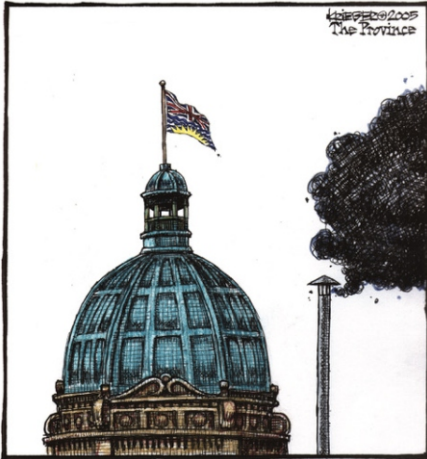


## In BC politics, what goes around, comes around



Titled “Black smoke from BC legislature indicates no new premier,” in May 2005, during the general election, *The Province* newspaper's barb-quilled former cartoonist Bob Krieger turned the Legislature into the Vatican as voters returned Premier Gordon Campbell to the political papacy with a substantially reduced mandate.

This depiction of an up-for-grabs political enclave would have been even more appropriate this fall as the cardinals and clergy of the NDP ponder the replacement of Premier John Horgan. For a while there, we anticipated the white smoke of heavenly acclamation, but the exercise to fill Horgan's robes of office has become a contest.

In this issue of OOTD, on Pages 6 and 7, Mike McDonald – former chief of staff to Premier Christy Clark, now a political historian of note – takes us on a memory lane stroll through the BC Legislature West Wing.

He explores the various ways our premiers have come to power, from Richard McBride to Duff Pattullo to Bill Vander Zalm to Horgan's would-be successor David Eby. Some made it to the Leg's West Wing without the bother of a popular vote; others got there the hard way.

---

## Parkinson's claims former NDP leader and MP Bob Skelly



On Pages 4 and 5, OOTD celebrates the life of former BC NDP leader Bob Skelly.

Bob, 79, died peacefully at home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was predeceased by his brother Ray who he served alongside as an MP in Ottawa after retiring from provincial politics.

Bob was dedicated to the pursuit of peace, environmental justice, and the rights of women, indigenous, and working people. “What we desire for ourselves, we desire for all,” he said.

In a tribute in the Legislature chambers in 2021, MLA Bruce Ralston said: “This quotation from Thomas Paine – 'The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion' – guided Bob throughout his life.”

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

*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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*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.*

# Thank You and Miscellany

**Thank you** to **Insurance Brokers Association of BC** for renewing advertising in *Orders of the Day*. This support is greatly appreciated.

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**Andrew Petter, Victoria**

# From the Editor's Desk

In this issue of OOTD, on Page 1, I am pleased to feature the work of one of Canada's finest cartoonists. It was a privilege to work with Bob Krieger at *The Province* tabloid newspaper in the 1990s. On a couple of occasions, I was the subject of his acerbic wit. I was thrilled (my Mom wasn't), and my Legislature Press Gallery colleagues were green with envy.



In 2013, Bob Krieger accepted a buyout after 32 years of working as a cartoonist for the newspaper. Bob was corporate media collateral damage, and he was not alone, as newspaper after newspaper across Canada purged themselves of cartoonists in a rush to downsize, digitalize, homogenize and save a buck.

For Krieger, cartoons have been more of a lifestyle than a job; a fun way to make a living that was always stimulating and challenging.

"It was nice to wake up in the morning and know that you could make some arrogant politician feel uncomfortable," Krieger says. "I think cartoonists could play a huge role, not just in expanding public debate and engaging people, but in attracting readers to newspapers. Now, it seems to me, the corporate media is way too controlling, and they don't want as much variety of opinion as newspapers should have."

Well, here at OOTD, we cannot be accused of wanting for a variety of opinion ... even though we walk the fence with both ears on the ground. I plan to feature more of Krieger's work in issues to come.

Please give the Legislature Archives project reminder on Page 12 your close attention. To refresh yourself, have a look at the Summer issue of OOTD. I have posted the Summer issue in the Archives section of our website, [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com).

Our condolences and kind thoughts go out to the family of Bob Skelly, whose life is remembered on Pages 4 and 5. Bob embodied decency and humanity at a time of great turbulence in BC politics.

**READERS:** We really want to read your stories and letters. The deadline for submissions to the October issue of OOTD is Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Postal information can be found in the column to the left, and you can reach me directly at [kieran.brian@icloud.com](mailto:kieran.brian@icloud.com). Finally, please consider joining your colleagues via Zoom for the virtual AFMLABC Annual General Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Go to Page 15 for all the information you need.

# The President's Report

With September upon us, we are preparing for the AGM of the AFMLABC. At a Zoom meeting on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, your executive set Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. as the time for this year's AGM. The meeting will be held via Zoom. I encourage all members to attend. Directions on how to join the meeting are outlined on Page 15 in this edition and on the News & Events page of our website, [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com).

A nominating committee, chaired by Vice-President Diane Thorne, is putting together a slate of nominees for various executive positions to be elected at the AGM. Please let Diane know if you wish to serve on the association executive. Send your expression of interest to [ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com](mailto:ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com), and it will be forwarded to Diane.

The executive has also started working toward holding the AFMLABC annual dinner next year. We hope to have a few more details in upcoming issues of OOTD as soon as we have them nailed down. It will be a real treat to have this gathering again after a three-year COVID-19 hiatus.

I have advised the nominating committee that I will not be available to serve as president for the coming year. While I have very much enjoyed serving as president this past year, several other things I want to do will mean I will be away more often, therefore unable to fulfil the role properly.

As a result, this will be my final president's message. My thanks to the rest of the executive members for their friendship and support. I will continue as past president and help where I can. It's a wonderful thing to stay in touch with past colleagues.



John Les, President

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# Bob Skelly: “What we desire for ourselves, we desire for all”

Former BC NDP leader Bob Skelly has died at the age of 79. Bob dedicated his working life to the pursuit of peace, environmental justice, and the rights of women, working and Indigenous people. “What we desire for ourselves, we desire for all,” he said.



In a message posted on social media, Premier John Horgan said he was saddened to hear of Skelly's death and thanked him for his years of service to BC and Canada.

Skelly served in the Legislature from 1972 to 1987. The longest-serving member for the Alberni constituency in history, he was elected five times. He was elected leader of the BC New Democratic Party in 1984.

*Vancouver Sun* political columnist Vaughn Palmer recalls: “The (NDP) convention was the old-fashioned kind – 1,000 delegates voting in person, round by round until one of six candidates emerged with a majority.

“Skelly, a low profile four-term MLA from Port Alberni, garnered less than 200 votes in the first round. But the convention deadlocked between two rival camps. Skelly, the least-objectionable alternative, quietly built support until he emerged as the winner on the fifth and final ballot.

“At first, the 41-year-old seemed like an apt break with the past. Dave Barrett, who'd led the NDP through four elections, losing three, was charismatic and polarizing. Skelly was neither. Rather, he was mild-mannered and methodical, much like his leadership campaign. He also had a wicked sense of humour. When someone remarked that he and then-premier Bill Bennett celebrated birthdays on April 14, Skelly replied that it was also the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

“The Skelly-led New Democrats planned for an election against Bennett, targeting him over the governing Social Credit's hard-line response (“Restraint”) to the 1980s recession. Bennett had other plans and announced at the 10-year mark of his term that he would step down.

“The resulting Social Credit leadership convention was even more dramatic than the one that picked Skelly. Four rounds of balloting led to a victory by Bill Vander Zalm, the renegade ex-cabinet minister who was not on Bennett's list of preferred successors.

“Both Vander Zalm and Skelly positioned themselves as the candidates of change from the Bennett years. But the photogenic, populist Vander Zalm had an advantage over the cautious, introverted Skelly.

“On Sept. 24, the day Vander Zalm called the election, Skelly went before the cameras and faltered: His throat constricted, his voice failed him ... What happened was not entirely unprecedented, as Skelly himself admitted later. He sometimes froze up in what he characterized as 'artificial situations.'

“I covered the 1986 election and cringed along with many others when Skelly's voice failed. But I also noticed how Skelly improved through the campaign, albeit with hands-on assistance from veteran NDP organizer Cliff Scotton.

“In the first week, the New Democrats trailed the Socreds by 21 percentage points in an opinion poll. They finished less than seven points behind, exposing what was called Vander-mania as a flash in the pan.

“Vander Zalm won with a slightly smaller share of the popular vote than the uncharismatic, polarizing Bennett had scored in the previous provincial election,” Palmer wrote.

After the election, the distribution of electoral districts in the province was declared to be biased in favour of Social Credit. The courts then ordered a fair redistribution. In 1986, Skelly resigned as NDP leader, and the following year, a party convention acclaimed Michael Harcourt as his successor.

Skelly went on to federal politics and was elected Member of Parliament for the federal riding of Comox-Alberni in the 1988 federal election. Skelly served in Parliament at the same time as his brother Ray Skelly.

Bob died peacefully at home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was predeceased by his brother, Ray. He is survived by his sisters, Gail, Kelly, Catherine and Patricia and by his brother, Graham; his wife, Sonia Alexandra; his daughter, Susan (Michael) and son, Robert (Sue); and his grandchildren, Rebecca, Sarah-Grace and Heather.

## One of the first to support native land and fisheries rights

I first met Bob in 1972 after moving to the Coombs area, and he was the candidate for the upcoming 1972 election. He was living just a stone's throw away (as the crow flies) on a hobby farm like ours.

We were both young, newly married and growing young families. He was on the school board, and I was involved with the Chamber of Commerce, and, of course, we were both social activists in the NDP.

Bob went on to become the MLA for five unprecedented terms. He championed many projects in the then-Alberni riding that stretched north to Tahsis (no road) and more outlying areas. He was one of the first to speak out on behalf of native land and fisheries rights. He became friends with Nuuchahnulth chiefs George Watts and Simon Lucas and was one of the first to seek land entitlement on their behalf.

Bob went to Quebec to support the "Oka crisis" (the Kanesatake or Mohawk Resistance) and even Guatemala to support Indigenous rights there. This social activism got Bob the support to win the NDP leadership in 1984. After the ill-fated election of 1986, Bob retired from BC politics in 1988 but not from his drive to continue contributing to making life better for the people of Alberni and Canada. He went on to become the MP along with his brother Ray, who held the adjoining riding of North Island.

Bob was a great mentor to me, always encouraging but never intrusive. He was a dedicated social activist and one of the first politicians to advocate for First Nations' rights and culture.

In later years, Bob did not let his Parkinson's slow him down, continuing with his love of the bagpipes, anthropology, and flying.

Bob's legacy will be hard to duplicate. Hopefully, others will take up the mantle and continue on with his works.

## "To do good is my religion"

An introduction by the Hon. Bruce Ralston:

*Today it's my honour to welcome back to the Legislature one of our own, Bob Skelly, a former Leader of the Official Opposition and a leader of the BC New Democratic Party.*

*Bob was first elected in 1972 as the MLA for Alberni and served continuously here in this place until 1988. The BC NDP elected Bob as party leader in 1984. He led the party into the 1986 provincial general election.*

*After leaving provincial politics, he was elected to the Parliament of Canada in 1988 for the riding of Comox-Alberni and served until the general election of 1993, when he was defeated in a bid for re-election.*

*He is joined here in the gallery today by his wife, Alex Skelly; his son, Rob Skelly; his daughter, Susan Ramsay; and her husband, Michael Ramsay. Their children, therefore Bob's grandchildren, Sarah-Grace Ramsay and Heather Ramsay, are also here. His eldest granddaughter, Rebecca Ramsay, is not able to be here today.*

*This quotation from Thomas Paine: "The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion" has guided Bob, he tells me, throughout his life.*

*Please join me in welcoming Bob Skelly and his family here to the Legislature and thank him for his public service to the people of British Columbia and of Canada.*

## **We've Moved** **(our post office box)**

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new mailing address for your  
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# Many BC premiers go straight to the top

By Mike McDonald

It's one of the oddities of our parliamentary system that someone can become premier without first facing the voters as leader in the trial by fire of an election campaign.

The pending retirement of Premier John Horgan means a new leader chosen solely by the members of the NDP will go straight to the top job.

Changing premiers has happened between elections many times and for a variety of reasons.

## Retirement on their terms

Since 1903, when the party system came to BC, only a handful of premiers retired while they still had political capital in the bank.

Richard McBride retired in 1915 after 12 years in office when his health and energies were on the wane. He left office in good standing with the voters of the day, but his successor, William Bowser, was defeated when he met voters at the polls the following year.

John Hart retired in 1947 after six years on the job, passing on the premiership to colleague "Boss" Johnson. Hart was the only ex-premier to go on to become Speaker of the Legislature. Two years later, Johnson won his own mandate.

Bill Bennett picked his moment in 1986, after the halfway point of his third term. Twelve candidates vied to replace him, and coming out of political retirement, Bill Vander Zalm prevailed and shortly marched on to a majority win.

## Unplanned retirement

Liberal Duff Pattullo had been premier since 1933, leading the province through the Great Depression, but in 1941, he was dealt a minority. He wanted to press on, but his trusted ally, John Hart, announced his support for a coalition government and won the support of the Liberal rank and file. Pattullo resigned and Hart assumed office with Conservative support just two days after the attack on Pearl Harbour. His coalition government was re-elected in 1945.

## Passings in office

In 1918, Liberal Harlan Brewster, only two years into his first term, came down with pneumonia while heading home by train from Ottawa. Sick by Winnipeg, in peril by Regina, dead in Calgary. John Oliver replaced him and served nine years but became very ill toward the end of his tenure. When his failing health became known to his party, John Duncan McLean was made leader designate. After Oliver's



Premier McBride retired after 12 years in office, his health on the wane.



Premier Harlan Brewster fishing on the Peace River before his perilous train trip.

death in 1927, MacLean became the province's 20th premier. His government was defeated by the Conservatives the following year.

## The leaderless winner

The leaderless Social Credit Party went from zero seats to winning the 1952 election, with a leader who was from Alberta. Ernest Hansell, an evangelist and cartoonist, wasn't on the ballot, but as head of the Social Credit League of Canada, he had top billing. Voters didn't know who would lead the Socreds in the Legislature — and the government — until after the election. The new Socred MLAs soon met at the Hotel Vancouver and elected W.A.C. Bennett from among them. And so, a 20-year run as premier began.

## A hat trick of resignations beset BC politics in the 90s

In 1991, Bill Vander Zalm resigned ... after a damning conflict of interest report. Rita Johnston, BC's first female premier, succeeded him only to be demolished by Mike Harcourt's NDP later that year.

Harcourt seemed to have a bright future ahead of him, but an NDP scandal ("Bingogate") that had nothing to do with him bedevilled the government. In 1996, low in the polls, Harcourt quit. Glen Clark took the helm resurrecting NDP fortunes and, shortly thereafter, eking out a narrow win.

Clark's administration quickly sailed into rough waters and took on water — lots of it. Clark resigned in 1999, giving way to Dan Miller, the only premier since 1903 to serve on an interim basis and never face the voters as leader. Miller stepped down when NDP members elected Ujjal Dosanjh to lead them into what was to become an electoral Armageddon in 2001.

*continued next page*



WAC: Wasn't the leader the first time, but re-elected as premier in 1953, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1966 and 1969.

In 2010, not long after his third majority government win and on the heels and highs of the Winter Olympics, Gordon Campbell announced his intention to resign after internal caucus dissent spilled out into the public. Christy Clark, who did not have a seat at the time, prevailed on the third ballot to be crowned premier and two years later won her own majority mandate.

Changing premiers between elections has happened for a variety of reasons, with successors having mixed results. Some showed change and renewal, while others were weighed down by their government's baggage and jettisoned to the political scrap heap. In all cases, they became premier, thanks to a relatively small number of people, whether it was the members of their caucus or their party.

This time, if David Eby is acclaimed, as some expect, not even NDP members would have a say, and he would not have to undergo the trial by fire faced by predecessors Bill Vander Zalm, Glen Clark, Ujjal Dosanjh, and Christy Clark.

***(Editor's note: After Mike wrote this piece, former Vancouver-Granville NDP MP candidate Anjali Appadurai officially announced her candidacy, challenging Eby's solitary bid. Appadurai is a prominent climate and human rights activist. She nearly won the Vancouver-Granville seat in the 2021 federal election.)***

John Horgan came to power on a confidence vote not long after the 2017 election and retires on his own terms, knowing that he had more political capital to spend. In terms of popularity, he will be a hard act to follow. Once coronated,



David Eby: His once solo candidacy has become a two-way race.

David Eby will have close to two years to govern, but he will be staring at the calendar as to when voters ultimately get to have their say.

**(Mike McDonald is a partner and Chief Strategy Officer with Kirk & Co. and a Senior Research Associate with Pollara Strategic Insights, a market and public opinion research firm. He led Christy Clark's winning leadership campaign team in 2011 and served as the premier's chief of staff. He led the BC Liberal Party's 2013 election campaign. He returned to the position of chief of staff in June 2017 to lead the Premier's Office during a volatile and uncertain time in BC's political history.)**



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HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



# How an aging workforce impacts governments' finances

By Ben Eisen and Joel Emes  
Fraser Institute

A substantial amount of research in recent years has discussed the various policy implications of an aging population in Canada on government finances. It is already the case that a combination of additional spending for benefits for the elderly and health care costs, together with a slowdown in the growth of government revenues due to a smaller share of the population working as older people retire, are putting pressure on public finances. That pressure is expected only to increase.

Canada's population growth rate slowed considerably in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and has remained historically low. The average annual population growth in the 1950s was 2.7 per cent. Since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Canada's average annual population increase has been 1.1 per cent. Statistics Canada's medium-growth scenario forecasts the population growth rate to continue to drop and reach 0.7 per cent by mid-century. This estimate is based on a projection of continued positive immigration flows, without which Canada's population growth would be expected to decline in real terms.

This low rate of population growth combined with substantial increases in life expectancy over the past half century have made seniors (individuals 65 years of age and older) comprise a growing share of Canada's population. This trend is ongoing.

Canada's population of 65 or older increased from 14 per cent in 2010 to 19 per cent in 2022. Statistics Canada forecasts this share to continue growing at a similar pace as the last decade until 2030. At this point, the projected percentage of the population 65 or older will reach 22.5 per cent.

After that, the long-term projections show this segment's population share will keep growing, although much less quickly, stabilizing at approximately 25 per cent of the population by mid-century.

A decreasing ratio of working-age people to seniors will affect government finances directly and indirectly. A declining labour force participation rate, other things held constant, means fewer taxpaying workers and slower economic growth, which implies that the tax base will grow more slowly and, hence, that government tax revenue will grow more slowly, too.

An aging population will also put increasing pressure, to varying degrees, on a major area of expenditure for each senior level of government in Canada. For the federal government, this area is income support for seniors. The other major spending area is health care, an expense borne primarily by the provinces although notionally shared by the federal government via the Canada Health Transfer's per-



capita block grant and through small amounts of direct federal spending on health care services for small, specific populations.

A larger senior population means a greater number of people receiving cash transfers for seniors, the largest of which is Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

The increasing share of the population over age 64 has been gradually pushing up the cost of cash transfers to seniors. In 2010, spending on seniors' allowances was two per cent of GDP. By 2019, this had increased to 2.5 per cent of GDP. A recent actuarial report on Canada's income support system for seniors projects that these expenditures will reach 3.1 per cent of GDP in the 2030s. Subsequently, expenditures relative to GDP are expected to decline gradually, back to approximately current levels by mid-century.

A 1.1 percentage point increase in GDP between 2010 and the 2030s represents a substantial increase in federal spending on seniors' allowances. This fiscal effect is already being felt, as combined OAS and GIS spending today relative to GDP is approximately halfway between its 2010 value and its projected high of 3.1 per cent in the 2030s.

At the provincial level, population aging is also expected to put considerable pressure on government spending. For instance, the average per-capita expenditure on health care costs for Canadians between 35 to 44 is \$2,811. Average health care spending for people aged 65 to 74 is \$7,751.

Per person, health care costs continue to rise quickly as seniors age, with the average per person cost for individuals aged 75 to 84 nearly twice as high as the average per-person costs for those aged 65 to 74. As a result, the pressures on health care costs from the aging population will continue to rise in the future.

*continued next page*



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projections show that health care costs from aging will cause health care expenditures to increase by 0.8 percentage points of GDP between 2017 and 2045. The OECD notes that population aging is one factor likely to drive up health care costs in the coming decades. Other factors include greater demands for health services from non-seniors and additional government expenditures on new medical technologies and medicines.

All else equal, and in the absence of policy action, population aging and paying public pensions are expected to increase the combined cost of federal and provincial spending by approximately two percentage points of GDP over the next two decades.

For context, an increase today in government spending of two percentage points of GDP would equate to an additional \$55 billion, or approximately \$2,700 for every member of the current labour force. Of course, Canadian governments will have time to adjust to these cost pressures, but these data illustrate just how substantial the upward cost pressures from population aging will be.

Cost pressures in other areas of public management, such as education, may be somewhat relieved by an aging population. However, the costs associated with aging described above are projected to significantly outweigh potential spending declines elsewhere. This is illustrated by the

fact that the Parliamentary Budget Office explicitly identifies rising expenditures as a key reason that combined federal and provincial finances are currently unsustainable, which means that in the absence of any countering policy action, the overall debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to grow over time. The extent of unsustainability is much greater at the provincial level due to expected increases in health care costs.

### Conclusion

Canada's population is aging, which is increasing the pressure on government spending earmarked for health care and cash transfers to older Canadians. At the same time, the working age population as a share of the overall population is decreasing. The number of working-age people per senior has fallen from 7.7 in 1966 to 3.4 in 2022. Statistics Canada data projects this ratio will fall further to 2.3 by 2068.

Governments across Canada, particularly at the provincial level, already face long-term fiscal challenges. The trends described in this bulletin will be a significant challenge for policymakers as they try to improve the sustainability of government finances in Canada.

**(Ben Eisen is a Senior Fellow in Fiscal and Provincial Prosperity Studies at the Fraser Institute. Joel Emes is a Senior Economist attached to the Addington Centre for Measurement.)**

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# 93<sup>rd</sup> BCYP Camp Phoenix welcomes 48 deserving youth

The BC Youth Parliament's Camp Phoenix got underway in Sooke on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> – five days of summer fun for a bunch of youngsters who might not otherwise get such an opportunity.

“This year, we have a staff team of about 42 parliamentarians and senators and 48 campers attending,” reports Camp Phoenix Administrator Abby Head. “Camp Phoenix is open to all children aged eight to 12, regardless of social or financial need. We offer full and partial subsidies to include as many young people as possible.”



*Feeding 90 staffers and campers morning, noon and night is a huge logistical challenge at Camp Phoenix.*

Charlotte White, the project administrator of last year's camp, recalls: “There is something so special about the atmosphere of our summer camp because the purpose of everything we do is just pure fun. I have seen the positive impact Camp Phoenix has on those who have not before experienced this kind of environment. Even if it's only for a week at a time, summer camp is such an important part of growing up.”

Sky Losier, this year's director of Camp Phoenix, has spent more than 13 years working at summer camps throughout BC in roles ranging from camp director to camp cook and everything in between. Sky has been actively involved with Camp Phoenix since 2016.

Sky is also the Executive Director and Vice-Chair of the Youth Parliament BC Alumni Society, the organization responsible for overseeing the BC Youth Parliament and Camp Phoenix. In his professional life, Sky works as a political advisor at the Senate of Canada and is a crew member with the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue.

The British Columbia Youth Parliament is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-denominational youth service organization. Each year, it fulfills its motto of “Youth Serving Youth” through various individual and group projects organized to serve the youth of British Columbia.

The AFMLABC is proud to support the goals and activities of the BCYP.



*The BCYP staff team includes more than 40 parliamentarians and senators; that's almost one staff person for every camper.*

# We get letters

## More than 33,000 visitors toured the Legislature in July

David Nicholls in the Parliamentary Education Office reports that it has been a busy summer at the Parliament Buildings, with visitor numbers nearly returning to what they were before the pandemic.

He says: “In the month of July, we had more than 33,500 people enter the buildings for guided and self-guided tours.

“Our new outdoor theatre program has been very successful, with over 2,500 people joining us for a show. Children have also enjoyed our summer scavenger hunt, with 10 stuffed animals hidden throughout the halls of the Parliament Buildings for them to find.

“Our wonderful summer tour team is wrapping up their last few weeks before heading back to college or university in September.”

The tours are free and have been offered seven days a week between Victoria Day and Labour Day. Please visit [bcleg.ca/tours](http://bcleg.ca/tours) for more information.



## Please support BC Youth Parliament

The Association of Former MLAs of BC seeks your support for BC Youth Parliament and its annual session in Victoria. Donations can be made to the The Hugh Curtis BC Youth Parliament Fund, which is managed by the Victoria Foundation.

By phone: Call 250-381-5532 to make a donation by credit card directly.

By cheque: To the Victoria Foundation, #200 - 703 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8N 1E2.

**Make your cheque payable to The Victoria Foundation.** Note the name of the fund in the cheque memo line or in a cover letter.

Online: Go to [www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca](http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca). Click on “Giving” in the navigation bar and then on “Make a Donation.” After that just follow the prompts to find The Hugh Curtis BC Youth Parliament Fund.

If you have any questions about how to make a donation to the Victoria Foundation, please contact Sara Neely, Director of Philanthropic Services, at 250-381-5532 or [sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca](mailto:sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca).

# We get letters

## Why don't they get it? Our system of voting is robust

Dear Editor:

The Charlie Angus article in the Summer issue of Orders of the Day, "Age of Conspiracy," is well written, timely and above all troubling.

Most concerning to me was the polling result showing 44 per cent of Canadian respondents believed a "Secret group of elites is controlling elections." This result surely reflects the never-ending US news bombardment about election deniers, stolen ballots and all sorts of unproven and discounted election fraud conspiracies.

Now, there is no doubt in my mind that U.S. presidential elections can bring on a whole host of nutty theories. A U.S. federal election is the result of 50 separate U.S. state elections, compounded by the Electoral College process. Given this anachronistic voting complexity, the field is ripe for protest, real or imagined.

However, that is not the case in Canada. We are fortunate to have Elections Canada and corresponding provincial bodies in place. Our system is independent, robust and fair. But, not so according to 44 per cent of Abacus Data respondents.

Accordingly, I see Elections Canada – and the provincial election authorities – as facing the public relations task of explaining how elections actually work in Canada. There is a lot online and it's good, but a more proactive program is in order.

If close to a majority of Canadians don't trust the electoral process, we have a problem. Charlie Angus says we need a major rewiring. His closing sentence, "We ignore this rewiring at our peril."

He's right. Elections Canada should show Canadians the electoral process is fair, open and trustworthy. Otherwise, democracy is lost.

Regards,  
Bruce Strachan, Kelowna



**(Bruce Strachan is Secretary of the AFMLABC board of directors. Besides having a career as a professional piano man, Bruce was a school trustee and board chair, a regional district director, and a three-term Social Credit MLA and cabinet minister from 1979 to 1991 representing the constituency of Prince George South.)**

## Legislative archivist needs the help of former MLAs



Last month, in the Summer issue of OOTD, we introduced you to Suher Zaher-Mazawi, the Archivist responsible for managing the MLA Papers Archives at the Legislative Library.

This is a reminder that she is reaching out to retired MLAs to help develop an archival collection to capture the less visible aspects of the political life and culture of British Columbians ... MLAs' personal political papers and constituency records that reveal the often-invisible underpinnings of issues facing communities in BC that may not necessarily be captured in the public records. "MLAs play a crucial role in the provincial political system. It is often challenging to trace their activities comprehensively, let alone find the relevant records, access them, and preserve them properly for future research," she says.

You can read about this project in the News and Events section on our website at [formerbcmla.com](http://formerbcmla.com). If you are willing to assist, email the Archivist at [suher.zaher-mazawi@leg.bc.ca](mailto:suher.zaher-mazawi@leg.bc.ca). Or you can mail your information to: Attention: Suher Zaher-Mazawi, Archivist Legislative Library of British Columbia, 501 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8.

# We get letters

## When right meets left and power is used well

Dear Editor:

Reading the OOTD Summer issue review of the memoir (“Using Power Well”) by former MLA and cabinet minister Bob Williams, I was struck by this passage: “It was the first of many times when I saw that beautiful junction where right meets left and the differences are not very great.”



As a veteran of 14 years' service in our Legislative Assembly, I have witnessed that moment on many occasions.

I was reminded of the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1991 afternoon sitting of the Legislative Assembly when Opposition MLA Glen Clark (Vancouver East) rose to pay tribute to his retiring seatmate Bob Williams.

\* \* \* \*

Hansard:

*MR. CLARK: Yesterday my seatmate, colleague and friend – the first member for Vancouver East – resigned his seat. ... I would personally like to pay tribute to him today.*

*Interjections.*

*MR. CLARK: The main reason that I occupy this seat in this chamber today is because of Bob Williams. (edited for brevity) ... Bob Williams is an exceptional British Columbian who has served this province with distinction. As a cabinet minister in the Barrett government, he had a tremendous impact on public policy. As a minister responsible for recreation, he doubled the acreage preserved as parkland. He was and is a genuine entrepreneur. He is a successful businessman, but in the public sector he was an entrepreneur as well.*

*In the great tradition of western Canada, he believed in province-building – in the tradition of Tommy Douglas, Allan Blakeney, Peter Lougheed and, yes, even W.A.C. Bennett. The province can be a powerful force for economic development.*

(Then my boss, Grace McCarthy, rose to add her voice to Hansard history.)

*MRS. McCARTHY: I would like to respond to the comments that have been made by the first member for Vancouver East about the departed member for Vancouver East. I came to this House at the same time as Bob Williams, and I want to pay tribute to him today as man who came to this House, as all members have, to serve the province of British Columbia in the very best way he knew how.*

*Today is a very good day: the beginning of another session, with the throne speech yesterday. It's a good time to remember people like Bob Williams and other people on the opposition side, as well as on the government side of the House, who give up very many hours, days, months and years of their personal life to serve. We don't talk about that very much, but it is a sacrifice that is made by each and every one who serves in this House, no matter which side of the House they serve.*

*I think that we can remember Bob Williams for a tremendous amount of very aggressive debate in this House. But we also must remember that this is the place that aggressive and enthusiastic debate should take place, and also give thanks for the fact that we have that freedom of speech in this parliament.*

*I think the creativity of Bob Williams in the time that he served in the House as a member of the government was in many ways a great service to our province. I also want to say that as a member of the opposition, he kept the government side on its toes. Although this may seem a very interesting person to be giving an accolade to the former member for Vancouver East, I think that since we both came as green as grass to this chamber in 1966, we have both learned a great deal. I like to think that — in the last session particularly — Bob Williams and I have learned that there has been a great conviviality of friendship on both sides of the House that we treasure. I'm sure he will never forget it, and I know that I never will. I do wish him very well in the years to come.*

\* \* \* \*

As her political assistant, I was very proud of Mrs. McCarthy that day.

Regards,  
Jim Bennett  
Qualicum Beach

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# “Have a nice day” begins at California's Pappy's Waffle House

By Simon Gibson

“Have a nice day” has been a common expression of best wishes, especially in stores and restaurants, for as long as I can remember. Clerks and servers have completely embraced it, and I fully expect it as I complete my purchase or pay for a meal.

There are variations, of course. But “Have a nice day” is overwhelmingly the choice of virtually everyone who serves me.

Just recently, I was speaking with a well-read friend who takes a particular interest in the subtleties of the language. We were having lunch at a local restaurant, and, as we were leaving, the cashier, not surprisingly, encouraged us to “Have a nice day.”

My friend was amused and told me the origin of the expression. Apparently, it was unknown until the early 1970s, when it first entered social discourse. Its popularity spread quickly and soon became what might be characterized as “obligatory.” Its acceptance was almost imperceptible as employees in virtually all retail and restaurant settings subscribed to its use.

Later, when I returned home, I found my friend had sent me an email regarding the California origins of the greeting. It was conceived in April 1973 by Susan Powell, a server at Pappy's Waffle House in Santa Lucia, California. Powell did not immediately recognize the profundity of her creativity until her regular customers embraced the friendly nod.

These customers approached the manager, who immediately called a staff meeting for the following morning. He complimented Powell and encouraged other staff to adopt “Have a nice day” at every opportunity. Powell shared her experience and recommended it only be employed as customers are finishing their meals and are leaving. Cashiers, too, she noted, could also offer the same message as customers paid their bill.

A reporter for the local Santa Lucia Herald community newspaper, and a regular at the restaurant, interviewed the manager, who, in turn, gave the credit to Powell. Powell initially hesitated when the reporter contacted her but agreed to a brief interview. “Have a nice day,” Powell acknowledged, had become very popular with co-workers and also at other restaurants and retail outlets in Santa Lucia.



“I was grocery shopping this week at the Family Shop-Mart and noticed three clerks wished their customers 'Have a nice day,’” Powell said.

The reporter asked Powell whether she was surprised at how quickly “Have a nice day” had spread. Powell admitted to being startled by its popularity and had heard servers and clerks in nearby towns had even adopted it.

The reporter filed the story that was soon picked up by other papers in the chain across the country and even into Canada. The greeting became a phenomenon that enjoys a substantial trajectory that continues to this day.

Susan Powell, since retired, has recently proposed an innovation she believes will give new life to the now-classic phrase. She recommends, “Have a nice day in every way.”

Powell's daughter, Ellie, following the same career path at Pappy's Waffle House, is energetically advancing “Have a nice day in every way” as a heartfelt tribute to her mother.

“Mom's natural creativity and its enduring impact on our North American culture must not be forgotten,” Ellie said. “‘Have a nice day in every way’ will add vibrancy to such a popular and caring message.”

Ellie, also the chair of the Santa Lucia Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the next monthly luncheon. The title of her speech: “How my mother changed the world, and how she will do it again.”

Santa Lucia's mayor – owner of Pappy's Waffle House – has declared “Have a nice day” as the city's official motto.

**(Simon Gibson was elected in 2013 to represent Abbotsford-Mission for the BC Liberals. He served two terms. Before his election, Gibson was a member of Abbotsford City Council for more than 30 years.)**

# Len Norris



October 18, 1955

*"I don't care if you are planning on being the Premier of BC ... when I call you to dinner you COME ..."*

## **ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MLAs OF BC** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 1:30 p.m.**

The AFMLABC executive has set **Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** as the date for this year's AGM. Because of the lingering impacts of COVID-19, there is no annual Government House banquet this fall and thus no in-person AGM meeting at the Legislature.

As was the case last year, **the AGM will be conducted virtually via Zoom**. We hope members can join us to discuss and vote on a number of matters including: The election of AFMLABC directors, the return of the annual banquet in 2023, association budget reports, membership numbers, Youth Parliament and student grants, bylaw issues and much more.

We encourage members-at-large to participate, particularly if you have considered joining the board of directors. To get the Zoom link address please contact OOTD editor Brian Kieran ([kieran.brian@icloud.com](mailto:kieran.brian@icloud.com)) and he will make sure you are included. As well, you can go to the News & Events section of our website, [www.formerbcmla.com](http://www.formerbcmla.com), for Zoom instructions.

John Les, President

60 years ago

## Alouette launches Canada into the space age

Launched on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1962, the Alouette-I scientific satellite marked Canada's entry into the space age and was seen by many as initiating the most progressive space program of that era.

With the Alouette launch, Canada became the first nation, after the Russian and American superpowers, to design and build its own artificial Earth satellite.

The development of Alouette-I came as a result of an American invitation, through the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, for international collaboration in its budding satellite program.

Within months, John Chapman and Eldin Warren, scientists at Canada's Defence and Research Telecommunications Establishment (DRTE), submitted to NASA a proposal to design and build a Canadian satellite that could monitor the ionosphere from above.

The proposal was accepted, and a team of DRTE scientists was formed under Chapman's leadership to begin the process of designing and building two identical Alouette models.

With no experience in building satellites, the progress of the DRTE team was slow and riddled with engineering problems. However, new technologies, such as transistors and solar cells, became available during this period and helped make it possible to build a small, reliable spacecraft.

Contractors such as RCA and Spar Aerospace Limited produced their first space hardware products during Alouette's construction. Spar, for instance, developed a new "roll-up" sounder antenna for the Canadian satellite, a product later used in many variations for American satellites. The antenna consisted of thin strips of beryllium copper bent into a slight U-shape and then rolled into a small disk in a fashion similar to a measuring tape. When triggered, the rotation of the satellite created enough centrifugal force to pull the disk away from the spacecraft's body, and the shaping of the metal caused it to unwind into a long spiral. The result was a stiff circular cross-section antenna known as a "STEM" – Storable Tubular Extendible Member."



*Dr. Leroy Nelms and Dr. John Chapman enjoy a toast beside a model of the Alouette satellite, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1970.*

After three and a half years of design and construction, the 145-kg satellite was flown to California and launched from the Pacific Missile Range at 2:06 a.m. (EST) on Saturday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1962. Sprung from a two-stage Thor-Agena rocket, Alouette-I was quickly put into a near perfect 1000 km orbit and soon began its top-down study of the ionosphere.

Alouette-I was a tremendous success by any measure. The conservative research approach adopted by the DRTE team paid off manyfold as the satellite eventually stretched its one-year design life into an unprecedented 10-year mission, producing more than one million images of the ionosphere.

Following the success of Alouette-I, Canada and United States signed an agreement to launch further satellites under a new program called International Satellites for Ionospheric Studies (ISIS). Under the program, the Alouette backup model was refurbished and flown in 1965 as "Alouette-II." Two new satellites, named ISIS I and ISIS II, were successfully launched in 1969 and 1970, respectively.

**Source: Canadian Space Agency**