

NSCCC

MONDAY MEETING

Location: Newton Senior Center
Date: 04/13/2026 @ 1:00pm
Attendees: 23 members
Chairperson: Vicci Burnett
Speaker: Carolyn Conroy

House Keeping

1. Alta called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and reminded members that they should have scanned your membership cards at the front desk as you came in to check in. This is how the City keeps track of how the attendance are at various centres. There has been talking about eliminating the last senior center in Surrey. If you don't scan your card, we are going to lose the centre, so it is REALLY IMPORTANT to do that.
2. Please silent your smartphone.
3. We don't have new members nor the guests today.
4. Athena read the minutes of March 30th Topics: Translink
5. No errors or omissions noted. Seconded by Vicci.
6. Reminder to save the date for AGM is at 1:00 pm on Monday, June 1st. There will be computer related door prices. All executive positions will be open for nominations. Alta will step aside and withdraw his name from any nomination after 4 years of services. Encourage someone else should step up and take a turn at supporting our president and chairperson. We will also need a nominating chair for that AGM meeting on June 1st.
7. BBQ is at 11:00am on Monday June 8th in a Hazelnut Meadows Community Park on 70th Avenue. We will have 2 barbeque machines. We will need some chefs, choppers, volunteers to set up, clean up, etc. Cost is \$7.00. Athena will collect your \$7.00 starting in May.
8. Alta will speak about inexpensive computer option for grandchildren & seniors next week, April 20th.
9. Alta introduced the speaker today, Carolyn Conroy.

Main topic started around 13:10pm

Topic: Travel Planning and Tips

Carolyn worked as a travel consultant for Flight Center, a very large international travel company. Travel consultants have buying power and can solve a lot of problems.

Brand Fares (basic fares)

Airline-created products where fares are bundled with various services and features, like baggage, seat selection, or refundability, into fare families or tiers to cater to different traveler needs and enhance revenue.

When you're shopping flights online and you're seeing that low, low, low fare, it's 100% going to be branded fare that's going to be in the basic fair category, the airline will select the seat for you because airlines want to fill the undesirable seats, and you will be charged extra if you want to change your seat. And you can't change flight, can't get an airline credit and no refunds, no future travel credit.

If you're not going to check the bag and you're just going to take a backpack and you're going for the day or you're going for two days and you can take a backpack, you don't have to check in the bag, you don't care where you sit. It's a good deal, but it's not for people who have fair specific needs like, I want to check my bag, I want to sit in a very specific spot.

Airlines can bump your seats, working with travel consultant can help getting your money back because you did not get the seats you had bought for.

Travel insurance is also very important not just for medical insurance, the interruption cancellation is also critical, it can really ruin your holidays without it. i.e. the airline cancel my flight, I can't fly come tomorrow, and I don't like the flights at the airline is offering me, so I'm going to give it my own hotel, I'm going to book my own flights and then my insurance is going to pay me back. That's called interruption. Sometimes it's almost easier if you have the **interruption insurance** to just go ahead, book another, maybe on another airline, book your own hotel, keep all your receipts, keep your taxi receipts, all your food receipts.

Medical Insurance is super important to understand what's not covered in and how to use it, be truthful to answer all questions when apply for medical insurance.

Tours

Basically, nowadays touring is so popular, you can pretty much curate want to have. Are you into food? Are you in those activities? Are you into Hawaii? Are you into, cultural? Do I want it easy pace? Do I want to if I want a small room or I don't want to be on those big buses. So you can really curate your experience.

Top Tour Operators

- Globus Journeys
- G Adventures
- Intrepid
- Insight Vacations
- Trafalgar
- Exodus Adventure

Features & Benefits

- Group size - smaller group size is more expensive. Larger size is a little bit more affordable because of the way in inventory driven.
- Activity level
- Type of transportation
- Hotel rating

What's Included

- Number of meals
- Airport transfers
- Excursions
- Entry fees
- Skip the line options
- Choice of activities - that's another big selling point where you can actually curate what you're doing each day based on your activity, your interests

No Single Supplement v.s Solo Travel companies

Solos - www.solosholidays.com/uk/

Example: Canada Discovery Atlantic Maritimes – nine nights for CAD \$6,000.00
Each tour will have a map showing you how many days you are going to be in each city, and where you're going to start, where you're going to end up. So it kind of helps give you an idea of what you're going to be doing

Tours from Solos have a tour leader who is going to be with you the whole time, has inclusion, has a tour guide with you all the way. This is the on with the single supplements that you will have your own room but you really want to look into what kind of hotels they book between 3 to 4 stars which will determine what kind of breakfast you will get.

Currency - definitely bringing currency of the country and some currency exchange, they don't always carry the currency that can be for that destination. But like with Mexico and Dominican, Jamaica, any of those regul sun destinations, you can get away with U.S. ones. Most of the Credit cards are good to travel with but it is a good idea to inform them that you are going out of the country for how long.

Medications

It's your responsibility to make sure you remember your medication. If you bring your own medication, declare it and it's not a controlled substance. you should always have your medications in their prescription bottles with your name and the medication number

Crossing the border to the States - be really careful and border the U.S border guards are ruthless, and they will ask you questions about how do you feel about our president? How do you feel about the political? And they will look at your phone. They want to see where you're talking about, and they're denying people.

Useful websites

www.travel.gc.ca - travel advice and advisories

Passport - Most of the passport requirements now are three months to six months from the time of the duration that you're staying so that's a super important thing. It also gives you information about safety, political issues, any protests going on, etc..

Visas – It is really important to know if you need visas to your travel destinations and apply for them. Be very careful when apply Visas online, make sure you are in the right website and it's usually the website that's of the country of origin.

www.rome2rio.com - trip planning tool

Additional Miscellaneous Informaiton

Flight connection sometimes is not about the best price or the best connection, it's associated with the home city of the airline you are flying with.

Euro Pass – you have to purchase before arriving Europe and it's not necessary cheaper. It's actually more inexpensive to do one-offs, because you have a little bit more control and you don't have to validate your real pass and you have a little bit more freedom when it comes to that.

Via Rail – cross Canada from Vancouver to Toronto in 3 or 4 days then you can change trains to either Montreal, Quebec City, costs about CAD\$7,000.00