

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

June 2020

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monday, June 8th Zoom Meeting

with speaker

Dr. Ralph Sultan,
19 Years MLA, Harvard Economics PhD and
Professor Chief Economist of the Royal Bank
“Lessons Learned from 20 Years in Politics”



Ralph Sultan was elected to the BC Legislature to represent the riding of West Vancouver-Capilano in 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2017. He is currently a member of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Ralph was previously the Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and the Minister of State for Seniors. He previously served on the Legislative Review Committee, and the Government Caucus Committee for the Economy, was the Caucus Liaison for the Ministry of Finance, a member of the B.C. Mining Task Force, was Chair for the Government Caucus Committee for the

Economy, and a Member of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Ralph is an economist, educator and businessperson who also maintains registration as a professional engineer (P.Eng.). Prior to attending university, he worked as a tree faller, a lineman on the construction of the Kemano-Kitimat transmission line, a surveyor's helper on the Lillooet and Bridge River hydroelectric projects, and was an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers permit member.

Graduating from UBC in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Ralph worked as a technical sales representative for a major international company before earning MBA, MA, and Ph.D. (Economics) degrees from Harvard University. He completed those degrees in 1965. He then served as Assistant and Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University, for nine years. He was then employed by The Royal Bank of Canada for almost ten years as Chief Economist; then Senior Vice President, Marketing in Montreal, and subsequently Senior Vice President, Global Energy and Minerals Group in Calgary. He was retained by the J. W. McConnell Foundation, Canada's largest philanthropic fund, as investment advisor. In 1974 and 1975, Harvard University Press published his two-volume study of price fixing in the electrical industry. *Continued on page 2 ...*

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Zoom Meeting



We will hopefully have a speaker scheduled for Monday, July 13th
and will inform members once confirmed.

President's Message and remainder of Ralph's bio - page 2...

President's Notes



I am happy to report that the Management Committee has filled its responsibilities by having a Zoom meeting every month at which we ensure continuity of the club's business. Accounting, special events, membership, venues, all have been discussed and found to be in order.

Much time was spent on the issue of holding virtual monthly general meetings using Zoom. We are lucky that Darryl Stodalka has taken on the job of organizing the first one, information about which will be sent by e-mail in the first week of June. He had much to learn about the system and arranged a trial run with members of the Management Committee. It worked well and I hope that the actual meeting will be met with the same success.

We hope that many members will tune in to this meeting at which Ralph Sultan will talk to us about some interesting experiences in his life in academia, business and politics. Reading his CV printed in this newsletter shows what an outstanding career in all three fields he has had. Combined with his personal charm and wit, his presentation should be informative and entertaining.

There will be a Question and Answer period at the end of his formal presentation, instructions to follow. I expect this process to work well, even if it is an imperfect substitute for live questions and answers.

The planned virtual meeting will allow us to fill one of the club's missions, providing members with information about the world and stimulate discussion. However, going unmet will be the mandate to offer members the opportunity for social contacts. Perhaps, in the future, technology will have progressed enough to overcome this problem, though I think this is unlikely to happen in our lifetimes, if it ever does. Star Wars beaming really is just fiction.

If the June meeting is successful, we expect to have future monthly events using Zoom until we can go back to meetings at the regular venues.

I wish to acknowledge here the work done by Linda Metcalfe who produces this Newsletter, has kept the minutes of the Management Committee's last meeting and maintains a list of members' e-mail addresses used to distribute the Newsletter and keep all of us informed about other Club business. We are most grateful for her work.

I am sure that all of you can hardly wait for life to return to normal and we need no longer worry about health, hav-

ing enough toilet paper, standing too close to someone and the possibility that our income will shrink through inflation and taxes used to deal with record debt.

Let me suggest to you that it is possible to reduce these worries by limiting one's exposure to the anxiety-arousing news stories in the media. It works for me. Try it. It might work for you. Spending some time listening to Ralph is a good start.

Best of health to all of you.

Herbert Grubel

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Ralph Sultan's Bio cont'd.

Between 1980 and 2000, Ralph held senior officer and director positions in a variety of financial, mining, forestry and technology sector companies, and owned and operated his own investment company. In the mining sector, he was Executive Vice President of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, a subsidiary of Anglo American Corporation, and was Vice-Chair of Curragh Resources in the Yukon, and held other executive positions.

In the 1990s, after returning home to British Columbia, Ralph served as President of a joint venture with a major American corporation and engaged in the development of a fibreboard mill in Williams Lake.

Ralph was the Eagle Harbour Yacht Club executive secretary and was an Augustana Lutheran Church Councilor. He was Chair of the Financial Research Foundation (1984-1985), Chair of Queen's University Business School Advisory Committee (1981-84), Economic Council of Canada member (1979-83), and Harvard Business School fundraiser (1968-1994). He arranged for the endowment of a UBC professorship in mining engineering (1990) and served on Harvard's Graduate School Arts & Science Advisory Committee (1993-1996). Ralph has received academic awards, including graduation from the Harvard Business School with High Distinction, UBC's Cayley Prize, the Engineering Institute of Canada Prize, Harvard's designation as Baker Scholar and Ford Foundation designation as Fellow. He is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia.

Born in 1933, Ralph was raised in a family of ten in the Mt. Pleasant District of East Vancouver. He has lived on Vancouver's North Shore since returning to B.C. His wife of 43 years, Shirley, a surgical nurse and rehabilitation clinic entrepreneur, died suddenly in 1999. He has four children and five grandchildren. He enjoys boating, skiing and gardening.