

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BC GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

I Am: **My Spouse is:**

BRANCH _____

- Applying as an Active Member (Those who receive a pension under the Public Service Pension Plan, or their spouse)
- Applying as an Associate Member (Government Pension annuitant, OTHER THAN the Public Service Pension Plan)

Spouse is one who resides with an Active or Associate member or one who is in receipt of a deceased member's pension.



General Information – Please Print Clearly

First Name – Member	Initial(s)	Last Name
_____	_____	_____

First Name – Spouse (if applying)	Initial(s)	Last Name
_____	_____	_____

Address – Apt/Street	City/Province & Country if not Canada	Postal Code
_____	_____	_____

Area Code & Telephone #	Fax Number	E-mail Address
_____	_____	_____

Former Branch, Ministry or Government Employer – Active	Former Government Employer - Associate
_____	_____

- Please deduct my (and my spouse's if applicable) annual dues from my Public Service pension payment each February. (Available to Active Members only) SIN must be provided to take advantage of this provision (see below). Applications received prior to October 31 require dues payment for the current year.
- I have enclosed a cheque or money order payable to BCGREA for \$20.00 or \$40.00 for Member and Spouse for the current calendar year's membership.

By signing this application I agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and consent to the sharing of my personal information between the BCGREA and the Public Service Pension Plan. I agree to the Association using this information internally for administrative purposes.

Applicant's Signature
Date signed _____

Spouses signature (if applicable)
Date signed _____

Optional Information – This information is required to maintain contact with you and with the Pension Corporation. If provided it will be used for administrative purposes only and will not be shared with outsiders.

Social Insurance Number – Member	Social Insurance Number - Spouse
_____	_____



B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Re: Your Privacy Matters

At BCGREA we understand and respect our members' need for privacy. This note explains how we protect your right to privacy. And it tells you how you are in control of the way your personal information will be used.

What information do we keep, and how do we use it?

When you requested membership in the BCGREA, you gave us information about yourself, which we added to a membership file. We may also need to collect information about you from other sources such as the BC Pension Corporation. We maintain records of each member, which allows us to conduct all the necessary business of administering membership.

In what other ways is information used?

At times we use third party suppliers outside BCGREA to help us provide the services we offer (for example, insurance companies and mailing firms), which may involve sharing some of your personal information. We require our third party suppliers to maintain the confidentiality of your information by not using or disclosing your information for unauthorized purposes or without your consent.

You can see your personal information

You can see your personal information. Just call our provincial office at our toll free number 1-866-729-9299, or by contacting the membership chair of your local branch, and we will be happy to share – or correct – any information you have with us. If you are requesting to see your information, we may ask you to put your request in writing, and there may be a charge for such a request. If so, we will advise you of this in advance. We will respond to any request regarding your personal information within 30 days. If we need to extend that time, or we have to refuse your request, we will tell you why, subject to any legal restrictions.

Are there limits to how information will be shared?

Your identifying information (like name and address) and your highly sensitive information (like your SIN) will never be shared outside BCGREA or its third party suppliers without your previous written consent (unless we are requested or permitted by law).

If you wish, you can further limit how your information is used by calling our toll-free number. You can ask not to be included in any future communications about other products or services.

Our Service Commitment to You

We treat your personal information with respect and care, and we use it only to serve you better. Part of our commitment to your right to privacy is to make it easier than ever before for you to understand – and control – how your information will be used.

Your privacy matters to us, because it matters to you.

If you would like additional information on BCGREA's privacy policy and practices, you can request a copy of the privacy policy contained in our Policies and Procedures Manual. A copy of this manual is also available through your local branch.

Re – Your Right to be Treated Fairly and to Have Your Concerns Heard

We have created a process for dealing with customer concerns and complaints. If you have a complaint or concern, we encourage you to follow the complaint procedure outlined here.

- Contact BCGREA at 1-866-729-9299
- If further discussion is required, contact BCGREA's Privacy Officer, Mr. Fred Bennett, First Vice-President, 322 Mariner Way, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 1N6 (604-939-1773)
- Should you not be able to accept the conclusion of BCGREA's Privacy Officer, you can appeal to the B. C. Government's Privacy Commissioner, charged with powers and duties under the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA).



B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Welcome to the BCGREA

Our Association presently has approximately 10,000 members across the Province. We encourage you to read this information and to consider becoming a member. We are a valuable social and volunteer group. Luncheon meetings are arranged and interesting guest speakers attend the Branch meetings. Members of BCGREA Branches visit members who may be in the hospital; and they get together for sports and social activities.

BCGREA Purpose as set out in the Constitution

To promote the welfare of all persons in receipt of a pension under the Public Service Pension Plan.

Goal

The primary goal of the BCGREA is to obtain benefits for our members and strive to prevent erosion of these benefits. Our participation has been successful in obtaining many benefits for pensioners such as:

- Extended Health and Dental coverage
- Cost of Living Increases
- Subsidized Bus Passes
- Discount Hotel Rates
- Group Insurance Rates
 - Travel - Out of Province Insurance
 - House (Residential) Insurance
 - Life Insurance

Our strength of 10,000 members in the BCGREA is important and because of this support, ensures members' views and concerns are made known to the Pension Corporation. The greater our numbers, the louder our voice. We urge all qualified persons to become a member of the BCGREA and to encourage other fellow government retirees to do the same.

Provincial Executive

This body is elected annually consisting of a President and two Vice-Presidents, and an appointed Treasurer and Secretary. The Board of Directors of the Association is comprised of the Chairs of each local Branch. The BCGREA Executive holds several meetings throughout the year and there is an Annual General Meeting held in October. It is well attended by representatives from all of the Branches. A Directors' Meeting is held in March where each Branch sends one delegate (the Branch Chairperson is a Provincial Director).

Observers are welcome at these meetings. These annual meetings are held on the Lower Mainland and arrangements are made to have guest speakers attend who are well versed on current topics of interest to retired persons.



B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

THE ASSOCIATION

There are currently 26 Branches of the Association. The Association operates on two levels, an umbrella group of Provincial Officers elected at the October General Meeting (AGM) and Directors (Branch Chairs) and a parallel Executive for each Branch. Overall functioning of both levels of the Association is guided by a Constitution and Bylaws and by compatible Branch Regulations. There is some cross over between the functioning of the two groups, where the Chair of each Branch is a Director working with the Provincial Officers in conducting the affairs of the Association at a March Directors Meeting. The Provincial Officers appoint an Association Secretary and Treasurer and hire an Office Manager for the Association's Central Office. The Branch Officers and Directors are elected and share with their Provincial counterparts the responsibilities for the flow of correspondence, member enrollment by category, dues income and dues revenue sharing.

There are four categories of Membership: **Active**, **Associate**, **Honorary** and **Life** (those who have paid dues to the Association continuously for 20 years).

The **fiscal year** of the Association, including all Branches, was changed at the 2001 AGM, to run from July 1 to June 30. Annual dues will continue to be collected and receipted on a calendar year basis, but will be reconciled each June 30 to accommodate the new fiscal year.

Annual dues were increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year at the 2008 AGM, with \$12.00 going to Provincial and \$8.00 going to Branches to help fund their respective activities. Any dues prepaid as of the date of the AGM were to be considered in good standing for dues payment.

Dues may be paid by **Dues Check-Off (DCO)** through a once a year deduction from the February pension cheque, or by cash or personal cheque paid to the Branch.

January 1, 2004, the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) came into force and the Policies and Procedures were updated to bring them into compliance with the Act.