



**SOAR Chapter 3-14
NEWSLETTER**

**SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE
April 2017**

IN THIS ISSUE

The Provincial Election is on Tuesday, May 9th. Some members ask – “Why should I vote? My vote doesn’t count.” There are seven seats where the Liberals won by fewer than 1000 votes, so your vote is important.

We have included in this package the election issue of COSCO News. COSCO is a non-partisan organization. Take a look at the issues that COSCO thinks are important to seniors and compare them to both the Liberals and NDP platforms and see who you think comes closest to what you think.

We have also included the BC FORUM newsletter as well. BC FORUM is affiliated to the BC Federation of Labour and as such is a strong supporter of the NDP. Again, take a look at the issues they feel are important before you make your choice.

We have included a message from Scott Lunny, Assistant to the District 3 Director, which invites your feedback.

The issues SOAR, Chapter 3-14 feels are important are:

1. The Elimination of MSP
2. Affordable Housing
3. Affordable and safe care homes
4. Improved pensions
5. Work with the Federal Government on a Universal Public Drug Plan.

Don’t forget a Government can take away contract gains or through increased taxes and fees, dilute the benefits you have won. A friendly Government can enhance gains through progressive laws.

Your calendar of events gives you the dates for the advance polls. You may find it more convenient and less crowded to vote in the advance polls.



JUST ASKING

Submitted by Kay Noonan
Vice-President, SOAR 3-14

I was listening to the Premier talking about all the jobs she is going to create, and how she is standing with the woodworkers in this province. It really made me ponder about all of our members who lost their jobs starting in the 1970's through the 1990's. Like a lot of people, I went through two company closures. It did get me thinking though.

I guess my questions for Christy are as follows:

Christy, if you are standing up for the lumber industry, why did your government let raw logs be exported, closing down mills in the province? Why did your government bulldoze down St. Mary's hospital in New Westminster, adding to the healthcare problems? Why did your government shut down Riverview, allowing the facility to fall into disrepair, while we have so many homeless people out in the streets with severe mental and drug related problems? Why did your government not stand up for our shipbuilding industry in North Vancouver, and allow government ferries to be built in Poland? Why did your government allow over 500 contracts on B.C. rivers go to independent power producers? Why did your government sell B.C. Rail? Why are you not listening to the experts on the Site C Dam? Why have you allowed ICBC, BC Hydro and MSP premiums to continue to rise to a level that creates a major hardship for seniors and people on low incomes? Why are you taking credit for trying to cool the Vancouver Housing Market, when you certainly were not in favour of doing anything until the public outcry made you react?

I could go on here for some time, the bottom line is, that whichever party wins this election, we need to hold them fiscally responsible. No Premier should be getting an additional paycheque of \$50,000 a year to cover expenses. Enough of the "Let them eat cake" attitude.

JUNE MEETING

Please note that the June meeting has an early start as COSCO will be presenting a workshop on Personal Planning. If this workshop proves popular we may have one per year. There will be a list of workshops available at the June meeting. Please indicate if you would like another workshop and on which subject.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

MAY

May 9 **BC PROVINCIAL ELECTION**
Advance Voting Days (All times – 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
Saturday, April 29; Sunday, April 30; Wednesday, May 3; May 4, Friday, May 5 and
Saturday, May 6.

JUNE

June 14 SOAR General Meeting – 10:00 a.m. USW 1944 Hall, 5261 Lane Street, Burnaby
*Early start for COSCO Workshop Near Royal Oak Station, Free Parking

June 25 USW 2009 Annual Picnic – 10:00 a.m. Bear Creek Park
Note: Picnic is on a Sunday 13750 – 88th Avenue, Surrey

SEPTEMBER

September 4 Labour Day Events – All Day Swanguard Stadium, Burnaby
Mill Lake Park, Abbotsford

September 13 SOAR General Meeting – 11:00 a.m. USW 1944 Hall, 5261 Lane Street, Burnaby
Near Royal Oak Station, Free Parking

DECEMBER

December 13 SOAR Annual Christmas Luncheon 11:00 a.m. USW Hall
202-9292 -200th Street
Langley, B.C.

