

British Columbia Seniors Liberal Commission

Meeting March 9, 2016

Attendees: Judith Berg, Ken Halliday (acting President), Don Currie, Rabi Alam, Diann Condie-Smallman, Murray Lightman, David Wallace, Stephen Smith, Alan Lowe

By Phone: Doug McDonald, Sharon Apsey, Christine Blackburn

2. Finalization of Agenda

Don Currie requested that Treasurer's Report and COSCO Report be added to the agenda and this was done under agenda item 5.2.

3. Adoption of Minutes of February 10/16 Meeting

Judith moved that the time of the AGM meeting in 5.7 be changed to 4:00 from 5:00. Seconded by Rabi Alam with no abstentions.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Care Giving Policy

Recently the Minister of Immigration indicated that they will be reducing the number of caregivers coming in to Canada. This is contrary to the SLCs recent recommendations. Ken Halliday will follow up on this.

4.2 Requesting a Seniors Liaison in the Liberal Caucus

Ken Halliday has contacted the LPC on this and he will follow up with them.

4.3 Activities for Seniors Clubs/Circles

It was decided to drop #1 from the list of 12 items.

It was decided to amend #6 to read "become an adjunct to an existing service or ..."

It was decided to amend #10 to replace "seniors' issues" with simply "issues"

4.4 Appointment of Seniors Reps

Rabi reported on the new seniors reps that he has recruited:

a)Delta

Evelyn Funk was nominated by the Seniors Group in Delta. Rabi moved that she be appointed as the rep for Delta and this was seconded by Don with no abstentions.

b)South Surrey/ White Rock

Hayat Ahmad will work with both the Surrey Newton and Cloverdale Langley EDAs to organize seniors groups in those areas. He speaks several languages, including Punjabi, and it was agreed that this would be an asset for him, in that capacity, as these EDAs are multi-ethnic. Rabi moved that he be appointed as the rep for Cloverdale Langley and this was seconded by Don with no abstentions.

Well done Rabi.

4.5 Convention Guest Speaker

Ken Hardie will speak at the AGM and

Ken Halliday has requested his biography. He will be last on the agenda and time will be allowed for a question and answer session with Ken Hardie.

5. New Business

5.1 Policy Chair Report

The BCSLC will not be presenting any policy resolutions at the convention in Victoria. However, it will co-sponsor the South Surrey/White Rock resolutions on palliative care and on expanded CPP for home makers and care givers. The palliative care resolution will be discussed in the Social Health Care session on the Saturday. It will be indicated in the convention booklet that the BCSLC are co-sponsors of these resolutions.

The BCSLC will also co-sponsor the BC Women's Liberal Commission resolutions on:

- a) female entrepreneurship in rural and aboriginal communities
- b) high speed internet access
- c) ocean acidification

The National Policy Committee will distribute its recent survey to all seniors across Canada, with the exception of seniors in BC, as they received and responded to this survey a few months ago. The survey has been translated in to French. The National Executive has sent a letter to the Ministers of Justice and Health requesting that they put assisted dying and palliative care in to their end of life communications.

5.2 Table Officers Reports

Don Currie delivered his treasurer's report and also a report on COSCO's recent AGM. In his Treasurer's Report, he reported the BCSLC collected \$27 from a raffle 2 years ago. This money was submitted to the LPC and we no longer have that money.

In his COSCO Report, Don indicated that at COSCO's AGM in February, all incumbents, with the exception of a few with health issues, were re-elected. COSCO will be continuing with its policies of retirement pensions, health care, pharma care etc. Regarding the Trans Pacific Partnership, the rules in it require that if a government implements a national pharmacy program, the same supply and distribution systems that currently exist must be used. The TPP will grant 2 year extensions to patents. COSCO is pushing for a Seniors Ministry since by 2025 one-fifth of all Canadians will be seniors. Don advised the meeting that seniors can obtain a copy of the BC Senior's Guide from MLA offices. It contains information and contact data for Health, Money, Safety, Security, Benefits and Lifestyle and is a very useful resource for all seniors.

5.4 Report On Constitutional Review Process

Ken reported the following on this review process:

The LPC constitution is an 81 page document in comparison with those of the other parties. In comparison to this, the Conservative Party constitution contains 25 pages while the NDP's has only 20

pages. In addition to this the 13 PTAs and the 4 commissions each have their own national constitutions making for a total of 18 constitutions with a total of several hundred pages. If other Parties can get along with many fewer pages surely the Liberal Party can as well.

The Prime Minister asked the Liberal Party to undertake a modernization of these 18 Constitutions. A Committee was appointed and has been at work on this. Indications are that it will be proposed to eliminate membership and replace it with a classification of a Registered Liberal. This will eliminate the need for significant efforts to have people become and remain members. It will also mean the end of the efforts required to be a delegate to a Convention. The changes will include administrative changes based on the very successful BC model. Another change involves a simplified policy development process, while another change will involve ending the joint provincial/federal parties in Atlantic Canada. The 4 Commission and 13 Provincial/Territorial Constitutions will become bylaws to the LPC Constitution.

A survey will be distributed, to all Canadians, for them to share their views on this process with the Liberal government.

Next Meeting April 13, 2016