



# The PROBUS Pilot



Probus Club of Western Ottawa – serving the western half of the National Capital Region

MARCH 2026

Vol:17 No:7

Tuesday, 10 March

## Should Canadians thank Donald Trump for exposing our 50-year economic decline?

In this presentation, Dr. Ian Lee will review critical productivity, export, capital investment, capital flight, taxation, income graphs and charts from Statistics Canada, the Bank of Canada, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, OECD, FRED, the CD Howe Institute and empirical analysis from Chief Economists at some of the large Canadian banks.

The analysis will reveal the significant structural decline in the economic fundamentals of Canada, relative to the US. The empirical trend data will reveal that Canada's economic decline did not start with Trump. Indeed, Canada's decline long predates the election of Trump in 2016 or 2024.

In the second part of the presentation, Dr. Lee will present empirical trend data from Stats Can, NRCan et al showing the way forward – trade diversification focusing on services and natural resources. He will also provide empirical trend data demonstrating that Canada cannot rely on the perennial Canadian dream of the political elites to become an important auto-manufacturing country.

Ian Lee is an Associate Professor at Carleton University in the Sprott School of Business, since 1988, teaching business strategy.

Previously, he was employed in banking as a Loan Manager, Mortgage Manager and



**Dr. Ian Lee**

Commercial Credit Officer for 9 years.

After the collapse of the USSR, he taught from 1991 to the present, in American and Canadian EMBA programs across Central and Eastern Europe, including multiple times in Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Latvia, Czech, Croatia, China, Iran and Cuba.

Dr. Lee is a frequent media analyst concerning the impact of federal economic policies. He has published over 35 Op-Eds and has appeared before House of Commons and Senate committees over 50 times since 1995.



**Strawberry waffles oh my!** It was a small but enjoyable outing for the Breakfast Club in February at Allo mon Coco. It looks like we will have a better turnout from our 26 members for our March breakfast.

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve the retired and semi-retired community. The morning begins at 9:45 am with a time for coffee and socialization, followed by a guest speaker. Probus Western Ottawa meets at **Kanata Baptist Church** 465 Hazeldean Road

# The Prez Sez

## A Legacy Worth Protecting: The Future of Our Probus Club



Kanata is a community defined by its unique balance of nature and connection, and as we transition into the vibrant energy of spring, we are reminded of why we

chose to call this corner of the world home. Whether it is the quiet beauty of a morning walk through the South March Highlands, the anticipation of a local production at the Ron Maslin Playhouse, or a simple afternoon spent catching up at a favourite café in the Centrum, our neighbourhood offers a wealth of culture and shared experience.

Since our founding, this club has served as a vital bridge, transforming the quiet of retirement into a rich chapter of discovery and lifelong friendship. However, as we look toward the horizon, we must confront a reality that is as certain as the changing seasons: a club is only as strong as the hands that guide it.

### The June Crossroads

Transparency is vital to the health of any community. Currently, we have several vacancies on our Board of Directors that must be filled to ensure that we can continue to bring our members great speakers and wonderful outings.

At our **June Board Meeting**, we will be required to make a definitive assessment of our leadership team. If we do not have a full Board—including an Outing Director, secretary, newsletter, webmaster, and other directors—we will have to begin the formal process of discussing the club's closure. We share this not to cause alarm, but to invite you into the conversation about our collective future. We would deeply prefer to spend that June meeting planning our next year of adventures rather than discussing the dissolution of a group we all love.

### Why Your Voice Matters Now

You might think, "Someone else will surely step up," or "I don't have the right background." The truth is that the most successful Board members are simply those who enjoy the club and want to see it continue.

- **You will have a mentor:** No one starts from scratch. We have records, templates, and former directors ready to help you.
- **You can "Co-Pilot":** If you are nervous about a role, bring a friend and share the position!
- **You set the pace:** You have the freedom to bring your own ideas and energy to the role.

### As an example the Role of the "Outing Director"

When we think of our favorite Probus memories, they often involve a trip, a tour, or a shared meal at a local Ottawa landmark. These moments don't happen by chance; they are the work of our **Outing Director**.

We are currently searching for a member (or a pair of members!) to step into this vital role. As the Outing

Director, you aren't expected to be a travel agent. Your role is simply to:

- **Identify:** Listen to members' interests and pick 9-10 local destinations per year.
- **Connect:** Make a few phone calls to coordinate group rates or tours.
- **Invite:** Share the details with the club and watch the connections happen.

This role is the "heart" of our social calendar. Without it, we lose the very outings that define our club's spirit.

### Next Steps: How to Help

If you have enjoyed even one meeting or one outing over the last year, I ask you to consider how you can help us stay open. We aren't asking for a lifetime commitment—just a small portion of your time to ensure that our tapestry of friendship remains intact for years to come.

Please reach out to me or any current Board member before our next meeting. Let's ensure that when June arrives, we are celebrating a new team and a bright future.

**David Lee**

[president@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:president@probuswesternottawa.ca)

## Our club is hurting

While we have been limping along without a full Management Board, it gets worse.

After the June meeting this is our situation:

No President

No Vice President

No Outings Coordinator

No Newsletter Editor

No Secretary

No Webmaster

A New Membership Chair

A New Treasurer

No backups for any of our positions

**If our club is to survive, members need to step forward now so that we can do handovers.**

# Council on Aging delivers programs and speaks for seniors in Ottawa

At our February meeting, Sarah Bercier gave an enthusiastic outline of the role and the activities provided by the Council on Aging. With over 240,000 seniors in Ottawa, there is a need for a strong voice to represent our growing demographic. Sarah mentioned that both advocacy and education were key elements of their program. Almost everything in the city affects seniors, be it transportation, housing, services, facilities and more. The Council on Aging offers a Smart Aging program as well as individual workshops on a variety of topics. More information can be found at [www.coa.ca](http://www.coa.ca)



Sarah Bercier



## Join us for Euchre on Friday 13 March

**Where:** Bells Corners United Church,  
3955 Old Richmond Road at Moodie Drive.

**Time:** 12:30 for social time, coffee and snacks: Games begin at 1 p.m. We welcome new members! For Probus members only! Some knowledge of the game is helpful.

For further information, feel free to contact Barbara or David Stafford at ([bbole@sympatico.ca](mailto:bbole@sympatico.ca))

## Looking ahead at our future speakers

**April 14, 2026:** Dr. Andrea McCrady, the Dominion Carillonneur: **"The voices behind the 'Voice of the Nation' Tales of Canada's Dominion Carillonneurs"**

**May 12, 2026:** Dr. Paul Villeneuve: **"Wildfire smoke and our health: Risks, research, and what we can do"**

**June 9, 2026:** Barry Padolsky: **"Ottawa's Byward Market: 1827-2027 Praeteritum, Praesens et Futurum (Past, Present, Future)"**



Welcome to the new members who joined our Probus Club in February:

**Jodi Lusk**  
**Betty Pollowy**

## Some Special Interest Group mailing lists frozen

The table at right shows SIG status as of March 2.

Membership in the following SIGs is frozen pending their identification of a Prime Contact: bird-watching, cycling, hiking, pickleball, theatre-nights, and walking.

Restarting a frozen SIG or starting a new one will require a volunteer willing to respond to queries about the group.

To volunteer, please email Ray Jones at [sig-groups-coordinator@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:sig-groups-coordinator@probuswesternottawa.ca)

**Any SIG not identifying a prime contact by April 15 will have its email group list eliminated.**

As a PWO member, you may join or leave one of the groups below by either

- using the signup sheet, available at meetings, or by
- sending an email at any time to: [sig-\[group\]-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:sig-[group]-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca) substituting [group] with the

PWO SIG Status		March 2, 2026
SIG Name	# Signups	Prime Contact(s)
Art-Appreciation	4	June Stewart
Billiards	1	Ellen Clare O'Gallagher
Book-Club	5	Helen Zandbergen
Breakfast-Club	26	David Lee
Games-Night	7	Nicola Jarvis
Knitting	2	Elaine Bradley
Travellers-Club	33	Suma Abraham / Tom Wileman
<b>Total Signups</b>	<b>78</b>	Red text indicates a change from February

appropriate SIG name: for example, [sig-games-night-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:sig-games-night-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca). Put "Join", "Leave" or "Info request" in the subject field:

**We are invited to join****A bus trip to the Saguenay Region of Quebec in June**

A five-day motorcoach trip is being organized to the Saguenay region of Quebec by the **Alta Vista Probus Club**, and we are invited to participate. The trip includes one night in each of Quebec City, Tadoussac, St. Felicien and two nights in Chicoutimi. Breakfasts, some lunches and dinners are included as are many sightseeing excursions, including a whale watching trip.

If you are interested contact June Lane at the Alta Vista Club [junelane@gmail.com](mailto:junelane@gmail.com)

For more information, please visit <https://jollytours.ca/tour/tadoussac-whale-watching-and-the-saguenay-fjords/> to download a tour description brochure.



Keep an eye out for colourful, tiny stars on membership badges, both permanent and temporary. These indicate that the wearer became a brand-new member of Probus since September '25. Give these members a warm welcome!

**Let's keep this going****Bring a book ...****...Take a book**

Check out our swap table at every meeting

**Chuckle Corner** **STINGY OLD LAWYER**

A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the old saying, "You can't take it with you."

After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died.

He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed.

His plan: When he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to heaven. Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife, up in the attic cleaning, came upon the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with cash.

"Oh, that old fool," she exclaimed. "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement."

Membership inquiries may be sent to [membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca)

Our Website  
[www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)

Newsletter comments or submissions  
[newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca)



**20-year pin.** Past President Ray Jones congratulates Moe Wright on achieving 20 years as a Probus Western Ottawa Club member.

**After the meeting****We go out for lunch**

Join us for lunch after our March meeting to socialize and discuss the presentation.

This month we will be at:

**Busters Bar & Grill**  
420 Hazeldean Road

Often our speaker is able to join us. At the beginning of the meeting, we ask for a show of hands of those planning to attend so that we can advise the restaurant.

**Free Coffee and Tea**

**Getting together to socialize prior to our meetings has always been a hallmark of our Club.**

**Free Coffee and Tea Service is now available from 9:45 -10:20 am**  
(to facilitate cleanup)

