



PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

(OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT)

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January, 2015 To: All PROBUS Clubs in Canada

From: Steven Campbell. Past President, PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

MARCH IS NATIONAL PROBUS MONTH

. PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit, non-fundraising autonomous clubs which provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances and similar levels of interest, to make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests. Dedicated to enriching the lives of retired Canadians by providing occasions for learning and friendship, PROBUS keeps members connected to their friends, old and new, and connected to their local community and world community through its programs of speakers and special events. ***Get connected; stay connected!*** This “connectivity” is a driving force underlying a member’s participation. In 236 active clubs, more than 32,000 Canadians are now members of PROBUS which averages 12 new clubs a year, some for men only, some for women only, and some combined. The PROBUS Clubs of Canada comprise part of the estimated more than 3,500 clubs the world over with nearly 400,000 members.

All clubs are autonomous groups governed by management committees elected from within each club responsible only to the constitution and the spirit of PROBUS.

In 2014, PROBUS Canada approved the designation of a National PROBUS Month, to be declared nationally to celebrate PROBUS, enrich its meaning among members, and enhance its recognition and visibility throughout each community as well as municipally, provincially, and nationally. PROBUS Canada has noted that the first club in Canada, Cambridge, Ont., was certified on March 17, 1987. Appropriately, *March has been designated National PROBUS Month.*

The idea is for each club to dedicate its regular meeting, or part thereof, of the designated month, March, to celebrating PROBUS. Special events within a club (luncheon, special speaker, awards, development of a new club, reading of Constitution and Bylaws, a discussion of the PROBUS Website, etc.), municipal declaration of PROBUS Month, news release, and Rotary recognition etc., are just a few of the possibilities as is the arrangement of a special event in lieu of a meeting.

Last March, many clubs were quite successful in celebrating PROBUS. Some municipalities (Newmarket, for example) officially declared National PROBUS Month; others accessed their TV Community channels while several held special luncheons. Hopefully, as the annual celebration grows in Canada, perhaps a world-wide “World PROBUS Month” will be a reality.

Based on the premise that members have given in the past and still do contribute to their community both as individuals and as part of other organizations, giving of their time and energy, their moral support, and their money, PROBUS is a refuge from those who would ask support for a cause, including political and religious ones, and from anyone who would promote a program or product. PROBUS, however, seeks and welcomes

presentations, not appeals, from worthy organizations and projects that would expand their interest and understanding of these projects. The key issue is *no PROBUS member should, as a PROBUS member, be put in a position of having to comply with or refuse requests for money or political or religious support for a cause no matter how worthy the cause may be; nor should a member profit or lose materially by virtue of being a member of PROBUS*. The exceptions are, of course, internal programs as part of a PROBUS activity and those few programs sanctioned by PROBUS Canada where the organization is expected to use its collectivity to make available items of national benefit to all our members. This basic principle of fellowship and remaining connected to the world through speakers and programs, together with the guideline of non-solicitation, is the underpinning of PROBUS.

PROBUS is independent of all other organizations and exists solely for the purposes of fellowship and enrichment.

Yours in PROBUS,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "STEVE" in a stylized, slightly slanted font.

S. C. Campbell, Past President

National PROBUS Month Liaison