

**Approved Minutes March 5, 2026
BCRPVPA General Meeting Agenda:**

Executive: I. Kent, S. Kinnon, S. Baerg,
M. Arnold, D. Loporini, Y. Martinello, , L. Young, B. Deren, J Antosz

Regrets:
J. Larcombe, H. Grant, E. Thompson

Attendance:
Eileen Phillips, Dorothy Watters
Zoom: Christine Barrett

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

1. Welcome - We give thanks and acknowledge that the BCPVPA office is located on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

As well, our heart and minds are focused on the school community and the community at large in Tumbler Ridge. May they receive all the support they need now and into the future.

We will add a statement similar to this to our website.

- 2. Approval of Agenda by consensus
- 3. Approval of the last General meeting minutes – January 20, 2026 by consensus
- 4. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Further discussion occurred regarding the motion brought forward in the November 2025 and February 2026 executive meeting and the January general meeting, related to travel for the BCRPVPA executive.

The following notice of motion will be given to the membership for addition to our constitution at the May 2026 AGM.

This will be placed under Article 11: Association expenses

11.3 With receipts, all Executive Committee Members can be reimbursed up to \$200.00 per month for travel expenses, including mileage, if they travel more than 2 hours in one direction to the onsite executive or general meetings. The total amount reimbursed is not to exceed \$1000.00 per executive member, per fiscal year. Parking fees are excluded from this reimbursement.

Annual review of this particular expense will occur. The intent of this additional clause is to encourage other BCRPVPA members to join the Executive Committee, who may not live in the Lower Mainland.

- b. We have received confirmation of our membership in COSCO (Council of Senior Citizens Organization)
You can go online and sign up for their newsletter:
<https://coscobc.org/contact/>

5. Treasurer’s report – Lanny

Financial Report as of December 31, 2025

Financial Position

Fund Balances as of June 30, 2025 - **\$ 38,473**
Fund Balances as of Dec. 31, 2025 - **\$ 59,159**
(Investments - \$ 17,940.98 + GIC \$ 20,532.02 + Cash \$ 20,686)

Statement of Operations

Revenue from July 1, 2025 to Dec. 31 2025 - **\$ 25,530**
Membership – \$23,760
Investment Interest - \$ 695
Hearing Life Annual Scholarship - TBA
Affinity Program Royalty - \$1,075
(Hearing Life) - \$ 366 (Dec.)
(Belaire Direct) - \$ 473 +236 (Oct./Dec)
Note: - Nov. 2025 cheque (\$ 688) received and deposited in Jan. 2026 – to be reflected at next reporting

Expenditures from July 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025 **\$ 4,844**
Communications/Technology - \$ 721
Meeting Costs - \$1,284
Governance and accounting fees for year-end- \$ 2,834
Bank Charges (e transfers and wire transfers) - \$ 5

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures **\$ 20,686**

6. President's report – Deborah

Survey results: amazing response from our members: over 20% return rate! The executive will discuss future focus areas for surveys at our April executive meeting..

Spring luncheon: Sher Baerg shared the information she has gathered regarding a spring get-together for our membership. Discussion and suggestions occurred. More information coming, when it is available.

CPP – information session opportunity – still waiting for clarification from CPP.

We are looking for Photos for the background of the Chronicles and Capers on line page.

If you have a photo, please send it to:

info@bcrvpa.ca

or

deborahluporini63@gmail.com

7. Vice-President's report – Marsha

BCRPVPA Affinity and Benefits/ Communications

Communications and Technology

Respond to emails re insurance, travel, and other queries.

Continue to update website and provide links on our website– driving members to our website.

New members are sent a brief overview of our Affinity and Benefits opportunities about a month after they join our association.

Free Connected Canadians Cyber Safety Workshop Series Space Still available.

[Free Connected Canadians Cyber Safety Workshops - BCRPVPA](#) Continuing into Feb and April this comprehensive series covers key topics helping members feel more confident and independent while navigating the digital world. These hour workshops are held on Zoom. There are several topics and dates all held at **10:30 am PST**. [Click here](#) to register for each session. Questions: [Contact Connected Canadians / Canadiens Branchés](#) **Has anyone signed up for one of these workshops?**

Tax Tips

I'm happy to let you know that the [2025 Year-End Tax Tips for Entente Members](#) is also available for our membership as well.

Tax Tips is an annual document prepared by Entente's auditors Grant Thornton LLP. It includes tax information and tips that may be relevant to our members for the preparation of tax returns.

The first booklet applies to your federal taxes and then there is province-specific information for those living in British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec.

Marsha addressed a question from a member about the deferral of property taxes. Members who participated in this program should speak to their financial advisor and/or their banking institution to decide what is the best option, given individual circumstances.

Just a reminder, travel insurance is deductible. Greenshield and Belair should be able to give you a summary of your personal charges for the 2025 tax year.







Affinity and Benefits

Reminding members that we have a wide range of benefits: [Benefits - BCRPVPA](#) Callia flowers, Perkopolis, Iris Vision, Park N'Fly, EMS savings, West Jet, Fresh Prep, Bell, Rogers, humanworks, Enterprise, Avis, Collette, Belairdirect Home, Extended Health and Travel Insurance, and more.

Rogers



Your Rogers BCRPVPA Preferred Program

Exclusive Offers for BCRPVPA members:

-  Canada-wide plan with 5GB data – \$25/month (new additional line activations)
-  iPhone 17 Air – \$0/month (after financing credit on select plans)
-  Samsung Galaxy S25 FE – \$1.25/month
-  Google Pixel 10 – \$0/month
-  Rogers Xfinity Internet – \$60/month (2-year term with Auto-Pay)
-  Add a tablet line from \$10/month

(All device offers subject to select plans, financing approval, and applicable terms.)

Access These Offers:

-  Call 1-844-202-0642
-  Email offers@rogersepp.ca

Belairdirect Insurance (underwritten by Intact)

For Travel insurance (formally Medoc) we receive the C1 rates while BCPVPA members receive C6 rates. Chart posted on website.

Please change your affiliation to BC Retired Principals as you could get better rates!!

For your **travel insurance price**, visit belairdirect.com/travel-groups or call 1 833 583-3643 and mention BCRPVPA. Savings: If you have Belairdirect Home insurance you could get an additional 5% off Travel.

To get your **home insurance quote**, visit belairdirect.com/start-saving. Savings: If you have belairdirect Insurance and have paid off your mortgage and/or have made improvements (e.g. Furnace, windows) you could get up to \$500 more off your premiums.

BCRTA's Dogwood Gold Extended Health Insurance and Travel Insurance (through belairdirect)

This plan can be an enhancement or replacement to Green Shield or your current group coverage. Plus, if you join within 60 days of ending your group coverage, you won't need to submit any medical proof of insurability. After the 60-day window, you are required to provide medical proof of insurability. You can continue to change your extended health care coverage every 365 days, if you wish, if you have had continuous EHC coverage.

Why consider this coverage? There is NO deductible, a higher maximum, \$100 vaccine annual coverage and more. See the comparison link below. Also, you receive better service, and someone either answers the phone quickly or calls you back in a timely manner.

You can subscribe to just the extended health plan or do a combined plan with travel and extended health together. The travel plan has no medical form to complete, and it does not have a stability clause which almost every other plan including belairdirect's Travel (formerly Medoc) has. To get a Belairdirect quote call: 1 833 749-1324

[Extended Health Plan Comparison - Green Shield versus BCRTA • BC Retired Teachers' AssociationGB brochure 8.5x14 BCRTA dogwood update 003.indd](#)

Trip Merchant

Trip Merchant, as our organization's travel agency has designed a travel platform exclusively for BCRPVPA members.

Sign up at [Trip Merchant - BCRPVPA](#) for the monthly newsletter

Member Benefits Include:

- Exclusive Member Savings
- Trip Merchant Loyalty Program
- Trip Contests (Vietnam and Cambodia Mekong River Contest right now)
- Trip Itinerary Builder
- Online Presentations
- Exclusive Group Departures with *Trip Merchant Journeys*

Click this URL - <https://tripmerchant.com/register>

Organization Code: Please enter this code exactly as shown **4324**

Collette Travel

Collette is looking to hold a virtual Zoom meeting for our membership about their various travel opportunities. **Are you interested in this hearing about what Collette has to offer?**

Decision: Marsha will connect with them about setting up a time to connect with members who are interested. Member at the meeting preferred Zoom and in the morning.

If you use Trip Merchant to book your Collette trip, you not only receive the Collette BCRPVPA discounts up to \$600, Collette loyalty dollars plus Trip Merchant dollars. [Collette - BCRPVPA](#)
Join other BCRPVPA members on a Collette Discover Scotland adventure Sept 7th – Sept 16th.
Email anelisa@tripmerchant.ca for more information about this exciting trip!

Please know that this is a US company. You can sign on to Collette Travel through Trip Merchant. You can receive financial reductions from BOTH Collette Travel and Trip Merchant combined.

HearingLife

For every free hearing test at any Hearinglife outlet, given that you tell them you are a BCRPVPA member, we receive money towards our scholarships. Last year we received more than \$1400 towards scholarships. Always important to get a baseline assessment by their professional audiologists. Stats Canada reports that 47% of Canadians over 60 have hearing loss. Hearing loss contributes to dementia so get your test today! [Hearing Life - BCRPVPA](#) or <https://hearinglifeadvantage.ca/bcrpvpa/>

Our representative: Cheryl, is retiring. We do have an audiologist coming for our May AGM. Just a reminder to get your hearing checked!

Life Long Learning



Liberal Arts and 55+ Program

Online or in person at the Harbor View Campus
learn@sfu.ca 778-782-8000



University of Victoria **CONTINUING STUDIES @UVIC**

[Home | Continuing Studies at UVic](#) online or in person courses

250-721-7797 lacadmin@uvic.ca | continuingstudies.uvic.ca/arts



[BC Brain Wellness Program](https://alumni.ubc.ca/event) or <https://alumni.ubc.ca/event>

Courses are onsite at UBC or in Kitsilano areas or online. Everything from exercise, creative arts, care giving, cooking and health seminars. Everyone can join these free webinars or courses.

Newsletter

Did you enter the Belairdirect or Where in the World is Jessica A. Contests in the newsletter?

Why not give it a whirl? We have \$25 gift cards to win!

HELP NEEDED - Always looking for articles, quizzes, puzzles, jokes, items of interest, photos, etc. communications@bcrpvpa.ca or info@bcrpvpa.ca

Please email Marsha about sites that you feel might be the best place to have on-site workshops brought to us by Connected Canadians.

8. Membership report - Jessica

As of March 1, 2026
1 new member
0 members deceased
822 members

As of February 1, 2026 new members and members who are now deceased will be noted in the next issue of Chronicles and Capers.

9. Scholarship's report – Jeff (is still in Australia. Deborah gave the update.)

Thank you to: Scholarship committee 2025-2026 members:
Jeff Larcombe, Don Boyd, Jessica Antosz, Yolande Martinello, Vivian Rygstead, Eileen Phillips

As of today, we have received 16 scholarship and bursary applications. Spring Break tends to be a busy time for receiving application

10. Sunshine report – Bonnie

Bonnie was happy to report that she has not sent any sympathy cards since the last meeting.

She forwarded a thank you card to Cheryl Anderson at Hearing Life, as Cheryl is retiring and we appreciate her service and support.

11. New business – Deborah

Questions for today's meeting

Share one thing that surprised you or interested you about the survey responses?
Name one thing that you wonder about as it connects to our membership?

We did not answer these questions as time did not permit us to. Members are encouraged to send any responses to the info@bcprvpa.ca line

Eileen Phillips added a special thank you to Phil Luporini for creating an easy to read and follow on-line newsletter.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES!!

Winners were:

Marsha Arnold

Eileen Phillips

12. Next meeting:

Executive: Tuesday, April 16, 2026 on zoom

AGM and Elections: Thursday, May 21, 2026

13. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Guest speaker: Yolande Martinello: Watercolor Exploration

Guest speaker recording is on our website: