner of his day, mine



owner John Ambrose O'Brien assembled a team of superstars to play for him in the town of Renfrew, Ontario, including Fred "Cyclone" Taylor and the Patrick brothers, Frank and Lester. Taylor became the highest-paid player, receiving \$5,250, more than twice the prime minister's salary!

However, bidding wars and the escalation of player salaries forced several teams to fold, including Haileybury and Cobalt. For the 1910–11 season, NHA club owners, who had induced players to sign for high salaries, established the first salary cap, at \$5,000 for each team. Players who had been earning up to \$1,800 would have to settle for about \$500.

By 1917, some were predicting the end of professional hockey. "'PRO.' HOCKEY ON LAST LEGS," announced The Globe in November. There was no guarantee in 1917 that professional hockey would survive, and no one at the time would have predicted that the NHA's successor, the National Hockey League, would become the premier professional league in the world.

For better and for worse, the professional leagues changed the game of hockey. Once played primarily for fun, love of the game, and local pride, it became part of the culture of business. It would not be long before the professional NHL had control of the Stanley Cup, which Lord Stanley had intended to celebrate the values of amateur sport.

# Member News

## Where Are They Now?

### Bill Goodacre

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 welcome Bill Goodacre who represented the NDP in the riding of Bulkley Valley-Stikine in the Legislature from 1996 to 2001. He received a degree in economics from the University of British Columbia and worked as a grocer for Goodacre's Stores Ltd. Goodacre serves on the town council in Smithers.



#### 1. What prompted you to seek public office?

I've been involved in social justice activity since I was a teenager. None of my immediate family were involved in politics although most voted Liberal both federally and provincially. My draw to the NDP started in 1965 when Tommy Douglas spoke in Smithers. I was 14 at the time. I was involved in municipal politics as a Town Councillor in 1996 when the opportunity to seek the nomination for Bulkley Valley-Stikine came forward so I put my name forward and ended up in the Legislature.

#### 2. Which political figure most influenced you?

Tommy Douglas, of course, and our MP Frank Howard who became a good friend and my cousin, Tom Berger, my one close relative in the Party. Both Tom and Frank were solid supporters of Aboriginal Rights, something that has been a big part of my political and social activity over the years.

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

I had been on the Smithers Town Council for six years before the 1996 election so the transition was relatively smooth. But, it was a very different world and there was a huge learning curve. While I wouldn't call it hard, I would call it an exciting challenge trying to figure out what made things tick in the Legislature. Colleagues on both sides were helpful making me feel welcome, not to mention the superb security staff.

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

Getting used to not being 'on call' all the time. And, I did miss my colleagues as Smithers is pretty far from everyone. I didn't realize until a few months passed how much stress had built up in my system, but once I returned to municipal politics in 2002 I quickly regained my composure. Also getting back into my regular life as part of the family grocery business certainly required a shift in focus. Fortunately, I was blessed with a wonderful family and good friends who made the transition much easier. In those days, I was also playing hockey six times a week in winter so keeping busy was never a challenge.

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

My key issues are Aboriginal Rights and anti-poverty. I was, and continue to be, frustrated by the low level of awareness and commitment to these crucial issues. In my life, today I am quite involved with community efforts to address these matters. An example is a joint project of the Office of Wet'suwet'en Chiefs and the Town of Smithers to chronicle our shared history since the formation of Smithers in 1913. Aside from these matters though, one of the best takeaways from my experience in the Legislature was a strong sense that people who hold different political perspectives can treat each other with respect; something I think may not seem evident to the general public.

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

I'm technically retired but keep active as a member of Smithers Town Council. I also serve on the Board of our Friendship Centre and a few other committees. I'm active in reconciliation work and have had the pleasure of helping with the advance planning for the Missing Women Inquiry which will be holding hearings in Smithers at our Friendship Centre the week of September 25th. We have a young active Town Council on which I am far and away the senior member. I find it rewarding to be working with these young intelligent people. If people like them continue to emerge, our future will be much brighter.

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

I have two children and three grandchildren in Smithers along with four stepchildren and three more grandchildren spread out across the country. Monday nights I play duplicate bridge but I can no longer play hockey due to heart troubles. I do like reading Orders of the Day and manage to cross paths with Darlene Marzari (another mentor) who keeps me informed about the association.



# 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**

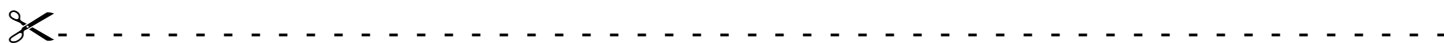
**Government House, Victoria**

***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!



**Response Coupon** - *please detach and return with your payment*

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Box 31009, University Heights, Victoria, BC V8N 6J3  
Email: ootd@shaw.ca or ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com



# 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**

Hemlock Committee Room  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria  
Commencing 1:30 p.m. sharp

### **Our Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner**

#### **Angus Reid**

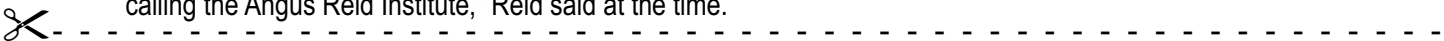


On September 22nd Dr. Angus Reid will be the guest speaker at the AFMLABC 30th anniversary dinner at Government House.

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**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____