

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2022

[www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca](http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

Vol.20 No.05

### Management Committee

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Darryl Stodalka

**Vice President:**  
Gord Cook

**Secretary:**  
Vacant

**Treasurer:**  
Gordon Adair

**Past President:**  
Ron Wood

**Communications:**  
Terry McLeod

**House:**  
Terry McLeod\*

**Membership:**  
Dale Douglas

**Speakers:**  
John Elliott  
604-925-3535

**Special Events:**  
Doug Magoon

\*Interim

### Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Hybrid Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Dr.,  
Coffee/Buns 8:30, Meeting 9:30  
*with speaker*

**Connie Jorsvik, Patient Pathways,**  
*“Navigating the BC Healthcare System”*



Health Care Planning is not just about old age. A medical crisis can happen at any age and leave you too ill to make your own health care decisions. Advance Care Planning is an umbrella of documents and conversations regarding your values, wishes, preferences for future healthcare and who will speak for you when you are not capable of speaking for yourself. Thinking about and organizing this information can reduce stress and chaos during a time of medical crisis.

Connie is an expert in Healthcare and Advance Care Planning in BC. She is the senior healthcare navigator and patient advocate with Patient Pathways that she has owned and operated for more than 10 years. She was an RN for 25 years: 15 in cardiac care. She understands the entire healthcare system which is fragmented and complicated. She empowers adults to take charge of their own health and care, which is more important than ever.

For additional information visit Connie's website at <https://patientpathways.ca>.

### Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



**June 13<sup>th</sup>** - Mark Milke, PhD, Author and Columnist, *“The Victim Cult: How the Grievance Culture Hurts Everyone and Wrecks Civilizations.”*

**July 11<sup>th</sup>** - Kevin Obermeyer, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Pilotage Authority, *“Navigational Safety on the West Coast of Canada”*

## President's Notes



Fellow PROBUS members, the weather plays tricks on my mind. Although average temperatures for April were below seasonal, if we experienced +10C in December, we would think that we were in the tropics. Yet we yearn for warmer days. When they come, they are then too hot it seems. Best to just get outdoors and smile when the sun comes out. Before long, we will be able to get at those outside painting chores. I have been focused lately on planning some travel in 2023 (ever the optimist) and getting my summer toys ready for action (motorcycle and sailboat). That means swapping out the winter tires on the cars as well.

Please keep in mind the shout out that I did last month regarding open opportunities within our management team. I have had one individual express interest in one of the positions but there are still openings. Please reach out to any of us on the management team to talk about anything that may interest you.

Over our 16+ years as a club, we have always welcomed guests. We used to take attendance and charge a few bucks for guests. As we age, we have also mellowed. We welcome guests to our meetings, no charge. Often guests see what a great club we are running and take out a membership. In any case, please bring a friend to a meeting. As we plan to continue to run our meetings hybrid style, this invitation extends to both in person and via Zoom. If possible, please let us know in advance for the "in person meeting" so that we are better able to plan for the coffee and treats.

I hope that all of you enjoy the beauty of spring and stay healthy.

*Darryl Stodalka*



## Communications and House



Last month's meeting WVYC sound issues - It was resolved by reviewing cable connections and should not happen again. Additionally, we will now monitor Zoom delivery and, if required, correct issues 'on-the-fly'.

For those members concerned about additional guests for coffee and treats, Club catering can handle the attendance anomalies.

*Terry McLeod, Communications and House Chair*



## New Members Introduced and Welcomed at April Meeting



**Bob Nash** hails from Manitoba, grew up in Kelowna and has resided in Burnaby since 1984. Bob received a commerce degree from SFU and articulated as a CA and eventually received his Real Estate designation. His work experience involved working for Cumberland and Marathon

Realty and BC Hydro. Bob's interests include golf, pickleball and cycling. He is currently a member of PROBUS Club of Vancouver where he arranged several biking tours for the group.



**Dave Pearson** is originally from Manchester, UK where he received his education in Engineering and has lived in North Vancouver for 20 years. His work background in Engineering was with Termec Engineering specializing in Industrial Power plant design and taking him to several locations in the UK and Canada. Dave's interests include fitness, cycling, model railway building and flying.

## Special Events

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Our planned event for May is a visit to the Pacific Science Enterprises Centre at 4160 Marine Drive, West Vancouver. PROBUS Club members last enjoyed a visit there in March of 2020. The tour will begin at 11:00 am on May 18th. Tour participants are invited to a no-host lunch at the Red Lion Bar & Grill at 2427 Marine Drive, West Vancouver following the tour.

The activities of the Pacific Science Enterprise Centre were well described to our club in a June 2021 presentation by Dr. Steve MacDonald, then Director of the Centre. Their research activities include pollution toxicology, issues related to BC lakes productivity, estuary food chain, molecular genetics, harmful alteration of fish habitat and the development of plant-based products to sustain and grow fish stocks. This should be an interesting and informative visit.

One can sign up for this tour by contacting **Doug Magoon**.

The Special Events Committee is formulating an active events calendar for the coming months, possibly including a couples boat cruise some time this summer. We shall keep members apprised as planning progresses.

*Doug Magoon, Special Events Chair*



# Register Today!

## Last Month Speaker - Sam Cooper

Sam Cooper – Author and Journalist, Currently with Global News based in Ottawa

Money Laundering and Illegal Drugs

Sam's first book "*Willful Blindness*" is an expose of how drugs, transnational crime and money laundering have become embedded in Canadian society with the support and encouragement of the Communist Party of China. This is what he talks about today. He paints a very disturbing picture – one that cries out for action. "*Willful Blindness*" will be published in a second edition in 2022.

He has presented his findings on corruption, money laundering and transnational crime to law enforcement agencies, legal and financial professionals, and academics internationally. Sam broke the BC Casino money laundering story in 2017 and he has stayed on that story since. His reporting undoubtedly led to the launch in 2019 of the public inquiry by the BC Government into the money laundering problems in BC.

Picking up on introductory comments, Sam tells how he "followed the bread crumbs" to stumble on the "whales" (what the gamblers are called). He had made initial inquiries about a major real estate developer who turned out to be a casino "whale", and discovered that the developer was part of a very powerful network involved in an incredible amount of corruption, involving real estate, fentanyl, trade based money laundering, connections to Mexico, and pillaging of BC wildlife (polar bear hides being sent off to other countries). He continues to be surprised by the connections that he uncovers in his investigations.

He found an underground bank called Silver International in Richmond that was moving billions of dollars of criminal proceeds around the world annually. This is covered in his book, and goes much deeper than drug cash.

Reading an excerpt from his book he talks about a whistle-blower in the BC Lottery Commission who leaked him some powerful documents – the most sensitive and important documents he had ever obtained in journalism. These documents gave him the key to the "Vancouver Model" before it had a name. In mid-2015, 36 "Whale gamblers" had been identified connected to the man named Jin, involving \$175M in cash transactions in one year that were all connected to fentanyl traffickers. This and other investigations he reported on showed connections to Vancouver real estate, fentanyl and money laundering, and along with RCMP and IPOC (Integrated Proceeds Of Crime) investigation findings, eventually led to the Cullen Commission.

A prominent Vancouver criminal lawyer, who used to represent the Hell's Angels, found a huge loop-hole in Canada's money laundering legislation by arguing that it would be a violation of solicitor/client privilege to require

them to report suspicious transactions to Fintrac. This meant Fintrac wasn't fully in compliance with international standards. Individuals can do banking with a lawyer involved without having their identity revealed, bypassing a key component of the anti-money laundering system. Since 2004, Ottawa has not been able to close this loop-hole. Then, experts estimated \$17B is laundered through Canada each year; in 2021 the total estimated was up to \$133B.

What is the Vancouver Model? It is really the Macau Model introduced to Vancouver by Hong Kong tycoons and related Triad and corrupt official networks in the late 1980's. The transaction flow is simple – taking loans abroad and paying back to drug bank in Hong Kong or China, or putting a deposit with drug banks in China or Hong Kong, and getting paid out in Vancouver. China has severe limitations on how much money can be taken by individuals out of the country which has led to underground banking to get money out of the country. You can do this by going to Macau and meeting with a street gang member outside of the casino, you take a loan which is provided to you in casino chips, and you pay it back from your bank in China. Now Vancouver is a world-wide HUB of underground banking. The most money in one night for one gambler is estimated to be \$1.2M. Sam stated that: Casinos were purpose built to facilitate this style of money laundering, and this statement is based on his knowledge of police reports and not opinion. Transactions are covered up in many sophisticated ways, such as using shell companies.

Who benefits? Wealthy PRC (People's Republic of China) Nationals can buy homes with laundered drug money in Vancouver. Gangsters can buy homes with laundered drug money in Vancouver; and Tycoons offshore can ultimately develop condos with "cleaned" drug proceeds (fentanyl, heroin and cocaine) that are wired into Canada.

Reading from a report from Fintrac ... it stated that real estate is not the only problem. Demand exists on both sides: organized crime has a lot of cash; Need to move it out of Canada; Chinese citizens have access to tremendous wealth inside China; Limit of \$50K restricts their ability to spend; Leads to development of Services.

A 2012 RCMP secret River Rock and Starlight Casino probe identified money-laundering activity was conducted mainly by wealthy People's Republic of China based gamblers. Proceeds from drug operations or bawdy houses where funds originate are "middle men" who directly supply high-roller gamblers with large quantities of cash on very short notice, in surreptitious locations. Therefore, IPOC believes that the casinos are a very significant source of money laundering activity, using wealthy PRC gamblers

as willing pawns in their activity. The Silver International Bank in Richmond is where the cash is warehoused.

The Cullen Commission has revealed that underground banks in Hong Kong are wiring drug cash in a refined stage straight into Canadian banks. This is a valuable learning from the Commission that it isn't just drug cash coming in duffle bags, but through the underground banks that are run by the TRIAD networks and they are able to cover these transfers via "legitimate" means.

### Questions

Q1 What is the single most important thing we have to do to get started to diminish the problem?

A I hope that the Cullen Commission will bring forward some answers. I make the argument in the book that a good starting point would be a more powerful anti-organized crime law. Many of you may be familiar with the RICO (anti-racketeering law in the USA) – it has been given the power to dismantle the New York City mafia or Italian transnational crime families – and hobble very powerful crime networks. In Canada, people that have testified at the Cullen Commission have said that our crime laws are very ineffective in tackling real organized crime which is sophisticated and entrepreneurial and I say that our laws are antiquated and powerless. Our Charter of Rights and Privacy laws which are meant to protect people have been used as a loophole in transnational crime. A high level crown prosecutor in BC told me that there is no anti-drug case that he has seen in BC without a Charter defense. We need to give more power and specificity to transnational crime laws to deal with these large international cartels that run fentanyl and other drugs around the world.

Q2 Some 'black humour' around the room about your presentation being cut off at the point of mentioning names or saying something they don't like. Do you have any personal feelings about that?

A I appreciate the 'black humour', but I think we need more bandwidth. Without joking, I spill the beans in this updated chapter. I have been informed that the Chinese State inside of Canada has taken a specific interest in my reporting in this book and want to gather information about me. I take advice from people inside government and people that have knowledge of these nefarious networks that are operating inside Canada. I do take precautions and am not naïve about potential dangers and risks. I think Canada needs better laws to protect journalism and freedom of speech. In Canada and Britain, it is much easier for a Russian Oligarch to sue a journalist that is only reporting on documents and facts.

Q3 You mentioned in your book that the Vancouver

## Last Month Speaker - Sam Cooper

problem has grown, and is also now in Markham Ontario. Is it in other areas as well?

A Yes. Vancouver is a very infiltrated area where the Chinese State has a lot of actors acting for it and it is a sensitive issue for people to talk about. I say the Chinese State has successfully taken over a lot of Chinese-Canadian community groups to the extent that I'm finding that those involved in organized crime, and perhaps Chinese police, have influence and control over business or community groups. It is a horrific situation. We see it in Vancouver and very much so in Markham at a high level. I realize that I could never have imagined the level or the wealth of some of these networks and it is difficult to know if someone is acting willingly with a Chinese intelligence handler or police, or under threats/duress. It is beyond Vancouver, it is deep and dark, and it's worse than any people involved in law enforcement could have imagined.

Q4 Concern about CEO levels of government that are allowing this to happen i.e. Canadian Ambassador to China, the Prime Minister.

A Britain's MI5 Agency put out an alert about a lawyer in the UK who was accused of infiltrating at the highest level of UK's Parliament via political fundraising (writes about this in his book). Britain warned against this happening in Canada. At a high level, this is a big concern – and our officials may not be aware of this. Our PM in 2016 was standing beside people he has identified in his book – high level transnational gangsters.

Q5 While the lawyers got protection through the courts, can the money trails be identified and seized by the Canadian banks?

A Yes. Through Cullen and non-Cullen commission stories I have been doing recently, I am aware of something I didn't know before and that is that Fintrac has some very detailed and interesting reports on Canadian law firms. Even though lawyers don't have to report to Fintrac, it doesn't mean Fintrac doesn't know about how money flows in Canada, such as into campaigns, lawyers, and politicians.

Q6 You alluded in your book to impact on real estate prices.

A Yes. Referred to an independent report that estimated \$5-7B per year is laundered through real estate. They estimate the impact to be 5% but I think it is higher. Not all money coming from Hong Kong is nefarious, much of it isn't. A great amount of it has to come through the underground illicit channels. About 30 cents from every dollar put into real estate in Vancouver originates in Mainland China, with a significant portion coming from money laundering. I think this has an impact on prices.

Q7 I've heard that Chinese army and intelligence officers are buying real estate in West Vancouver. Do you have a comment on this?

A I talk about this in my book. In a qualitative way I can tell you that I'm aware of Senior Liberation Army individuals being involved in real estate development and of Iranian guard veterans being involved in our real estate market in West Vancouver.

*This summary was prepared by member Darlene Dean*



**PLEASE  
CONSIDER  
JOINING OUR  
2022-2023  
Management Team!  
Contact Darryl  
Stodalka**





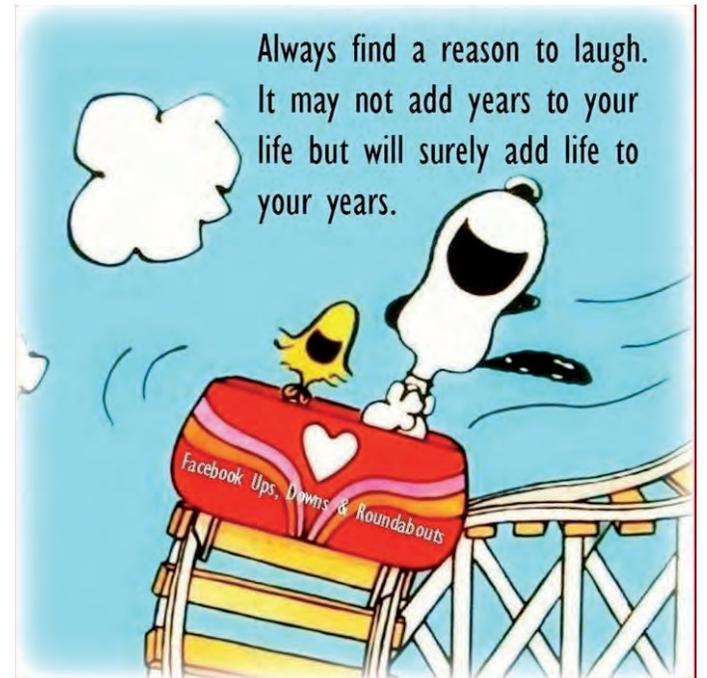
FOR MANY YEARS FRED'S SECRET SUNDAY AFTERNOON NAPS WENT UNDETECTED

Siri,  
"Why am I so bad at relationships with women?"  
"This is Alexa"

ARE YOU SWEATING  
WHILST PUTTING  
PETROL IN YOUR CAR  
FEELING SICK WHEN  
PAYING FOR IT, YOU  
YOU HAVE GOT THE  
CAROWNERVIRUS



The mosquito lands on the salt, thinking it's sugar. They get thirsty for water, but the cap has rum in it. The mosquito gets drunk, trips on the stick and bangs its head on the rock.



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The Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed and may be sent by e-mail to the Administrator.