TEAM ZABLUD
Robyn, Peter, Millie, and Max

INSIDE: Down Under
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The Scrivener: What’s in a Name?

“A professional penman, a copyist, a scribe . . . a Notary.” Thus the Oxford English Dictionary describes a Scrivener, the craftsman charged with ensuring that the written affairs of others flow smoothly, seamlessly, and accurately. Where a Scrivener must record the files accurately, it’s the Notary whose Seal is bond.

We chose The Scrivener as the name of our magazine to celebrate the Notary’s role in drafting, communicating, authenticating, and getting the facts straight. We strive to publish articles about points of law and the Notary profession for the education and enjoyment of our members, our allied professionals in business, and the public in British Columbia.
# THE MiX

- **L TSA**
  - LTSA Update 52
- **Editor’s**
  - 53
- **SEN I ORS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD-B UILDING**
  - Building Resilient Neighbourhoods 57
    - Lori McLeod
- **SENIORS**
  - Dig Deep to Clarify Your Personal Values and Beliefs 58
    - Barb Kirby
- **NOTARIES IN BRAZIL**
  - A Visit to the Association of Notaries Public (ANOREG) 60
    - Marco Castro
- **CHARITABLE GIVING**
  - Talking about Talking about Philanthropy 62
    - Sara Neely
- **BC NOTARIES’ EDUCA TION**
  - What Does Your BC Notary Know? 65
    - Lisa Berry Vander Heide
- **ABCLS**
  - The 2017 – 2018 Board of ABCLS 66
  - The Future of Land Surveying in BC 66
- **STRA T A LA W**
  - Is Your Strata Corporation Legally Obligated to Pay…? 67
    - Elaine McCormack
- **REIBC**
  - REIBC’s 2017 George Whyte Award 69
    - Brenda Southam
  - Business to Business 69, 73
- **WILLS AND ESTATES**
  - The Duty of Care Owed by a Will-Drafter 70
    - Trevor Todd
- **T AXES**
  - US Taxes Heads-Up 74
    - Andréa Agnoloni
- **TECHNOLOGY**
  - Summer Tech/Auto 76
    - Akash Sablok
- **HONOURS AND EVENTS**
  - PEOPLE 78
  - Where in the World Has The Scrivener Been? 78

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- email: scrivener@SOCIETY.NOTARIES.BC.CA
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The Society of Notaries Public of BC

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The headlines scream, "BC has first minority government in 65 years. BC Greens hold balance of power."

(Laura Kane, Canadian Press News, May 9, 2017)

Following our recent provincial election, a new catch phrase in British Columbia is emerging—“Balance of Power.”

Essentially, BC has not faced this concern in 65 years—virtually a lifetime. And we are not alone in tuning our sensors to that reality. Our southern neighbours are seeing it in their headlines, too.

Bloomberg Politics announces, BALANCE OF POWER, TRUMP ALONE: President Donald Trump’s decision to abandon the Paris climate accord touched off a furious and immediate backlash, igniting condemnation from C-suites and capitals around the world. But one man was left a clear winner. China’s President Xi Jinping now has another opportunity to burnish his country’s image as a clean-energy innovator and global champion in fighting climate change. Not a bad spot for the world’s No. 1 polluter.

Innis L. Claude Jr. states, “The trouble with Balance of Power is not that it has no meaning, but that it has too many meanings.”

I agree.

Wikipedia explains it this way. “Balance of power may refer to Balance of power (international relations), parity, or stability between competing forces. Balance of power (federalism), distribution of power between a central government and its subnational governments.”

On a personal level, if you hold the balance of power, you have a responsibility to be apprised of facts and current issues and to be insightful and also mindful that your decisions impact the lives of those who depend on you.

And COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary, Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers, explains, “1. The balance of power is the way in which power is distributed between rival groups or countries. If a small political party holds the balance of power in a government, it is able to give a larger party a majority by supporting this larger party.”

Now take a moment to ponder what Balance of Power means to you.

• Does it conjure fear or excitement or potential?
• Do you view it on a personal level?
• Do you apply it on a more personal level?

Balance of power can be exciting—challenging, if you will. In a business context, an employer has a duty of care to ensure balance among employees. In fact, that is essential to a well-functioning office.

On a personal level, if you hold the balance of power, you have a responsibility to be apprised of facts and current issues and to be insightful and also mindful that your decisions impact the lives of those who depend on you.

Politicians wielding the balance of power need to evaluate not only their party ideals and the promises made to constituents and—long after the election—the short and the long-term effects their compromises will have.

In this moment in time—this making of history framed by a balance of power—a voice not usually heard above the crowd is now the whispering, commanding voice in the room. An elephant-and-mouse scenario.

I can’t help but think of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia. Although we may be viewed as few in number, we are impactful through our strength of engagement, locally and globally, by being informed, connected, concerned, and active.

Managed correctly, the balancing of power will bring success and satisfaction in business, at home, and in government.
It has been a long time since I have written about the activities of The Notary Foundation of BC in my Scrivener column. We have just celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our formation by an Act of the Legislature. The culmination was a wonderful acknowledgement dinner on January 19, fully sponsored by Do Process and ProSuite Software Limited. Read about it in our Spring 2017 issue. www.notaries.bc.ca/scrivener

Formed by an amendment to the Notaries Act in 1986, The Foundation was modelled after the Law Foundation of BC with legislation closely following the mandate set out in the Law Foundation’s legislation.

The Act sets out the purpose of The Foundation.

(1) The purpose of the foundation is to establish and maintain a fund to be used for the following purposes.

a. Legal education
b. Legal research
c. Legal aid
d. Education and continuing education for BC Notaries and applicants for enrollment as Notaries
e. Establishing, operating, and maintaining law libraries in British Columbia
f. Contributions to the Special Fund established under this Act

The Act also sets out the governance of The Foundation. Members are appointed for 3 years. The Board of Governors consists of 8 members appointed from their ranks by the Directors of The Society; 2 persons (not members of The Society) appointed by the Attorney General; 1 representative from the AG’s office in Victoria; and the Executive Officer. I am the EO.

What our small membership has been able to generate in the way of revenue for The Foundation over the past 30 years is quite amazing…

The Foundation of course receives its revenue from the interest earned on the trust accounts of its member Notaries. Most of the work conducted by BC Notaries is conveyancing; the funds held in their trust accounts are related to the buying and selling of real estate.

Money received by The Foundation can be disbursed only as follows.

- 55% to Legal Services Society (LSS)
- 10% for legal education, legal research, and operating/maintaining law libraries in BC
- 35% to the administration of The Foundation and education and continuing education for BC Notaries and applicants for enrollment

Last year, Notaries in BC conducted over 180,000 transactions that resulted in some $40 billion flowing through the trust accounts of BC Notaries. While we have decent arrangements in place with the financial institutions, the low prime rate severely limits the return on those monies being held by the banks and BC credit unions.

What our small membership has been able to generate in the way of revenue for The Foundation over the past 30 years is quite amazing, resulting in support for many organizations that provide legal aid, public legal education, and professional education.

For example, you will see on our Foundation Thermostat on page 49 that we have provided LSS of BC with over $48 million in support. The mandate of Legal Services Society under section 9 of the current Legal Services Society Act is to

- help people to solve their legal problems and to facilitate access to justice;
- establish and administer an effective and efficient system for providing legal aid to people in BC; and
- provide advice to the Attorney General about legal aid and access to justice for people in BC.

Section 9 also states that the LLS is to

- give priority to identifying and assessing the legal needs of people with low incomes in BC;
Why We Say “BC Notaries”

A BC Notary Public can provide significantly more legal services than Notaries in other provinces, Québec excepted. Please see page 27 for a list of the ways a BC Notary can assist you.

Putting this magazine together for you is a real pleasure, thanks to our exceptional team: CEO Wayne Braid, graphic artist Marilyn, many talented writers, photographer Gary, and admin-wiz Amber.

Our readers include BC Notaries and thousands of allied professionals with whom BC Notaries do business on a regular basis. Our mandate is education... with something for everyone in each issue!

We look forward to communicating with you quarterly for many more years!

Happy Birthday to Us All!

Canada is 150.

The Scrivener is 25!

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Every time we visit Australia together, my husband Dan and I take in another part of that vast country, either by ourselves or with “the kids” who live there.

Currently, “the kids” consist of our son Bryan, our daughter-in-law Danielle, and their two beautiful and active sons Zach and Will, 8 and 7 years old. We also are blessed by having a warm, welcoming extended family.

So far, in different visits, we have managed to ride across Australia and the Nullabor Plain on the Indian Pacific Railroad (from Perth to Sydney), bushwalked and stayed at Barrington Tops National Park, visited inland to Dubbo to see the Taronga Western Plains Zoo, visited the beautiful beach town of Noosa in Queensland, and most recently flown to Cairns and then cruised through the Whitsundays and then south back to Sydney.

In 2012, Dan and I took a 2-week road trip to explore the southern part of New South Wales and parts of Victoria.

Bryan and his family live in a suburb near Manly on the Northern Beaches. Because it is so beautiful there, it is sometimes hard to drag ourselves away.

But we needed to explore.

Our little red rental car and our kids’ trusty road map took us all along the coast south of Sydney, as far as Cape Howe. We enjoyed visiting the beautiful little towns of Berry, Kiama, Tilba, Ulladella, Batemans Bay, and Merimbula, to mention a few.

At Cape Howe, we made a left turn into the state of Victoria, heading toward Melbourne. On the way, we visited Philip Island Nature Park to see the world-famous little penguins on their “penguin parade.” Apparently some of the little penguins nest along the harbour shore in Manly but I have never seen one there.

After a short visit in Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road was next on our agenda. We wanted to see the Twelve Apostles—or what is left of them.
We continued along the highway to Portland and headed north, visiting Grampian National Park, then turned on a north-west route to start making our way back to Sydney.

Along the way, we visited several lovely country towns. One was Glenrowan where the infamous Australian outlaw Ned Kelly is said to have seen his last days. We just had to have a drink in the hotel where he and his men were holed up during their last run-in with the law.

Then we drove through the agricultural district of New South Wales from Wagga Wagga to Orange, then back across the Blue Mountains toward Sydney.

We always knew Australia produces almost all its own produce but were quite surprised to learn that the area around Leeton is known for its rice production. It happened to be the peak of cherry season when we landed in Young, so we gorged ourselves to compensate for the inadequacy we felt trying to back into an angle parking space. (Aussies drive on the other side of the road!)

In the Blue Mountains, we spent a day in one of our favourite little towns, Katoomba, to once again visit the Three Sisters.

Driving on the highways and back roads in Australia is actually quite easy. We had a GPS and found we really didn’t need it. In fact, the one time we did use it to find some caves, it gave the wrong directions.

We made it a point to stay in Bed and Breakfast places whenever possible and we met many beautiful, welcoming people. Australians are by nature very outgoing and friendly, which makes this country a great place to visit.

Susan Mercer is a retired Notary in Sidney, BC.
suemercer@shaw.ca
What happens when you marry an Aussie?

For me it meant heading across the ocean for new adventures Down Under. Little did I know I was moving to the second-most-remote city in the world.

Australia is the only country that occupies a whole continent, albeit the smallest continent on earth. Moving to Perth, Western Australia, has been both eye-opening and confusing. Perth is the most westerly major city in Australia, surrounded by beautiful beaches and fantastic weather all year round.

I have lived most of my adult life in Vancouver and a few years in Calgary, but moving to Perth was a real culture shock, like taking a step back in time. Twisted-pair phone lines are still used to transmit TV programs, Internet data is purchased in units, and shopping centres and grocery stores are open until 6 PM, with the exception of Thursdays when late-night trading is permitted to 9 PM. Sunday hours are 11 AM to 4 PM. Banking institutions are not open on weekends.

Moving to Perth, Western Australia, has been both eye-opening and confusing.

Driving in Perth has also been fun . . . learning to drive on the other side of the road in vehicles equipped with right-hand drive. I admit I scared a few drivers in my first few months as I forgot which side of the road to be on! Traffic enforcement is very strict in Perth with zero tolerance. Driving even 3 kilometres over the limit will result in a violation and traffic cameras are everywhere, so beware! My husband has had his picture taken several times, much to his displeasure.

Perth is a beautiful coastal city similar aesthetically to Vancouver. There are only about 2.6 million total residents state-wide.

After years of corporate office management in Canada, immediately on arrival I began training in Perth in the palliative and aged-care industry. I am now a Facility Coordinator and Palliative Care for AGEIS Stirling, a privately owned and operated longterm care facility housing medium to high care individuals, including dementia and palliative residents. AEGIS is one of the largest aged care corporations in Western Australia with a total of 28 facilities and 3 more in development to open next year.

The majority of employees in this industry are from Africa, Malaysia, and Ireland. I am their only token blonde Canadian. They love my accent!

I am blessed to work with some amazingly talented individuals and proud to be part of the team. These types of facilities are very different from Canada. All Australians have the right to long-term care that...
the government will help supplement, based on your net worth. Some residents have put up $400,000 to $1.2 million to be able to move into those types of care facilities.

The premise is based on the facility holding the deposits in trust and collecting all interest earned to pay for the residents’ stay, along with a monthly fee, depending on care required. Once a resident passes away, the deposit minus all interest is given back to the family. The program is still confusing to me!

Next to the great weather in Australia, I love the people who remind me very much of Canadians, whether transplants like me or born-and-raised true Aussies—wonderful, warm, and loving people who open their arms and homes. I will always treasure my time here, but Canada will always be my home.

Leaving my family and friends behind is hard. I miss my son Josh who works in the Oil & Gas industry in Northern Alberta. I also miss my parents Hildegard and Walter Siemens who reside in Richmond, BC.

As you may know, my dad has been a proud longtime member of The Society of Notaries Public and served as a Director for a number of years.

From Down Under, G’day!!

Barb Siemens is a Lifestyle & Palliative Care Coordinator.
Flying to the other side of the globe is a long affair.

You can easily watch the trilogies of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*—with time to spare. And those movies are not a bad preparation either for your trip because once there, you feel as if you are in fantasyland.

And not only because of the jet-lag.

Upon leaving the airport with your rented car, you will probably hear wild honking. It’s just fellow drivers politely requesting you to steer on the wrong side of the road!

And for the rest of the trip, you will signal your intention to turn left or right by activating the wipers since the respective levers are switched around on the steering wheel.

After you manage to check into your hotel, you wake up zombie-like in the land Down Under. “G’day, mate. Serve you a brekky?” As for coffee, the difference between a long black (think Americano) and a flat white (espresso with milk) is patiently explained to the extra-terrestrial.

The landscape out the café window is an endless deep blue ocean covered with a white haze on the horizon and framed by a long beach. Alongside the inviting sunny sand, you see the distinctive shape of the ubiquitous Norfolk pines, *Araucaria Columnaris*, aka Norfolk pine or Cook pine.

Captain James Cook actually used those pines to replace his worn-out...
masts during his discovery of *Terra Australis*. Norfolk itself immediately calls up Australia's beginnings. A penal colony was established in the 18th century on Norfolk Island, a small isle laying toward New Zealand. You can read about it in one of my all-time favourite books, *The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding*, by Robert Hughes. Required reading!

Noisy cockatoos greet you from the pines—funny-looking white birds with yellow plumes. And, lo and behold, it’s a dog; no, it’s a rabbit; no, it is my first kangaroo! Munching away on the grass . . . long strong tail trailing behind. While the first one is a pleasant surprise and secretly sought, pretty soon you will become very used to seeing whole mobs hopping across the landscape on your trip through the country.

The landscape is typically orange-brown earth and rocks, now and then covered with miles of Eucalyptus trees (aka Gum tree) and framed by endless blue skies. The perfect invitation for rolling down the windows of your car and letting yourself go to the tunes of *Beds Are Burning* by Midnight Oil. Unless you want to imagine yourself in a car chase in one of the *Mad Max* movies . . .

And, lo and behold, it’s a dog; no, it’s a rabbit; no, it is my first kangaroo!

The land Down Under is recognizable to Canadians and then again, it is not. Twenty-four-million Aussies live in a country about the size of the continental USA. The British settled the continent but their subsequent history and economy have not been influenced by their big American neighbour but by Asia. The city of Darwin in the Northern Territory—the Australians call it “The Top End”—is closer to the capitals of five Asian countries than to its own country’s capital Canberra. And Darwin probably has more crocodiles than all the inhabitants of those capitals combined!

Most Australians do live in one of the big cities and the distances in between are long. Very long. We found each city to be quite distinctive. While the state of Queensland with its capital Brisbane and its gateway
to the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns is a sub-tropical paradise; Adelaide in the state of South Australia strikes you with its bone-dry surroundings. The wine regions in that state are sometimes surreally beautiful because it is actually quite alienating to see the gentle slopes of neatly trimmed grapevines ending in long stretches of beaches and the blue ocean. And you are allowed to drive on some of those beaches. That was one box on my bucket list ticked off!

You will probably start with Sydney but you should take advantage of the cheap air-passes to visit the other cities. And then get out of town and discover the unique surroundings of this beautiful country.

Perth is one of the most isolated big cities in the world and if you are ever looking for a beach all to yourself, the state of Western Australia is the place to go. Melbourne and Sydney are the big friendly rivals. Melbourne in the state of Victoria seems to me the more sports-crazy one while the location of Sydney’s harbour with its bridge and unique opera building simply cannot be beat. Well, as a true Vancouverite I am of course of the opinion that our city with its surrounding mountains does beat it!

In short, Australia is a unique destination and I can only recommend it. You will probably start with Sydney but you should take advantage of the cheap air-passes to visit the other cities. And then get out of town and discover the unique surroundings of this beautiful country. ▲

Notary Filip de Sagher practises in Vancouver with his wife Hilde Deprez at Deprez & Associates.

Telephone: 604 221-4343
Filip@notarydeprez.com
www.notarydeprez.com
New Zealand (Aotearoa) is a wondrous South Sea country comprised of the North Island, Te Ika-a-Maui, the South Island, Te Waipounamu, and Stewart Island. The North Island’s many geothermal areas generate 13 percent of the country’s electricity.

New Zealand is long and narrow—990 miles by a maximum width of 250 miles—situated 900 miles east of Australia across the Tasman Sea.

The two main islands of New Zealand are separated by the Cook Strait, 14 miles wide at its narrowest point. Because of its remoteness, it was one of the last lands to be settled. Polynesians settled the Islands around 1300 CE [Common Era]. They became the Maori culture.

Wellington, the capital city located at the bottom tip of the North Island, is a very hilly and windy city.

The largest city is bustling Auckland, with a population of 1,500,000, comprising 33 percent of the total population. The majority of the population of 4.7 million is made up of people of European descent.

New Zealanders (Kiwis) have always loved to travel, even from the time it took 6 weeks by liner to reach England . . . the trip home. Kiwis are a very hospitable, happy, and outgoing people.

The diversity of scenery makes New Zealand a gem to visit. Located in the Ring of Fire, it has

- 90 percent of the world’s earthquakes, and
- 24 peaks above 3000 metres.

Seventy-five percent of New Zealand is mountainous or hilly.

The main ski areas are on the South Island. Queenstown is a popular tourist resort. Many North American snowbirds have found New Zealand an ideal destination.

New Zealand’s wines have attained world ratings, especially their white wines. Wine tours can be booked through your travel agent.

New Zealand boys learn to play rugby at an early age. It is the dream of many young boys to play for the famous All Black team, the most successful international rugby side of all-time. They wear black uniforms. ▲

Trish Stephen is a BC (Golden) girl who resided in Christchurch for 2 years.
New Zealand is a beautiful country with some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere in the world, from its magnificent sandy white beaches on the east coast to the black sandy beaches on the west, rolling green hills, southern alps, and the stunning fjords of the Milford Sound.

The Waitomo (glow worm) Caves are a must to view. You can see them from the comfort of a boat or you can blackwater raft in them.

New Zealand people are commonly known all over the world as Kiwis. That is also the name of the national bird, a nocturnal flightless fluffy rounded bird that lives deep in the woods and at local zoos.

Kiwis are friendly, fun-loving, laidback people who have a large place in their hearts for Canadians. They love a thrill—bungy-jumping off the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere, the Auckland Sky Tower; sand-boarding down the Giant Sand dunes rising nearly 140 metres above the sea; caving; zorbing (rolling downhill inside an orb); jet-boatting down the Waikato River; and swoop-swinging.

New Zealand’s indigenous people are called Maoris, descendents of Eastern Polynesians. The first official language is English; Maori became the second official language in the late 1980s—the language is seeing a comeback and is taught in most schools.

Rotorua, in the middle of the North Island, is very popular for its Maori culture and geothermal activity—hot, bubbling mud pools and boiling geysers. Many hotels and motels offer natural hot-water spas. In a single day you can swim in crystal clear blue oceans, hike into rainforests, and ski or walk on a glacier.

The NZ European people (Pakeha, white man) are mostly of British and Irish stock and account for about half the population. The current population is approximately 4.7 million; nearly one third live in the very large city of Auckland. The rest of the population is about 15 percent Maori, 12 percent Asian, and 7.5 percent from other South Pacific Islands—the Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, and Samoa. Australia’s indigenous people—aboriginals—make up only about 1 percent of Australia’s 24 million population.

There are open borders between New Zealand and Australia. If Kiwis wish to move to Australia or vice versa, they simply get on a plane and move there. About 600,000 Kiwis live in Australia... about 160,000 are Maoris. New Zealand is home to about 60,000 Australians.
NZ’s capital city is Wellington, at the bottom of the North Island, convenient for all members of parliament.

NZ’s major exports are dairy, meat (mostly beef and lamb), wood, fruit, wine, vinegars, apples, kiwi fruit, cherries, and avocados. Kiwi fruit used to be called Chinese Gooseberries; when NZ decided to start exporting them in the late ‘50s, the exporters changed the name to kiwi fruit.

Unlike its neighbours to the west, New Zealand does not have poisonous animals, bugs, or critters of any kind.

Unlike its neighbours to the west, New Zealand does not have poisonous animals, bugs, or critters of any kind. While Australia (Jurassic Park, as my family affectionately calls it) is home to at least 5 of the world’s top-12 most dangerous snakes, NZ has none, not even common garden snakes, not even in its zoos. NZ goes to great lengths to keep it that way. If you are caught smuggling a snake into New Zealand, the snake will be euthanized and you will be jailed for up to 5 years. It is a very serious offence.

NZ does have a very ugly-looking bug called a Weta. Although they are not poisonous, a bite would be painful; they generally live in trees and dense bush so you don’t see them often. Australia is home to wild kangaroos and koalas; neither is found in New Zealand.

Australia and NZ have similar foods such as Vegemite, also popular in England. Most New Zealand and Australian children grow up eating that spread on their toast or sandwiches, just as a Canadian child would have peanut butter. One of New Zealand’s most popular foods is the meat pie that comes in every variety. My personal favourite is steak and cheese. The pies can be purchased hot and ready to eat at any corner store (known as a dairy), in bakeries, and at all gas stations.

NZ and Australia have for decades debated over who invented Pavlova, the famous meringue, cream, and fruit dessert. It was recently decided by the Oxford English Dictionary that all evidence shows it originated from New Zealand.

NZ does not have lobsters but it does have large crayfish—no pinchers. The white flesh of the tail is eaten. It is a very expensive dish. Australia is home to the Morton Bay Bug, a cross between a crayfish and a crab.

NZ has been producing high-quality wines in the last 50 years and since the 1980s has produced a very fine Sauvignon Blanc. Many wines are exported.

The country relies on tourism, mostly from Australia. A lot of tourists from the rest of the world make the mistake of spending 4 weeks of their 6-week vacation in Australia and only 2 in New Zealand. Countless people have told me over the years that they wish they had visited NZ for 4 or even all 6 of the weeks—and less time in Australia!

NZ’s climate can be diverse. The far north of the North Island is subtropical, while the South Island’s weather is more typical of British Columbia, with temperatures dropping to -10° in alpine areas. Snow is found in the higher altitudes of the North Island in Winter. Temperatures don’t generally rise over 30°.

NZ and Australia are rivals when it comes to sports but, like siblings who squabble, they support and defend each other from the rest of the world. Rugby is NZ’s top sport; children learn to play from as young as age 4.

NZ’s top rugby team is called the All Blacks—the current Rugby World Champions. One of their traditions is to perform the Maori ancient war dance called the Haka on the field in front of their opponents before every game. Kiwis are very passionate about their sports. If an All Black’s rugby game is being played anywhere in the world, NZ almost comes to a standstill as everybody is glued to their TV sets to watch; if their beloved team loses, the NZ people basically go into a depression. Other popular sports played in NZ are cricket, soccer, grass hockey, and netball.

One place I visit every time I return is the Coromandel Peninsula, about 175 kilometres from Auckland on the North Island. It has the most amazing scenery and beaches including Hot Water Beach; if you dig yourself a nice big hole in the wet sand, it will fill up with hot water that seeps in from the underground hot springs between high and low tides.

New Zealand is not really that far away. You can fly direct with Air New Zealand—Vancouver to Auckland—in as little as 13 hours. That airline also offers a sky couch if you wish to fly economy but want the comfort of a bed.

In January 1976, Sharon married Randy and in the same month they emigrated to Canada from New Zealand. Son Steele took over her Notary practice 2 years ago. Sharon is now a Roving Notary.
On Top of Age-Friendly Workplaces:
Change Down Under

Yay, Boomers! By virtue of our sheer numbers and nature, we have re-defined and led change at every stage of our development.

Today, we boomers are changing the way we approach our work life, demanding a new paradigm to address the new reality: Boomers represent 27 percent of the population in Canada and almost half the workforce. Savvy businesses understand those numbers and want to learn how to take advantage of the opportunities.

Thought-leader Geoff Pearman is showing us how. He has worked with over 80 companies in Australia and New Zealand, from large corporations to owners-operators.

After reviewing the research, analyses, and commentaries, Geoff recognized there was no practical solution in place to prepare for the following perfect storm of events.

- Aging demographics
- Increasing health, vitality, and longevity
- Boomers’ obsessive attachment to independence and personal achievement
- Economic challenges that compel us to work longer

His response was to establish “Partners in Change.” We can learn much from this Down Under pioneer.

Geoff offers a 3-stage approach.

Stage 1
This stage includes the awareness and understanding of the shifting reality. Geoff shares that many top-level executives could not tell you the average or median age of their own workforce, let alone the number of employees age 55 and over. It can be a sobering realization to discover that many of the key personnel responsible for critical and longer-term projects are on the cusp of leaving the organization to retire.

Stage 1 confronts the stereotypes, beliefs, and biases about aging that must be addressed before the organization can embrace change. He assists an employer to review company policies and practices regarding age-friendliness and stresses the importance of finding out what maturing employees want. The answers may surprise you!

Stage 2
Now that the organization has a clearer picture of its situation, it is ready to identify the risks and opportunities and to use that analysis to inform the creation of a customized strategic plan. Here are some common business risks addressed in Geoff’s program.

- Skill shortages
- Succession

From Diversity to Strategy: Inclusion to Engagement

Geoff’s approach goes well beyond the typical diversity-awareness training and hiring systems. Careful analysis must be applied to understand the emerging needs, issues, incentives, business risks, and opportunities of an aging workplace. Disciplined strategic processes, a commitment to cultural change, and creative solutions are also required.

They must all be grounded in good business practice and bottom-line results.
Stage 3
This stage involves the development of a tactical plan to address each specific risk and specifies how the organization will take full advantage of the opportunities. Making sure a business is poised to remain responsive and competitive is everyone’s concern—from the C-suite to HR, Operations, Marketing, Supervisors, and each employee on the floor. We all have a stake in the corporate culture, reputation, and workplace experience.

Although our specific incentives may change with various life stages, our need to feel connected and valued and to be recognized stays with us through all our life transitions.

The businesses, organizations, and commercial operations where we spend one third of each 24-hour day are the most logical places to initiate social change. Those environments impact our sense of well-being and achievement and contribute to our financial security.

Boomers are set to serve as the perfect change agents.

Rhonda Latreille, MBA, CPCA, is the Founder and CEO of Age-Friendly Business.

Telephone: 1-877-272-7575
info@agefriendlybusiness.com
www.AgeFriendlyBusinessAcademy.com

We all have a stake in the corporate culture, reputation, and workplace experience.
In March 2017, I attended the biannual conference of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRA).

This year it was hosted by the Victorian Law Reform Commission in beautiful Melbourne, Australia. Some 30 plus participants representing 21 Commonwealth law reform agencies, including 5 of the Australian commissions, gathered for 2 days to share information and discuss topics of shared interest.

I was struck by how different law reform agencies are in size, resources, and structure, yet how similar our issues are. Of particular interest for me were the discussions around the importance of independence from government. It is a key feature of any law reform agency’s work. It is what distinguishes us from other organizations that propose changes to the law. Yet, we all find different ways to achieve that independence.

In Canada, the three large law reform agencies are the BC Law Institute, the Alberta Law Reform Institute, and the Ontario Law Commission.

We each have a unique approach to the way we carry out our work and we have very different funding models. BC is the only agency that is a registered charity; it receives operational funding from the BC Government and the Law Foundation of BC, as well as project funding from a variety of sources including The Notary Foundation of BC.

Outside of Canada, most of the agencies still seem to operate under the traditional law reform commission model with mandates established by legislation. While some remain well supported by the governments that support them, others—as in Canada and some of the Australian commissions—are under funding threats.

1 The text of the speech may be found on the ALRC website at http://www.alrc.gov.au/news-media/speech-presentation-article/law-reform-agencies-and-government%E2%80%94independence-survival-and
“AM” is Member of the Order of Australia. Same as Order of Canada.

2 Currently, The Notary Foundation is 1 of 9 funders for our Strata Property Law Reform project.
I was also struck by how many of the projects underway at the various Australian commissions touched on legal issues that we at the BC Law Institute have tackled or are tackling, from strata property law reform to financing litigation and supported decision-making. Law reform research includes a review of how other jurisdictions have addressed a legal problem and the recommendations of other law reform agencies. At the BCLI and Canadian Centre for Elder Law, we often look to the Australian experience.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to meet friends of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law at their offices. They included representatives from
- the office of the Public Guardian for New South Wales;
- the Public Advocate for Victoria;
- the Deputy President and Division Head of the Guardianship Division of the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal; and
- a member of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Much of our time was spent sharing experiences and research on supported decision-making. I had the opportunity to update them on our project “Inclusive Investing: Respecting the Rights of Vulnerable Investors through Supported Decision Making.”

Our relationship with our friends and colleagues Down Under will continue when Malcolm Schyvens, Deputy President and head of the guardianship division of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal, provides a keynote address at the 2017 Canadian Elder Law Conference in Vancouver on November 2 and 3.

The theme of the conference is “Coming of Age: Elder Law in Canada and its Future.” We hope to see you there. ▲

Kathleen Cunningham is Executive Director of the BC Law Institute/Canadian Centre for Elder Law.

Telephone: 604 822-0142
www.bcli.org
www.bcli.org/ccel

Margot R. Rutherford*
Notary Public
A Member of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia
*Denotes Professional Notarial Corporation

981 Fitzgerald Avenue
Courtenay, BC V9N 2R6
Tel: 250 338-6251
Fax: 250 338-5337
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AGE is just a NUMBER until it isn’t

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Professor Peter Zablud, AM, RFD, is an Australian attorney who is a practising Notary originally appointed to office in 1990 by the Court of Faculties of England’s Archbishop of Canterbury. He now holds office by virtue of the Public Notaries Act 2001 of the State of Victoria, Australia.

Peter is held in the highest regard throughout the common law world for his commitment to excellence and the advancement of the notariat and for his outstanding contribution to the education of prospective and practising Notaries. He is a tireless campaigner for the establishment and maintenance of the highest possible standards of notarial practice.

In February this year, The Notaries Society of England and Wales conferred Honourary Membership of The Society on Peter—“In view of the work and substantial achievements made by [him] in relation to the notarial profession, not only in Australia but also worldwide.”


Peter says, “Australian Notaries often refer to that book as ‘the bible.’ I understand that BC Notaries’ CEO/Secretary Wayne Braid has been generous enough to say that Principles of Notarial Practice is the best book of its kind that he has ever read.”

As a Notary, Peter conducts a substantial and respected notarial practice, based upon a high standard of service and a comprehensive knowledge of global notarial and authentication requirements.

He is the founder and immediate past Chairman of the Board of Governors of The Australian and New Zealand College of Notaries and a Distinguished Fellow of the College. He is also a Fellow of The Society of Notaries of Victoria and a Councillor and Past President of The Society. He was the first Australian individual member of the International Union of Notaries and was formerly a Director of the World Organization of Notaries (W.O.N.).

As Director of Notarial Studies at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia, Peter Zablud designed and is responsible for the presentation of the Professional Course in Notarial Practice—the pre-eminent qualification for Notaries in Australia and one of the outstanding courses of education of its kind in the common law world.

Peter Zablud also presents workshops and masterclasses for practising and prospective Notaries and in-house lectures and seminars for government and private organizations about the notariat and the authentication of documents.

For a number of years, Peter has presented papers and chaired sessions at conferences conducted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Peter holds the National Medal and a Reserve Force Decoration (RFD) for his service as an officer in the Australian Army Reserve.

In January this year, Peter was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his significant contribution to legal education and standards, particularly in the field of notarial studies.

Peter: Unlike their counterparts in British Columbia who are unique in Canada in the nonlitigious legal services they can provide, Australian Notaries have no domestic function. Their work is solely related to international matters.

In Australia, Notaries are appointed to hold office in their own States or Territories. In each State and Territory, other than Queensland, Notaries are appointed by the State/Territory Supreme Court. The Court of Faculties of the Archbishop of Canterbury continues to appoint Notaries in Queensland.

The Scrivener: What international legal work do Australian Notaries do?

Peter: A Notary is a specially qualified practising lawyer who has the internationally recognised power and authority for these activities, for use outside Australia, anywhere in the world.

- Prepare, attest, and certify deeds and other documents.
- Authenticate the execution of documents.
- Verify copy documents.
- Administer oaths and take declarations.
- Provide certificates of law.

The Scrivener: What types of documents are notarized?

Peter: Commonly notarized documents include the following.

- Powers of attorney for people or companies
- Intellectual property documents
- Inheritance documents, including probate documents and Wills
- Contracts and other documents relating to the sale, purchase, or mortgaging of property
- Copies of personal documents such as passports, degrees, diplomas, references, birth certificates, and other civil status documents
- Affidavits and declarations
- Commercial documents
- Certificates of “good standing” of companies
- Constitutions and other company documents

The Scrivener: How many Notaries are there in Australia? In your immediate area?

Peter: In Australia, there are approximately 1400 Notaries. In Victoria, there are about 130 Notaries, of whom 35 are located in Melbourne’s Central Business District. About 95 percent of Victorian Notaries are men.

The Scrivener: That’s interesting. In British Columbia, over 55 percent of our Notaries are women. How many lawyers practise in Australia and in your area?

Peter: I think there are about 75,000 lawyers in Australia. In Victoria, there are just over 21,000 lawyers in practice. The sexes are evenly divided.

In the City of Melbourne, there are almost 12,000 lawyers. Of that number, 5500 are sole practitioners.

The Scrivener: Please tell us a bit about your family history and your early days.

Peter: My parents immigrated to Australia from Poland shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1940 my father joined the Australian Army and was posted to Bandiana, a military camp not far from the provincial city of Albury in the State of New South Wales. My mother established a small clothing factory in Albury called “Ann of Paris.” Among other things, she manufactured clothing for the Army under that name!

Years later when I was in school cadets, I was issued a set of fatigues that bore the label “Ann of Paris.”

LAUGHTER
I completed my primary school and secondary education at Mt. Scopus. In my matriculation year (Year 12), I was School Captain/Head Prefect, an appointment made by the School Principal following a vote by the Year 12 student body.

Outside school, I was a Boy Scout and became a Queen’s Scout at the age of 15.

State governments and by independent schools, many of which are conducted by the Catholic and Anglican churches and by other religious and ethnic communities, including the Jewish community. The independent school sector is partially funded by the Australian Federal Government.

I completed my primary school and secondary education at Mt. Scopus. In my matriculation year (Year 12), I was School Captain/Head Prefect, an appointment made by the School Principal following a vote by the Year 12 student body.

In those days, many schools in Australia conducted school (army) cadet units. Mt. Scopus had a school cadet unit; I joined in 1958. In 1962, I was awarded the 3 Cadet Brigade Junior Leader’s Prize and in 1963, became the Cadet Unit’s Senior Cadet Under-Officer.

Outside school, I was a Boy Scout and became a Queen’s Scout at the age of 15.

The Scrivener: Did mentors or special people influence you along the way?

Peter: I was extremely fortunate to be taught by a wonderful group of teachers. My history teachers

The Scrivener: Where were you born, Peter?

Peter: My sister Zita and I were born in Albury. My first school was Albury State School, which I attended until the family moved to Melbourne when I was 6 years old.

The Scrivener: In what careers did your parents engage?

Peter: My father had been a lawyer in Poland. On moving to Melbourne, Mum opened another clothing factory. Dad enrolled in the Law School at The University of Melbourne and studied there on a part-time basis until he was admitted to practise as a solicitor in 1961.

My parents were heavily involved in Jewish communal affairs. Both were Presidents of the Zionist Federation of Australia. My mother was the President of the Women’s International Zionist Organisation of Australia.

The Scrivener: Please tell us about the education system in Australia.

Peter: Once in Melbourne, Zita and I attended Mt. Scopus College, an independent co-educational Jewish day school. In Australia, primary and secondary education is provided by
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services a BC Notary Can Provide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notarization/Documents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Affidavits for All Documents required at a Public Registry within BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Certified True Copies of Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Execution/Authentications of International Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Notarizations/Attestations of Signatures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Personal Property Security Agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statutory Declarations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Planning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Estate Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Health Care Declarations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Powers of Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Representation Agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wills Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wills Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Authorization of Minor Child Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Letters of Invitation for Foreign Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Passport Application Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Proof of Identity for Travel Purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Business Purchase/Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Commercial Leases and Assignment of Leases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contracts and Agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property Matters</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Easements and Rights of Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Insurance Loss Declarations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Manufactured Home Transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mortgage Refinancing Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Purchaser’s Side of Foreclosures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Refinancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Residential and Commercial Real Estate Transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Restrictive Covenants and Builder’s Liens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Subdivisions and Statutory Building Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Zoning Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marine Bills of Sale and Mortgages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marine Protestations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Some BC Notaries provide these services.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marriage Licences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Real Estate Disclosure Statements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Over 390 BC Notaries to Serve You!**

For the BC Notary office nearest you, please call 1-800-663-0343 or visit www.notaries.bc.ca.
The Scrivener: Did you practise law right away?

Peter: Following my admission to practise, I travelled abroad for 12 months. In Europe, I worked in Mallorca, Spain, for 4 months as the Senior English Master of an International School in Palma where I taught English, English Literature, European History, and Drama.

On my return to Australia, I commenced practice as a solicitor with my father and was subsequently in partnership with him and then with others. Since 1984 I have been in sole practice. I also teach at Victoria University.

It is a real privilege to have been made a Member of the Order of Australia. I am absolutely delighted to have been given that privilege.

At school I appeared in a number of school plays. As a result, at one time I thought I might become an actor.

The Scrivener: How, when, and why did you decide on a career in law?

Peter: I suppose I was following in my dad’s footsteps. And I really didn’t like the sight of blood.

I graduated from secondary school in 1963 and won a Commonwealth scholarship to study at an Australian University of my choice. I attended The University of Melbourne Law School, commencing my studies in 1964 and completing the course 4 years later. After a year’s Articles of Clerkship, I was admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria on 2 March 1970.
Since the enactment of the Public Notaries Act 2001 in Victoria, Australia, which included mandatory education as a prerequisite for appointment as a Notary in Victoria, I have been teaching prospective and practising Notaries around Australia, with occasional forays elsewhere. As a result, I have gained new perspectives and new insights into notarial practice.

Notarial practice in Australia is not overly difficult for experienced lawyers. Even so, it can be demanding and is often complex, requiring a level of knowledge and a degree of skill not usually anticipated by most who seek appointment to the office.

The Scrivener: What are the highlights of your career to date?

Peter: My professional highlights as a lawyer include major music industry litigation involving the musical group called “Air Supply,” an Australian soft rock duo currently touring the United States. Their hits All Out of Love, Even the Nights Are Better, and Making Love Out of Nothing at All made the charts in North America. At the time (1980), that litigation was thought to be the biggest piece of litigation ever in that industry. The lawsuit was about who was entitled to the royalties from the Lost in Love album. We won!!!

I conducted litigation involving professional footballers and allegations of improper conduct by and between interstate football clubs (in the 1980s), established mobile telephony companies (1995), and wrote various books and papers on notarial practice. As a Notary, my professional highlights include

- establishing and conducting the notarial studies course at Victoria University;
- establishing The Australian and New Zealand College of Notaries; and
- preparing and conducting notarial conferences, including international conferences in Bologna and Honolulu.

Notarial practice in Australia is not overly difficult for experienced lawyers. Even so, it can be demanding and is often complex...

Arising out of my notarial practice, I have been fortunate to have become involved with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and have attended many conferences and presented many papers at HCCH events in The Hague and throughout the world.

The Scrivener: Are you a fan of social media?

Peter: I haven’t come to terms with social media. Frankly, it troubles me greatly. Social media does not assist personal interaction. In reality, it is a very poor substitute for genuine interaction. When you look at it, you see that social media actually diminishes the social aspect of our lives rather than enhancing our lives.

It appalls me to see the minutiae of people’s lives becoming public performances for family, friends, and strangers to observe—and approve or disapprove.

The exponential growth of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the like is one of the primary causes of the intemperate and often vicious invective that currently passes as public discourse in Western society.

The Scrivener: How have you been involved in politics in Australia?


Within the Party, I ultimately became the Chairman of the Policy Assembly of Victoria, the full executive of the Victorian Division of the Party. I was an Electorate Chairman and Chairman of the Victorian Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and the Victorian Police and Emergency Services Committee.

I was then and still regard myself as being on the centre/right of the political spectrum.

The Scrivener: Please tell us about your Army service.

Peter: In 1964, while I was at University, I joined the Australian Army Reserve and attended an officer training unit for 12 months, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Infantry.

Following my graduation I was posted to 6 Battalion the Royal Victoria Regiment and served in that battalion in various roles until 1970, when I joined the Australian Army Legal Corps Reserve as a Captain. I continued in the Reserve for a number of years until I moved to the Reserve of Officers.
Peter: I am happy to say that after almost 30 years, I am still married to Robyn, the love of my life. She is a woman of great fortitude and patience—she must have both of those attributes in spades to have put up with me for so long!

LAUGHTER

In addition to being my wife, Robyn is and has been a wonderful partner in my legal practice. She is my practice manager, internal accountant, and secretary/personal assistant.

When you get married, you marry a family. In my case, I am extremely fortunate to have married into a lovely family. My mother-in-law Pearl Elmslie is the matriarch. At 91 years of age, she is one of Melbourne’s most inveterate shoppers!

The Scrivener: Please tell us about your offspring.

Peter: I have two children from my first marriage.

Matthew, 40, lives in Washington, DC, and conducts a boutique public relations business. He is also an admitted legal practitioner in Victoria. My grandson Lee is nearly 5 years old.

Joanne, 37, lives in New York. She was trained as an opera singer. She worked for Amazon as Global Head of Social Media for Amazon Films and is now an independent personnel consultant. Joanne is looking to undertake doctoral studies at Oxford or Guildhall in England.

The Scrivener: You and Robyn have two wonderful big dogs!

Peter: Max and Millie, who grace the cover of this magazine with us, are now nearly 14 years old. They keep Robyn and me sane. They come into work with us every day and oversee the general running of the office . . . particularly Millie, who guards the office extremely well. The clients love them.

LAUGHTER

The Scrivener: Please tell us your favourite maxims.

Peter: I try to run my life having regard for the following rules I have read in various places.

1. The cemeteries are full of indispensable people.
2. Never believe your own BS.
3. I looked for the enemy and I found he was me.

The Scrivener: What do you see for your future?

Peter: Robyn and I are trying to wind down the legal practice. We are looking to travel more. Our favourite destination is Italy. Next year, we hope to expand our horizons and spend some time in Spain and Portugal.

We are both looking forward to visiting Canada later this year!
Almost Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to Know about Australia

1. Melbourne is the queen city of the south and the cultural centre of Australia. It has one of the world’s most equitable climates. Our Winter (that is Summer in British Columbia) sees daytime temperatures ranging from 8° C to 16° C. Summer can be very hot. Temperatures of 40° C to 45° C are common.

2. Australians take pride in their convict past. Victoria was never a convict colony. Victoria made its mark during the gold rush of the 1850s and 1860s. We have a significant Chinese population that arrived during the gold rush times. As a result, we have some of the best Cantonese cuisine in the world! Our Italian migration has been sensational. We are among the world’s most polyglot countries and the food experience, especially in Melbourne, is second to none.

3. Our wildlife includes 100 million kangaroos, extremely venomous snakes, remarkable mammals such as koalas (that are not really bears), and the amazing duck-billed platypus.

4. Australians travel all over Australia. People from the south of the country tend to go to the tropical north. Like Canadians, Australians are and always have been extremely curious about the rest of the world and they travel extensively.

5. Robyn tells me, having passed over the equator by ship, that when everybody was upstairs on deck watching the Neptune festivities, she was in her cabin watching water go straight down the plug hole. Not one swirl in either direction. I have absolutely no doubt that water drains in opposite directions in the northern and southern hemispheres. — Peter Z

AUSTRALIA AND CANADA

Australia and Canada are remarkably similar countries.

Both our countries are former British Colonies that became fiercely independent federations within the British Empire, now called the Commonwealth of Nations.

Canada’s population of 35 million and Australia’s 24 million people are spread across mostly uninhabitable countries. Regarding Australia’s population, 24% are foreign-born as opposed to 21% of Canada’s population.

Australia is the world’s smallest continent and the world’s largest island.

Both our countries are open economies. Canada is the world’s 12th-largest economy. Australia follows immediately behind as the 13th-largest economy.

Both our countries have experienced regional housing booms over the past few years, supported by strong banking sectors. The average weekly earnings in Australia are much the same as the average weekly earnings in Canada.

Native Peoples

At law, the native peoples in Canada are much closer to Australian aborigines than they are to American Indians.

Presently, there is a strong move by the Australian aboriginal community to have a referendum held in Australia to amend our Constitution to give specific rights to indigenous people.

In Canada, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 provided a major basis for legal recognition of native title to land in Canada. No similar recognition took place in Australia in early days, although the land rights movement in Australia has seen a large number of quasi treaties entered into between aboriginal peoples and State and Federal governments.
**INGREDIENTS**

- ¾ cup raisins
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons dark rum
- 15 slices white sandwich bread
- some softened butter
- 3 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ cup castor sugar (very fine sugar)
- ½ cup coconut cream
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
dessicated coconut (finely shredded coconut) for sprinkling

The baking dish should be an 8-cup ovenproof dish.

1. Pour 2 tablespoons of honey and 2 tablespoons of rum over ½ cup raisins. Soak for at least 30 minutes.
2. Soften butter for spreading on bread.
3. Spread 15 slices of white sandwich bread with butter. Cut off crusts and cut each slice of bread into 3 fingers
4. Layer the ovenproof baking dish with bread and butter fingers, butter side up. Put half the raisin mixture on top of that layer. Add a second layer of bread slices, butter side up, and put remaining raisin mixture on top of that layer. Add a final layer of bread slices, butter side up.
5. **CUSTARD**
   - Beat 3 eggs + 2 egg yolks + ¾ cup of castor sugar until light and creamy.
   - Put into saucepan 1 cup of cream, ½ cup coconut cream, and 2 cups of milk. Stir and heat through until nearly boiling but do not boil.
   - Let cream and milk mixture cool a little
   - Beat mixture into egg mixture until “frothy”; beat in a teaspoon of vanilla essence.
6. Gently pour/ladle custard mixture over the bread and butter.
7. Sprinkle dessicated coconut over the top of the bread and butter pudding.
8. Put ovenproof dish into large baking pan and pour cold water halfway up the outside of the ovenproof dish.
9. Bake for 1 hour at 350° (180° C). The pudding will rise and the top will go all nice and crunchy. You will be able to tell when it is cooked because the mixture will set. Keep an eye on it; you don’t want the top to burn. It should become a nice “baked brown.” Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream.

**MERINGUES**

You can make these with the 2 leftover egg whites.

The rule is 1 egg white to 60 grams of castor sugar. Egg whites should be at room temperature.

Preheat oven to at 350° F (150° C).

Beat the egg whites until peaks form, then gradually beat in all the castor sugar and ½ teaspoon of vanilla essence. The mixture will go all shiny.

Place large dollops of the mixture onto a baking tray. Cook for 40 minutes. When cooking time is up, turn off oven, leave the oven door slightly ajar, and let the meringues cool in the warm oven.

Meringues can be broken up and placed in the bottom of parfait glasses and topped with strawberries marinated in drambuie and sugar, with freshly whipped cream on top—NOT whipped cream from a can.

**Alert:** Don’t attempt to cook the bread and butter pudding and the meringues at the same time. The meringues will burn.

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Robyn Zabrud
BC Notaries enjoyed record-breaking attendance once again for our Spring Conference on April 8 and 9, 2017, at the Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel and Conference Centre.

Over 350 members, staff, and BC Notary students attended education sessions on a variety of timely topics. Not even Vancouver’s rainy weather could mar the beauty of the views over the water to the North Shore.

Our keynote address was delivered by David Bilinsky of Thoughtful Law on “What it Means to be Trustworthy.”

Education sessions covered a variety of topics, including Franchises, Reverse Mortgages, Multiple Wills, Land Surveys, and Foreclosures. Our presenters included Tony Wilson, Boughton Law; Patricia French, Registered Retirement Consultant; Elyssa Lockhart, McQuarrie Hunter LLP; Lynn Ramsay, Miller Thomson; and Andrew Bury, Gowling WLG. Thank you so much to our guest speakers.

We also thank BC Notaries Michael Kravetz, Odina Skogvaard, Nick Aubin, and Andrea Agnoloni for their presentations on Manufactured Homes and for Tax Issues for Foreign Property Owners.

The Society’s own CEO Wayne Braid, General Counsel Quang Duong, In-House Counsel Ron Usher, and PAL Advisor Susan Mercer provided invaluable tips and traps around practice advice and risk management.

On a lighter note, Gary Ford gave us an entertaining and enlightening session on “Overcoming Objections: What Sets Customers Off?”

For our Sunday lunchtime guest speaker, we were delighted to hear from The Right Honourable Suzanne Anton, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Minister Anton’s speech was informative as well as complimentary to the legal work BC Notaries do here in British Columbia.

The theme for our Conference was “Super Notary,” wonderfully brought to life at our Saturday reception by Cristie Rosling of Umbrella Events. Music was provided by John Gilliat Latin Jazz Trio.

Our 2017 Fall Conference is arranged for September 21 to 24 at the iconic Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC.

Marny Morin, Discipline and Legal Education Services for BC Notaries, is also an Examiner for the Notary students.
The Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada aims to improve the lives of animals by allocating donor funds to worthy animal welfare charities conducting innovative educational, research and public outreach initiatives.

You can share in this commitment through a donation or bequest to AWFC. To learn more, please visit www.awfc.ca.
The BC Notary Class of 2017

| 1. YVONNE LESLIE WHITING       | 11. KWAN YEE KARIN LAI        | 21. KING CHUNG MA              |
| 2. JILLIAN CLAIRE STOCKBURGER  | 12. PINGPING LI               | 22. GRANT MURRAY SAUER         |
| 3. WEI LING XIA                | 13. BLANDYNA SKOWRONSKA       | 23. ANAHITA ROSTAMI            |
| 4. TIMOTHY PING YU NG          | 14. JEROME TSI LUNG TSANG     | 24. SAID GONZALEZ              |
| 5. QUANG DUONG, COUNSEL FOR THE SOCIETY | 15. RAMINDER KAUR SIDHU   | 25. MARGARET MENG CHING HSIEH |
| 6. ABBEY-JANE McGRATH          | 16. RANBIR KAUR KHALSA        | 26. MOHAMED SALIM CONTRACTOR    |
| 7. DARLENE HELEN THIESSEN      | 17. KYOKO MANABE              | 27. JONATHAN CONAN WONG        |
| 8. PAUL HUEI-EN CHEN           | 18. ANDREA SUSAN BANKS         | 28. ARAFAT KALAM               |
| 9. AMRITA GREWAL               | 19. MICHELLE LOUISE SUZANNE HAY | 29. NICOLAS MALIK BENOIT LEJEUNE |
| 10. WAYNE BRAID, CEO/SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY | 20. MEAGAN ROCHELLE SELZLER | 30. WEN BING (JASON) ZHANG    |
The Installation of 28 new BC Notaries was held at 8:30 AM at the Vancouver Court House with The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson presiding.

At the sponsored luncheon at the Pan Pacific Hotel, the graduates received their Certificates and BC Notary pins and celebrated with their families, friends, colleagues, and our honoured guests.

Wayne Braid, CEO and Secretary of The Society of Notaries, was our Master of Ceremonies.

Members of BC Notaries’ Board of Directors included President Tammy Morin Nakashima, John Eastwood, Akash Sablok, Dan Boisvert, Filip de Sagher, Kate Manvell, Susan Tong, David Watts, Rhoda Witherly, Daryl McLane, Marco Castro, and Pat Wright and BC Notaries Hilde Deprez, Trish Fedewich, Carolynne Maguire, Laurie Salvador, Joan Letendre, Terry Sidhu, Gail Maida, Marvin Hawke, and Leda Kwichak.

Our guests included Eileen Hoeter, Liza Aboud, Land Title & Survey Authority of BC; Larry Blaschuk, New Westminster Land Title Office; from Simon Fraser University—Applied Legal Studies Program Professors David Bilinsky and Eleanor Lecocq, Applied Legal Studies staff Dr. Dianne Jamieson-Noel and Gabriel Sauro, Dr. Robert Gordon, Professor, Associate Dean, and Director, Applied Legal Studies Program, and Beth Ann Locke, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; John Robinson and Grant Goldrich, Do Process; Karen Cook, Cook Public Relations; Winnie Fei and Kristine Simpson, BDO Canada; Brenda Southam and Daniel John, Real Estate Institute of BC; Quang Duong and Brian Poston, MacKenzie Fujisawa LLP; Mark Jiles, Bluestone Group; Rob Selnes, Marsh Canada; Amanda Magee, Stewart Title Guaranty Company; and Anne Barnes, Chubb.

Also present were Society staff members Marny Morin, Ron Usher, Amber Rooke, Lorena Gri, Nicola Tedd, and Leeanna Sankar.

The Convocation Ceremony for the grads was held the next day, June 8, at the Simon Fraser University Surrey Campus. ▲
Congratulations to the Class of 2017

It is my pleasure to participate in this important milestone in the professional lives of the newest members of The Society of Notaries Public.

It is, of course, important to each of you and to your families and your friends because it marks an important professional achievement for you, one in which you can take justifiable pride.

It is also an important occasion for the public at large. The office that each of you is assuming has a long and distinguished history, going back long before this country was created. Your profession is an ancient and honourable one, demanding of you proficiency in the exercise of your duties and the utmost integrity in what will be your professional service to the public.

We are all fortunate to live in a democratic society where the rule of law prevails. You will be participants in our country’s legal system, free to work without facing the constraints that trouble so many other jurisdictions where the benefits that many take for granted in Canada are unavailable.

You have now become officers of the law. You assume a position of trust in relation, not just to those by whom you are retained, but to the community as a whole. You will exercise profound influence over the affairs of others in the quality advice you provide and the manner in which you provide it. In your execution of documents that will mean so much to those you are chosen to assist; you have a duty to uphold the public trust that you have assumed by your oath taken today.

You will certainly face challenges in your professional work. Your oath to act uprightly and justly will guide you when you face these challenges and honesty and integrity must always be the basis upon which you must meet them. When prevailed upon to depart from these guiding principles by weaker or desperate individuals, you must remain resolute. A reputation in a profession is hard-earned but can be easily lost. You must guard your reputations jealously.

I’ve had the opportunity to review the various letters of reference that have been filed on your behalves and I must say you are an impressive group. You are scholars, teachers, athletes, volunteers, and individuals who have already taken leadership roles in serving your community in a variety of ways. Indeed the theme of public service resounds from your letters.

I know that each of you has worked hard and made sacrifices; some to come to Canada in the first place and all to achieve the standing that commends you to the offices you now occupy. You should be rightly proud of what you have accomplished. Your letters of reference make it clear you have been assisted by friends and family, to whom you are and will remain indebted. I congratulate not only you but your friends and families and loved ones who are here today to support you as well as those who are unable to attend today.

Pursuant to section 11 of the Notaries Act, having taken your oath of office and upon being satisfied that you have satisfactorily passed the requirement examination and paid the prescribed fee, you are now to be enrolled by the registrar as members of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia and be entitled to practise as a Notary Public.

I wish you well in your professional and personal lives and truly hope you enjoy the work you have chosen and are now entitled to perform. I will now ask the Court clerk to adjourn these proceedings so you can share the day with your colleagues and your families and friends and take the photographs that will help you remember the day.

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson was appointed to Supreme Court March 2, 2007, to the Court of Appeal on March 19, 2010, and appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on November 7, 2013.
In 2015, Justin Trudeau campaigned declaring, “It’s time for a Change.”

News of every source exposes that the United States is enduring change. In BC for the first time in 65 years, our government faced an anomaly with the balance of power being wielded by a minority of only 3 seats. Quite the change. And Graduates of Cohort 8, Class of 2017, your lives are forever changed. Today you have become BC Notaries Public.

History now proclaims the record of your sacrifice and devotion and the collective investment by loved ones, friends, cohorts, and educators supporting and cheerleading you to realize your dream. You have a foundation of law, technique, business strategies, and practices. But clearly at this milestone, it is not that you have arrived, rather that the door called Change summons you to cross its threshold to define your own success.

As you walk through it, what awaits you?

Settled at your desk, you are poised to face the day. An elderly woman calls in the midst of your hectic conveyancing schedule explaining that next week, Thursday, she will be no more. She needs you to go to her home to take instructions to ensure her Will clearly records the gifts she wants given. She asks you to please help her with her final wishes. Do you dismiss her, presuming she’s lost capacity? Do you take the extra few minutes to explore the circumstances? What questions do you pose? What advice do you offer? You are the trusted advisor to every one of your clients. Do you have the time to follow through, start to finish?

Joined today to a unique group of Professionals in Canada under the banner “Tradition of Trust,” remember your word is your bond. Proudly build your future on that foundation. Forge lifetime friendships. Be successful. Be profitable. Be a good leader. Be a good boss. You are a member of the BC Notaries who are recognized for providing more than 90 years of trusted legal services in this province. You have over 360 colleagues, so you are never alone.

Let me comment on that real-life story about the elderly woman. Because of Change, a conversation that would have never occurred 21 years ago took place. A woman plagued with unbearable suffering was able to exercise a measure of control. I met with my client and recorded her wishes. She was comforted to know her final affairs were in order. Her properties were conveyed to her heir before she passed. Her Will empowered her son to execute her final acts of kindness and selflessness. She was respected. She was grateful. She had peace. The work you do changes the lives of those around you.

I conclude with these words from Tom Brokaw.

You are educated.
Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

Forge lifetime friendships.
Be successful. Be profitable.
Be a good leader.
Be a good boss.

The words of Lieutenant General David Lindsay Morrison, senior officer in the Australian Army, resonate with us: “The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.” Introduced to us by Professor Ron Usher, those words nicely sum up the importance of the ethical attire we all wear and the moral courage and leadership expected of us. It also speaks to life itself. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.
Today, Wednesday, June 7, 2017, is an ending.

After many, many hours of instruction, too many online postings to count, 17 written assignments, 14 academic exams, 6 statutory exams, 4 debates, 3 weeks of mentoring, and 1 conveyancing oral exam, here we are.

We’ve completed our academic and practical training. We take with us memories of the saga of Adam and Jennifer. We recognize compelling arguments. We witnessed conartistry in action at a fake “get-rich-quick-in-real-estate” seminar.

Throughout it all, we also managed to learn what we will need to thrive as Notaries, things like how to convey a property, how to critically review contracts to protect our clients’ interests, and how to assess someone’s competency to make a Will.

We received real-life pointers from practitioners about running a Notary practice and we understand that what our clients, fellow Notaries, our regulator, and the public expect from us is accurate and timely work, done ethically, honestly, and with integrity.

Of course, today is also a beginning. Some of us who were working as legal assistants and conveyancers saw this program as a logical next step. Those of us working in a related field, like banking or real estate, began this program to build on our experience.

Others of us who had been city planners, immigration consultants, land title examiners, educators, translators, photographers, green roof marketers, lab managers, human resource directors, or accountants used the program as a way to gain career autonomy. Today, despite our different roads here, all of us have something in common; we are beginning our life as BC Notaries.

Finally, we want to recognize the most important people in our lives—our friends and family who provided financial, practical, and emotional support…

We will be opening a new office, taking over a practice, initiating a partnership, working in a different location. Many of us are also looking forward to taking on Committee and Board of Director roles with The Society and shaping the future for all Notaries.

We worked hard, but we did not get to this milestone on our own; many people helped us along the way.

We appreciate the support of The Notary Foundation and its Board of Governors. We offer a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Rob Gordon and the Simon Fraser University professors, adjuncts, teaching assistants, and staff who led us through the Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies education program.

Special thanks are due to Marny Morin and all the staff members of The Society of Notaries Public of BC. We are especially grateful to the many Notaries and lawyers who provided practical training and classroom instruction and who as mentors contributed generous amounts of advice and wisdom.

As we mark transitions today, we take note that we are the last cohort to complete the Notary training program with Wayne Braid as Chief Executive Officer of The Society. Thank you, Wayne, for all your work on behalf of The Society and for everything that you have done for us as students—especially for that wonderful telephone call on April 5 when you congratulated us for passing our statutory exams. Best wishes for your new beginning!

Finally, we want to recognize the most important people in our lives—our friends and family who provided financial, practical, and emotional support and gave up time with us to allow us to study.

For all those dinners you ate alone while we stared at our computer screen and occasionally tapped furiously on the keyboard or the times when we might have been physically present but our thoughts seemed to be elsewhere, we owe you profound gratitude, and we promise—somehow—to make it up to you.

Thank you for everything.
Our 2017 Award Recipients

30th Annual Dr. Bernard W. Hoeter Award
In recognition of achieving the highest marks on all the Notarial Statutory Examinations
Presenter: Eileen Hoeter
Recipient: Meagan Rochelle Selzler

BDO Canada Award
In recognition of your inspirational performance in all subjects of the Notary Education Program
Presenter: Kristine Simpson
Recipient: Nicolas Malik Benoit Lejeune

Do Process Award
In recognition of achieving the highest marks on the Conveyancing Examination
Presenter: John Robinson
Recipient: Meagan Rochelle Selzler

Leadership Award, sponsored by Ken Sherk
In recognition of demonstrating leadership and most likely to become involved in future governance of The Society of Notaries Public of BC
Presenter: Dan Boisvert
Recipient: Jonathan Conan Wong

Real Estate Institute of BC Award
In recognition of achieving the highest marks on the Contracts Examination
Presenter: Daniel John
Recipient: Meagan Rochelle Selzler

ERAssure Award
In recognition of achieving the highest marks on the Wills and Trust Examination
Presenter: Laurie Salvador
Recipient: Jillian Claire Stockburger

Tarlok & Akash Sablok Award
In recognition of having demonstrated best use of Technology through the SFU and Practical Training Programs
Presenter: Akash Sablok
Recipient: Andrea Susan Banks
Simon Fraser University Award
In recognition of achieving the highest marks in the Master of Arts in Applied Legal Studies Program
Presenter: Dr. Rob Gordon
Recipients: Meagan Rochelle Selzler Yvonne Leslie Whiting

10th Annual Professor Robert Reid Award
In recognition of achieving the highest mark on the Property Examination
Presenter: Rhoda Witherly
Recipient: Jillian Claire Stockburger

17th Annual Stanley J. Nicol Award
In recognition of achieving the highest combined marks on the Notarial Procedures Examination
Presenter: John Eastwood
Recipient: Michelle Louise Suzanne Hay

Risk Management Award
Awarded to the student with the best understanding of Risk Management. Jointly sponsored by Marsh Canada Ltd and Chubb Canada
Presenters: Anne Barnes, Rob Selnes
Recipient: Paul Huei-En Chen

ENJOY THE CERTAINTY
THAT YOU HAVE MADE A GOOD DECISION.

What will your legacy be? You can guide the future of your community and the causes you care about by making a legacy gift to the Victoria Foundation. Our endowment fund is one of this community’s greatest strengths, allowing us to manage charitable gifts and bequests in perpetuity.

We continually build the fund and invest in our community - granting annually to a broad range of charitable organizations and worthy causes. If community matters to you, the Victoria Foundation is where you can make your priorities known.

Please contact Sara Neely at 250.381.5532 or sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca for more information.

victoriafoundation.ca
Born in Hope, BC, in 1961, I grew up in Boston Bar in the Fraser Canyon with 4 brothers and 2 sisters.

My father managed the Shell Station and Bulk Plant and did the accounting for those businesses and did the accounting for the Charles Hotel owner Cog Harrington.

My mother was a homemaker. We were raised in a hardworking, loving, and caring home. My parents instilled in us a good work ethic and to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I am always so grateful for everything my parents taught me and for the closeness we have always had as a family.

I went to elementary school in Boston Bar, graduated from Hope Secondary in 1979, and was accepted into the Arts program at UBC. My desire back then was to eventually attend law school. After 2 years at UBC, I decided to take a different path. I was accepted into the Technology in Financial Management program at BCIT, graduating in 1983 with a view to becoming a CGA.

I accepted Dean’s proposal of marriage. Unable to find a position with an accounting firm in Hope, I was hired by a family friend who ran an insurance agency. In September 1984, Dean and I were married in Yale in the oldest church in BC on its original foundation.

In 1987 my husband went to work for CP Rail and we moved to Kamloops where I continued to work in the insurance field. We did a brief stint in Cranbrook and in January 1990, moved to Mackenzie with our first son Scott, born in May 1989. Our second son Ryan was born in December 1992.

My husband took a job in the local pulp mill and eventually became a Power Engineer. I was able to find work with a small insurance agency in Mackenzie and continued to work as an insurance broker. BC Notary Harry Smith, husband of the owner of the Mackenzie insurance agency, had an office within the agency. I became interested in the work he did and thought it would be a good fit for me.

Harry retired and no one immediately applied for his Notary Seal. At that time, TILMA\(^1\) was not enacted and there was a limit on the number of Notary Seals in BC. I applied to the Notary program with the hope that by the time I was commissioned, no one would buy his Seal. Mackenzie was our home and the community where we wanted to continue to raise our children.

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\(^1\) Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement
Luckily for me, no one applied for his Seal. I was commissioned in 2003 and became the Notary Public for Mackenzie.

I was grateful for the assistance and mentorship of Harry Smith and Notaries Marny Morin, Linda Manning, and Fred Green. When I took the Notary Preparatory Course and continuing education seminars, I learned the technical aspects of being a Notary but not the practical side of running the business. I asked a lot of questions and gained a lot of knowledge from those Notaries and from my colleagues, including Joyce Helweg with whom I graduated.

Being a good student has always been important to me. I have high standards for myself and always try to be organized and meticulous. I rise to the occasion when there are challenges and I am always motivated to achieve a high level of success. It was wonderful to win the Bernard Hoeter Award. Dr. Hoeter presented it to me at the 2003 Graduation Luncheon.

I am a positive, honest, and sincere person who likes helping people. I have good communication skills. Working in the business environments in the insurance and Notary fields, I enjoyed serving clients in a professional manner and went above and beyond my clients’ expectations.

I have a strong desire to maintain my own sense of values when it comes to the way I do business and like the freedom and independence that business ownership gives me. I use my own ideas and am flexible according to the needs of my community and my clients.

I appreciate living in Mackenzie, such as the ease of getting to know my clients. The friendly small-town atmosphere of 4500 people has a casual pace; life is more laid back with less hustle and bustle. I can walk or bike to work.

Mackenzie has clean, fresh air and a wide range of outdoor recreational activities; it has been a great community to raise our two boys. My husband and I take advantage of doing things like walking, biking, gardening, kayaking, and spending time at our family cabin on McLeod Lake.

I am invested in our community. A Paul Harris Fellow, I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Mackenzie since 2002 and have served as President, Treasurer, and Secretary. I am also Treasurer for our local Meals on Wheels organization.

In 2009 I served as Vice President on the Northern BC Winter Games Committee. Last year, I was a committee member and volunteer on the Celebrate Mack 50 Committee to organize the 50th birthday celebration for Mackenzie. In 2014 I was Citizen of the Year at the Business and Community Awards held by the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce.

My family and friends are most important to me. I love spending time with my husband, my boys, my family, and our friends. I especially enjoy the peace and tranquility of our cabin.

Telephone: 250 997-5778
kguth@telus.net

I love spending time with my husband, my boys, my family, and our friends.
In 1952 I noticed a “Notary Public” sign on the roof of a vehicle.

Although I had no idea then what a Notary Public was, some 29 years later, in May 1971, I became one—without the sign.

Until age 26 I was employed in the automotive industry in the Fraser Valley. When the dealer closed his business in February 1961, a parts sales position became available in Trail. I was interviewed in Vancouver for the job and was successful.

But where was Trail?

I travelled to the West Kootenay city to acquaint myself with the business and the general amenities.

On returning to Abbotsford, I was able to report to Hildegard, my wife of 5 years, that shopping would be acceptable. Eaton’s, The Bay, and Sears were represented, as were chains such as Kresge’s, Woolworth’s, and so on... a lot of retail stores for a small city. An acceptable church—The Alliance—was also noted.

After some discussion, we concluded that a 2-year period away from family and friends might be an interesting experience.

Trail is home to one of the largest lead/zinc smelters in the world. In 1961 the population was 12,000 and the plant employed about 5500. The population is now 7900 and plant employees total 1600, a result of modernization. Today, the only department store is Wal-Mart. The church is in a building constructed in 1978 with me as the building chair.

I found the auto parts sales position quite unsatisfactory so we planned to return to Abbotsford but, on September 18, 1961, I was hired as a sales agent for the Allstate Insurance Co. After 8 successful years with Allstate, in June 1969 I purchased a Trail insurance brokerage.

With a 10-year purchase agreement and the fear that a socialist government could upset my insurance business, I applied for a Notary Public Seal that had become vacant.

In contrast to the indepth and intense education that takes place today for BC Notaries—a Master of Arts degree in Applied Legal Studies at Simon Fraser University plus practical training/mentoring experience, back then we were advised what the examinations would cover and which books and provincial statutes to study; we also had a few evening sessions with a lawyer. The Notaries’ Secretary Dr. Hoeter called me to advise, “You passed with good marks.”

In time, my Notary practice proved to be most rewarding in income, community involvement, and the associated prestige.

My community service in Trail included four terms on City Council; President of Senior Citizens Villa residences; President of Insurance Brokers of BC; Chair of the Insurance Council of BC and our Church Board; Chair of the PR Committee when The Scrivener commenced; Director on the Board of The Society of Notaries Public from 1989 to 2000; and a member of Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Health Board, Library Board, and United Way Board. I was also very active in politics.

Daughter-in-law Karen Siemens acquired my Notary practice in 2000. I was often told by my former clients how much they appreciated Karen’s service. I am most proud of her. The insurance brokerage was sold in 2003.

When formerly asked about my hobbies, I usually answered, “I work and go to meetings.”

Today, my wife of 62 years and I enjoy reading and walking. We have spent some Winter months down south and have taken a number of cruises.

In July 2015 we relocated to Richmond to a condo overlooking the south arm of the Fraser River.

Our plan for 2 years away from the Lower Mainland had grown to 54½ years. ▲
The Board of Governors of The Notary Foundation of BC is comprised of:

- 8 members of the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public of BC;
- 1 representative from the Attorney General’s Office in Victoria*;
- 2 Directors-at-Large, appointed by the Attorney General**; and
- the Executive Officer.

The members from The Society are elected by the Directors of The Society from among their ranks, for a 3-year period.

**The Foundation Governors**

Akash Sablok, Chair
John Eastwood
David Watts
Rhoda Witherly
Tammy Morin Nakashima

Patricia Wright
Lorne Mann
*Lisa Nakamura
Filip de Sagher
**Deborah Nelson
**Jas Rehal

G. W. Wayne Braid, Executive Officer of The Notary Foundation, is responsible for the administration of the office and staff and the diverse investment funds of The Foundation.

The Board of Governors meets quarterly to consider applications for funding from various organizations and to set policy, review The Foundation’s financial status, and provide direction for the administration of The Foundation.

The Governors of The Foundation have the responsibility of guiding The Foundation in its mandate to disperse the funds generated by interest on BC Notaries’ Trust Accounts.

The Notary Foundation funds are used for the following purposes:

1. Legal education
2. Legal research
3. Legal aid
4. Education and Continuing Education for BC Notaries and applicants who have enrolled to become BC Notaries
5. Establishment, operation, and maintenance of law libraries in BC
6. Contributions to the Special Fund established under the Notaries Act of BC

*Total revenue to May 31, 2017, since inception
The challenge is extreme poverty. That is the biggest problem for me. I lost my WCB appeal recently. So, I get zero compensation, zero retraining, zero therapy, zero.

– A mother with disabilities living in poverty

Well when I was in the hospital and when I was pregnant, there was a social worker that came and she was talking to me. And she really... yeah, she really was not happy for me. She was, sort of like, thinking, Are you really thinking of your child? Like, “I think it would be best for your child if you gave the child up.” And I thought, I just delivered a child, I’m lying in bed, and you’re telling me this? I was devastated.

– A mother with cerebral palsy

Those are just two of the many powerful firsthand experiences shared by participants in West Coast LEAF’s 2014 “Mothering with Disabilities Project,” funded in part by The Notary Foundation of BC.

This law reform project was launched to address a gap in research on the systemic barriers to equality faced by women with disabilities in relation to parenting. Our interviews with 25 diverse mothers with disabilities confirmed that discriminatory attitudes about parenting ability can create obstacles to reproductive choice, adoption, and fairness in family law and child protection for these women.

Furthermore, the economic insecurity disproportionately experienced by women with disabilities undermines their access to the legal system and to basic necessities for themselves and their children, including housing, child care, and nutritious food. As a result, women with disabilities may have their children apprehended by the child protection system because of a lack of resources and support, not because of abuse or neglect.

The struggles are compounded for mothers who also experience inequalities based on indigenous identity, race, sexual orientation, and other aspects of their identity.

The Mothering with Disabilities Project culminated in our “Able Mothers” report that set out our research and many recommendations for changes to laws and policies to better support women with disabilities. Its overarching recommendation was for governments to provide all necessary supports to ensure that children can remain with their parents when that is in the best interests of the children.
In the 2½ half years since “Able Mothers” was first published, what work has West Coast LEAF done to advance the goal?

- In collaboration with Community Legal Assistance Society, First Call Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition, and other advocates, we continued pushing for an end to the clawback of child support payments from families receiving income assistance and disability assistance benefits. West Coast LEAF and our allies were heartened when this clawback was finally eliminated in September 2015 and a key recommendation from “Able Mothers” became a reality.

- Building on the work of the Community Legal Assistance Society and others, we called on the BC Government to abolish yet another clawback impacting mothers with disabilities: The deduction of maternity and parental EI benefits from assistance payments received by parents who are designated as Persons with Disabilities (PWD). In our view, the clawback exacerbated the barriers to reproductive choice and employment that women with disabilities already face, as documented in “Able Mothers.” We were again heartened when the clawback was eliminated in October 2016.

- We joined with other human rights organizations to issue a press release calling for an increase to social assistance rates in BC. The current low rates entrap many single mothers and their children in deep poverty and increase the risk of needless child apprehensions.

- We called for changes to the definitions of spouse and dependent in BC’s disability and income assistance legislation that are out of sync with other laws and result in many women with disabilities being unfairly denied benefits and forced into economic dependency on others. Women who lack access to their own financial resources have limited choice in relationships and a reduced ability to flee abuse.

- As part of our advocacy for affordable, high-quality child care, we published “High Stakes,” a report about the human rights consequences of BC’s inadequate child care system for women and children, including harms to the health of mothers with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Thanks to the support of The Notary Foundation and other generous funders, West Coast LEAF has been able to document some of the law and policy issues that create barriers for mothers with disabilities...

Thanks to the support of The Notary Foundation and other generous funders, West Coast LEAF has been able to document some of the law and policy issues that create barriers for mothers with disabilities...
The initial interview with LTSA was published in the Summer Scrivener 2016. www.notaries.bc.ca/scrivener

Archives

In Conversation with Val Wilson of The Scrivener

The Scrivener: Since our previous interview, Connie, you’ve been at the helm of the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC for over 15 months. Please give us an overview of what has taken place during that time regarding changes, innovations, and achievements.

Connie: I’ve learned a lot. I spent a lot of time internally, getting to know the executive team and the broader management team and investing plenty of time with staff—visiting all our offices and sitting down with staff to talk about what works for them, what doesn’t, what they need to perform better, and so on.

There was also considerable learning to do about the business and our customers—land surveyors and the legal community, including BC Notaries. In terms of what is impacting our customers, we’ve had excellent success on important projects.

One of them is ParcelMap BC, an electronic map of the province that will be complete in June 2017. ParcelMap BC includes all the active titled parcels of land in British Columbia as well as any surveyed provincial Crown land parcels. This is the first time British Columbia has had one comprehensive map of all the legal titles in the province; it could not have happened without the support of the Provincial Government and local governments who all contributed their data to get the project started. I am hopeful ParcelMap BC is a game-changer going forward in terms of assisting in sharing and analyzing information about property and other matters related to location. It is a significant accomplishment.

ParcelMap BC has a built-in quality-improvement process that we will soon be using to our advantage.

Wayne: ParcelMap BC for British Columbians is a huge deal. Now the client can have an actual visual. “Wow, that’s where my property is; that’s how big it is!” That can be done with the touch of a mouse, right from the Notary’s desktop.

Connie: It’s a great opportunity to create a map-based platform for access to information. The next step is encouraging wide-scale adoption. We need everyone to adopt ParcelMap BC as their base map so we can all share the layers of data that can be built on top of ParcelMap BC. We all want to work from the same base of information to ensure consistency in decision-making and other processes across organizations.

ParcelMap BC has a built-in quality-improvement process that we will soon be using to our advantage.
The other project we have worked on over the last year is the next upgrade of our electronic filing system, an initiative we call Project ACE—Advanced Customer Enhancements. The main focus of this project is to improve our customers’ experience in electronic filing. We’ve spent a lot of time over the last several months consulting with customer groups in the legal community. Wayne, your Notary members were involved in some of our workshops and on-site visits. We asked, “What can we do to improve the electronic filing process?”

We want to make sure the changes we make will help our customers. That’s why we’re getting them involved in the design stage so what ultimately gets built will be something that meets their needs.

We already have made some changes to take us in that direction, even without developing new technology. We’ve centralized our mailing processes to increase efficiency in handling these applications for the customer. A minor technology enhancement has allowed us recently to enable customers to order scans of older documents; that is turning out to be a popular service.

Part of our goal with Project ACE is to achieve nearly 100 percent electronic filing. Currently, about 95 percent of the applications that come to us are filed electronically, but we still have front counters and staff and customers at those front counters. That works okay if you are near one of our offices in Kamloops, Victoria, or New Westminster, but what if you live in Dawson Creek, Terrace, or Cranbrook? How can we provide a comparable level of service if you don’t live near one of our offices? We would like to get to a place where it doesn’t matter where you live in the province; you will have exactly the same level of access to our services.

The Scrivener: That’s excellent.

Connie: There are two parts to the LTSA business.

• The LTSA regulatory authority model ensures land titles are secure and the survey systems on which they are founded are of a high quality. People put a lot of trust in us. The Quality Verification Program is an example of a program that verifies legal professional compliance with the Land Title Act when filing applications with the Land Title Office.

• Then there’s the customer part, we need to make changes to our search and filing in a way that supports our customers in their businesses and makes it easy for them to use our systems.

Our organization uniquely provides a registration process people can trust and we would never want to compromise it.

It’s been busy since I’ve joined the LTSA. Some of the validations of our consultation efforts and focus on security and reliability are reflected in our 2016 Stakeholder Survey Results. The survey, held in September-October 2016, showed we had 93 percent customer satisfaction and 97 percent customer trust levels.

Wayne: It’s good for our readers to know about the quality control the LTSA is maintaining to make sure BC Notaries and lawyers and the other people who use the system are doing it right. The public needs to be assured there is a focus throughout the whole LTSA system that is all about protecting their titles.

Connie: We all have the same goal—a reliable, accurate, trusted system. We need to make sure that land titles are secure in the province. That leads to so many other things, including allowing us to leverage that value and build wealth, which helps make BC a healthy society.

Our organization uniquely provides a registration process people can trust and we would never want to compromise it. We asked the questions and our customers were quite vocal about where we could
Connie: Yes. We’re supporting the businesses that are ultimately supporting the public. Notaries care about serving the customer; that’s why they are requesting particular changes. They’re engaged. They’re at the table. They’re participating. It’s great to have that support.

Wayne: The forthcoming changes will be very useful.

Connie: In terms of Project ACE, we’re modernizing electronic filing and will move from having our customers fill out PDF forms to entering data online in myLTSA to generate land title forms. The users will have access to all the modern bells and whistles we’ve come to expect with electronic forms to help improve usability.

Wayne: At our recent BC Notaries Spring Conference, I did a short presentation to our members about the LTSA; they were all over the idea of going from PDFs to web-based forms. They were very interested and asked many questions.

Connie: BC Notaries are hands-on throughout the whole filing transaction. We need to make sure our design works for them.

The other thing we learned was that BC Notaries are really keen on a mobile solution. To Notaries, it’s really important that our solutions translate to different devices, to tablets and cell phones for example. Notaries are obviously out and about; flexibility matters to them. Clearly they’re working more than Monday to Friday daytime hours. Access on weekends was also important to the Notaries who participated in our focus groups.

Wayne: The mobile idea is good. The response was great when I mentioned it at the Spring Conference.

The Scrivener: Being able to use mobile apps or have a mobile responsive website is an advantage for your customer’s customer, the client waiting for the property transfer to be completed on time.

Connie: They know you’re listening.

Wayne: The LTSA listens and provides the opportunities to provide the input from advisory committees and focus groups. When I first started as a Notary in 1988, the Land Title Office staff was still manually updating the indexes.

The Scrivener: In the June 2004 Summer Scrivener, we ran an article by Registry Agent Debbie Larson with photos about those historical documents in the New Westminster Land Title Office.

A Company Index Book. Companies were entered under their corporate name. Reference to their incorporation number, date of gazette, name of the company’s president, and any other changes to that company were noted here.

Document File Cabinets holding documents dating from the early 1800s to the late 1950s. Too fragile to be microfilmed. Document types varied from deeds, estates, mortgages, and others that either created an Absolute Title or an interest in them.
Connie: Those records are still there. **LAUGHTER.** We are working to photograph all the pages of those books in very, very high resolution to capture them. Even if you zoom in, you don’t lose clarity. Those books go back to the very beginning of land title records in BC, with tiny handwritten notes added as properties were subdivided.

We have also completed the conversion of most active Absolute Fee titles to indefeasible titles so they can be electronically accessed through myLTSA.

We have three vaults—Kamloops, New West, and Victoria—that contain all the original paperwork created to define legal titles, including copies of original Crown grants. And we have original field books of Crown surveys from BC land surveyors...a huge amount of historical documentation of the populating of the province from the mid-1800s. Archivists go there to research.

Wayne: One of those archivists was Jean Topham; she told me she loved her work preserving our history.

Connie: The original survey plans are like works of art. Some were in colour. They’re absolutely beautiful. Plans of the original Fort Victoria, for example. Fortunately, we have really dedicated people overseeing the longterm historical preservation of all that information. While a lot of restoration work has been done, there’s still a lot of work to do. It’s expensive, time-consuming, and a very specialized contribution to preserving part of BC’s history.

Wayne: A few years ago, I took my grandson Austin to Child Work Day at the Victoria Land Title Office. I remember one of your employees was so great with him. I found it amazing that a 15-year-old kid was so fascinated with the archives.

Connie: The archive vaults are all climate-controlled for temperature and humidity with specialized fire-suppression facilities and very thick walls. The building in Victoria was specially built to accommodate the archives because of their weight. Our filing systems allow us to file a...
great deal of information in a relatively small space. I feel an incredible responsibility to preserve those historical documents for the province.

Wayne: It’s a very elaborate setup.

Connie: Looking at the LTSA as a whole, we’ve been very careful to manage the organization’s size. We have added technical staff, because certainly that’s the way this industry, like many others, is going.

On the other hand, we have attrition. It takes about 2 years before a new Examiner of Title is fully trained. Our internal training program is classroom-style and culminates in exams for certification as an Examiner of Title.

In addition, the LTSA is making great use of automated decision-making. It’s what you need today to have an efficient system that retains the security of the Torrens land title registry system we’ve become used to in BC.

Wayne: It is amazing the way the LTSA has evolved. It is an organizational model that has certainly worked.

The Scrivener: What other exciting things are on your horizon?

Connie: We have a new Chair at the LTSA, Janice Comeau, CFO for LMS Reinforcing Steel Group. She succeeds Geoff Plant and will continue to guide us, along with the rest of our Board. The organization has been pursuing a strategy of operational excellence, becoming really efficient at what it does. Part of that is the automation. Another part has been a process review, working with the staff to streamline processes to increase efficiencies and the way we serve our customers: First Nations and the whole legal community—BC Notaries and lawyers; the real estate community is a big user of our search facilities.

Our future will be continuing to pursue operational excellence while ensuring we take a customer-centric approach in meeting our customers’ needs and finding new opportunities to make their lives easier.

The Scrivener: The LTSA is a leader worldwide in its field. Are you receiving visitations and enquiries from other countries?

Connie: Yes. New Zealand was here recently talking to us. They’re looking into making some changes to their land title and survey software and adopting a new system. They’ve been chatting with us about what we’re doing.

Just the other day, someone from Spain who runs an organization of title registry organizations worldwide—with an annual conference where everybody brings their ideas about what they’re doing with their land title system—was out to see us. He spent a day with the Director of Land Titles Registrar for the New Westminster and Kamloops Land Title Offices, and Vice President, Business Innovation and Chief Information Officer.

The Scrivener: How far ahead do you plan?

Connie: In terms of a business plan, we look forward 3 years. For a strategic plan, we look 5 years ahead. At the end of the day, we’re improving our services and keeping an eye on how the industry is changing as well as possible disruptive technologies. For example, one emerging technology of interest is blockchain. There are attempts around the world to use blockchain technology for land registry. Sweden has developed a blockchain land registry concept that is really interesting. Did you read that paper, Wayne?

Wayne: I did. Over seven different countries are now using the blockchain technology for their land title system.

Connie: We have been trying to learn as much as we can about how blockchain could improve land registry services in BC. We are still in learning mode but if an opportunity arises to make good use of the technology, we will be ready to act.

Wayne: I just did a presentation on emerging blockchain technologies in Miami for the American Bar Association. Law Foundations in North America and The Notary Foundation in BC operate on the interest generated from trust accounts when land transactions are being done. The money sits in the bank briefly and gathers a bit of interest that is used to help fund legal aid and legal education projects. With the new blockchain technology, that interest money would be gone. The Law Foundations in the US were oblivious to that possibility.

Connie: Blockchain technology would also impact the real estate foundations, all foundations. And the banks.

Wayne: Speaking of innovation and change, there’s a great movie just out called Hidden Figures. It’s a movie you cannot miss! Being a black woman in the United States in the ’60s was not easy and to also be a mathematician and work for NASA where it was all men was not easy either. The women “computers” in the movie got the men into orbit in space. You need to see it yourself; it’s a true story.

Connie: It’s amazing when you think about the technology of self-driving cars and the impact they could have on society. I find it really interesting. It’s great to live in a time when so many changes are on the horizon. ▲

Mini Book Report from Connie for Summer Reading

Into the Abyss

Vancouver Author Carol Shaben

About the plane crash that killed Grant Notley among others.

The author’s father, Larry Shaben, was in the crash and he survived. This book is about the four survivors. I read three-quarters of the book without putting it down. It is a fascinating story.
No matter where in the world you live, feeling you belong is paramount to quality of life.

For older adults, a sense of belonging is closely related to both social functioning and overall health. People who don’t feel they belong can become disconnected from family, friends, and community, which can lead to social isolation.

When older adults become socially isolated, it can impact health and create well-being problems such as disrupted sleep, elevated blood pressure, and depression. Research shows that social isolation or loneliness has effects similar to physical inactivity, obesity, or smoking. Extreme loneliness increases a person’s chances of premature death by 14 percent.

When individuals have strong social links and a positive sense of belonging, the impacts on their life and health are innumerable, including lower blood pressure, better immune responses, prevention of chronic disease, and lower mortality rates. They are better able to navigate their journey of aging by connecting with local services and resources and increasing their health literacy.

Providing opportunities for people to interact leads to more resilient communities. When people feel connected to friends, family, and community, they are generally more engaged through volunteerism, community action, or participation.

The Eldercare Foundation, together with our community partners, is working with the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods team to share new ideas for building connections with your immediate neighbours, including intergenerational activities and tips for neighbours in multi-unit buildings or “vertical streets.”

People who don’t feel they belong can become disconnected from family, friends, and community, which can lead to social isolation.

Seniors bring a depth of experience and skills to any community or neighbourhood endeavour that many neighbours would welcome. The Resilient Streets program is designed to make it easier for neighbours to

- connect,
- know each other and over time develop ties,
- share resources and other items,
- help each other in small and big ways, and
- cooperate and share leadership in street or building issues and activities.

I encourage you to check out the Resilient Streets Toolkit. www.resilientneighbourhoods.ca

You’ll find a broad range of inspiring ideas and a menu of tools and tips to help you get started making changes on your street. Whether it’s hosting a street party, creating a neighbourhood plan for emergency preparedness, or doing a fun hands-on project together, all roads lead to a more inclusive, connected, and resilient community for neighbours of all ages.

For more about the Eldercare Foundation, visit www.gvef.org.

Lori McLeod is Executive Director of the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation.

lori.mcleod@viha.ca
www.gvef.org
As we age, the ability to make our own choices and decisions can slip away from us. We start to lose decision-making ability . . . perhaps not because we are incapable but because we tend to consider decisions differently, giving them more thought and time. Yet the world around us is becoming more fast-paced; it seems everyone wants instant answers without the time to hear us out.

How do we continue to be recognized and satisfied that our voice is heard?

If we want to be treated with respect, we need to know and to align our personal choices so they match our core values and beliefs. That may be challenging but it’s an integral part of helping us make choices that ultimately lead to greater peace of mind and contentment.

- Our personal values are a central part of who we are and how we want to be identified. By expressing our values, those around us will have a better opportunity to respect who we are as individuals.
- Core values are a person’s fundamental beliefs and the guiding principles that dictate our behaviour and actions.

As we grow up and are influenced by our families, schools, churches, and so on, our core values help us determine right from wrong and influence the paths we carve in fulfilling our life goals.

We can sense that our core values are being lived by the amount of peace, joy, and contentment we have in our lives.

Perhaps you are a naturally happy person most of the time but, if you don’t give thought to putting the right plans in place for the future, life situations can rapidly go wrong.

In your daily life, your core values may be challenged. You may choose to tolerate a situation even though it makes you feel uncomfortable. If that compromise continues for any length of time, it can affect your well-being, leading to depression and feelings of isolation. It can become an insidious form of self-abuse that you, your family, and even the support staff working in public and private care do not see.

The tapestry of who you are is built on your beliefs and core values. If the support people around you are not aware of how you feel and if they don’t understand your desire or need to practise certain rituals or routines, you may experience inner turmoil.

Our beliefs are contextual, based on assumptions of what we think we know and what we’ve learned to be true. Examples that can affect our lifestyle include our belief in a specific religion and its practices, cultural beliefs, thoughts about the environment, and even economic status.

Recognizing your beliefs and core values and understanding how they will affect your later life will help you make the right choices. You will shine as the unique individual you are. When people respect your values, it’s much easier for you to feel harmony and at peace when you may be the most vulnerable.

Set yourself up for success right through to the end of your life. Practise self-awareness and learn how to communicate your wishes to prepare for what really should be one of the very the best stages of your life.

Barbara Kirby is a private Elder Care Planner, Advocate, and Navigator in BC.

barb@seniorsadvocate.ca
www.seniorsadvocate.ca
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Last Winter, which is Summer in Brazil, I visited the Notaries Society in the City of Maceió in the Northeast of Brazil.

Through my Notary friend José Roberto Martins, I contacted Manoel Iran Malta, Vice President of the Association, and I visited the Society.

I learned that for the entire population of more than 3.4 million in the State of Alagoas, there are only about 250 Notary Offices. Business is intense. Dozens of people arrive to those offices every day to record some important fact or document. In any Notary Office in the Capital of Maceió, there are at least 15 to 20 staff.

The situation is even more intense in the Metropolitan Region of Sao Paulo where there are more
than 21 million people in the 11th-most-populous Metropolitan Region on Earth. You can imagine how busy they are!

Notary Offices in Brazil are divided into six categories. Each Notary Office may offer services to the public in more than one category. Some of those services are related to birth, marriage, and death registrations; others to real estate transactions, business registration, and incorporation; and others to notarizations, to name just a few.

I couldn’t find information about the date of origin of Notaries in the State of Alagoas or even in Brazil, but I know that before the New Constitution of Brazil in 1988, Notary practices were granted to notable or well-known people of the high class and the Notary practices were passed down to generations in the same family. Back then, Notaries didn’t need to be lawyers or even have experience in law services.

After the New Constitution, there were changes to the way a Notary practice is granted. Since 1994, only lawyers may apply to get a Notary practice.

Notary Offices in Brazil are divided into six categories. Each Notary Office may offer services to the public in more than one category.

To establish a distinction from the way things were done in the earlier days, the name has changed to Notarial and Registration Services (ANOREG). Today, only lawyers may apply for a licence to practise as Notaries, if they are approved by the Notaries Society. They must have the mental aptitude to exercise the duties and have no criminal history.

Candidates also must pass a written and a practical test, an interview, and an analysis of their résumé.

If the candidates pass all the stages, their conduct and morals will be evaluated. They must present documents proving they have the physical, psychological, and moral qualifications to be a Notary and undergo personality, psychometric, and psychiatric assessments.

There is one ANOREG in each of the 26 States and the Federal District. ANOREG-BR signifies a Notary Society operating in Brasilia, the Capital of Brazil. ▲

Marco Castro is a Notary Public and a Certified Immigration Consultant in Vancouver, BC.

Telephone: 604 696-6042
marco@provisa.ca
www.provisa.ca
Facebook: Marco Marquito Castro
Linked in: Marco Marquito Castro
The Advisor/Client Conversation

• Two-thirds of the wealth in Canada is self-made.
• Others have inherited their wealth.
• Entrepreneurship is the dominant source of self-made wealth.
• By 2025, 2 million Canadians will retire; 1 million of them will be business owners.
• A $1 trillion transfer of wealth from one generation of Canadians to the next is expected over the next 20 years.

Those are some facts and figures shared at the recent national conference on strategic giving, hosted by the Canadian Association of Gift Planners. The conference offered a mix of sessions, from the technical aspects of charitable-giving vehicles to the inspiring stories about why people give and the impact their gifts have in our world.

This year, there was a lot of “talking about talking” . . . how to add value to the relationship between the professional advisor and client or between the charity and the donor, by having deeper conversations about the motivations behind the gift.

The facts and figures point to the urgency of having those conversations now, as we work together to release the good that is possible when Canadians are well positioned to make their chosen philanthropic gifts. That may be, for example, when a business is sold, an inheritance is received, or a legacy gift is planned. Or it may be as simple as when the time is right for the donor. By engaging in the conversation, the giving moments will be revealed.

This article focuses on the advisor/client conversation. People have different motivations for giving.

• People give because they want to have an impact on their world, whether that is close to home or on an international level. They are passionate about a cause or they give as an expression of their compassion for others.

The Canadian study looked at giving behaviours of HNWIs, motivations and barriers to giving, the nature of the conversation, and the benefits to both the financial advisor and the client of having those conversations.

• People give because they want to have an impact on their world, whether that is close to home or on an international level. They are passionate about a cause or they give as an expression of their compassion for others.

This article focuses on the advisor/client conversation. People have different motivations for giving. It is important for the advisor to discover the motivations to facilitate the right gift at the right time. In so doing, the advisor is adding value to the business relationship with the client.

To gain a better understanding of the nature of the philanthropic conversation in Canada, the Canadian Association of Gift Planners, BMO Harris Private Banking, GIV3, and Philanthropic Foundations of Canada collaborated in 2014 on a research project, The Philanthropic Conversation, to explore the approaches of financial advisors in their dealings with High Net Worth clients.

The idea stemmed from a US study that indicated many High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) would appreciate and value the advice of their financial advisors in helping them attain their philanthropic goals, but those conversations seldom happen. When they do, they tend to focus on the technical and tax aspects of giving, while the clients would prefer to talk about the “why” of giving—their passions and the impact they want to have through their gift. The US study also revealed this disconnect is not limited to the financial advisory profession; other professions were similar.

The Canadian study looked at giving behaviours of HNWIs, motivations and barriers to giving, the nature of the conversation, and the benefits to both the financial advisor and the client of having those conversations.

• People give because they want to have an impact on their world, whether that is close to home or on an international level. They are passionate about a cause or they give as an expression of their compassion for others.

1 While giving may include gifts of time, talent, or treasure, this article is focused on gifts of treasure.
2 https://www.cagp-acpdp.org/resource/research-publications

3 A random sample of individuals with investable assets greater than $1 million
4 A random sample of 258 financial advisors with HNW clients with investable assets greater than $1 million
Many want to support the community where they have lived and prospered.

Others have a specific connection, whether it be a religious affiliation or a personal experience for themselves or a loved one.

Low on the list of motivations is the tax saving. Generally, that affects the type or timing of the gift but is not a primary motivation for making the gift.

By focusing on uncovering the client’s motivations through a discovery process, the advisor can match the client’s “why” with the mission of the charity and then with the type and timing of the gift, to facilitate the most effective plan.

Advisors feel it is important and appropriate to raise the discussion of philanthropy with HNWIs.

91% of the advisors report they are having those conversations with many of their clients.

The study revealed, however, that only 13% of the clients reported having meaningful conversations with their advisors.

That apparent discrepancy may be related to the depth of the conversations; the majority of HNWIs say their philanthropic conversations were basic and light in nature.

They want to discuss:

- their giving values, as well as learn more about the giving vehicles, and
- how to develop a tactical plan to manage their wealth to look after themselves and their families while also supporting the community.

The key is a balanced discussion, taking into account the client’s values as part of the overall financial plan.

82% of the financial advisors in the study agreed that talking about philanthropy is good for business.

Simply put, as the advisor gains better insight into the client’s needs, the relationship with the client is strengthened.

High Net Worth Individuals agree. The advisor can help the clients understand how much they need for themselves and their family and, through careful planning, provide for heirs and their chosen charities. The holistic approach increases the credibility of the advisor and his or her reputation among the clients’ own circles.

Advisors may be interested in having the conversation but some are reluctant because they’re not sure how to go about it.

While the transfer of assets will result in a decrease in assets held under management by the advisor, seeing that as a negative aspect may be short-sighted. If the clients know the advisor is doing the best for them, they will continue to invest—both personally and financially—in that relationship, not only for their lifetime but perhaps by influencing the next generation.

Advisors may be interested in having the conversation but some are reluctant because they’re not sure how to go about it.

Ask clients open-ended questions to explore these areas:

- Their values and beliefs
- The impact on their life of certain organizations, whether it be their education, health, or cultural interests
- What they wish to accomplish
- How they want to be remembered
- How they want to handle succession planning

Consider what resources the client has, what he or she wants to accomplish, and how best to implement a plan to meet those goals.

Some HNWIs reported concerns about whether their gift would be wisely used by the charity and whether they would receive more solicitations after making the first gift.
The advisor can further strengthen the relationship with the client by taking the following supportive actions.

- Learn where to get information so the clients can be assured their gift is being well used. Check with the charity to review audited financial statements or annual reports or look online to review the annual tax return filed with Canada Revenue Agency.
- Ask about the impact of the gift and how the ultimate beneficiaries of the gift are being helped. For more information, talk to a community foundation or United Way. As funders of local charities, they have direct knowledge of local issues and the charities that are working to solve them.
- Encourage clients to talk to the charity regarding what they would like to receive in response to their support
  - How they wish to be thanked and recognized
  - How often they wish to be contacted
- Whether they wish to receive appeal letters
- Show the client how the gift can be tax effective and efficient.
  - For the business owner, for example, where gifts are made by the corporation, there is a deduction against the income of the company that may be claimed against up to 75% of the corporation’s net income in the year of the gift.
  - Any unused credits may be carried forward for 5 years.
  - Where a gift of publicly listed securities is made, the capital gains tax is eliminated.
  - Plus, the full capital gain that is eliminated is credited to the Capital Dividend Account that allows for tax-free withdrawals of other money from the corporation.

Although for the purposes of the research, those studies focused on the HNWI, many of the findings and recommended steps to encourage giving are universal and grounded in the simple act of talking about giving, no matter the wealth of the client.

Financial advisors, lawyers, BC Notaries, and accountants and other wealth-management professionals are well positioned to release the good that will come from those focused and informed conversations. Charities are well positioned to show the impact of this philanthropic support.

Yes, we all have work to do to build on the strengths and to address the concerns. By working together, we can provide the best possible environment for Canadians to give and make transformational change in our country and around the world.

Sara Neely, LLB, CFRE, is Director of Philanthropic Services for the Victoria Foundation that serves the community through its work connecting people who care with causes that matter®.

Telephone 250 381-5532
sneely@victoriafoundation.bc.ca
www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca
What Does Your BC Notary Know?

Did you know British Columbia Notaries are among the most educated in the world?

The legal duties that Notaries Public are permitted to perform within each country vary. The duties tend to correlate to the amount of education necessary to become a Notary in the respective jurisdiction.

The training programs for Notaries Public in the United States or in other provinces of Canada generally involve a short course and submitting an application and a fee.

In British Columbia, the education requirements for a Notary are intense and challenging.

- To become an applicant, a person must have a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited university and a high grade-point average.
- Potential notarial candidates undergo a rigorous screening process designed to identify individuals of strong character and integrity. Background checks—criminal and financial; multiple letters of recommendation; a personality inventory; and two rounds of interviews are part of the screening process.
- Once accepted as a candidate, the Notary student goes through almost 2 years of indepth education that involves theoretical and practical training. The successful culmination of that training is a Master of Arts degree in Applied Legal Studies from Simon Fraser University and a commission by the Court of British Columbia as a Notary Public.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

What kind of training do BC Notary students receive? They study the following semester-long courses and other related topics at Simon Fraser University.

Legal Research and Writing

This course is designed to hone the analytical-thinking skills required in the legal world and to enable the future Notary to write effectively with the topic of law in mind. The course instructs students on how to research legal questions and report their findings to future clients.

Contract Law

This course outlines what makes a contract viable and how to analyze, create, and explain real estate contracts, purchase agreements, and other agreements.

Legal Philosophy

What is the basis of laws in a society? What is the source of the framework of our laws? This course helps students understand the origins of laws to enable them to communicate that information to clients who need to understand it.

Property Law

This course discusses all components in the purchase of land, the title to land, and other land-ownership issues. It contains so much information vital to a practising BC Notary, the students take two full courses in Property Law.

Personal Planning

The focus is the law behind planning for a person’s incapacity and his or her eventual death . . . and what legally can be done ahead of time by people to ensure their wishes are carried out once they have passed away or they are no longer capable of making decisions regarding the legal, financial, health care, and personal care aspects of their life.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

BC Notary students also participate in 11 weeks of practical training with practising BC Notaries to gain from their expertise. That is followed by an additional 3-week mentoring period of on-the-job training in a BC Notary’s office. The marriage of academics and boots-on-the-ground experience is a significant strength of the training program.

EXAMS AND REWARD

Then they must pass six complex statutory exams. Then and only then will the student be able to achieve that highest of rewards—becoming your Notary Public!

BC Notaries possess a wealth of knowledge about real estate, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Representation Agreements, Advance Health Care Directives, and much more. (See page 27 for the full list of legal services that a BC Notary can provide.) Tap into that source for your legal needs!

BC Notary Lisa Berry Vander Heide resides on Kootenay Lake in Sancia, BC, north of Creston.

Telephone: 250 428-7194
lberryvdh@gmail.com

Lisa Berry Vander Heide
At the Annual General Meeting in April, in Victoria Brian Brown, BCLS #602, was elected President; Roger Galibois, BCLS #693, was elected Vice President. Elected for a 2-year term to serve as Members at Large are Shauna Goertzen, BCLS #798, and David Rutherford, BCLS #738. Continuing on the Board for 2017 are Past President Ron Johns, BCLS #602, Members at Large Chris Cryderman, BCLS #687, and Michael Waberski, BCLS #565, along with our Government-appointed member Michael Burian, Surveyor General of BC Mike Thomson, BCLS #634, and the Association Secretary Kelly Stofer, BCLS #782.

Richard Redfern, BCLS #525, was designated a Life Member of the Association.

The Future of Land Surveying in BC

The Association of BC Land Surveyors is proud to announce the July 2017 new commissions.

#968
John Haggerty
Grande Prairie, AB

#969
Andrew Pearce
Smithers, BC

#970
Mike Rogers
Cranbrook, BC

#971
Patrick Randall
Fort St. John, BC

#972
Rob Adriaensen
Surrey, BC

#973
Albert Koehler
Prince George, BC

#974
Kyle Phillips
Vancouver, BC

#975
Mike Rinsma
Vancouver, BC

#976
James Bruce
Qualicum Beach, BC

#977
Brian Ngan
Vancouver, BC
Is Your Strata Corporation Legally Obligated to Pay an Adjoining Landowner?

This article deals with easements and cost sharing when a strata corporation has the right to use a facility situated on adjoining land.

In the recent court case of The Owners, Strata Plan LMS 3905 v. Crystal Square Parking Corporation et al, 2017 BCSC 71 (Crystal Parking case), the Supreme Court of British Columbia considered whether a strata corporation in Burnaby was bound to pay for a portion of expenses related to a parking facility owned by another strata corporation.

The decision in the Crystal Parking case has been appealed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal. The decision, and any decision that may be made by the Court of Appeal, has implications for many British Columbia strata corporations that have easement agreements registered in the Land Title Office.

General Nature of Easements
An easement agreement is “...a right which one person may exercise with respect to the land of another.” The land that is used by the adjoining landowner is called the “servient tenement”; the land that receives the benefit of the use is called the “dominant tenement.”

The four requirements to create an easement accepted in Canadian Courts and set out in the Crystal Parking case are as follows.

- There must be a dominant and a servient tenement.
- The easement must accommodate the dominant tenement.
- The dominant and servient tenement owners must be different persons.
- The right granted must be capable of forming the subject-matter of the grant.

Easement agreements may be used in various situations, as further explained in the Crystal Parking case.

The dominant tenement may have the right to encroach on or use the servient tenement. For instance, if a new structure such as an apartment building is being built on a dominant tenement, then an easement agreement may be used to grant the dominant tenement certain rights to use all or a portion of the servient tenement in relation to the construction.

The dominant tenement may be granted the use of the servient tenement in a way that curtails the right of the owner of the servient tenement to use its own land, whether the right of the dominant tenement is general or specific.

For instance, the owner of the servient tenement may not be able to build a structure on a certain area of its land so that the owner of the dominant tenement can use the area as a road. If the dominant tenement has the right to excavate on part of the servient tenement when building a structure on the dominant tenement, then the owner of the servient tenement cannot use its land in a way that interferes with that use.

If a strata corporation enters into an easement agreement as the “servient tenement,” it will often receive monetary compensation. A ¾ vote resolution of the owners is necessary to properly approve an easement agreement.

Things get complicated when the terms of an easement agreement place obligations on the owner of the dominant tenement to pay for expenses incurred by the servient tenement. In Canada, those obligations generally do not bind future owners of the dominant tenement and are said not to “run with the land.”
When Easement Agreements Are Used

Strata corporations are frequently becoming parties to easement agreements. Strata corporations are asked to enter into easement agreements that facilitate excavation and construction on adjoining lands.

Strata corporations also share the use of facilities with other strata corporations and other legal entities.

For instance, an amenity building may be owned by one strata corporation but used by the residents of several strata corporations, pursuant to the terms of an easement agreement.

Also, mixed-use complexes are often developed by legally creating several strata corporations; the rights and obligations of those strata corporations are set out in agreements called “air space parcel agreements”—a type of easement agreement. The Crystal Parking case considers some of the rights and obligations set out in an air space parcel agreement.

Crystal Parking Case

The Crystal Development is located close to Metrotown in Burnaby, British Columbia. It consists of a retail complex, an office tower, a residential tower, a hotel, some community facilities, and a parking lot. The Supreme Court of British Columbia had to decide whether the strata corporation comprised of the office tower (“Office Strata”) was obligated to pay the strata corporation that owned the parking facility (“Parking Strata”) certain charges under an easement agreement registered in the Land Title Office on March 17, 1999, regarding the use of the parking facility (“Parking Easement”). The Parking Easement included complicated terms regarding the payment of a “parking fee,” including operating costs, capital costs, and repayment of original capital costs plus interest.

The Parking Easement was registered on title prior to the existence of the Office Strata. The strata plan for the Office Strata was deposited in the Land Title Office on May 26, 1999.

A senior planner from the City of Burnaby testified at trial that the parking facility was a secondary use to provide parking for the owners in the various strata corporations and that it was not the intention that the parking facility would be a stand-alone profit centre.

The judge found at trial that the developer incurred $13.3 million of capital losses and then sold the Parking Strata at a considerable loss to Crystal Square Parking Corporation in June 28, 2002. The Crystal Square Parking Corporation took an assignment of the Parking Easement. Impark managed the parking facility.

• The President of the Council of the Office Strata testified he made the assumption that the capital costs under the Parking Easement that were supposed to be reimbursed by the Office Strata would be paid off in a reasonable time, perhaps in the range of 8 to 10 years.

• On the other hand, the President of the Crystal Square Parking Corporation testified that at the time Crystal Square Parking Corporation purchased the Parking Strata, he believed the capital costs would never be paid down because of the high interest rate and the low annual base rate.

While the Office Strata refused to make contributions to the reserve fund being established to pay for the eventual replacement of the parking membrane, it did pay the base rent and operating costs.

The judge found that at no time had the Office Strata agreed to the payment provisions in the Parking Easement.

• When it was the sole owner, the developer did not pass a unanimous resolution agreeing to the terms of the Parking Easement.

• The Office Strata, after appointing a council, also did not agree to the payment provisions in the Parking Easement. In fact, the Office Strata’s council spent many years trying to understand the payment provisions of the Parking Easement and repeatedly requested further information. Initially, the Office Strata’s council was under the mistaken belief that the Office Strata was bound by the payment terms under the Parking Easement.

A spreadsheet provided by Impark projected that the outstanding capital costs plus interest would equal approximately $2.9 billion by 2099.

The judge found that the Office Strata never was a party to the Parking Easement, so the “positive covenants”—in other words, the obligation of the Office Strata to pay for the costs under the Parking Easement—were not binding on the Office Strata.

Conclusion

If the owners in a strata corporation use facilities on another landowner’s property, such as an amenity building or parking, the strata corporation benefitting from the use of the facility may not be obligated to pay for a share of the costs of the facility as set out in the easement agreement, if the strata corporation was not a party to the easement agreement.

The obligation to pay may not exist even if members of the strata corporation have used the facility for many years. Refusing to be bound by an easement agreement may result in the owners of the strata corporation that holds the “dominant tenement” losing the right to use the facilities.

Legal advice should be sought to analyze the particular facts and to determine the best strategy moving forward. ▲

Elaine McCormack is a founding member of the Wilson McCormack Law Group. She is a Chartered Arbitrator and a Qualified Mediator.

Telephone: 604 545-0095
elaine@wmlg.ca
www.wmlg.ca
Todd Mikl, President, Masters Building Services Ltd., is the recipient of the prestigious George Whyte Award, presented each year by the Real Estate Institute of BC.

REIBC “RIs” play an integral role within the real estate industry and within their own communities. The candidates are nominated by their peers.

In showcasing the contribution of exceptional members, the Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates exemplary professional conduct, who has recognized achievements in the real estate profession, and who supports the objectives of the Real Estate Institute of BC.

Created in 2001 by the Golf Committee of REIBC, the Award honours George Whyte, a former Chair of the Real Estate Council of BC and a longtime real estate licensee who passed away suddenly in February in 2000.

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The Duty of Care Owed by a Will-Drafter

In *Korpiel v Sanguinetti* (1999) B.C.J. 1048, the Court concluded that a Will-drafter, usually a solicitor or BC Notary, owes no duty of care to beneficiaries beyond the competent and timely fulfillment of the testator’s testamentary instructions.

In the *Sanguinetti* case, the Court considered whether a Will-drafter owed a duty to beneficiaries who had been named in a client’s former Will. The plaintiffs were relatives of an elderly testator who had instructed his lawyer to prepare a Will bequeathing his home to the plaintiffs. Some years later, the testator changed his mind and instructed the lawyer to draft a new Will, leaving the plaintiffs only a small bequest.

The plaintiffs challenged the later Will and brought a Court action against the lawyer who drafted it, for a breach of fiduciary duty owed to them.

The argument seems to me to confuse duties which differ in their nature. In broad terms, a solicitor’s duty to his client is to do for him all that he properly can, with, of course, proper care and attention. Subject to giving due weight to the adverb “properly,” that duty is a paramount duty. The solicitor owes no such duty to those who are not his clients. He is no guardian of their interests. What he does for his client may be hostile and injurious to their interests; and sometimes the greater the injuries the better he will have served his client. The duty owed by a solicitor to a third party is entirely different. There is no trace of a wide and general duty to do all that properly can be done for him. Instead, in a case such as the present, there is merely a duty, owed to him as well as the client, to use proper care in carrying out the client’s instructions for conferring the benefit on the third party.


In the *Graham* case, the children of the testator had been equal beneficiaries under a 1984 Will. In 1994, after having been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, the testator executed a new Will, leaving a small...
bequest to each of his children and grandchildren and the residue to his new wife. After the testator’s death, the children commenced litigation, challenging both the validity of the marriage and the 1994 Will on the basis of lack of mental capacity, which any beneficiary is entitled to do.

Both those actions were discontinued and a settlement agreement was entered into by the parties. The children subsequently commenced an action against the solicitor who prepared the 1994 Will, claiming damages for the difference between the bequest they would have received under the original Will and the benefits they received pursuant to the settlement agreement.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the trial judge and dismissed the children’s claims on the grounds the solicitor owed no duty of care to the children who claimed as beneficiaries under the original Will and that the original Will had been revoked by both the subsequent Will and the subsequent marriage of the testator. (Note: In British Columbia, prior to the enactment of the Wills, Estates and Succession Act on March 31, 2014, a subsequent marriage revoked an existing Will. That is no longer the case.)

The Court made it clear, however, that by extension of the principles set out in Hedley Byrne & Co. Ltd. v. Heller & Partners Ltd. [1963] 2 All E.R. 575, a leading House of Lords decision, a Will-drafter may be liable to an intended beneficiary who, as a result of the Will-drafter’s negligence, does not receive a benefit that the testator intended to grant.

Thus the general rule that a Will-drafter owes a duty of care only to his or her client and not to any third party has been modified to include a duty to an intended beneficiary under a Will who does not, as result of the Will-drafter’s negligence, receive a benefit that the testator intended to grant. That has been labelled the “third-party beneficiary rule.”

The leading case is the House of Lords decision in White v. Jones [1995] 1 All E.R. 691 at 698-99 in which the Court found a testator’s solicitor liable to an intended beneficiary for negligently failing to have the testator’s new Will prepared and executed before the testator died.

Thus the only duty of care owed to an identified third-party beneficiary is where the Will-drafter owes a duty to the third-party beneficiary as well as the client, to use proper care and diligence in carrying out the client’s instructions for conferring the benefit on the third party.

In the Graham case, the Alberta Court of Appeal held that the Will-drafter’s primary duty was to carry out the intentions of the testator, after being satisfied that the testator had testamentary capacity and recording...
his or her observations in that regard, so that the testator’s Will would subsequently be admitted to probate.

The Will-drafter’s duty to ensure testamentary capacity coincides with the duty to ensure that the Will accurately reflects the testator’s wishes. A will-drafter could never owe an intended beneficiary a duty of care that is inconsistent with his or her duty to the client (Hall v. Bennett Estate (2003), 227 D.L.R. (4th) 263 (ONCA)).

The imposition of a duty to beneficiaries under a previous Will would create inevitable conflicts of interest for a Will-drafter that would be contrary to public policy. A will-drafting solicitor or BC Notary cannot have a duty to follow the instructions of his or her client to prepare a new Will and, at the same time, have a duty to beneficiaries under previous Wills whose interests are likely to be affected by the new Will.

The BC Court of Appeal decision of Johnston v. Johnston Estate 2017 BCCA 59 followed the reasoning of both the Graham and Sanguinetti decisions in disallowing the claims of children who inherited under their father’s 2007 Will that was modified against their interests by a 2012 Will and a codicil thereto.

The testator’s children had been heirs under the 2007 Will but were disinherited under the subsequent Will in which the testator left his entire estate to his new wife.

At trial, the Court struck out that portion of the plaintiff’s claim that alleged the drafting lawyer owed the children a duty of care as beneficiaries under the 2007 Will to, in effect, not carry out their father’s instructions to prepare a new Will in terms inconsistent with the provisions of the 2007 Will, finding that such claim was doomed to fail. The Court of Appeal upheld that decision.

Therefore, the only duty a Will-drafter has to beneficiaries is to carry out the instructions of the Will-maker in a competent and timely manner. ▲ Trevor Todd restricts his practice to estate litigation. He has practised law in Vancouver for 44 years. Disinherited.com
Recovery is Possible. You can help.
When your clients remember Coast Mental Health Foundation in their Will, they help make recovery from mental illness possible for thousands of British Columbians.

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For more information, please visit coastmentalhealth.com or contact us directly at 604-675-2317.

Immigration Problems?
Alex Ning
Notary Public, Mediator, Immigration & Refugee Counsel
Alexander Ning Notary Corporation
Suite 230, 8911 Beckwith Road
Richmond, BC Canada V6X 1V4
Email: alex@annc.ca
Fax: 604 270-4751
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- Undergrad degree: 3.0 GPA
- Fluency in English; other languages an asset
- Financial stability

For more information, please contact The Society of Notaries Public of BC 1-800-663-0343 or visit our website, www.notaries.bc.ca.

BC NOTARIES ARE RESPECTED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.
In a previous article, I discussed the issue of residency for tax purposes and the requirement to file Canadian income tax returns if an individual is considered a resident of Canada for tax purposes.

Just south of the border, our neighbouring country taxes individuals based on citizenship, not on residency. That means a US citizen living in Canada and filing income tax returns in Canada is required to file US tax returns and report worldwide income even if none of the income is earned in the US.

Many Canadians are also US citizens; some of them were born in the US and moved to Canada as a child with their families. They are required to comply with IRS rules.

Filing in both countries does not mean the individual will have to pay double tax. The Canada-US Tax Treaty provides relief from double taxation, allowing the individual to claim a foreign tax credit on the US tax return for the amount of taxes paid in Canada.

Some of the US tax rules are different than the Canadian tax rules. For example, some income that may be exempt from tax in Canada may be taxable in the US and vice versa. And of course the tax rates are different; therefore there may be some additional tax to pay when filing in both countries.

Beside filing an annual tax return, the US citizen will be required to file documentation to the US Treasury under the Foreign Bank Account Reporting (FBAR). The FBAR form must be filed to report a direct or indirect financial interest in all foreign accounts if the aggregate amount exceeds $10,000 at any time in the year.

Failure to comply may result in civil penalty of up to $10,000 per violation.

Failure to comply may result in civil penalty of up to $10,000 per violation. A willful failure to report may be subject to a civil penalty equal to the greater of $100,000 or 50 percent of the balance in the account at the time of the violation.

Many US citizens living in Canada were not aware of those requirements. For example, a US citizen may have moved to Canada as a child with his family and never returned to the US. The person is now an adult and permanently residing in Canada.

The IRS was aware of that particular situation and, to facilitate compliance with the tax requirements, introduced the “Streamlined program,” effective September 1, 2012. Under that program, the US citizen will be required to file income tax returns for the past 3 years and to file delinquent FBAR forms for the last 6 years.

To avoid penalties, taxpayers should consider participating in the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program. In the last few years, IRS has ramped up the offshore compliance program, forcing Canadian banks to share information with the IRS regarding US citizens.

RRSP/RRIF

Although RRSP/RRIF income grows tax-free for Canadian income tax purposes, the annual income earned in an RRSP/RRIF is considered to be taxable income for US income tax purposes.

To mitigate any double taxation, the Treaty provides for some relief. The Treaty provides an election that can be made to defer the US income tax on that investment income for US federal tax purposes until the funds are withdrawn. If the treaty election is made, the timing of the taxation becomes the same for both countries and foreign tax credits can be used to minimize any double taxation.

TFSA

The income earned in a TFSA is tax-free for Canadian tax purposes; that income earned is taxable for US income tax purposes and may therefore not always be a recommended investment vehicle for a US citizen.

The TFSA may be a beneficial savings vehicle for US citizens residing in Canada if the individual has foreign (such as Canadian) taxes payable on other non-US investment income (held
outside of a TFSA) because the foreign taxes payable on that other non-US investment income may be applied to offset some of the US income tax attributable to the TFSA income.

**CAPITAL GAINS**

While there are favourable US income tax rates for longterm capital gains (i.e., gains attributable to assets held for more than 1 year), the capital gains exemptions that are applicable for Canadian income tax purposes are not applicable for US income tax purposes.

For example, if a US citizen sells an asset that is eligible for the lifetime CAN$835,000 capital gains exemption (e.g., the sale of shares of a qualifying small business corporation) for Canadian income tax purposes, the gain is taxable for US income tax purposes.

Similarly, while the Principal Residence Exemption is applicable for Canadian income tax purposes, there is no similar principal residence exemption for US income tax purposes. There may be a US$250,000 capital gain exclusion available on the sale of a principal residence for US income tax purposes if certain criteria are met.

**Dividends Paid Out of the Capital Dividend Account**

While dividends paid out of a corporation’s Capital Dividend Account are not subject to Canadian income tax when received by Canadian residents, the dividends received by a US citizen resident in Canada would be subject to US income tax.

**US Estate Tax**

As a US citizen, the value of the worldwide assets at the time of death (in excess of any unused lifetime exemption amount—US$5.49 million in 2017) is subject to US estate tax regardless of where the citizen resides. The top rate of the estate tax is 40 percent. There are tax-planning opportunities that can be taken advantage of with the goal to minimize the inclusion of any assets into the estate for US estate tax purposes.

**US Gift Tax**

US taxpayers are also subject to gift tax on the lifetime transfer of assets. Since US gift tax is generally tied to US estate tax, the gift tax lifetime exclusion amount for US citizens is the same as the exclusion amounts applicable for US estate tax purposes, which is US$5.49 million in 2017.

Any use of the lifetime exemption amount toward gift tax will have a corresponding decrease in the exemption amount available for US estate tax. In addition to the lifetime gift tax exclusion, US citizens can give US$14,000 (annually per recipient) and up to US$149,000 to a non-US citizen/non-US resident spouse without being subject to gift tax. Both those amounts are indexed annually. There is no gift tax for a gift to a US citizen’s spouse.

Given the numerous US income tax and information-reporting requirements imposed on US citizens, especially those who have financial assets located outside the US, many US citizens have considered rescinding their US citizenship.

Rescinding the US citizenship after June 2008 may be subject to considerable US income tax upon expatriation

- if the net worth of the individual is over $2 million on the date of expatriation, or
- if the average US income tax liability for the 5 years preceding the date of expatriation exceeds a certain amount.

Even if the exit tax does not apply, it is recommended to seek the advice of a US immigration attorney to understand any issues that may arise if you decide to work or visit the US after rescinding your US citizenship. ▲

Please consult a financial professional to discuss your specific situation.

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Andrea Agnoloni, CPA, CGA, Notary
Public, is a Principal with EPR North Vancouver, an Independent Member Firm of EPR Canada Group Inc.

Telephone: 604 987-8101
andrea@eprnv.ca
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Breville Juice Fountain Elite 800JEXL

Juicing is not only healthy for you, it’s better for the environment. Better to have compostable fruit and vegetable waste than processed-food chemicals in our oceans.

I grew up with a little mountain-shaped metal device that required you to take a half-cut orange and squeeze down the top until you got out all the juice. Eighteen hard pushes later, I had 6 ml of juice.

There are so many brands/models of juicers on the market, it’s hard to decide which one is right for you.

I tested the Breville 800JEXL Juice Fountain Elite to see if I could get more than 6 ml from an orange. The made-in-Australia unit is a solid-built machine with heavy-duty die-cast metal construction and stainless steel parts that replace the traditional plastic parts. The cutting disc is reinforced with titanium. Only Superman could have made a stronger unit. The special cutting disc promises 30 percent more juice and the retention of 40 percent more vitamins and minerals.

The controls are simple: On (2 spin speeds) and Off.

The feed tube is a large 3.3 inches wide for dropping in fruits and vegetables with their skins on without chopping them first. Use the food pusher to get the items down the chute.

Juice falls nicely into the 1.1 quart (1 litre) jug that incorporates a foam protector to keep out the foam. The centrifugal juicer outputs the pulp into a 3.2 quart container.

The 800JEXL is a cinch to clean. It’s easy to disassemble and only 4 parts need to be washed regularly; some parts are dishwasher safe.

www.breville.ca
MSRP: $449.99

iRobot Roomba 980

This robot will clean your floors—carpet, hardwood, and even tile. It automatically adjusts to different surfaces; no change in settings is required.

The Roomba 980 is the smartest of them all. The app-controlled unit from iRobot has iAdapt 2.0 Navigation, 2-hour continuous run time, multiple room visualization, and cliff-detection (for stairs). Sylvester Stallone could have used this feature in 1993 (see Cliffhanger). Cliff-detection sensors ensure Roomba doesn’t fall off stairs or other drop-offs.

The iRobot HOME app allows you to schedule cleanings and remotely activate Roomba from your smartphone or tablet. Your carpets and floors get the once-over and the twice-over if you choose, even before you get home from work or school.
Roombas AeroForce Cleaning System with Carpet Boost delivers vigorous air power to clean your heavy-duty carpets and rugs. Dust mites like to hide in shag carpet, as do allergens, pollen, and particles as small as 10 microns. The 980 air-filters them into its dustbin.

Corners and edges are covered by the Spinning side brushes that push dirt into the path of Roomba’s 3-stage cleaning system; it can pick up anything from spilled cereal to balls of cat fur.

Roomba’s low-profile design lets it reach lurking dust under furniture and kickboards. Dust bunnies under the couch won’t stand a chance. Effortless navigation.

iAdapt 2.0 Navigation with Visual Localization keeps track of your Roomba’s location and allows it to efficiently navigate a whole level of your home. It’ll go from room to room and get around furniture and obstacles, no problem.

Roomba 980 can run nonstop for up to 2 hours. When it’s out of juice, it’ll automatically return to its charging base to recharge and then diligently resume cleaning.

** Roomba 980: $899
www.irobot.com

2018 Lexus LC500 Coupe

I spent my first hour with this car looking for a bad angle. An hour later, not a single unpleasant line was found. She’s a looker.

While previous coupes from Lexus were more than competent, they sometimes fell short of attracting buyers of vehicles from the land of Beck’s Beer. Not anymore. The LC500 hits the “sports car” nail with a fine combination of power, sound, ride, handling, and smiles.

And it turns heads, too. I now know what it feels to be a Supermodel; necks twisted and turned to take a second look as I drove by.

The folks at Lexus have introduced 2 variants of the LC500

- a front-engine/rear-wheel-drive 471 horsepower, 398 lb-ft of torque 5.0-litre V8 gasoline-only engine connected to a 10-speed automatic transmission, and a hybrid/ 3.5-litre gasoline V6 assisted by 2 electric motors running in a series/parallel system, putting power to the wheels via a multistage continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT).

The fossil-fuel-only engine will take you from standstill to 100 km/h in 4.5 seconds, says Lexus, while the electric boogie variant will be 0.2 seconds right behind.

The 2-door hardtop coupe with a tiny second row for a 2+2 layout has enough legroom for 2 adults in the rear, as long as they are ready to lean a little and aren’t back there for too long.

With good looks comes increased engineering, at least in the house of Lexus. The hood is so low, Lexus had to devise a way for it to pop up to protect pedestrians in a collision.

The inside is no Love-It-or-List-It episode waiting to happen; you will Love It. A big rectangular 12-inch navigation screen is inset horizontally in the centre of the dash on the top level, close to the driver’s line of sight out of the big windshield.

Lots of the controls are now handled by touch or through that screen. Movement through the various menus is through a haptic-feedback touch panel in the centre console or through the multitude of buttons on the steering wheel. The geek in me enjoyed the moving speedo in the dash. Hit the phone button, for example, and it slides to the left to display your last few calls.

Lots of buttons except the ones I really want. That is my one gripe about the car. Lexus, please bring back some switches, I miss them! I need buttons for quick access to the heated seats, phone, and radio stations, for less fidgeting while driving.

And you will be spending a lot of time driving, even just to hear the engine (V8 version) howl. Not loud enough to wake up the neighbours; just enough to put a grin on your face.

The LC500 likes to grip, regardless of how many wheels have power—rear-wheel drive or the all-wheel hybrid. The twisties get eaten up by the beefy suspension, all the while providing the occupants with a fairly serene ride.

If you’re looking in this market segment, you can check out the BMW 6 Series, Jaguar F-Type, Mercedes-Benz S-Class Coupe, and the 911 from Porsche.

www.lexus.ca
MSRP: Base $101,600
As tested $117,271

BC Notary Akash Sablok practises with his father Tarlok Sablok.
akash@akashsablok.com

BC Notary Akash Sablok practises with his father Tarlok Sablok.
The Non-Chapter Dinners are always fun. On April 6, they celebrated the 87th birthday of retired Notary George Tanco!

From (L) seated: Rosario Kuhrt, Eileen Smith, George Tanco, Hilda Kwan
Standing: Susan Tong, Lucinda Ning, Charles Mow, Alex Ning, Joseph Ho, Esther Chiu, Pauline Jang

Ron Hyde, volunteer with The BC Historical Society, was recently awarded the Governor General’s Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers

The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers is awarded by the Governor General of Canada. The Award certificate and letter from David Johnston states, “In recognition of your significant volunteer contributions and support they provide to their communities at the grassroots level and the positive impact they have on the lives of others, helping make our neighbourhoods and our nation stronger.”

Judy Guichon, BC’s Lt. Governor, presented the awards to 30 BC recipients at Government House. Six recipients were under 30 and one was 18.

With Kathleen Cunningham (R), Executive Director of the BC Law Institute, are Pat Wright (L), a Director of The Society of Notaries Public of BC; Tammy Morin Nakashima, President of The Society, and Rhoda Witherly, First Vice President, at the recent 20th anniversary celebration for BCLI.

Where in the World Has The Scrivener Been?

Trevor Todd and The Scrivener at the “Stalin Line” military defence on the outskirts of Minsk, Belarus, with Captain Sergei Zhukov
“I see a streamside restoration that protects fish habitat.”
“I see a vibrant arts & culture scene.”
“I see a place where teens can hang out and have fun – safely.”

“I SEE A NEIGHBOURHOOD FESTIVAL THAT BRINGS DIFFERENT CULTURES TOGETHER.”

“I see a summer camp where grieving families can go to heal.”

“I see a dance class that helps seniors connect.”

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