

# BCRPVPA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2019

Time: 9:30am Social followed by meeting at 9:45am

**Executive Members 2018-2019:** President: Ted St. Pierre | Vice-President: Christine Johnson | Treasurer: Lanny Young | Secretary: Celina Mau | Past President: Eileen Phillips | Communications/Technology: Graham Mulligan / Jeff Larcombe | Scholarships: Allan Buggie / Jeff Larcombe / Christine Johnson | Benefits / Affinity / Pensions: Gerald Soon | Pensions: Gerry Tiede | Membership & Sunshine: Bonnie Deren | Archives: Vivian Rygnestad

Regrets from the Executive: Graham M.; Bonnie D.; Gerry T.

Order	Item	Owner
	<b>Welcome; Call To Order @ 9:55 am</b>	
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quorum achieved; Ted Talk on mental well-being in our senior years as per the morning's CBC report</li> <li>14 members attended</li> <li>Thank you to Lanny for such a variety of yummy &amp; healthy goodies!</li> </ul>	Ted S.
	<b>Adoption of Agenda</b>	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Moved] Gerald S.; [Seconded] Allan B.;</li> <li>[Against] Nil; [Abstained] Nil;</li> <li>[Unanimous] Adoption of the Agenda</li> </ul>	Ted S.
	<b>Adoption of General Meeting Minutes October 23, 2018</b>	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[Moved] Joy R.; [Second] Lanny Y.;</li> <li>[Against] Nil; [Abstained] Nil;</li> <li>[Unanimous] Minutes approved</li> </ul>	Ted S.
	<b>Treasurer (October 31 balance)</b>	
4.REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treasurer Reports adopted as presented (see handout)</li> <li>Q&amp;A: 1) What to do with a \$50,000+ in account? 2) Does the executive want to consider using some of the funds to address member needs in rural areas? Ted responded that annually, our association spends \$20,000 on scholarships, newsletter mail outs (\$16/member/year), etc. Thus, by June year end, it will be @ \$30,000 approximately. Ted also pointed out that when he first joined the association 9 years ago, the association was @ a deficit. Little by little, the association worked towards being more fiscally responsible. For example, one of the projects was to align technological needs by sending e-correspondence, hence we now have fewer members requesting hard print copies. That used to be a huge cost! However, the flip side is the rise of technology cost to keep our website maintained; Yammer and Survey Monkey are a few of the e-communication tools that incur costs. To conclude, more thoughts need to be put into addressing our rural members' needs and Mike McComb</li> </ul>	Lanny Y.

Order	Item	Owner
	<p>said that he would consider 'mulling it over' before presenting it under "New Business" in future General Meetings.</p>	
	<p><b>Chapter Council November 23-24, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please read her November 2017 executive meeting report.</li> </ul> <p><u>Chapter Council, Friday November 23 + Saturday November 24, 2018</u></p> <p><u>General Info from Friday</u></p> <p>██████████ 40% of Chapter Presidents are new to the job – new President is David c          – Kevin Reimer is Executive Director – from August 3 1, 2017-July 31, 2018* BCI has had 1067 inquiries with more than 900 members requesting support – other sup Retirement seminars, Short Course, Presentations on Volume &amp; Complexity, Prese by Negotiation Representatives, and Presentations on Understanding Your Contract</p> <p>██████████ Guest Speaker — Woody Bradford. Asst. Sup. of Langley — Leadership <u>Learning Pathways</u></p> <p><u>General Info from Saturday</u></p> <p>– Negotiations (Using slido.com - #CC NOVI 8) — moderately, extremely, somewhat, not at all - concerned percentages by answers on computer – as of 2007 the BCPSEA S don't apply to Superintendents – the BCPVPA negotiations and Language are in line BCPSEA Employment Standards</p> <p>– "Terms and conditions must be open to review &amp; negotiation on a regular basis, at once every five years or at the request of either party." - 95.06 of the BCPSEA – <u>Ben update</u> claims = Dental- 36%, EHC-33%,LTD-27%, Life Ins-4%/0</p> <p>– Amt paid differs from District to District</p> <p>– <u>Early Intervention Program</u> - "The Well Teacher" by Wade Repta of humanwork Districts now members</p> <p>– AGM – Deputy Education Minister. Scott MacDonald</p>	Christine J.
	<p><b>Communications; Technology; Newsletter (with Jeff L.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Ted) Graham sent out our first Newsletter in December 2018. Happy Holidays message was sent to our members via e-blast.</li> <li>(Ted) Technology update: FYI, annually, there is a cost involved to maintain our website, Yammer (Tech Tone), Survey Monkey, etc. Executives are exploring the push of Yammer to improve association communication with members.</li> <li>(Jeff) Jeff spent some quality time to edit Graham's 45 minutes presentation on Yammer to a 10 minute video, which is now posted on YouTube. Members are welcome to learn about Yammer and its potential via the YouTube.</li> <li>(Mike McC) Mike agreed that Yammer is a good tool for communication with our members. A case in point, many of our retired members were currently on Yammer about our medical plan: Green Shields vs. Pacific Blue Cross as we spoke!</li> <li>(Celina) 34+hard copies of December 2017 Newsletter will be mailed out today with the clerical help of BCPVPA</li> </ul>	Graham M.

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	<p>staff. Assistance from BCPVPA staff includes preparation and printing of members' address labels, photocopying of our coloured newsletters and posting postage for the mail outs, etc. A special appreciation to Ted &amp; Gerald for their help in ensuring that our December 2018 Newsletters were ready for mail outs!</p>	
	<p><b>Benefits; Affinity; Pensions (with Gerry T.)</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please read his attached report on topics such as updates on our Affinity travel benefit, status of Bill 37,</li> <li>• 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment is a 2.2% increase. This increase is based on the base-pension said amount (for the rest of life) @ time of retirement. Initial guarantee of the said amount is either 10 or 15 years then afterwards, beneficiary will be guaranteed for the rest of his/her life as per chosen option. FYI, if by chance, in one given year, our cost of living adjustment is faced with a decrease, TPP will not take it off from our base-pension dollar. Instead, it will be adjusted to re-balance the year after. That way, members will not be faced with a loss during the year as a result of such an adjustment decrease.</li> </ul>	Gerald S.
	<p><b>Scholarships (with Allan B., Jeff L. &amp; Christine J.)</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past 2 to 3 years, scholarships given were raised from \$2,000 to \$5,000 yearly. Committee members, on our behalf, will consider providing more scholarships in future years.</li> <li>• Scholarship recipients' blurb and photo: It has become increasingly harder to obtain photos from our recipients at the time of the award event. Hence, a decision was made from the committee to drop the 'photo option'. Moving forward, committee members will prepare articles from the blurb provided, along with the 'warm &amp; fuzzy'. Applicants are now from all over BC, hence the words are out!</li> <li>• A special thank you to the committee: Allan B., Jeff L. &amp; Christine J! Much appreciated.</li> </ul>	Jeff L.
	<p><b>Speakers</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today's speaker is Kris Taylor from Business Development on 'Investment Fees &amp; You'.</li> <li>• Next speaker will be Paul Berry, a retired administrator, who is involved in Search &amp; Rescue work, as well as being an instructor for the Justice Institute, etc.</li> <li>• Our May AGM will feature our in-house executive member as speaker, Jeff L., on Gardening. Jeff is very humble about his gardening skills but really, he is a</li> </ul>	Eileen P.

Order	Item	Owner
	master gardener! We look forward to learning from him @ our AGM!	
	<b>Membership &amp; Sunshine</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Ted) 737 members as of yesterday, a few increase since December 2018 retirement.</li> </ul>	Bonnie D.
	<b>Archives</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vivian, our Historian, shared with the group about our association history and her consultation with other seasoned BCRPVPA members with respect to an Historian Project. The tentative plan may include using the money to hire a professional writer, in order to document the evolution of our association from BCTF days to BCPVPA, and now BCRPVPA!</li> <li>(Gerald) Records of BCRPVPA in its early days like newsletters, minutes, agenda, history and evolution of our association, etc. are now in Gerald's possession. He will be passed it on to Vivian.</li> <li>A huge thank you to one of our original members for his donations!</li> </ul>	Vivian R.
	<b>President</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ted would like us to know that we work in very close connection and in tandem with many other associations like BCPVPA, BCRTA, BCTF, etc.</li> <li>For example, @ the recent BCTF AGM, BCRTA expressed that it wants to move away from BCTF active members' business so as to devote more time and energy towards the needs of the RTA members.</li> <li>Another example is BCPVPA because the office staff treats us well and accommodate our RVPVA needs as cited from the aforementioned executive reports. In return, annually, we presented to them a small token of appreciation during various festivities. This Christmas, on our members' behalf, Ted and Christine presented to BCP staff with a few 'thank you' baskets. Other appreciation celebrations include Back to School reception, year-end recognition luncheon, etc.</li> <li>With respect to our website and President Inbox, lately, there had been quite a few emails derived from generic 'Ads' (info@xxx.com). Both Eileen as Ted agreed that much time as President was spent daily verifying the genuine of these email addresses as true members of our association. Ted will attempt during his tenure to see if he could find a simplified solution to this problem. Many Past Presidents concurred and felt that this type of soliciting e-Ads will occur more frequently as we move towards a technological era!</li> </ul>	Ted S.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email blast through Yammer – A huge thanks to Graham for his diligent work!</li> <li>Newsletter article contribution to Ted via <a href="mailto:Info@bcrpvpa.ca">Info@bcrpvpa.ca</a> by next week for our next Newsletter.</li> <li>Website maintenance is now done by Ted, our current President! Needs to be updated all the time as members and ‘web cruisers’ contact BCP office receptionist for our association up-to-date information. Many members rely on our website to obtain updated information. (Eileen) Future consideration to upgrade our website maintenance for easy access!</li> <li>We are also in partnership with other associations such as TPP on Pension, Medical Benefits, Travel Perks, etc.</li> <li>BCPVPA Mentorship Program is a service that our retired administrators provide to mentor our active provincial working administrators. Please consider applying to be a mentor for sustainability, succession.</li> </ul>	

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

	<b>Adjournment</b>	
6.	[Moved] Christine J.; [Second] Eileen P.; [Against] Nil; [Abstained] Nil; [Unanimous] Adjournment @ 11:23 a.m.	Ted S.
	Guest Speaker: Kris Taylor “Investment Fees & You”. (Lanny to introduce & thank Kris) with gift from Eileen. Outline of presentation is included in email blast from Graham Jan. 06.	
11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A presentation of the types of investments for member consideration as well as fees incurred (hidden or otherwise) as per the financial institution rules and regulations. Watch for pitfalls!</li> <li>The major takeaway for attendees was to go back to our investment statements to check on the key points brought forth. Maybe a lesson on how to read those investment statements is in order for us general layman?</li> </ul>	Lanny Y.

**Future General Meetings:**

- Tuesday, March 19, 2019
- Tuesday, May 07, 2019

## Benefits, Affinity and Pensions – January 2019 –

by Gerald Soon

### Affinity update:

The Affinity travel benefit has changed for the better! Below is an article I wrote regarding the changes.

The travel benefit and website has changed to better meet the needs of our members.

Trip Merchant has negotiated special membership savings directly with travel suppliers. Members can save as much as 30% on travel experiences. The offers available on this site are extended to your friends and family.

The new URL for the website is: <https://bcrpvpa.tripmerchant.ca/>

**The site is now password protected.** Once you enter the password, it also can be saved so you always have access to the site, designed by Trip Merchant. Our logo is at the top left of the page.

The password that you must enter: **BCRPVPATM18**

Explore the site! You will see a number of headers: Member benefits, Deals, Travel Styles, Destinations, Travel Tips & News, and Newsletter Sign Up. To the far right is a “search” function.

If you have previously signed up for the travel newsletter, you need to do nothing, it will automatically come to you twice a month. If you have not yet signed up, do so directly on the site. You will then be notified of group departures, new deals, live online travel presentations, and last - minute offers.

Travel styles include ocean cruises, river cruises, guided tours, adventure and active travel, African Safaris, Rail journeys, Solo travel, Long Stay Vacations, and more.

Solo travelers will be pleased to know that there is no single supplement for single travel!

At present there are 120 travel products available to our members. If you travel using one of these products through the website you are eligible for the Loyalty program. 2% Cash rewards for each trip you take go into a Loyalty account. The money accumulates and can be applied to a future trip that you take. You decide when you want to use the Loyalty funds! Hotels offered have member benefits attached as well.

To make a booking request, click on the travel product you are interested in, and a summary of the product you are interested in opens. If you are interested in a quote based on your departure dates and air gateway, you can call the number if provided or simply click on "request a quote." Please note that the offers on the site can only be accessed through the site and the supplier partners featured, otherwise the savings and loyalty travel dollars will not apply.

Explore the website and see what savings you might benefit from for being a member of the BCRPVPA!

The BCRPVPA is pleased that our Affinity Travel Benefit has improved! Happy travelling!

### **Bill C-27**

I have been following this bill in Parliament, and get email alerts/updates whenever there is any reference to the bill. The status of the bill is "dormant," although it has been in "Second Reading" as of October 19, 2016. Most recently there has been a further petition for the government to withdraw the bill.

#### Bill C-27

Date	Remarks
Dec 3 18	Dan Albas Conservative presents petition against Bill C-C7
Oct 22 18	Mark Warawa Conservative presents petition against Bill C-27
Oct 19 18	Wayne Stetski NDP presents petition against Bill C-27
Oct 15 18	Richard Cannings NDP presents petition against Bill C-27
Oct 3 18	Serge Boisseau, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Nat Assoc Fed Retirees presents to Finance Committee calling for immediate withdrawal of C-27
Oct 2 18	Lorraine Scott Pres. Nat Assoc Fed Retirees presents to Finance Committee calling for reneging C-27
Oct 1 18	Shirley Pierce PEI Nat Assoc of Fed Retirees presents to Finance Committee calling for immediate withdrawal of C-27

Members of Parliament comment on the negative affect of Bill C-27 when they are commenting on other bills as well.

For a full understanding of the bill members may go to this website:

[https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en\\_CA/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/421C27E](https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/421C27E)

For members to better understand the Cost of living adjustments:

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/adjusting-for-inflation>

It was recently announced that there will be a Cost of Living Adjustment for this year.

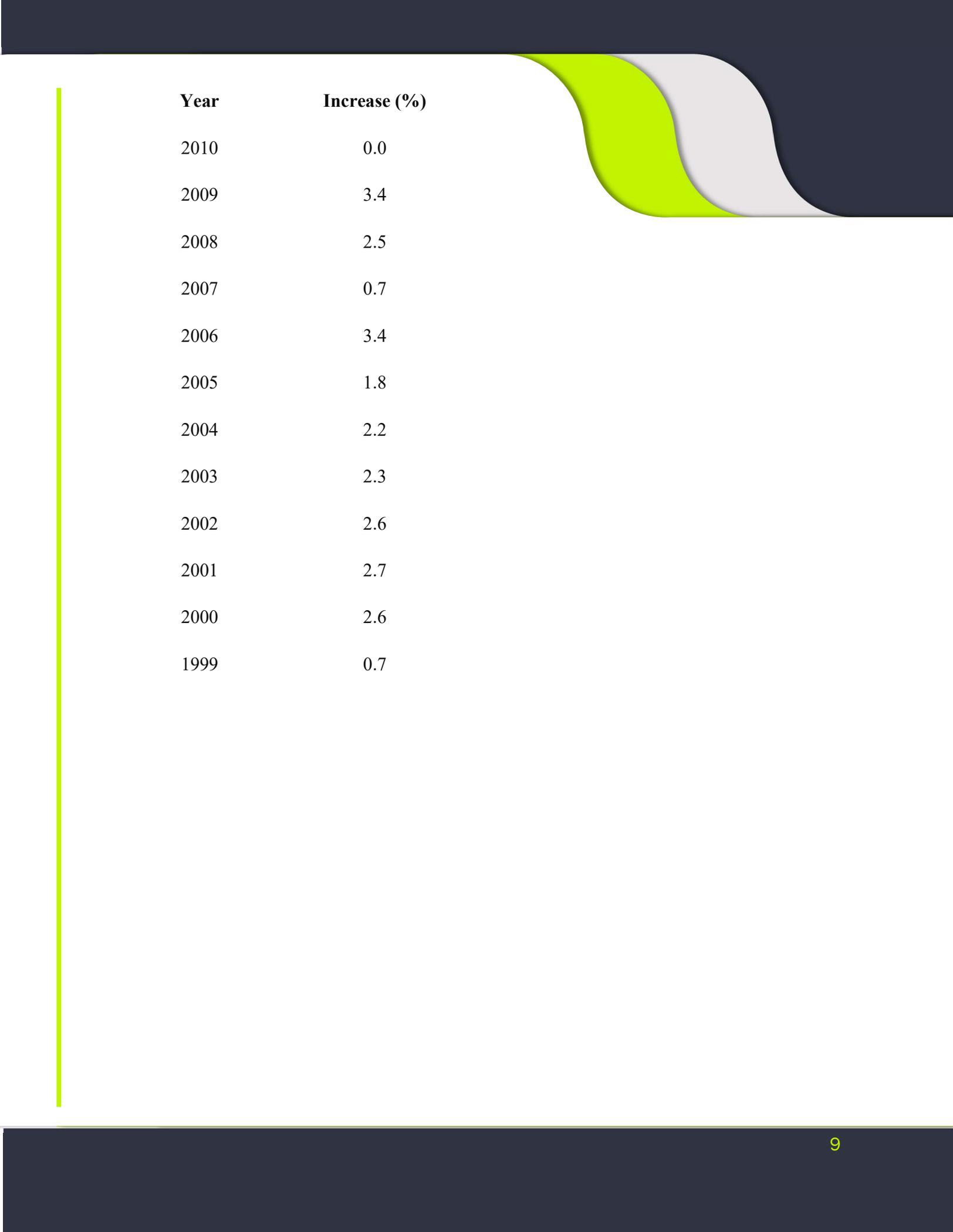
2.2 %

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/web/teachers/cost-of-living-adjustments-your-favourite-type-of-cola>

COLAs are not guaranteed; however, once granted, they become a permanent part of your guaranteed lifetime pension.

The following table shows the COLAs granted since 1999.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
2019	2.2
2018	1.6
2017	1.3
2016	1.0
2015	2.0
2014	1.1
2013	1.2
2012	3.2
2011	1.0



<b>Year</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
2010	0.0
2009	3.4
2008	2.5
2007	0.7
2006	3.4
2005	1.8
2004	2.2
2003	2.3
2002	2.6
2001	2.7
2000	2.6
1999	0.7