

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2026

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

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### Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Drive,  
Coffee and Pastries at 8:30, Meeting at 9:30, with guest speaker  
**Tom Isaac, Chair of Cassels Aboriginal Law Group**  
“UNDRIP and DRIPA“



Tom Isaac ranks among the top 25 most influential lawyers in Canada (Canadian Lawyer, 2018) and is a nationally recognized authority on Aboriginal law.

He is Chair of Cassels Aboriginal Law Group and co-leads the firm's National Major Projects Team.

He has written extensively on Aboriginal Law issues and has appeared on numerous broadcasts bringing clarity to a rapidly expanding and overwhelming area of the law.

Tom has agreed to share some of his wisdom and knowledge with us on May 11, particularly as it applies to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), the 2019 British Columbia law designed to align provincial legislation with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Tom will also touch upon

the Cowichan decision and the recent agreement entered into by the Federal Government with the Musqueam band. We anticipate a large turnout for this event.



**Our January speaker, Judy Savage from Lions Gate Hospital Foundation has advised that in recognition of our club's donation The Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver will be included on the donor wall in the hospital atrium as well as on a commemorative wall within the new unit.**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS



May 13 - Gastown Walking Tour

June 8 - Dr. John Steen, *Critical Minerals*

## President's Notes



The club is doing okay. Special events and speakers are well attended and get good reviews but we still need new members to balance our budget.

Soon it will be "election time" for our club. We will soon be seeking candidates for club Vice President. Has the club ever had more than one candidate and hence an election – like those in democratic countries?

I'm often reminded that Probus clubs are non-political. I accept we avoid partisan politics - we are neutral with respect to political parties. That doesn't mean we can't express concerns about how our province or country is run. That topic has dominated my mind for the last couple weeks. Along with more than a thousand others, I attended the Vancouver Institute lecture by Globe and Mail columnist Andrew Coyne on the state of Canadian democracy. Following is a partial list of the deficiencies of our current federal government compared to other democracies: Free-for-all constituency nominations and leadership races, unequal riding sizes, rigid system of party discipline, low rate of voter turnout, excessive power with Prime Minister and use of omnibus bills. He didn't have much to say about fixing the deficiencies and he doesn't hold out much hope for electoral reform by the existing political parties.

I like the expression - think nationally but act locally. If you have any thoughts on what local individuals might do, I'd like to hear them - and so would Andrew Coyne.

*Bryan McConachy, President*

## April Speaker Review

As expected, our April speaker Herb Grubel gave an interesting account of his extraordinary life from a youth in war-torn Germany to his education at prestigious universities and professor of economics at SFU. His new book, *Maverick Economist and Politician* is available from Amazon. 85 Members attended and reviews were positive. *Bryan McConachy, Speakers Committee*



## Special Events

### Gastown Walking Tour, Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Vancouver's Gastown is a unique cultural landscape of architecture, food, and history. On this walking tour we'll explore the history of the area, along with a look at the evolving retail scene of traditional shops and a few newcomers.

John Atkin will be our tour guide. John is a civic historian, author and heritage consultant who organizes and conducts walking tours for groups and individuals. John has explored Vancouver like few others and offers an interesting and offbeat insight to the city's architecture, history and neighbourhoods. He brings an insight of urban planning and development, a love of architecture, and the fascination of the curious to all his tours. This tour has a limit if 20 people

The Itinerary (May 13, 2026):

- Meet at the West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre before 9:00 AM.
- 9:15 AM - Bus leaves the Senior Activity Centre.
- 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Walking Tour of Gastown.
- 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM – Group no host lunch at the Steamworks Gastown restaurant.
- 1:30 PM – Bus leaves and returns to the Senior Activity Centre.

Registration and Payment:

- Register with Matt Blackwood
- \$40.00 payment by e-transfer to Alastair Campbell –

### Review of WCMRC Tour April 15, 2026

Twenty Probus Club members toured the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) facilities on the Vancouver harbour on April 15, 2026. The group was most impressed with the mission and mandate of the organization. We were particularly impressed with the size and scope of the marine fleet managed and maintained by the WCMRC. They are responsible for responding to any oil or diesel spills anywhere on the BC coastline and also support spill response on the BC inland waters. The organization is fully funded by the marine industry that uses our BC waterways. As you can see in the attached photos and in the photo gallery on our website at <https://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

The weather cooperated and we had a pleasant and sunny day for the tour.

*Alastair Campbell  
Chair, Special Events Committee*

A Few Photos from WCMRC Tour April 15, 2026



## Photos from March Meeting



Above: Members and guests attending the March meeting awaiting the presentation by Herbert Grubel (below).

