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Karate BC is the recognized governing body for karate-do (karate) in British Columbia, Canada.

August 13, 2014

Dear Senseis,

Inflation and increased costs have reared their ugly heads forcing Karate BC to increase dues for the coming year to \$5 for all kyu ranks – the first increase since 2010.

The increase, the equivalent of two Starbucks lattes, and less than the cost of a McDonald's Big Mac, brings the dues to \$55 for adult colour belts (16 years and over), and to \$35 for junior colour belts (15 years and under).

The Black Belt fees will remain at their 2010 level of \$70 as do the club fees of \$175.

As you know, Karate BC provides a service, has staff, a structured process, governance and is recognized by Government of BC. We support our athletes, provide coaching instruction, and are in the multisport BC Winter Games.

As Executive Director Dan Wallis noted in our last newsletter, Karate BC provides member clubs/dojos infrastructure support that goes unseen and not appreciated but is there none-the-less. . . Karate BC tries to build risk management structures that ensure all clubs live up to "minimum standards" – for training facilities, what is/isn't taught, who is standing in front of young people (criminal records check), who is/isn't covered for liability when you are training with people not involved with Karate BC, what rules will we all follow when we enter competition, how well trained will those officials be on the rules, and the list goes on. . .

Your Executive is working hard to keep costs in check.

Our executive director is part-time, we share our program coordinator with Judo BC and we have sublet a portion of our office space. Each Karate BC committee was forced to take a cut so that our budget could remain balanced and we could meet the increased dues charged by Karate Canada.

In spite of reduced funding, our athletes have done us proud. BC was the top medal winner at the 2014 Karate Canada Nationals held in Richmond and did very well at the Commonwealth Karate Championships and the Junior and Senior Pan-American championships, to name a few.

Our young athletes, junior coaches and junior officials were the highlight of the BC Winter Games. The Canadian kata champion for the last 17 years is from BC.

I am also looking at new ways to raise funds for our programs, if you have any ideas please let the office know.

I look forward to another excellent year.

In Harmony,

Charles La Vertu  
President



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