

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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UNA Balances Budget Despite Drop in Services Levy

Levels of service to residents remain unaffected

John Tompkins
Editor

The University Neighbourhoods Association brought in a balanced budget of \$5.65 million for the coming year 2018–2019 despite a further drop in revenues from the UBC Services Levy.

The UNA receives the bulk of its funding from the UBC Services Levy, and over the last five years, the Levy—one of the two property tax-like charges paid by property owners in the University neighbourhoods—has dropped by 30%.

In 2012, the UNA received almost \$4 million from the Services Levy. In 2017, it received \$2.8 million, and in the current year, the UNA expects to receive even less.

The question arises: Why are UNA revenues from the Services Levy declining?

In a consultation paper online, the UNA provides the following answer:

It's all about the declining property tax rate – also called mill rate – and both the UNA and UBC do not have any control over this annual rate.

Here's how it works:

The amount paid for property taxes is calculated using the mill rate and property value. Each year, a local government decides what they want to spend on services. Then, they take all the property values in the area and set the mill rate to collect enough taxes to deliver those services. If property values rise faster than the budget, the mill rate is lowered, even though the amount you paid in property taxes increases.

At UBC, residents pay two property tax-like fees:

Provincial Rural Tax: This goes directly to the provincial government, which sets the rate and uses this revenue to fund services like policing and schools.

UBC Services Levy: This money goes to the UNA to pay for services such as recreational programs and facilities, landscaping and road maintenance.

UHill Secondary School Students Win BC Debate Provincials



University Hill Secondary School team poses with the Law Foundation Cup Junior Championship Trophy. From left to right: School Principal Tim McGeer, Leo Wang, Judy Hyojoo Rhee, and sponsor teacher John William Yetman.
Photo credit Adele Wang. Please see story on Page 6.

Norma Rose Point School Robotics Team Wins LEGO Provincials



Norma Rose Point School Robotics Team, from left to right: Iokasti (11 years old), Jane (10), Elijah (13), Lulu (13), David (11), Kyoungjoo (11), Kevin (11).
Please see story on Page 8.

UNA Adopts Schedule of Open and Closed Board Meetings

Vote in favour of closing up to five monthly meetings to the public in a year is unanimous

John Tompkins
Editor

Further to a suggestion from a Director and with the agreement of Chair Ying Zhou, the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors voted unanimously at its March 13 meeting to reduce severely the number of UNA Board meetings open to the public in 2018–19.

The following six meetings will remain open: May, July, September, November, January, March.

The following five meetings will be closed: April, June, October, December, February. (*In recent years, August has been left off the annual schedule of meetings.*)

In a report to Directors, Executive Director Johanne Blenkin, explained the rationale for fewer open meetings.

“The bylaws stipulate six meetings per year as a minimum.

“One of the challenges with monthly meetings is the work that goes into putting the package together by both the Executive Director and the Chair. That takes time away from working on priority items and ongoing operations. Of greater significance is that it can detract from a focus on larger priorities that require a more concerted effort over a longer time frame.

“The advantage of meeting every two months is to facilitate the work of standing committees informing the Board. Those committees will, by definition, have a broader membership than directors and will bring a number of skill sets to bear on key issues. It provides more time for analysis and forward planning along with the opportunity to draw upon the skills of our community.

“As a corollary to fewer open meetings, a more robust communication plan will need to be put in place to communicate what the UNA is doing in between meetings. Both the website and The Campus Resident paper are existing tools. Social media could also be enhanced.”

Although the UNA provides municipal-like services to the residents, it is a not for profit society and must comply with the Societies Act, not Local Government Act.

MESSAGE FROM THE UNA CHAIR



Message from the Chair

Being on the Board for over 4 years, I have continually reviewed UNA's history, especially the studies from Jim Taylor, the founding Chair of the UNA. Key messages from Jim Taylor's 2012 governance paper were:

1. The underlying legal structure is that resident leaseholders are tenants and UBC is the landlord. After a provincial study and an agreement between UBC and the GVRD, the UNA was created in 2002 as a Society. The purpose is to provide services to residents that are similar to those provided by municipalities.
2. The relationship between UBC and the UNA developed through the Neighbours Agreement created in 2002. It was updated in 2008 and 2015 outlining the rights, responsibilities and authority of the UNA. In establishing the UBC/UNA relationship, one of the early decisions and agreements was that the majority of directors are elected by residents, as outlined in the UNA bylaws.
3. The UNA's options to change governance from a society to a municipality are complex with an uncertain outcome. All governance reviews have arrived at that conclusion.

Since that time a number of studies have been undertaken regarding the role of the elected directors, the UNA bylaws and other issues. The Joint Financial Task Force was created with UBC, UBCPT and the UNA to focus on the fiscal challenges of declining revenue.

The resident population continues to grow which affects the need for a more robust infrastructure within the UNA to deliver services to residents that meet their needs. It also highlights the desirability of greater collaboration with UBC. These challenges are complex and involve multiple jurisdictional issues and multiple stakeholders.

None of the key stakeholders – UBC, the UNA and residents can address these challenges effectively on their own. Just as the Neighbours Agreement has provided a mechanism for the UNA and UBC to negotiate their relationship, the creation of the new Liaison Committee provides an additional tool for the UNA, residents and UBC to work together to resolve these issues in an open and transparent way.

The UNA is also taking steps to seek outside expertise to work on the Board and Executive Director roles, review the committee structure to better engage residents, and improve communication. Directors and the Executive Director attended two workshops in March, one on the board and ED roles, the other to create a clear purpose statement for the UNA and identify key priorities for the next year. As we develop strategies we will share them with you. The UNA is committed to working with UBC and residents to resolve issues that affect everyone in this community.

I am looking forward to keeping you informed on the emerging priorities of the UNA Board and its process on key issues.

Sincerely,
Ying Zhou, UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair



主席致函

担任董事会董事逾四年的我，依然继续回顾UNA的历史，特别是对UNA创始人Jim Taylor先生思想的学习。以下是我从2012年Jim Taylor先生的管理文件中摘取的重要信息：

1. 经过省级的调查研究以及根据UBC和大温哥华地区(GVRD)签署的协议，UNA作为社区成立于2002年。在居民是承租人，UBC是土地所有者的基本法律框架下，UNA成立的目的是为居民提供类似于市政府的相关服务。
2. UBC和UNA的关系可以通过2002年拟定和签署的邻里协议体现，这个协议概括了UNA的权利、责任和权限，此协议随后于2008年和2015年两度更新。在UNA的章程里，已经明确指出UNA董事会的民选董事会成员应该占多数比例。
3. 关于把UNA从社区提升到市政层面的选择是一个复杂的问题。所有关于管治权的评论只能得出这样的结论。

自从UNA成立以来，我们做了很多关于董事会成员的职责划分，规章制度和其他有关方面的研究。由UBC、UBCPT (UBC物业信托公司) 和UNA组成的联合财务工作组，就是为了应对日益减少的财政收入而成立的。

随着居民数量的不断增长，UNA需要更加稳固的基础构架来服务于居民，同时要

与UBC展开更深层次的合作，这是一项涉及到各层管辖权和利益方的复杂工作。

这项挑战要通过UBC、UNA和居民的共同努力才能完成。邻里协议为UNA和UBC的战略合作关系奠定了基础，共同联络委员会的成立更加为UNA、居民和UBC提供了一个开放透明的沟通渠道。

我期待着向大家汇报UNA董事会的工作重点以及在核心问题上取得的进展。

UNA民选董事会代表及董事会主席
Ying Zhou
敬上

(Translated by Kitty Yang, 以上内容由Kitty Yang翻译)

UBC Towers Take Heavy Toll on Bird Population

*Windows are main hazard;
birds are unable to perceive
glass as solid object*

The sad fact that up to 10,000 birds die annually from striking UBC buildings received an airing March 13 during a public presentation of the emerging Campus Green Building Plan, a plan scheduled to

go before the UBC Board of Governors for approval in September.

John Madden, Director, UBC Sustainability and Engineering, included the statistic about bird fatalities in his 20-minute address to the Board of Directors of the University Neighbourhoods Association, which represents upwards of 10,000 resident living in 50-60 campus buildings.

Buildings present a significant hazard to birds flying around the 1,000-acre campus with its many buildings, Mr. Madden

said.

"Birds killed by (smashing into) windows on campus account for 7,000 to 10,000 deaths a year," he said. The UBC planner said building collisions occur because birds are unable to perceive glass as a solid object.

In recent years, UBC has authored a set of bird-friendly design guidelines for its buildings; the purpose of these guidelines "to raise awareness about the dangers buildings pose to birds and inspire the in-

corporation of bird-friendly design strategies in campus development."

The guidelines state that designing or retrofitting a structure to be bird-friendly does not need to add to construction costs, nor does it need to restrict the imagination.

The guidelines further state: "Birds are particularly important because they provide essential ecosystem services in the form of pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal."



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Seniors with Homes on Campus (Leasehold) Out of Luck with Property Tax Deferral

Leasehold properties are currently excluded from the BC Program

In 2016, a number of Hampton Place residents raised their concerns with the Province about the inability of homeowners who live in leasehold housing to defer property taxes under the provincial Tax Deferral Program. The question remains to this day: Will the government review the program to ensure it applies fairly to owners of residential leasehold property — specifically, to seniors who need this program to stay in their homes?

Property Tax Deferral Program is a low interest loan program that helps qualified BC homeowners to pay annual property taxes on their principal residence. An important requirement of the Program is that the government is able to use the taxpayer's

interest in their home — the equity they have accumulated — as the security for the loan. There are two Tax Deferral Programs which BC homeowners may qualify for:

- **Regular Program:** for homeowners who are 55 or older during the current year or a surviving spouse of any age or a person with disabilities.
- **Families with Children Program:** for homeowners who are parents, stepparents or financially supporting a child.

More than 10,000 people live in the University neighbourhoods — an unincorporated area where the University Neighbourhoods Association provides municipal-like services to residents. The first residents purchased leasehold properties in Hampton Place in the early 1990s. UBC Properties Trust website explains: "Leasehold properties are registered at the Land Titles Registry just like any other home. You can buy them, sell them, even will them to some-

one. So you have all the same rights as a freehold property owner for the length of the lease — which at UBC is 99 years. Leases here are fully prepaid by the developer, and there are no rent reviews during the term of the lease." Homeowners at UBC pay Rural Tax to the Province and Services Levy to UBC, and the sum must equal the property tax paid in Vancouver on homes of equally accessed value.

Since the early days of residential property development at UBC, the prices of older condos and townhouses have risen significantly due to the successful development of University Town as well as to the ongoing housing affordability crisis in Vancouver. However, in this time, the provincial Property Tax Deferral Program for families and seniors has not been available for people in leasehold housing at UBC despite rising property taxes being a concern here among some long-time homeowners. BC Ministry of Finance, Property Tax Deferral Program Application and Agreement Guide, website says: "You can only defer property taxes paid to a municipality or to the Province. Taxes paid to a First Nation are not eligible for the Property Tax Deferral Program. Also, leased properties do not qualify for Tax Deferral if you are leasing the property from the fee simple owner."

The Province has presented strong arguments for excluding leasehold properties from the Property Tax Deferral Program. Where a person is in a property leasehold agreement, the government is not able to obtain an adequate level of security for the loan. This is largely because it is difficult to determine the value of a leasehold agreement, especially since the value of the agreement changes over the term of the lease. In addition, if the lease expires or is cancelled, the taxpayer would no longer have an interest in the property, and the government may have difficulty collecting the loan. Due to these issues, leasehold properties are currently excluded from the

Property Tax Deferral Program.

The Campus Resident asked David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey, to comment on this matter, and we received the following response:

"I have had a number of constituents contact me about the possibility for seniors in the UNA to defer property taxes on leasehold property as seniors are able to do on freehold property across the province. I raised this issue with the government while in opposition. I will be raising this issue with the Finance Minister again given the increasing popularity of leasehold housing in our community, a phenomenon due largely to UBC's model of selling condos or townhomes on lease, rather than as a freehold sale.

"Applying the property tax deferral system to leasehold properties is not as easy as applying it to freehold properties because, at the expiry of the lease, there is no interest left in the property for government to use to collect any outstanding tax amount that is due. Significant additional policy work would need to be done before government could act in order to ensure that government could offer a deferral program without increasing the risks to government of default by a leaseholder — these are risks that don't exist on deferred taxes for freehold properties because government has priority on the proceeds of any sale, and freehold properties to have at least some value on sale.

"I will be asking the Finance Minister to consider tasking her staff with the policy work required to consider a change in this area. I will certainly update the community with any news on this front as I hear it. As always, I am glad to hear from constituents and to bring their concerns forward to our government."

David Eby, MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey, can be reached at david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Strata 101— Action for Presentation and Engagement

We thought it would be useful to share the process that led to a successfully presented forum, Strata 101, to residents in the UNA neighbourhood.

Following an event for seniors last fall, directed by Qiuning Wang, Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator, UNA, some of us met to discuss needs of residents. She indicated that there was much interest and many questions about stratas. More and more residents — some of whom have left single family homes — were joining together to live in the many new buildings going up in the UNA area, and yet they were having difficulty with many elements of strata literacy such as strata lots, councils, AGMs, bylaws, etc.

We agreed to organize the content and presenters. The UNA office initiated the promotion and provided the venue with projector. We vetted the first run with our friends and subsequently presented the program, twice in English and once in Mandarin. Each presentation allowed us to tweak the material. We aimed to allow at least half the program for Q & A. There was a great deal of interest with over 110 residents attending.

Our survey, following the presentations, suggests we only scratched the tip of the proverbial iceberg! There were requests for a deeper examination of complaint resolution, assessments, insurance, smoking, strata lots and leases — just to name a few. In addition, other proposed topics included accessing medical care and finances.

As a result, a workshop on UBC Land Use 101 is planned in a few weeks. We wanted to underscore that this collaboration with the UNA has been most productive. We feel there are many topics that would help residents living at UBC obtain good experiences and useful resources. Anyone who has an interest is encouraged to contact the UNA office. The understanding is that volunteers will organize the content, and UNA staff will assist in advertising and providing a venue. Our Strata 101 sessions had no direct costs to the organizers.

We, with new team members, certainly encourage future forums and workshops to enhance our living at UBC.

*Chris Finch, Hampton Place resident
John Lin, Hampton Place resident*

BUDGET continued from Page 1

At UBC, the mill rate for these two fees added together must be the same as if your property was in the City of Vancouver. Vancouver mill rates have been declining rapidly because of a significant increase in property values — including large estates, single family homes, and multi-family homes. Vancouver can charge lower mill rates, but still collect more revenue for its budget each year given these property

value increases.

Unfortunately, this formula is not working for University neighbourhoods, which are not increasing in value at the same pace. As a result, each year there is less revenue available for UNA services.

Despite these financial difficulties, the UNA says in its consultation paper, service levels have been maintained.

Financial assistance from UBC and the withdrawal of funds from various reserves allowed the UNA to cover its expenses.

Lunar New Year Celebrates Diversity and Volunteerism

Qiuning Wang

*Community Engagement and
Volunteer Coordinator*

Dorota Mann

2018 Lunar New Year Coordinator

Celebrating different traditions and enriching the cultural life of campus residents is at the core of UNA Lunar New Year celebration. Sitting on the Event Committee this year were three Canadians who are all members of the UNA Multicultural Committee: Qiuning Wang (Chinese), Dorota Mann (European/North American) and Eustina Na (Korean) — a combination which created a synergy of cultures.

2018 is the Year of the Dog, and the Event Committee came up with the idea to connect the romanticized mascot dog in the Chinese Zodiac with the real dogs living with families in our community. The Committee invited residents to bring photos of their pets and displayed the photos on the Doggy Wall created at Wesbrook Community Centre — uniting cultures and involving neighbourhood dogs and their owners in the celebration of the Year of the Dog.

In China, guessing lantern riddles is an essential part of the Lunar New Year Festival. On the 15th and last days of the Lunar New Year Festival, a Lantern Festival is held in the community, park or public market. Riddles are written on paper slips and attached to the lanterns. Festival goers work to solve the riddles, pulling the papers out and checking their answer



Adult Volunteers and UNA staff. Photo credit Michael Chen.

at a station to collect small prizes if they guessed right. The activity emerged during the Song Dynasty (960–1279) and remains a favorite tradition. For the celebration in Wesbrook, riddles in three languages of Chinese, Korean and English were pulled from different resources to create a riddle station enjoyed by many children and families.

March 21 is the Nowruz Persian New Year, and some Iranian residents will prepare a Haft Seen display at Wesbrook and The Old Barn Community Centres and present traditional Persian food at the Let's Cook Club. A community resident from

India also raised the idea of connecting with others to plan something for Diwali this year. A First Nations resident made us aware of their Lunar New Year tradition. We look forward to seeing these different cultural celebrations flourishing in the campus community.

2018 was the biggest UNA Lunar New Year celebration yet. The Event Committee concluded that “a fast growing community, well designed programs, collaboration with Wesbrook Village, strong Korean representation as well as the committed and talented staff and volunteers — all contributed to the event's success.”

This year, a mix of experienced and new volunteers — 21 adults and 48 youth — came to help at the event. In particular, our Korean volunteers made a strong impression in the community by presenting beautiful lotus lantern and tea demonstrations. To maintain authenticity, some of the materials used were purchased and imported by the volunteers in Korea and offered to the celebration as a donation.

On behalf of the UNA and the community members, we would like to acknowledge all the volunteers for their outstanding work that made the event successful.

VOLUNTEERS

Abigail Li, Adrienne Tang, Anand Jangar, Andy Yu, Angela Lin, Anna Robb, Arta Aghili, Belinda BH Tsen, Bin Zhou, Bokja Choi, Bruce Wu, Byran Xu, Calvin Zong, Cecilia Xie, Chaewon Kim, Charis Tang, Christal Lyu, Coco Ding, David

He, Dou Lan, Dylan Wang, Emmanuela Amoa, Esther Yuqi Li, Fatemeh Khounsarian, Felix Ng, Grace Yu, Heesu Yun, Jade Zhang, Jennifer Yang, Jeannie Lee, Jiwoo Ho, Joshua Yang, Judy Rhee, Jue Hee Kim, Kitty Yang, Kyoung Mee Park, Eustina Na, Luca Khayam, Melvin Tao, Michael Chen, Michael Lee, Mihae Lee, Miranda Xie, Moonyoung Choi, Nafeesa Newar, Nicole Duan, Nick Kong, Owen Xu, Qicheng Zuo, Rebecca Su, Ryan Tsen, Sabrina Zhang, Sahba Sabour, Sara Chen, Sean Choi, Seong Yun Choi, Shawn Yang, Shi Yong Wang, Shi Yun, Sigrid Lin, Sissi Zhang, Sofia Barros, Sonia Mann, Sylvia Liu, Unwoo Ho, Victoria Gong, Vivien Wang, Walter Ma, Yizhuo Zhang.



Record attendance at the 2018 Lunar New Year celebration at Wesbrook Community Centre. Photo credit Yaletown Photography.



The Event Committee members from left to right: Dorota Mann, Qiuning Wang and Eustina Na. Photo credit Michael Chen.



Volunteers from the Let's Cook Club demonstrate Chinese tea ceremonies.



Lion Dancers are welcomed in the Year of the Dog in the Wesbrook Community Centre. Photo credit Michael Chen.

New Liaison Committee Continues Tradition of Close UBC–UNA Engagement

John Tompkins
Editor

The new UBC Board of Governors and University Neighbourhoods Association Liaison Committee starts up in April, continuing a tradition of cooperation between UBC and the UNA since 2002 — when the UNA was founded under the BC Societies Act.

Over the years, this dedication to cooperation has been illustrated in many ways:

- UNA–UBC Quarterly Meetings at which senior staff at both organizations discuss matters at hand
- UBC–UNA *Community Conversations* events at which the public is invited to face-time with senior executives of both bodies
- Delivery of UBC Campus and Community Planning Monthly Reports to the UNA Board of Directors
- UTown@UBC Community Grants where UBC and the UNA jointly organize and award Community Grants to aspiring members of the UBC community
- The annual UNA presentation to the UBC Board of Governors
- The Neighbours Agreement which provides legal oversight to relations between UBC and the UNA
- The Joint UBC–UNA Financial Task Force, established to manage the new fire protection services fee and declining UBC Services Levy and ensure the long-term financial health of the UNA Operating Budget
- Numerous UBC Open Houses on residential property development applications
- Appointment of a campus resident—chosen jointly by UBC and the UNA—to the UBC Development Permit Board.

UNA Reviews Standing Committees Structure

At their monthly Board meeting March 13, UNA Directors agreed to engage the services of Tom Fletcher, a municipal consultant who has worked with both UBC and the UNA, to conduct a review of the UNA Standing Committee structure and mandates.

The intended outcome of this review is a Standing Committee structure that will better assist the Board in its decision making processes. At the meeting, Directors agreed this could be achieved through creating committees that can provide the Board with specific expertise and enhance UNA engagement with the community.

“Bringing in external expertise to assist the UNA is an effective method of ensuring we deliver on our mandate incorporating different perspectives,” UNA Executive Director Johanne Blenkin said in a report to the Board. “Every time we bring in outside expertise there is a knowledge transfer to staff. In addition, the external perspective is neutral and ensures we are focusing on core roles and key services.”

Ms. Blenkin said the UNA does not have the internal resources to take on a project of this complexity and importance

At the February 15 meeting at which Governors of the University approved formation of the Liaison Committee, a UBC spokesperson said the partnership between UBC and the University Neighbourhoods Association has been and continues to be vital for the success of a sustainable University Town community.

UBC–UNA Liaison Committee will advise UBC—through its Property Committee—on matters such as:

- UBC strategic goals, plans, and imperatives, and their impact upon neighbourhood residents
- UBC rights and obligations with respect to neighbourhood residents
- opportunities to work together on areas of common interest between residents and UBC and to address areas of concern
- municipal and municipal-like governance related to development and management of property and infrastructure.

Members of the Liaison Committee will be:

- Chair, Property Committee, UBC Board of Governors (as Co-Chair)
- Chair, Finance Committee, UBC Board of Governors
- Chair, Governance Committee, UBC Board of Governors
- Chair, University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors (as Co-Chair)
- One (1) member of the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors, selected by the Chair of the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors
- One (1) member at large appointed by the Chair of the UBC Board of Governors, at the recommendation of the Chair of the University Neighbourhoods Association Board of Directors and the Chair of the Property Committee of the UBC Board of Governors.

to the organization in this timeframe.

As well as review the current standing committee structure and mandates, the Directors agreed, Mr. Fletcher, of Fletcher & Company Municipal Consulting Inc., will provide a report with recommendations to create a committee structure that addresses the following objectives:

- The proposed committee structure will work within the not-for-profit, Societies Act realm.
- The committees’ mandates will reflect the municipal nature of the UNA’s mandate.
- The committees will assist the Board in better engaging residents in the governance process.

“The approach of incorporating municipal governance principles where practicable into the Societies Act framework reflects the dual nature of the UNA,” Ms. Blenkin said.

The timeline for the Standing Committee project effectively means that the committees will likely not be fully operational before the summer. In the interim, it is proposed that the Finance and Audit Committee continue as constituted.

LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

Dear friends and neighbours:

It’s hard to believe that a year has gone by since I invited you, in this column, to participate in UBC’s new strategic planning process.

Throughout 2017, thousands of members of the UBC community came together through group discussions, open houses and online surveys to provide input that helped inform the plan. That input was further shaped by a representative Steering Committee, multiple working groups, alumni UBC, the Deans, the Executive, university committees and external groups.

We’re now coming to the end of the planning process, and preparing for the next stage – that of implementing the plan, *Shaping UBC’s Next Century*.

Earlier this year, I presented the plan to UBC’s Senates, where it was positively received. Shortly, it will go to the Board of Governors for ratification. We will further consult with you, and other members of the UBC community, as we begin to implement the plan.

Shaping UBC’s Next Century sets out our collective vision, purpose, goals and strategies for the years ahead. It provides a roadmap to help UBC reach its potential and a mechanism through which we can be held accountable.

The plan builds on the successes of the past. The university recently celebrated its centennial, marking 100 years of excellence in research, education and service in British Columbia and beyond. UBC’s previous strategic plan, *Place and Promise*, sparked significant academic achievements, with deepening commitments to Indigenous people and communities, sustainability and alumni engagement. It channelled institutional attention and activity toward international collaboration, intercultural understanding and outstanding work environments. Collectively, these accomplishments position us well to embrace the opportunities and navigate the challenges that lie ahead. The locations of our campuses and multiple learning and research sites at the western edge of Canada enable fresh perspectives and exciting connections in a fast-changing global landscape. These are reinforced by the relative youth of UBC in the world of higher education.

As a public institution, UBC is proud to play a pivotal role in British Columbia, shaping and participating in the development of its people, society and economic growth. At the same time, UBC is a globally renowned university, contributing world-leading research, providing distinctive excellence in education, attracting outstanding people domestically and internationally, and collaborating with preeminent universities and organizations around the world. The founders of UBC understood the university’s potential as a place of engagement; a place where relevant, innovative and impactful research could be conducted; a place where pressing societal issues would be examined, deliberated and resolved; and a place where critical thinking would always be welcomed, and informed citizens shaped. We strive to fulfil this potential in all that we do, locally, regionally, nationally and across the world.

You can find the latest draft of the plan at http://bit.ly/ubc_draft_plan. You will see how it affects every aspect of the univer-



Professor Santa J. Ono.
Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.

sity – including its relations with the people who live and work here. It emphasizes the importance of people and community, and reflects our commitment to their health, development and success.

The plan has three themes – inclusion, collaboration and innovation – and four core areas – people and places, research excellence, transformative learning, and local and global engagement. The people and places and local and global engagement core areas are most relevant to UBC’s residential neighbourhoods, but I invite you to review the entire plan to see how we aspire to shape UBC’s next century.

Each of the core areas has associated strategies. Some of the strategies relevant to our residential neighbourhoods are:

- Strategy 2. Inspiring Places: Create welcoming physical and virtual spaces to advance collaboration, innovation and community development
- Strategy 3. Thriving Communities: Support the ongoing development of healthy and connected campuses and communities, consistent with the Sustainability Strategy and the Developing Wellbeing Strategy

- Strategy 20. Coordinated Engagement: Co-create with communities the principles and effective practices of engagement, and establish supporting infrastructure; in particular, deepening our engagement with campus neighbourhoods to support the unique and vibrant experience of living at UBC.

These strategies illustrate the importance of people and places at UBC, and more broadly our commitment to Indigenous peoples, to sustainability and to well-being.

I am tremendously inspired by the way the UBC community – students, faculty, staff, neighbours, alumni and friends – has ignited the spirit of this plan. *Shaping UBC’s Next Century* sets us on an exciting path forward. Together, we can fulfil UBC’s limitless potential as a centre of transformative learning, impactful research, and positive change. Please join me in *Shaping UBC’s Next Century*.

Professor Santa J. Ono
President and Vice Chancellor
University of British Columbia

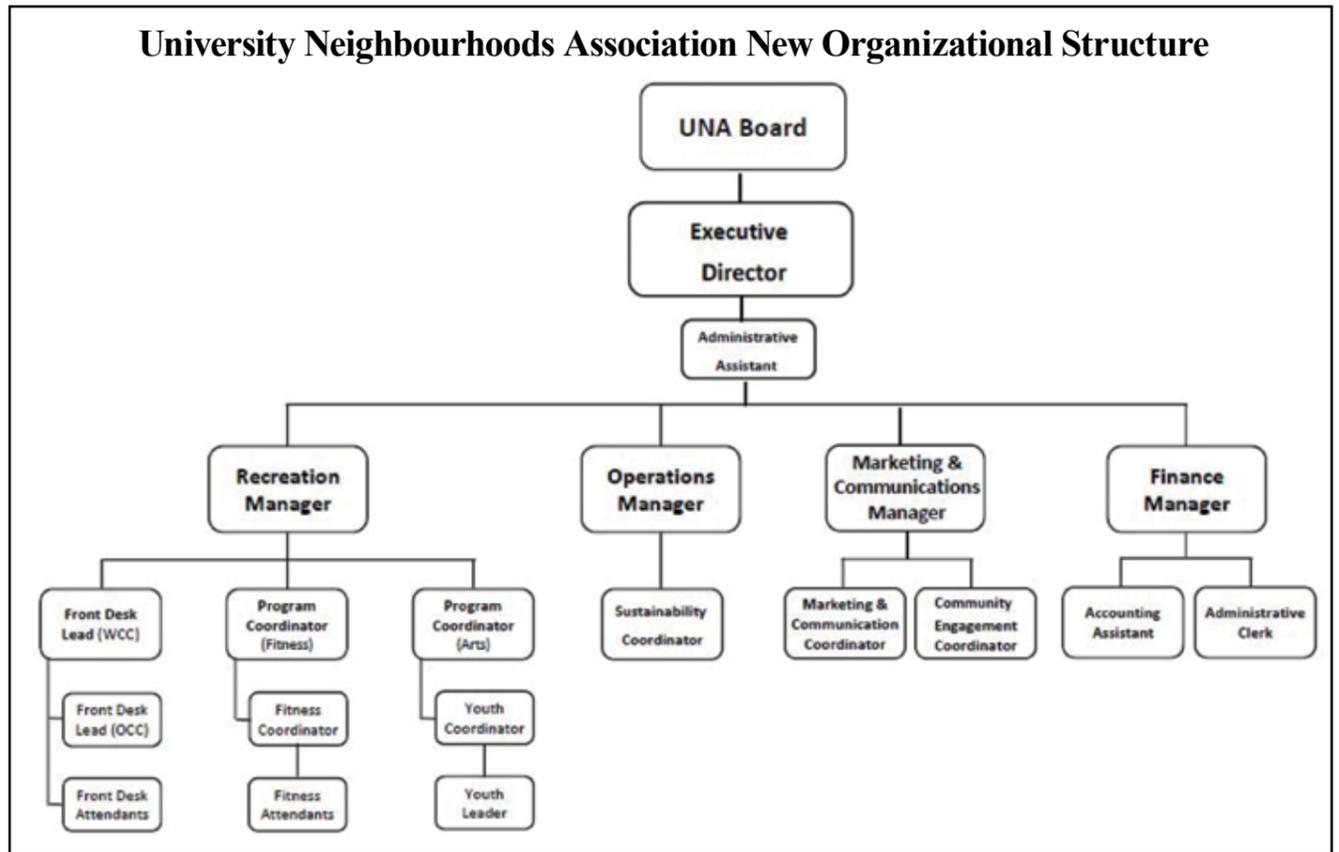
UNA Undertakes Operations and Staffing Needs Analysis

Following the *UNA Services Review*, which was conducted by the UNA as part of the Joint Financial Task Force work, the UNA retained Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. to undertake the *UNA Operations and Staffing Needs Analysis*.

Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. presented a report with the following recommendations:

STAFFING

- UNA creates position of *Administrative Assistant* to provide support to the Executive Director on a range of administrative and routine tasks. (See *Editor's Note*)
- UNA creates position of *Marketing and Communications Manager* to oversee and direct the UNA marketing and communications function. This position be structured as a one-year contract position, to be reviewed for renewal at the end of the contract term. (See *Editor's Note*)
- UNA eliminates in-house position of *Graphic Design and Content Developer* in favour of outsourcing all design-related work.
- UNA fills the vacant position of *Sustainability Coordinator*. This position be re-structured as a one-year contract position, to be reviewed for renewal at the end of the contract term.
- UNA restructures the existing payroll function to eliminate the need for manual data re-entry, and the option for staff and instructors to receive paper cheques.
- UNA shifts parking permit and Access Card services, along with other front-line service enquiries, from the UNA Office to the community centres.
- UNA shifts finance-related duties to the Administrative Clerk and to the Accounting Assistant in order to enable the Finance Manager to focus efforts on financial



analysis for the organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- UNA endorses and applies the recommended organizational structure as presented in the Diagram on this page.

OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

- UNA develops, in consultation with the community, a set of *Principles to Guide the Programming Function*.
- UNA develops a *Cost-Recovery Policy* for recreation and culture programs.

- UNA requires Programmers to provide *Business Cases* for proposed and existing recreation and culture programs, to assist the organization in selecting programs to deliver.

The recommendations were fully endorsed by the UNA management team and the UNA Board.

Editor's Note: In a closed March 13 meet-

ing, the UNA Directors endorsed the following changes to the recommendations made by Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc.:

- The *Administrative Assistant* role was clarified to provide support to all of the managers, not just the Executive Director.
- The position of *Marketing and Communications Manager* was made a full-time permanent position – not as a one-year contract position.

Two UHill Secondary Students Bring Debate Trophy Home

University Hill Secondary School won this year's BC Provincial Junior Debating Championship, known as the Law Foundation Cup, which was held from March 2 to March 4 in the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford. This was the first time UHill won the Provincial Debate Championship. Let's take a look at how this team achieved such impressive results.

There are three categories in Debate Provincials: Novice, Junior, and Senior. The UHill team, Judy Hyojoo Rhee and Leo Wang, both Grade 10 students, competed in the Junior category as one of the 32 teams who advanced from their Regional Tournaments.

This year, as usual, all Junior teams

debated in five rounds over the course of two days, on a variety of topics, including quotas for young politicians in parliament, aboriginal justice systems in Canada, abolishing the Armed Forces, compensation for surrogate mothers, and releasing the identities of school shooters. On the last day, the top two teams were invited to the Grand Final to debate in front of all participants, and it was the UHill team that brought the winning trophy to their school.

In December, Leo and Judy will attend the BC Qualification tournament. They will compete with other students to be selected to represent BC in the National Qualification tryouts. Wish these young debaters the best of luck!

NEW DATES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

Enhancing student experience and housing in the University Boulevard area

To meet the significant demand for more student residences and address affordability, UBC is looking to add additional student and university housing, and academic sites, into the centre of campus.

We are seeking input on proposed sites near Brock Hall, Gage Towers, and Peter A. Allard School of Law.

Share your ideas online or in person MARCH 14 TO APRIL 8

Online Survey: planning.ubc.ca/uboulevard	Public Open Houses: March 19, 11am to 2pm The Nest, lower level
	March 22, 4pm to 7pm I.K. Barber Learning Centre, 2nd floor lobby

Questions?
Contact Angelique Crowther, Specialist, Communications and Engagement at angelique.crowther@ubc.ca or 604 827 3896.

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Environmental Art Exhibition *Karma* Sends Passionate Message of Activism and Change

Young artists call for raising awareness about impact of human activity on environment

Art Expression Youth Club

From the day we received the UTown@UBC community grant, we have been determined to put together the best art event possible. As many of us know, artists today are stigmatized and often thought to have 'inferior' careers — after all, we do nothing except paint stuff that honestly has no relation to anything of use... just to make a living and try to please well-off people by creating obscure 'modern' artworks that literally no one in the general population understands, right?

...Right?

Well. We are very eager to change that perception of artists by combining what we love doing most — art — with our passion to bring positive change to this environment. From the very beginnings of the Art Expression Youth Club five years ago to what we have grown to be today, our goal has never changed: to engage ourselves in current events through art exhibitions that call for activism and change and to hopefully inspire all attendees of our exhibitions to do the same.

The most recent exhibition called *Karma* was held in February at the Wesbrook Community Centre. We brought together a collection of forty-three art pieces by youth artists from University Hill School at UBC, Lord Byng School in West Point Grey, Crofton House School for Girls in Dunbar, and other schools in Vancouver.

This was not a simple task in any way, shape or form. We reached out to every youth artist we knew, visited over ten schools in the Lower Mainland to publicize our exhibition through handing out posters and getting in touch with various art departments, and pushed our limits to the maximum by creating a few more pieces of work ourselves. It was especially difficult when last-minute emergencies regarding easels inevitably came up a day or two before the exhibition. Our members all squeezed out time from our tight schedules



UNA Art Expression Youth Club exhibition at Wesbrook Community Centre. Photo credit Arkgo Chen.

and had a meeting where we just put easels together for a good few hours — a true joy indeed.

Thus, it's clear that every member of the AEYC had done their fair share in order for the exhibition to pull together at the very end, allowing us to share this meaningful experience with over 100 attendees. At the end of the day, however, it was not about what we got out of this, but instead about whether or not our message about the environment got delivered.

Environmental change is a cause that is very close to our hearts, and we have done everything in our power to ensure that our audience would be emotionally moved by such an event. To achieve this, the members of the AEYC used their skills and talents to put together a heartfelt message that speaks to the world's depleting resources, the astonishing yet ongoing number of animal species which are going extinct, the various non-biodegradable materials that have become so integral in the diet of marine life that we humans have begun to eat

fish that contain micro-particles of plastic. Air pollution has gotten so bad that it's actively eating away at our health. Meanwhile, ignorance and carelessness exist among some despite the earth's deteriorating health.

It truly hurts us to see that some still choose to sit in the comfort of their homes, hoping that the damage that's already been done will disappear overnight, and to see that others shrug off the burden of restoration onto the next generation. In fact, this is the reason why we named our recent exhibition *Karma*: after all, what you do to the environment, the environment will do right back to you. We believe that if an effort isn't made — starting today — nothing will happen, and humanity will simply continue down the path of self-destruction.

However, if a collection of small attempts comes together as a whole, real change *will* happen. Despite how gruesome the theme of this exhibition seems, we believe in the power of the collective.

Together, we can turn karma from

something that works against us into a positive force that rewards us for our good deeds. Together, we can lessen the impact of human activity and preserve Mother Nature for the better. Together, we can create change.

Thus, the UNA Art Expression Youth Club will not stop here. This year, we have done well; but next year, we will make this even better. We sincerely thank the UTown@UBC community for once again giving us this wonderful opportunity to bring our collective voice to the public, and we hope to do so again and again in the years to come.

Editor's Note: UTown@UBC Community Grants award up to \$1,000.00 for projects that foster community building and connectedness on campus or in the Musqueam community. Since 2011, community members have been awarded up to \$50,000.00 through the UTown@UBC Community Grant program.

Absence of School Liaison Officer is Concern We Need to Address

Judy Hyojoo Rhee

University Hill Secondary School

Up until a few months ago, the family of schools in the UBC area — University Hill Secondary, Norma Rose Point School and University Hill Elementary — worked with a School Liaison Officer (SLO). The position was cut since the RCMP budget was unable to support it. Currently, there is no School Liaison Officer assigned to our schools. But is this of serious concern?

A School Liaison Officer is a police officer designated to a school or a family of schools by a police department which works with local schools, children and youth. The chief responsibility of an SLO is policing within a community; other re-

sponsibilities involve educating students, staff and parents through programs, serving as a reliable adult whom students can receive counseling from, and bettering the overall safety of schools. An SLO provides information to students who have an interest in entering the police force, investigates suspected crime within the school and answers questions students raise about issues such as bullying or harassment.

A School Liaison Officer is considered part of the school and is someone who knows the students well and whom the students know well. The officer is able to effectively deal with problems arising within a student body because students trust him/her. Crucially, a School Liaison Officer is able to build connections within the school community that is not so easily done by an officer who visits the school only when

there is an issue to deal with.

The three schools in the UBC area are the only ones in Vancouver that do not have a School Liaison Officer. Unlike the SLOs in other schools in the city, who are from the Vancouver Police Department, the SLO of our schools was a member of the RCMP. As mentioned previously, the limited budget of the RCMP was the reason for the termination of the position of our SLO.

There has been some progress made thus far to reinstate the position of our School Liaison Officer. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the administrators of UHill Secondary School are writing letters to the University RCMP. Norma Rose Point School, UHill Elementary and the Vancouver School Board are in the process of writing their own letters.

More can and should be done to help restore the position of the School Liaison Officer. Students can take the initiative by launching petitions and increasing awareness of the situation by speaking about the absence of the SLO.

The issue regarding the School Liaison Officer is one affecting the safety and well-being of students in the UHill family of schools. It is necessary the UBC community actively engage in the process of solving this issue because at the end of the day, it is in our collective interest to have a School Liaison Officer who would truly represent our schools.

Editor's Note: This article is based on an interview conducted with Mr. Tim McGeer, the Principal of University Hill Secondary School.

Norma Rose Point School Robotics Team to Represent Canada at International Competition

The Norma Rose Point School Robotics Team 'Forces of Atlantis' is a FIRST LEGO League Robotics team that started during after-school robotics classes with Daedalus Enrichment Programs, a local after-school program encouraging kids to be hands-on with STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Science). Forces of Atlantis won 1st place Champions Award at the FIRST LEGO League BC Lower

Mainland Tournament in Surrey on December 2017. They went on to win the Gracious Professionalism award at the Provincial Championships held in Victoria, BC in February 2018.

As a result of winning the regional tournament, NRP's Forces of Atlantis were invited to represent Canada at the FIRST LEGO League Open International in Tallinn, Estonia on June 6-8, 2018. 100 teams

from all around the world will be in attendance.

The team is now raising funds to cover flights, registration and lodging for this amazing STEM learning experience. They hope to get help from the UNA community and corporate sponsors to raise money for them to represent Canada, BC and Norma Rose Point School at this international competition. The Forces of Atlantis team

is blogging about their journey to Estonia here: <https://forcesofatlantisfll2018.weebly.com/>. Their GoFundMe Campaign is here: <https://www.gofundme.com/forcesofatlantis>

The following two stories are from team members Kyoungjoo and Lulu.

BC FLL Championship and Invitation to Estonia

Kyoungjoo Chae

*Forces of Atlantis Team Member,
Grade 6, General Gordon
Elementary School*

our team did. The Championship was held on February 03, 2018. There were lots of teams all from the different places in BC, and we challenged each other. How did I feel? I actually felt great, because this was my second time participating in the BC FLL Championship.

Early in the morning, before the robot runs, we had our Project, Core Values and Robot Design Presentations. They went pretty well, but everything went downhill on our first robot game. Somehow, our robot stopped moving after a few centimeters. Since this was the first time our robot ever failed, everybody was shocked and

speechless. Some of the team members started crying. We found out that one of the cables wasn't put in properly. Our second run was a disaster, too. This time, one of the robot's sensors was malfunctioning! By this time, I was feeling utterly hopeless. To my surprise, our third and final run went great. We didn't get all the missions done that we planned, but our team got a decent score.

After the Robot Games were finished, the organizers were going to announce the trophies during the closing ceremonies. Our team didn't really hope to get a trophy, but we did! We received the Gracious Professionalism Award, which is about teamwork and showing respect to others. When we won the award, the judges explained why it was given to us. The reason was that on our first and second robot runs, when everything went wrong, none of us blamed each other. Instead, we helped each other out and we gave each other comfort. So, that was pretty cool.

After the competition, we went to Dairy Queen for a celebration. While we were enjoying our frozen treats, our coach-

es announced that we were chosen to go to Tallinn, Estonia for the FLL Open International Competition. Everybody was excited. The reason for this was because we won the first place at the BC Lower Mainland Championship which was held on December 03, 2017.

Estonia is a country in Northern Europe, and its capital is Tallinn. Estonia is celebrating their 100th anniversary, so they are hosting the FLL Open International with 100 teams from more than 80 countries, to celebrate STEM, Robotics and old Estonia traditions. The Forces of Atlantis is honored to be invited to represent Canada along with other 3 teams.

Since we needed a lot of money for the plane fare and accommodation, we decided to fundraise for the cost. Our goal for the fundraising is \$15,000. So, one of our team members, named Lulu, and our coach, Ana, made a website for an online fundraising (www.gofundme.com/forcesofatlantis). Our team will also do bake sales and other types of fundraising, like day camps for robotics and door to door fundraising.



Kyoungjoo and Kevin hold the Gracious Professionalism Trophy at the BC Provincial Championship in Victoria.

FLL Lower Mainland Tournament Preparation

Lulu Golland

*Forces of Atlantis Team Member,
Grade 8, Norma Rose Point School*

When we won first place in the FIRST LEGO League Lower Mainland Tournament in Surrey last December, we were shocked. There were three components to the Competition: Core Values, Project, and Robot Game. Of these three, we knew that we had done well with our Project presentation, and we also knew that we had captured the essence of the FLL Core Values. However, we also knew that definitely we could have done better in our Robot Game, so we were surprised when we won first place.

We were very busy in the months leading up to the regional tournament. The first couple of weeks we were quite chilled, building our robot, figuring out the mat, listening to music (mostly the soundtrack for the musical Hamilton), and having fun. We

built a robot which had many components called attachments. These attachments are meant for doing multiple missions on the Robot Game mat all at the same time with ease. Then we figured out our strategy for which missions to focus on, and went on to spend the next several weeks programming our robot and debugging through trial and error.

As the deadline approached, things got a bit more serious. By this time, we had to get work done on our project and create the content for Core Values poster. Also, our team decided to participate in the FLL Song Parody Challenge, so we wrote lyrics to the tune of three songs from the musical Hamilton (Cabinet Battle #1, The Ten Duel Commandments, and The Battle of Yorktown). We incorporated our Song Parody into our Project presentation at the competition later on. The Lower Mainland Tournament in December was a fun and exciting experience, but it is not the end of our journey, as there is more excitement in the months to come.



Jane and Iokasti work on the Robot Missions for this FLL season's Hydrodynamics theme.



The team at the provincial tournament gets ready for their Core Values presentation to judges.