

CAMOSUN GYRO CLUB
ZOOM MEETING
6 APRIL, 2021

President Mike called the Meeting to Order at 7:05 p.m.

Seventeen screens were open with 20 participants; Gyros, some with their ladies, and a Golden Girl.

Mike proceeded to open Breakout Rooms with the usual technical difficulties which were eventually resolved. At 7:35 he reconvened the Meeting and asked Ray Mew to introduce our guest speaker Marc Neiltz.

Marc is a scientist working in many disciplines in many areas of the world.

He entitled his address as “In Science We (Mis)Trust and started his presentation with a quote from Carl Sagan: “Science is a way of thinking more than a body of knowledge.”

He went on to answer the question “How does Science affect our lives?” by pointing out how wildfires are affecting climate change and the science involved; fisheries and the sound management of other natural resources require solid science input.

He noted that we tend to be skeptical of science, and, in some instances fear it.

He elaborated on this through 5 possible reasons.

1. We tend to mistrust science probably because that's the way our brains are wired. We can be overloaded with too much information and often mix science with politics.
2. Scientists are sometimes advocates and we have a challenge in separating the two.
3. Science communication is hard , for both the “sender” and the “receiver”. We really don't know what scientists do, nor understand some of their terms and language.
4. Scientists have only the best information available to them which is usually developed by technology. E.g., Covid 19 vaccine developed through technology and the sharing of relevant information.
5. Scientific debate is not the same as media balance. Scientists will believe science while the populace is skeptical. It becomes a matter of trust.

A well informed populace is imperative so a well intentioned government doesn't mislead it.

Marc explained his “model” of determining trust as:

$$\text{Trust} = \frac{\text{Credible} \times \text{Reliable}}{\text{Self Interest}}$$

In order to trust science one should become intimate with “science” , check the credibility and reliability of sources, and ask is the information in the self interest of the scientists or the messengers.

A short question and answer session followed Marc's presentation.