



# BCRPVPA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (VIRTUAL)

Date: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Dates for 2020 - 2021

**Executive Meetings @ 10:00 a.m.    General Meetings @ 9:30 a.m.**

~~Tuesday, September 15, 2020~~

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 AGM

## 2020 – 2021 BCRPVPA EXECUTIVE & ROLES

President: Christine Johnson | Vice-President: Gerald Soon | Past President: Ted St. Pierre | Treasurer: Lanny Young | Secretary: Celina Mau | Scholarships: Jeff Larcombe, Allan Buggie, Christine Johnson, Gerald Soon | Membership & Sunshine: Bonnie Deren | Benefits: Marsha Arnold, Allan Buggie; | Technology: Ted St. Pierre | Communications & Newsletter: Celina Mau | Speakers: Eileen Phillips | Joy Ruffeski: Survey and Looking Forward | Vivian Rygnestad: Looking Forward

Order	Item	Owner
1.	Welcome; Call to Order; Quorum achieved - at 10:08 a.m. on Zoom	Committee
2.	Adoption of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Moved] Gerald Soon [Seconded] Marsha Arnold</li> </ul>	Committee
3.	Adoption of General Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, Jan 22nd 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Moved] Christine Johnson [Seconded] Gerry Tiede</li> </ul>	
	<b>Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2020</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented as per attachment sent to members from an earlier confirmed email</li> </ul>	
4. <b>REPORTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved a balance of expenditures and revenues.</li> <li>C-19 has helped our association reduce some anticipated costs.</li> <li>As of the end August, membership renewal dues came in as projected revenue.</li> </ul>	Lanny Y.
	<b>President's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per attached report</li> <li>Sad News received about the passing of Gordon Moffat, member of BCPVPA &amp; BCRPVPA, who was instrumental in establishing BCPVPA. We will publish in our Fall Newsletter the two articles written of him by his friends and colleagues. Obituary already in local newspaper. On behalf of the members of BCRPVPA, condolences to his family and friends regarding his passing.</li> </ul>	Christine J.



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### **Vice-President's Report**

- As per attached report, Gerald shared his deep appreciation of continued support from the BCPVA staff. He welcomed new members to continue joining us on Zoom.
- In the role of ex-officio, traditionally, VP supports our President in whichever capacity and serves on the pre-determined committee, not to mention his participation in BCPVPA Chapter Council Meetings, likely to be conducted virtually this year.

Gerald S.

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### **Technology Updates**

- Website totally updated since June 30, 2020
- Upcoming newsletters to be posted once published as well as Minutes of our GM and AGM
- May 2020 AGM Minutes and Technology Report already posted onto our association website
- Interesting facts? 440+ hits by end of September 2020; each hit lasted about 49 seconds.

Ted S.

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### **Communication Updates**

- Presented as per attached report
- Fall Newsletter to be sent to members sometime in November. Deadline of article submission to Celina by October 31<sup>st</sup> (new date!)
- Recruitment: Looking for a member who is willing to take on the position of Newsletter Editor with no distribution task. Please contact our President, Christine if interested. Thank you!

Celina M.

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### **Benefits/Affinity**

- Presented as per report on New Affinity Partnerships and an update on Johnson Insurance and Trip Merchant.
- Please check out our website for all current sales and newsletters.
- Also, we had 8 enquiries that we responded to. Thank you Gerald for his support.
- Members are encouraged to send their questions to our website, [info@bcprvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcprvpa.ca). Yammer is another platform for our members to obtain updates on sales, price savings, etc. For example, Trip Merchant just finished a contest and very few members participated in its contests. Now the contest is for a trip to Portugal, please consider participating in the contest by clicking onto its website.

Marsha A.

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### ***Pension (by Gerry Tiede, BCRTA Past President & ACER/CART President)***

- Slides presentation of Executive Summary from the TPP website ([www.tpp.bc.ca](http://www.tpp.bc.ca)):
  - Please consult pages 6, 12 and 13 that would be of specific interest to our members. Topics included



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comparative charts from rates of return, investment performance, to COLA, etc.

- To come from Gerry: Gerry is currently preparing a 10-15 minute Zoom presentation for BCRTA. Stay tuned for update on this to be offered to our BCRPVPA members.
- Congratulations! In June 2020, Gerry was appointed as President of ACER/CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers). Membership cost is really low & it's worth joining as a group!
- With great appreciation to Gerry for 'popping in' virtually to share such valuable information with our members!

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### Scholarships

- Thank you to Gerald for hosting an 'in-person' committee meeting
- Thank you to Marsha for securing the HearingLife Scholarship of \$2,500. Scholarship amount could be divided into different recipients or given to one recipient, at the discretion of the committee.
- 24 applications received this year and last year was 35.
- Applicants much more wide spread this year province-wide than before, attested by the committee on equal representation!
- Close to making the final selection of scholarship recipients
- Article submission to Celina by October 31<sup>st</sup> – New Date!
- Committee members: Christine, Gerald, Allan (had to leave due to personal commitment)

Jeff L.

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### Membership & Sunshine

- Membership: as per attached report
- Database update to [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca)
- Members are reminded to notify us at [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca) if their email or mailing address has changed or should change during the year
- Sunshine, on behalf of BCRPVPA, to send sympathy card to Gordon Moffat's family

Bonnie D.

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### Speakers & Program Topics

- The entire executive and general membership feed into the selecting of topics and speakers via word of mouth and surveys.
- Please contact me, [ephillips555@gmail.com](mailto:ephillips555@gmail.com) if you know of a great speaker or would like to contribute. Newsletter articles are welcome as well as or in lieu of a presentation.
- Today's presentation timing will be tight, with 3 speakers. – Ground rules: please ask questions of interest to our general membership and leave questions pertaining to your specific situation for later. Each presenter will give his or her contact information. Thank you!

Eileen P.



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**Mentorship Program Year #4****5. NEW BUSINESS**

- Zoom meeting of 28 mentors/mentees in attendance last June. BCPVPA were still looking for 3 more mentors for mentees from up North to locally in Metro Vancouver.
- Thank you to all the mentors for supporting our mentees under the ‘trying’ circumstances and current climate.

Christine, Ted

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**Survey Report**

- Statistically reliable due to the 35% respondents’ rate.
- Report to appear in our November 2020 Newsletter
- Big Theme Topics identified as members’ interests: Health & Wellness; Legal, Health Prevention, Arts & Hobbies, Travels, Pension Update; Virtual Vs In Person GM (increase virtual), our website, Affinity, etc.
- However, not much interest in information pertaining to volunteerism

Joy R

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**A Warm Welcome to our BCPVPA Executive Director, Kevin Reimer**

- All virtual meetings this year to ensure personal safety and healthy practices during C-19 pandemic
- Question from Eileen: How could we, BCRPVPA, help BCPVPA? (Kevin’s response) Members were very appreciative of our BCRPVPA letters of support sent in both spring and fall. Connectedness with BCPVPA would be key, as it has been immensely challenging times for our working members since March. Students were happy to be back to school. In September, all sites were focused on health and safety. Lots of time and energy were spent on meeting people’s needs and establishing regular safety routine. Now P/VPs have turned a corner and have just begun to devote their time back to educational topics with staff. One important note, recently, BCPVPA has noticed an increase of P/VPs experiencing mental health challenges leading to long term disabilities, and ‘burn out’ causing many who have chosen to return back to the classroom or take leaves. Though the numbers were small, yet it is still a concern to the association.
- Mentorship Program update – this year 25 mentees, an increase from 16 since its inception. Allison did a wonderful job but not sure if BCPVPA could continue to keep her on staff for the project using the MOE funding. Moving forward, the Association would need to have a systemic program to support our VPs & Ps. More to come later.
- To conclude, Kevin thanked Christine and BCRPVPA for inviting him to share a few words on behalf of BCPVPA.

Christine J.

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**Adjournment at 11:21 a.m.**

Committee

**6. Guest Speakers**

11-12:00/pm Guest Speakers, Hearing Life, Collette Travel, Reps. from Medoc – introduced by Eileen P and Marsha A.

Eileen P.



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- HearingLife (Laurie Van Wyk, Director of Partner Program/Cheryl Anderson, Affinity Partner Coordinator)
    - All presentations are virtual these days due to C-19 with service by appointments only. Staff wear clear masks to serve clients.
    - Exclusive partnership with BCRPVPA with dedicated website ([www.hearinglife.ca/bcrpvpa](http://www.hearinglife.ca/bcrpvpa)), already posted onto our BCRPVPA website if members interest in pursuing/exploring. An impressive website!
    - Comments from the floor: Marsha, on our behalf, thanked HearingLife for the donation of the scholarship fund and our committee would soon be finalizing the decision of scholarship recipient(s).
    - Background Information: beyond 60+, consider conducting a baseline hearing testing
    - Exclusive members such as BCRPVPA: Upon testing, clients to receive \$50 Air Miles rewards. Purchase perks with our BCRPVPA card would include 25% off plus another 10% discount as promotion + 3 year complimentary batteries
  - Collette Travel (John Garson)
    - Due to family emergency, John was unable to join us on Zoom.
    - Executive might consider inviting him back in 2021 - to decide later.
    - (Marsha) Go to Collette's website for more information on our offerings.
  - MEDOC updates (Lisa Hansen, Senior Consultant, Group Benefits, Western Region & Mark Costales, Group Benefits Consultant)
    - Slide presentation topics included the evolution of the last 9 months in travel industry and insurance coverage impact. Statistics were produced by Willis Towers Watson. PDF of the presentation would be uploaded onto our website with a short summary report to appear in our Fall Newsletter.
      - March – April on trip cancellation claims, trip interruptions & medical claims
      - May - June on backlog and catch up
      - Summer & beyond on expiration of travel credits/vouchers as well as booking cancellations
      - Now into Fall/Winter? Coverage heading into 2021
    - CFAR (Cancel For Any Reason) - could become the future of travel coverage. It is very expensive! For example, 9/11 re: terrorism was the result of CFAR.
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- Watch for updates coming from the class action lawsuit against Canadian Airlines, as it would affect refunds & claims obligations. Please stay tuned as information becomes available.
- Future of travels? Please take a read of the results from the Trip Merchant Survey dated in April 2020. The survey results covered personal travels as per needs (2<sup>nd</sup> home elsewhere) + a return to air travels
- Supporting customers: Johnson along with nationwide customers were trying to deal with the unknowns of C-19 since the spring lockdown. Coverage renewal in January 2021 with 4 months (Sept-Dec 2020) of FREE coverage. Reminder that C-19 coverage is already included for our existing members. 2021 Trip Insurance on costs and changes will be shared with members once details are finalized.
- Prestige Health, Dental & Home Insurance Update - The Plan was designed for members by members since its inception a few years ago, as could be attested by Gerald Soon, our VP. Anticipation that there would be no change in those rates in general except for those impacted by the 'age band'.
- Watch for new coverage to launch next September 2021
- Home Insurance available to members with perks! For full details, please check out its website: <https://group.johnson.ca/bcpvpa/en/bc>, or BCRTA website: <http://bcrtajohnson.ca/>
- Best Friendly Advice - read own policy; know the coverage, exclusions & limitations. Download information: <https://travel.gc.ca/mobile>, or call Johnson 866-799-0000, or go to the website: <https://group.johnson.ca/bcpvpa/en/bc>
- Lisa Hansen: [lhansen@johnson.ca](mailto:lhansen@johnson.ca) on group benefits
- Question? What to do with plane tickets not fully refunded by the airline? (Answer) When opting for cash refund, portion not refunded by airlines could apply for claim.

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7.	Light Lunch from 12:04 p.m.	Self
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### **ATTACHMENT OF REPORTS**

#### **President's Report for BCRPVA General Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020**

A warm welcome to everyone, General Members, Members of the Executive, Speakers, and Guests. It's great that we are all able to get together in this format which allows so many to join us who can't usually travel to our meetings. Many of us have probably been glad to be able to keep in touch with



friends and family thanks to virtual forms of communication. We are adapting to circumstances, which suit the times.

Our main focus this year is Looking Forward as we consider what we now do to serve the needs of our Association and how we can better serve those needs in the future. The results of our recent survey will greatly aid us in this task and a big thank you goes to all of those who participated. Many thanks go to Joy Ruffeski for spearheading this undertaking. She will speak to us about the survey results later in the meeting. We welcome too any feedback from our members that will aid us in looking attentively at what our Association does well and how it could be improved.

In September 2020, a letter of support on behalf of the BCRPVPA was sent to the BCPVPA and its members. This letter will appear in its entirety in the next Newsletter.

The Newsletter is an aspect of our work which is much appreciated and which has been assembled and distributed by Celina Mau. Thanks to Celina. She will now focus on other duties and we feel that the Newsletter could be assembled from home by a member who would like to help out, who knows her/his way around a computer, and for whom distance is a possible concern. That person would, of course, receive help and wouldn't be expected to be responsible for distribution. If you know anyone who would be a good fit, please approach him/her.

The Mentorship Program continues also to seek out mentors for new Elementary Principals in Kelowna, Campbell River, and the Lower Mainland. If anyone is willing to be a mentor, I'm happy to pass you on to Alison Davies, the Programme Director, who will be able to tell you more.

On a personal note I would like to mention a wonderful Webinar which I recently "attended" from Vimy Ridge in France. More about Vimy Ridge can be accessed on [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca)

Again, welcome to all and we look forward to everyone's participation in the General Meeting.

### **Vice-President's Report by Gerald Soon**

It is a pleasure to be back on the Executive of the BCRPVPA once again, this time in the role of VP. During this Pandemic, it is unfortunate that we cannot meet together as we have in the past at the BCPVPA building in Vancouver. The BCPVPA has decided for the safety of all its staff to distance where possible, and for the meantime, not have meetings onsite. We are thankful for and acknowledge the generous assistance that we continue to receive from the BCPVPA staff, such as member services, accounting services, and organizational support of our scholarship/bursary applications.

One benefit for our membership during Covid-19 precautions is that we are able to include more members in the meetings that we are conducting online. Welcome to those who are virtually attending!

As VP my role is to assist the President, take over should she be unable to conduct or attend a meeting, to be an ex-officio member on the Scholarship/Bursary committee, and to attend any Chapter Council meetings of the BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association which will necessarily be held electronically. Reports on Chapter Council will be given in a future meeting.



I would encourage our members to continue to support our working colleagues. What a challenging environment to be an educator! Be vocal! Let your supportive voice be heard in the community about the challenges facing teachers and administrators.

### **Communication Report for October 15, 2020 GM by Celina Mau**

1. Members' Update
  - a. July 9, 2020 Members' Update
    - i. 752 members - 26 w/o emails = 726 emails sent
    - ii. Emails bounced back: 24 (11+6+7 from the 3 batches)
  - b. September 24, 2020 Members' Update
    - i. 752 members - 27 w/o emails = 725 emails sent
    - ii. Emails bounced back: 16 (4+4+8 from the 4 batches)
  - c. September 25, 2020 Survey Monkey
    - i. 725 emails uploaded to survey site
    - ii. Emails bounced back: unknown; please check with Joy R. as she's our survey manager
2. Fall Newsletter
  - a. Theme: Summer 'Staycation' + Autumn Days
  - b. Article submission deadline: Wednesday, October 21, 2020
  - c. Publication & Distribution date: week of November 2 for both emails & postage mail outs
3. Recruitment: Newsletter Editor under Communication
  - a. Communication through email & postage mail outs are KEY to keeping our members connected with one another and stay together within our association. Please consider taking on one of the two portfolios as we welcome 'new blood with new ideas' into our executive! If interested, contact our President, Christine Johnson. Thank you!

### **Membership Report by Bonnie Deren**

We presently have 753 members. In order to receive newsletters and meeting updates, members are reminded to notify us at [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca) if their email address should change during the year.

### **Affinity and Benefit Report -October 2020 AGM (Amended version) by Marsha Arnold**

BCRPVPA has added Iris, HearingLife and Collette to our roster of partnerships that add value to a BCRPVPA membership.

While trying to keep on top of changes and sales that our affinity partners have been offering we have continued to pursue other opportunities.

Presently we are working with Fresh Prep and a cellphone company to see if we can find savings and value for our members. Keep checking for new offerings.

In addition, we are pleased to announce a \$2500 yearly scholarship/bursary funding secured with HearingLife. Looking forward to other future partnerships that may support aspiring students. HearingLife and Collette will be introducing themselves at our Zoom AGM on October 15th.



Associate membership is a terrific way of keeping extended health and travel benefits for partners upon member's death. Members and associate members can move between different plans if they have had continued coverage. e.g. dental with Green Shield and extended health and travel with Prestige.

Further information can be found at <https://bcrpvpa.ca/membership-benefits/>

With encouragement from our educational partners, MEDOC and Prestige Johnson insurance plans have extended free premium dates until January 1, 2020.

Rates have stayed the same as 2019 and the comparison chart between Green Shield and Prestige found under the benefits link has not changed.

The relationship we have with MEDOC and Johnson home insurance is actually tied into the BCPVPA so that we could get the volume of members we needed to provide group discounted rates.

All numbers are reported annually to BCPVPA and in 2019 there were 813 MEDOC and 178 Johnson Home insurance subscribers between our two organizations.

Unfortunately the rates for MEDOC increase at age 76, but coverage remains the same and stability clause remains @ 90 days where other coverages available in the marketplace may reduce number of days of travel or have longer stability clauses (182 days) and benefits are sometimes reduced as well. (Note: Prestige Johnson has no stability clause) Members are now covered for COVID related travel illnesses. MEDOC'S intention was to launch a 93 day travel plan this year in addition to the 62 day option but COVID changed things so that is on hold and will be reviewed at next renewal. See website for rate chart and MEDOC's explanation of current coverage under Newsletters and Updates.

To review BCRPVPA/BCRTA Prestige plan

see <https://secureservercdn.net/166.62.110.232/ag4.cb6.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Johnson-BCRPVPA-Prestige-Plan-Summary-FINAL-2019.pdf>

Members can also sign up for just health or dental coverage and not take the travel coverage. Johnson is working on finalizing the travel rate for the 2021 reduced year (renewal will run on travel from January to August) instead of September to August. Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales, senior Johnson Insurance consultants, will also be presenting at our October 15th AGM.

While we never endorse particular companies, we do share information with members to keep them informed of options through Yammer, Newsletters and on our website.

Please find the updated Affinity/Benefit details and current discounts/sales under Newsletters on our webpage <https://bcrpvpa.ca/membership-benefits/>. While there is a great deal to learn about travel if you explore Trip Merchant or Collette, we are presently working on including more information on Health and Wellness, travel and other areas of interest. Checkout McMaster's Optimal Aging for current research: [www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org](http://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org)

Taking a look BCRPVPA web page In the last 30 days there has been 58 visits to the benefit portion of our webpage and this usage is reflected in survey data. Sadly only 12 members participated in the



recent Trip Merchant contest and a University of Saskatchewan colleague won the trip to Whistler. Just more chances for Allan Buggie and I to win! Right now there's a trip to Portugal in 2021 up for October.

With Gerald Soon's support, we have responded directly to 8 members' queries and concerns this year. We encourage members to contact us at [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca) should they wish; further clarification, have suggestions or comments, need to update an address/email or even to replace a lost BCRPVPA membership card. (Card needed to access HearingLife savings)