

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

Published by the University Neighbourhoods Association

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

## Happy Trails!



UNA residents from Men's Community Network at Kennedy Falls.  
Photo credit Zain Sharifi. Please see story on Page 6.

## Respect in the Workplace

The UNA updated the existing *Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace Policy* dated February 2014. The following changes were made:

- Clarifying that the purpose is ensuring a safe, healthy and respectful work environment as a fundamental right of employees.
- Matching the language in regard to the

prohibited grounds for discrimination in accordance with the *B.C. Human Rights Code*.

- Confirming the requirement for new employees to complete the UBC online Preventing and Addressing Workplace Bullying and Harassment Training course.
- Clarifying the reporting process for an employee who feels they are being intimidated or harassed.

### Acknowledgement

The UNA acknowledges all parties who contributed to the work of creating the final governance documents to go before UNA members in a virtual Special General Meeting September 30.

In particular, the UNA acknowledges UNA Director Bill Holmes and UNA Director Terry Mullen and the efforts of previous members of the UNA Bylaw Working Group, specifically Michael Feeley and Laura Cottle.

Director Mullen applauds the contributions of UBC legal counsel Michael Jaworski, as well as Carole Jolly, UBC Appointed Director of the UNA, and Michael White, Associate Vice-President of Campus and Community Planning, to the final version of the Neighbours' Agreement 2020.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

## Vancouver Campus Plan Amendment

### Proposed Site Use Change

Join us to provide feedback on a proposed site amendment to the Vancouver Campus Plan (2010) that will allow for a future academic building located at the corner of Agronomy Road and Westbrook Mall.

The proposal to change the site use in the Plan from mixed-use hub (academic/student housing) to academic is in response to the Faculty of Medicine's need for additional teaching, learning, and research space in the area.



#### Provide your feedback online:

SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 9  
[planning.ubc.ca/VCP-siteusechange](http://planning.ubc.ca/VCP-siteusechange)

#### Virtual Public Open House:

SEPTEMBER 30, 4:00 - 5:30  
RSVP: [planning.ubc.ca/VCP-siteusechange](http://planning.ubc.ca/VCP-siteusechange)

#### Questions?

Contact Aviva Savelson, Senior Manager, Public Engagement at [aviva.savelson@ubc.ca](mailto:aviva.savelson@ubc.ca) or 604 822 0273

This notice contains important information which may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告包含重要信息，这可能会影响你。请找人为你翻译。

이 통지는 영향을 미칠 수 있는 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 당신을 위해 그 것을 번역하는 사람을 문의하시기 바랍니다.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Campus + Community Planning

UNA

UNIVERSITY  
NEIGHBOURHOODS  
ASSOCIATION

### Special General Meeting

The UNA is holding a Special General Meeting 7-9 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2020 with the purpose of considering two special resolutions proposing that the current UNA Bylaws and UNA Constitution be replaced with a new set of Bylaws and Constitution. The meeting will be held online and all UNA Members are invited to join and vote.

In preparation for this voting process, we ask that all UNA Members log in to their UNA Accounts at [myuna.ca/login](http://myuna.ca/login) to verify that the email in their profile is correct. We will be using this email to distribute online voting instructions and credentials. UNA Members are also invited to join a virtual town hall in advance of the SGM is scheduled on Sept. 23.

More information on the SGM can be found at [myuna.ca/sgm](http://myuna.ca/sgm).

# UNA Board Brings Back to Life Fire Tax Issue

*Focus is on ridding tax paid by residents for fire protection services; tax is called unfair by residents*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

At a Board meeting September 15, Directors of the UNA unanimously approved a motion breathing life back into an issue that has been dormant for the past several years: the so-called fire tax issue.

Residents living in University Neighbourhoods have been paying this bill for fire protection services at the annual rate of \$1 million under a 5-year agreement with the Province. With the tax now in its last annual payment, the Board has essentially signalled to the Province that it does not want to pay \$1 million a year for the next five years.

The fire tax issue broke in 2016 when the Province of British Columbia informed the UNA that it would start paying for fire protection services.

The Province phased in the new fire tax starting with half of it:

- \$500K payable in UNA budget year 2016-17.
- \$1M payable in UNA budget year 2017-18.
- \$1M+ payable in subsequent years.

Fire protection service costs were projected to increase by approximately 3%-4% annually. Taxes already paid by residents (Rural Tax to the Province and Services Levy to UBC) would remain the same.

To manage the impact of the Province's decision on UNA services, the UNA and UBC created a Joint Financial Task Force. Key principles of managing the financial impact of the new tax included ensuring the UNA's long-term financial health; minimizing service level impacts; and sharing the financial burden between the UNA and UBC.

UBC and the UNA agreed to utilize the Neighbourhood Levy to pay the Province for the fire protection services, and the UNA authorized UBC to withdraw amounts from the Neighbourhood Fund. The Contribution Agreement between the Province and UBC began in October 2016 and expires in 2021 with renewal upon mutual agreement of UBC and the Province. UBC committed to consulting with the UNA through any renewal, extension or amendment negotiations for the Contribution Agreement.



Local firemen from UBC Fire Hall respond to call for help.

The Province contracts the City of Vancouver to provide fire protection services to UBC, the University Endowment Lands and Pacific Spirit Park.

For the UBC academic campus, fire protection services are provided through a model similar to other universities, as a public good provided by municipal fire departments. The Province committed to continuing to fund UBC academic fire protection services costs.

The UBC Neighbourhoods Taxation Working Group (TWG) – formed in 2016 – initially attempted to persuade the government not to proceed with the charge, on the basis that it greatly increased the already unfair tax treatment of the UNA community. Following the introduction of the charge, the group has attempted to have it terminated. Eventually, after fighting with the Province for over 2 years, the TWG – a group of five residents – gave up.

## Directors Resolve to Study Sources of Noise in Hawthorn Place

*Landscape gardening is cited as oppressive source of noise in neighbourhood; investigation is launched as to what can be done about it*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

The University Neighbourhoods Association has agreed to investigate why noise is such a problem in the Hawthorn Place neighbourhood on the UBC campus.

At a UNA Board meeting September 15, Directors resolved to investigate the issue over the next two months and report back on their findings at the upcoming November meeting.

Three UNA Directors live in Hawthorn Place, Richard Watson (Chair), Terry Mullen and Murray McCutcheon, and all attribute excess local noise to external sources such as landscape gardening. However, so far, they admit, no one has done what needs to be done to mitigate the problem.

“Where are we with regards to a noise by-law?” a Director wondered. In fact, the UNA has a Noise Control Bylaw adopted by the UBC Board of Governors in August 2012.

“It’s largely landscape gardening noise,” another Director said at the Board meeting. He added that much of this gardening noise was created by “powerful leaf-blowers.”

Yet another Director pointed to the fact that

while some gardening was done at the behest of the UNA, other work was done for strata councils. This complicates matters, all agreed.

Excerpts from the UNA Noise Bylaw are below.

**General**  
5. *The University hereby confirms that the UNA Board has been and is appointed by the University to implement and administer this (Noise) Bylaw pursuant to the University Act...*

**Specific**  
9. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw the following are declared to be Noises which are objectionable or liable to disturb the Quiet of any person and are hereby prohibited and no person being the owner or occupant of any Premises shall Cause:*

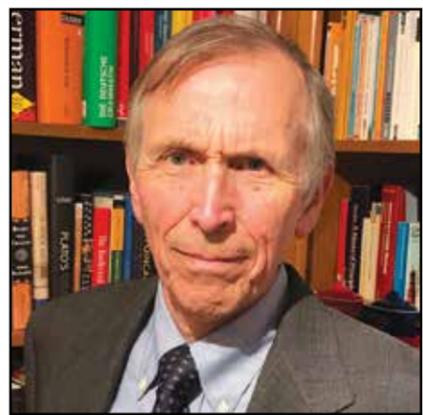
(c) *the operation of a Leaf Blower at any time unless the Leaf Blower has attached to it the manufacturer’s decal certifying that the Leaf Blower meets the Category 1 - db(a)≤A65 equipment standard set out in ANSI B175.2 - 2000, published by the Portable Power Equipment Manufacturers Association; or*

(d) *the operation of Power Equipment within the Designated Local Areas that is within 50 metres (164 feet) of the boundaries of any Residential Premises, except between 0800*

## Second Time Around for Bill Holmes in Fire Tax Battle

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

UNA Director Bill Holmes, who led spirited opposition to the Province over a



Bill Holmes

highly disputed fire tax imposed on UBC residents in 2016, has returned to the political fray.

Mr. Holmes was not a UNA Director in 2016 and did not have much luck getting bureaucrats in Victoria to agree with him that the tax – \$1 million a year for five years to start – was unfair.

A retired tax lawyer, Mr. Holmes might not have much luck this time around either. Addressing fellow Directors at their September 15 Board meeting, Mr. Holmes said: “There is not a high chance of success.”

However, he thinks his chances are better this time than four years ago because the five-year tax payment schedule is coming to a close in 2021 fiscal year.

In any event, he sees “highly-charged political changes in the future.”

*hours to 1800 hours on any week day that is not a Holiday or between the hours of 1000 hours to 1700 hours on any Saturday that is not a Holiday.*

**Applicable Penalties under the Noise By-law**

31. (1) *Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Bylaw or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of any of the provisions of this Bylaw (and such specifically includes any strata corporation or other owner who has any commercial relationship with such person), or who neglects to do or refrains from*

*doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this Bylaw, is guilty of a contravention against this Bylaw and liable to the penalties hereby imposed. Each day that a contravention continues to exist shall constitute a separate contravention.*

(2) *Every person who commits a contravention of this Bylaw is liable to a penalty of \$200 for each contravention.*

(3) *Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (2), a person who contravenes sections 20-23 is liable to the penalties set out in section 24 and section 25, as applicable.*

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## COVID-19 Letter from Friend in Hong Kong

*Vancouver businessman/lawyer Peter Scarrow recently received a letter from John Holmes, a Hong Kong-based ex-pat Canadian friend who had returned to his Hong Kong home after six months living in Vancouver. With permission, we publish a copy of the letter describing strict COVID-19 quarantine measures in Hong Kong. "I had to admit, if you really want to put an end to a pandemic, Hong Kong is definitely doing the right thing," writes Mr. Holmes.*



**John Holmes in Hong Kong hotel room on first day of quarantine.**

Hi Peter,

I hope you're well.

I wanted to call you as I transited through Vancouver last Friday on my way to HONG KONG! However, I was so shocked to be sitting in such a deserted airport that I forgot to do so.

After a nice flight on an almost completely empty 737 (I literally had no one near me as I indulged in all the basketball court size space they gave me). I don't believe there were more than 35 passengers, practicing extreme social distancing, on the entire plane!

We landed our paltry load at an even more eerily empty Hong Kong International Airport (unbelievable – Saturday afternoon, on what is normally one of the busiest days in Hong Kong, and no planes taking off or landing other than ours!), and were subjected to the most stringent quarantine entry procedures I have ever experienced (and I did experience such things during SARS in 2003).

Imagine, getting off a 13-hour flight and then having to stand through one line after another of HK Department of Health officials seated at long rows of makeshift counters for 5 hours! They were so Hong Kong methodical and meticulous! We'd had to fill in an online form with all our personal information in Canada that printed us out a bar code that was particular to each individual before even arriving in HK, show all our identification and have it recorded by one officer after another, prove that we had already booked a room with a Government registered quarantine hotel, go through the deep throat testing for COVID-19, then

were shuttled way around the airport so that we did not walk through arrival halls, (not that there was anybody in them) and finally wait at least a full hour before a bus took us to a quarantine hotel (almost like an internment camp) in Tseun Mun (district), far away from the centre of the city. We had arrived in HK at 3:30 pm and did not get into our rooms until 9:00! I was exhausted and, the moment they opened the door to my room, collapsed on the tiny bed that was not much smaller than the room, and slept deeply until they woke me the next morning with a breakfast of hard boiled eggs and a box of Vitasoy lemon tea. Even that was subject to social distancing as they left it in a plastic bag on the outside door handle, rang the bell, then ran away for fear of getting infected.

We had to remain in our rooms until we received the results of our COVID test (all of us negative), and then had to take taxis to our allocated hotels, even having to fill out a form on the way recording the name of the driver and the licence number of his car. My driver had become so adept at this routine that he took my form from me and filled it out himself at stop lights.

Upon reaching my quarantine hotel, I was greeted by a masked, well-spoken and friendly female front office manager named Agnes who led me to a secluded part of the lobby reserved for potentially suspicious COVID carriers. She outlined all of the rules that would bind me to my hotel room for the next 14 days. I was to remain alone in my room, activate my Bluetooth powered "Stay Home Safe" bracelet sealed firmly on my wrist, order food from "FoodPanda" (they will not allow us to order regular room service for fear of contamination in the hotel), clean my room by myself, change my sheets, empty my garbage, etc., etc., and, on pain of a HK\$25,000 fine (CAD\$5,000) and imprisonment for six months, never leave the room for the next 14 days. She told me that there were CCTV cameras installed in the hallways to ensure I did not stray. The Department of Health would make random checks of the cameras, especially if your bracelet monitor showed signs of outlawed activity. I had to admit, if you really want to put an end to a pandemic, Hong Kong is definitely doing the right thing. Donald Trump should take note!

So, Pete, I think I will take to the computer, occupy myself with some writing, learn some new songs on my guitar and watch Bloomberg and the BBC until my head bursts! Unfortunately, there is nothing else on the TV except HD Chinese channels.

When I was alone in my small flat in Vancouver during the 'lockdown' there, I made a pact with myself not to drink for fear of damaging my compromised health, and I am doing the same thing here, not that there is anything in the mini bar, but we are allowed to order beer and wine from one of the many restaurants serviced by Food-Panda.

I walk back and forth in my room between the door and the nightstand on the far side of my bed for an hour each day. I feel like those animals at the zoo that prowl their cages incessantly, but without a crowd of human eyes to watch me. Like that poem by Rainer Maria Rilke, "The Panther" (subtitled: 'In Jardin des Plantes, Paris'). So, to finish, a few lines for you to reflect upon:

"The soft supple step and sturdy pace, that

in the smallest of all circles turns, moves like a dance of strength around a core, in which a mighty will is standing stunned. Only at times the pupil's curtain slides up soundlessly –. An image enters then, goes through the tensioned stillness of the limbs – and in the heart ceases to be."

There you go! I start off doing an exposition of COVID containment protocols and end up with some poignant lines of poetry! That's me!

All the best, Peter. I shall write again. Keep well!

Your Hong Kong buddy,

John

**Editor's Note:** John Holmes can be contacted by email [holmes\\_28@hotmail.com](mailto:holmes_28@hotmail.com).

## New UBC Board Chair Nancy McKenzie

The University of British Columbia has appointed Nancy McKenzie as the new Chair of its Board of Governors.

Ms. McKenzie was first appointed to the UBC Board of Governors in 2017 and was previously Chair of the Finance Committee. She currently serves as a corporate director for Coast Capital Savings.

"It is a privilege to be the new Chair of the UBC Board of Governors and to be working with colleagues, the President, and the administration in carrying out our responsibilities for the stewardship of this outstanding and globally recognized research university," said Ms. McKenzie. "UBC provides the highest standards of academic and research excellence, and as Chair, I am committed at all times to acting in the best interests of the university and its community."

Ms. McKenzie succeeds former Chair Michael Korenberg, who stepped down from the role last month. Ms. McKenzie thanked Korenberg for his contributions to a wide range of initiatives under the UBC Strategic Plan, including sustainability initiatives, investments in teaching and learning, as well as student financial aid, and increasing accountability and im-

proving the governance of the Board and its committees.

"I'd like to extend my gratitude to my fellow Board members for their vote of confidence in my leadership," she added. "I would also like to thank Vice-Chair Sandra Cawley for stepping in as Interim Board Chair and guiding the Board through this period of transition."



**Nancy McKenzie.**  
Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.

# 75 Years After the Trinity Test: Finding Our Way to *We*

*I wrote this reflective/inspirational piece for July 16, the 75th anniversary of the first atomic bomb test (code-named Trinity), but it seems appropriate for the anniversaries of the Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9) bombings too. My grandfather was one of the scientists at the Trinity Test and although he died before I was born, his life story certainly influenced my life.*



Shin Quilt by Sharon Coates.

## Olivia Fermi

MA, RTC, counsellor, coach,  
and teacher in private practice;  
Hawthorn Place Resident

## My Grandfather's Trail

75 years ago today, Robert Oppenheimer, with my maternal grandfather [Enrico Fermi](#) (1901–1954), and their team assembled in a remote desert south of Alamogordo, NM, USA for a test code-named Trinity. You could say the successful detonation of Gadget, the first atomic bomb, was a key milestone on the trail my grandfather started to follow as a boy, when his love and genius for physics ignited. Mussolini's fascism and alliance with Hitler, that my grandfather was contributing mightily to the birth of twentieth-century physics, and that my grandmother, Enrico's wife Laura, was Jewish formed the terrain of the trail that pushed Enrico to take his family from Rome Italy to the United States, in search of a home friendly to democracy.

On that fateful morning of July 16, 1945, Enrico Fermi, physicist, was one of a handful of men tasked with ensuring the atomic bomb would detonate. Unbeknownst to the scientists, [radioactive fallout from their secret test accidentally landed on innocent civilians, their crops, livestock, and water supply in the neighboring Tularosa](#)



Olivia Fermi.  
Photo credit Brian Mount.

[Basin](#). Three weeks later the US government dropped one atomic bomb each on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing tens of thousands of Japanese civilians, destroying homes, shrines, wreaking mass destruction in an instant never before seen. The fearsome power of those bombs ended World War II.

*"History of science and technology has consistently taught us that scientific advances ... have sooner or later led to technical and industrial applications that have revolutionized our way of life. It seems to me improbable that this effort to get at the structure of matter should be an exception ... What is less certain, and what we all fervently hope, is that man will soon grow sufficiently adult to make good use of the powers that he acquires over nature."*

– Enrico Fermi, *The Future of Nuclear Physics*, unpublished address, Rochester, NY, January 10, 1953, EFP, box 53, Special Collections, University of Chicago Library.

Because my grandfather was one of the leaders of the US government's Manhattan Project, the secret project to develop the first atomic weapons, I know firsthand that people's individual choices add up to the making of history. Born in the late 1950s, I grew up with the sadness, regret, and fear so many of us felt in response to the use of the atomic bomb and the specter of future nuclear annihilation. The record shows my grandfather argued against the development and use of the nuclear weapons, as did many of the Manhattan Project scientists. His life left me with the questions of how we might change and become more human; and how to find ways for humanity to learn to live together on our little planet Earth.

Truth about past events evolves with time to reveal perspective and understanding relevant to now. My grandfather showed me how powerful it can be to follow a trail. His life, his choices set me on a continuing path to learning about the transformational power of humanity.

What victories were we celebrating at the end of World War II, with the fall of Nazi Germany and its allies the Japanese? Was the Trinity Test, 75 years ago today, a technological marvel or an evil act? Was it proof we could conquer the enemy? Was it a reinforcement of the belief that one group can, in fact, should claim superiority and dominance over another?

If you know or study history, you'll see the choices in that time made a kind of sense within that zeitgeist. The main players of WW II all resorted to cruel and massive scale attacks on one another. The Nazis exterminated millions of people whom they saw as other – Jews, Poles, Russians, homosexuals. The Japanese raped and slaughtered millions of Chinese and Southeast Asians. The US firebombed 67 Japanese cities before dropping atomic bombs on two more. It was an *Us* and *Them* world.

## How to Question Everything

People in my family loved questions, intellectual banter, and sparring. We weren't ad-

75 years ago, *Us* and *Them* was the prevailing belief. How else could the governments developing nuclear weapons think such weapons were going to be usable to stop *Them* – without destroying *Us*?

Today, *Us* and *Them* becomes increasingly untenable. It seems we're in a painful, perilous transition from *Us* and *Them* to *We*... Nuclear weapons and Covid-19 ignore national boundaries.

ept at emotions, especially not wounds and losses. We pushed aside anything vulnerable, as brusquely as we would a bad idea. The intellectual power in my family hid something missing and, for me, that missing part magnified. I longed to find a place where I could heal and find intimacy in community, to discover more of the potentials and the heart of being human.

As a young adult, I began to follow my own path, a path that would come to include mind, body, and heart. I took Hatha Yoga classes, practiced Aikido, partook in and taught peer counseling, got rolled, learned shiatsu, and studied body awareness and healing with Moshe Feldenkrais.

I even gave away all my material possessions to join a spiritual, utopian commune in 1981. When that dream fell apart after a few years, I was bereft. I'd had a taste of living from the heart, in community and I wanted more. In 1989, my Aikido teacher told me about the [Diamond Approach](#), a spiritual path.

The [central practice of the Diamond Approach is inquiry](#). While the intellectual power of a good idea can delight the mind, I discovered the power of this all-encompassing inquiry to enliven and transform my heart, mind and soul. In our Diamond Approach inquiry, we welcome all experience — shadow and light, mystical and mundane.

From the Diamond Approach (and other teachings), I've learned how the soul trans-

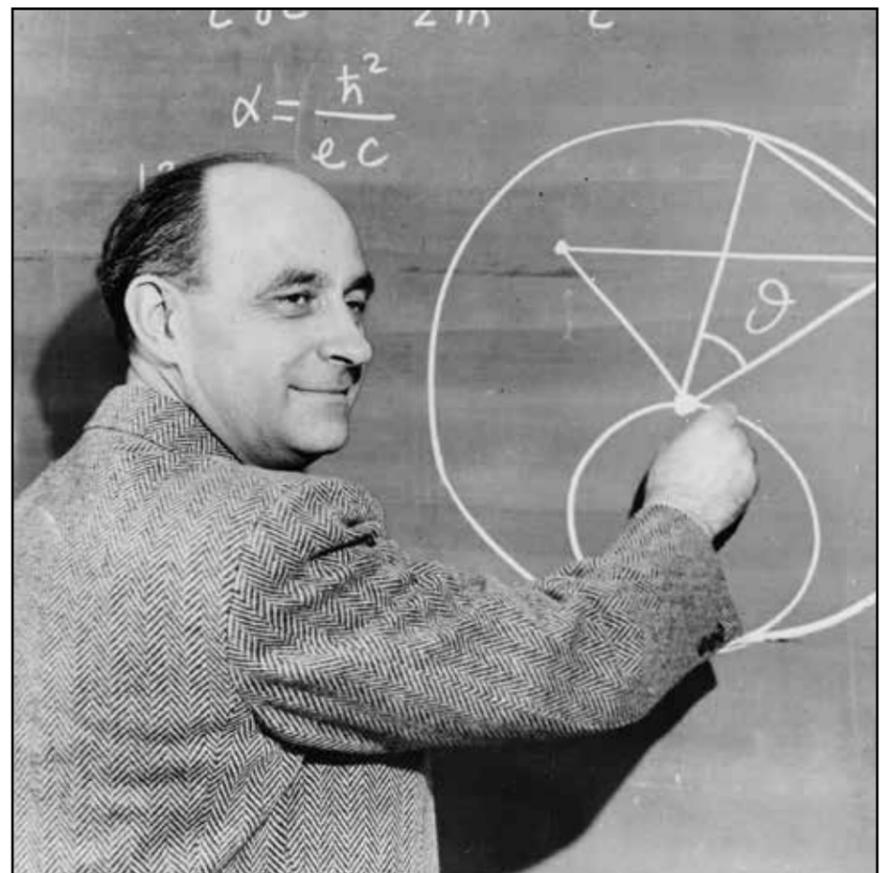
forms and saw that we could ignite each other's transformation. This power of the heart to amplify what is good when we connect in community is a special kind of transformational power we would do well to foster.

## The Neutron Trail – an Inquiry of Heart and Mind

Coming back to the questions my grandfather left us with: "How do we mature as a species?" and "How do we learn to live together on our little planet?", I asked myself, "What would happen if I took the spirit of inquiry of the Diamond Approach out into the world to look into the nuclear legacy of weapons, waste, and energy — the legacy that holds so much toxicity, both radioactive and emotional, as well as promise?"

Just as we failed to recognize the shadow in my family growing up, it seems to me we continue to fail to see and respond to the shadow in our society. I wanted to have personal, not philosophical, conversations about social questions. What do we need to do individually and collectively to find heart and mature as a species? How can we evolve our cultural beliefs to live in harmony with the natural world? How might we learn to respect ourselves and our environment in ways that support all life?

TRINITY TEST continued on Page 5



Enrico Fermi at the blackboard.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

## Ensuring Health and Safety on UBC Campus

Dear neighbours:

I hope you've all had a good summer.

For UBC's faculty, students and staff, the start of the Fall term earlier this month was like none we've ever experienced before.

But even though this year is different, we are working to ensure that every student still has an enriching experience at UBC and that all faculty and staff are able to do their jobs in a safe and healthy environment.

Of course, the major difference is that classes are primarily online, with some in-person learning.

Another difference is that the majority of staff and faculty are working from home.

Many students are able to access their courses in their regular time slots, with a mix of asynchronous and recorded elements, if time-zones and schedules don't allow it. This provides more flexibility for learners managing a variety of other demands on

their time.

The shift to online has been a major undertaking for our faculty and staff. They have worked diligently for months now to adapt more than 3,000 courses to an online or blended environment.

I would like to go over the key precautions and measures that we have put in place to ensure health and safety on UBC campuses:

- First, all faculties, administrative units and other facilities need to have approved safety plans before their people can return.
  - We are limiting the number of people allowed in labs, classrooms and other university facilities.
  - We have increased handwashing stations.
  - We have installed signage to help preserve physical distancing and remind our community of key health steps they can take.
  - All staff, faculty and students must complete a mandatory training module before being allowed to return to campus.
- Regardless of whether our students, faculty and staff are on campus or not, we are asking everyone to:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently or use hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands.
- Maintain a safe physical distance from others of at least two metres.
- If you are sick or come into contact with a person who is sick, stay home.
- Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- When indoors, or when other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, consider wearing a mask if you are able to.

I want to thank the entire UBC community for their hard work in combatting COVID 19 and their dedication to preserving the excellence in teaching, learning and research that UBC is known for.

Together, we will get through this. Yes, this term will be different, but UBC is well placed to adapt to ensure that we still deliver a high-quality learning experience and a safe and healthy environment in which to work, study and research.

In closing, I'd like to invite you to UBC's



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

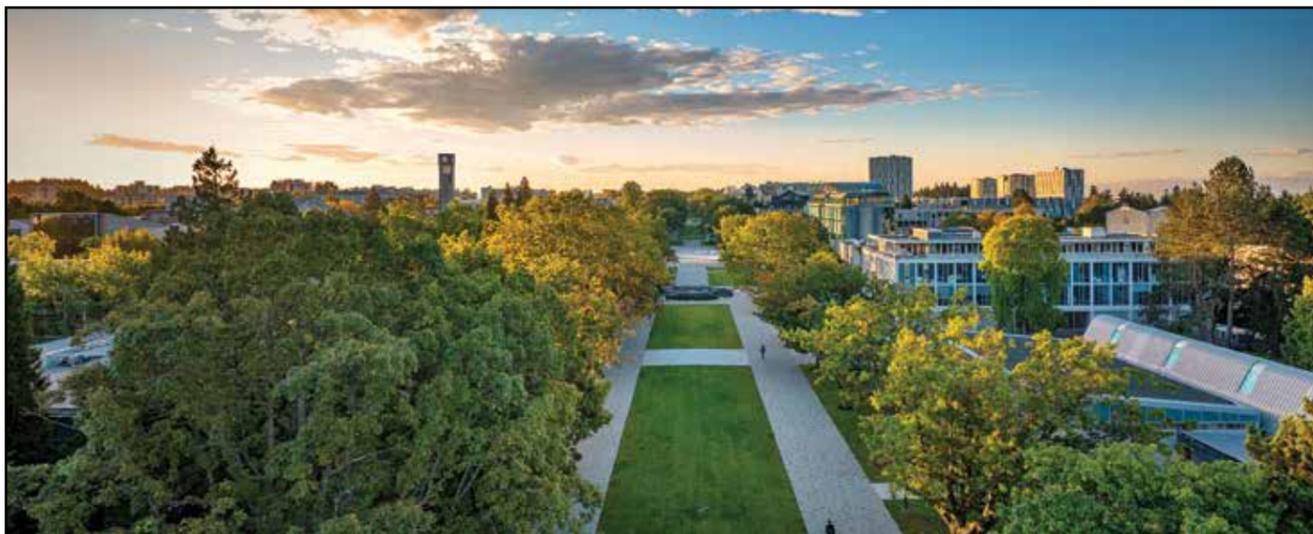
Homecoming, taking place in just a few short days from September 25 to 27. Homecoming is a celebrated tradition to kick-off the academic year and it's our biggest school spirit event. This year is no different. Join us in a virtual celebration featuring an all-star line-up of UBC notables, familiar faces and surprise guests, including:

- Headliner and 4-time Juno award nominee, Scott Helman
- Hip-hop/rap and soul singer, Missy D
- Multi-platinum, Juno award winning vocal group, The Tenors
- Raptors 905 head coach Jama Mahlalela
- Music journalist and musician Nardwuar
- UBC star athletes and more!

Invite your bubble for a virtual viewing party, rock your T-Bird gear and blue and gold, and join us virtually! Be sure to share your personal Homecoming celebrations using the hashtag #UBChomecoming.

Best wishes

Santa J. Ono  
President and Vice-Chancellor



UBC Point Grey Campus. Photo credit UBC.

#### TRINITY TEST continued from Page 4

Inspired by the potential of open-ended inquiry, the [Neutron Trail](#) appeared to me at the intersection of the personal and the universal, as a new kind of trail I could follow. My Neutron Trail project led me to visit key Manhattan Project sites, CERN, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. Along the way, I met with survivors, artists, historians, activists, scientists, and students. I shared my enthusiasm for exploration and my family story. I was including personal shadow alongside cultural shadow and showing how our individual stories contribute to the collective story. Through it all, people were telling me I was inspiring them. Their responses ignited me to open my heart even more.

Neutrons are the neutrally charged particles my grandfather Enrico isolated, slowed down, and used to split the atom. The Neutron Trail invites us to slow down and use potent, inclusive neutrality to penetrate the pressing problems putting our future in peril. The Neutron Trail asks us to be open to unexpected developments of our hearts and minds, like my grandfather was open to crafting new theories, in response to startling discoveries in physics.

A trail moves through uncharted and ever-changing spaces that don't exist on a normal map. Sometimes spotting the trail is easy. Often the way is not clear. On the Neutron Trail, we can travel back in time to make sense of and heal past wrongs and find new ways forward.

#### From Us and Them to We

75 years ago, *Us and Them* was the prevailing belief. How else could the governments developing nuclear weapons think such weapons were going to be usable to stop *Them* – without destroying *Us*?

Today, *Us and Them* becomes increasingly untenable. It seems we're in a painful, perilous transition from *Us and Them* to *We*. Humans are squeezing out other life-forms and ecosystems. Our survival, not as nations, but as an entire species is under threat. Nuclear weapons and Covid-19 ignore national boundaries. International commerce, social media, and other webs of connection transcend national boundaries and show us we have the potential to learn to live together.

I feel grateful to Greta Thunberg for demonstrating how individual actions, with our

hearts together, can be incredibly transformative. She stepped onto her trail alone and stood outside Sweden's parliament, with a climate protest sign. Within weeks, young Thunberg ignited massive climate protests around the world. Greta's path has been rapid and clear, because she brings herself, her personal climate story, and our shared climate story to her fight for climate action. She models dignity for all, a *We* kind of stance, as do so many trail walkers today.

So many causes are calling us to the trails. It can be overwhelming to read my Facebook feed. Walking the Neutron Trail helped me to focus and connect beyond myself in community. [Now I help others to find and walk the trails calling them.](#)

If you look back on the trail(s), you've followed – or led – in your life, what tugs at your heart now? What kinds of transformational power might you have that you could use for the benefit of our world?

Are you and yours feeling a new wave of energy to look at racial bias and entrenched patterns of violence against Indigenous, Black, and other peoples of color? Are you someone who fosters empathy in our society – as empathy plummets and we need it

more than ever? Are you called to reimagine the whole way we live on Earth, in this moment of slowing down everything, amid Covid-19 restrictions?

Are you called to act on climate change? Are you part of a community working on local or international environmental issues? Global nuclear disarmament? New kinds of governance? Converting the economy to one based on human and earth balance? Social justice? Raising healthy, vibrant, resilient children? Family care and healing?

Where do your gifts, no matter how humble or multi-dimensional, meet what the world needs most? How do you want to help us transform from *Us and Them* to *We*?

On the 75th anniversary of the Trinity Test and the end of World War II, it's time to reframe what victory means. It's time to aim for dignity for all. It's time to aim for the victory of *We*.

The original, un-edited version of the article first appeared on Medium: [https://medium.com/@catalyst\\_23868/75-years-after-the-trinity-test-finding-our-way-to-we-94063482e1d7](https://medium.com/@catalyst_23868/75-years-after-the-trinity-test-finding-our-way-to-we-94063482e1d7)

# UNA Residents Enjoy Summer Hiking and Invite Neighbours to Join MCN

*Social distancing/bubbles are practiced during all activities*

**Mohsen Naseri**  
Hampton Place Resident

This summer, the Men's Community Network (MCN) started organizing hiking events for members of the community, 12



MCN members at Eagle Bluffs.  
Photo credit Bevan Zhang.

years of age and older. The following are the hikes completed this summer.

On July 25, the group met in front of the Wesbrook Community Centre to kick off the hiking events. Three cars departed towards North Vancouver for the Big Cedar and Kennedy Falls Trail. The 11km trail included the beautiful old cedar tree known as Big Cedar, and the final prize was the spectacular Kennedy Falls.

The second trip was on August 8 to Norvan Falls in North Vancouver. Our third trip was to Hollyburn Mountain in West Vancouver. A beautiful trail with an elevation gain towards the end, leading to a view of the surrounding mountains and the Howe Sound.

The last trip in September was to Eagles Bluff and Black Mountain in West Vancouver. The trail offers a magnificent view of Horseshoe Bay and the islands in Howe Sound. Fog started to come in – as the group reached the top – and blocked the view of Mount Baker. That did not stop everyone from enjoying Cabin Lake on the way back.

So far, 25 people have participated in these events. Despite challenging trails from time to time, everyone makes it to the destination and gets to experience the joy of their accomplishment. At the end of the day, everyone recalls the experience, the camaraderie and the beautiful sites and trails.



Mohsen Naseri at Eagle Bluffs.  
Photo credit Nancy Zhang.

A week before each hike, the hikers learn about the distance, elevation and level of difficulty of the route. The hikes will continue until end of the October, when the snow begins to cover the trails.

There will be a hike organized for the second and fourth Saturday of each month. If you're interested to join and for further details, please email [menscommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:menscommunity@yahoo.com). Happy Trails!

**Editor's Note:** Mohsen Naseri is an avid hiker who leads the hikes of the Men's Community Network. A retired paediatrician, Mr. Naseri has a background in multiple university-level sports and has been hiking for more than 25 years. He has considerable experience hiking mountains in the Fraser Valley, North Shore, Howe Sound, and Garibaldi Provincial Park; as well as mountains surrounding his hometown, Tehran.

## Let's Do Our Part in Creating a Healthy and Safe Community Centre

**Qiuning Wang**  
Assistant Recreation Manager  
University Neighbourhoods Association

Parks and recreation resources hold a special place in the hearts of many Canadians. Many parents, children, teenagers, seniors see the value in their local community centres and its programs, gyms, facilities and green spaces. Some people find these venues as a place where they can develop specific skills, others may want to enjoy various leisure activities with friends. Recreation and parks cultivate creative pursuits, active lifestyles and community connections.

Our two community centres normally serve over 3,000 visitors every season. But in March, both facilities had to close abruptly. Staff share the concerns of residents about the impact that these closures have on our community. Where will our seniors go to socialize, read their newspapers or play bridge? Where will our neighbours go to work out? What will parents do when their kids need to stay at home?

We're working hard to find answers to all of these questions, but if there's one thing that the pandemic has given us as a community, it is the shared experience of having to navigate uncharted waters together.

We are so inspired to see the various creative ways that our community has come together: a musical jam session put on by neighbours brings evening cheer; a community fundraiser to get masks for seniors and essential workers; seniors signing up for a virtual computer cafe learning about technology. It is truly encouraging to feel the strength and resilience of our community.

We continue to plan, research, and look to better alternative programs and approaches. Though our options are limited, our guiding principles remain the same and our goal is still to create a safe, welcoming and respectful space for everyone.

It has been no simple task to turn the safety guidelines we received from the government and the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) into a series of operative measures. It continues to be a complex and evolving process that engages all of our staff's skills and strengths – most of them going above and beyond their job descriptions to keep moving us forward.

When you come to Wesbrook Community Centre, you will notice the changes. The signs will show the way. The lounge door has become our new entrance, hygienic measures are in place, lines for social distancing are marked on the floor, chairs exceeding the occupancy limits are tucked away, plastic barriers section off

open spaces, and many more. We've put a lot of thought in the changes we've implemented, but we ask that when you come to the centre, you can do your part in keeping our space safe.

Allow us to put forward the following guiding principles:

- **Be compassionate:** Be kind. Be mindful of other people and your surroundings. Show everyone a little more understanding and support. Enjoy the personal space you have been given and keep physical

distance from others. Hugs and handshakes are not possible, so greet the staff, your friends and your neighbours in other ways (we suggest joining one of our virtual programs).

- **Observe the rules:** When you come to our community centres for programs or pre-booked services, please follow the rules on the signs and the advice from the staff. Be mindful of all these changes and help our instructors implement them. Be on time for your appointment or class whether it is in-person or virtual.

- **Be patient:** Please read the longer emails we send you before coming to class – they contain important information. Take it easy when waiting in line – whether it's for a health screening or at the front desk. Take the time to read the signs posted in classrooms and the common areas.

We cannot wait to welcome you back into our community centres, but for now, we are still partially closed, and we will have to endure a few more months of this "new normal." We are running a limited number of modified in-person and online classes and they are available for you to browse at [myuna.ca/recreation](http://myuna.ca/recreation). Should you choose to join one, please rest assured that we have done our best to keep you safe while in our centre, however, we must all work together to create a healthy and safe space through creativity, compassion, patience and discipline.



Safety guidelines and hand sanitizing station at Wesbrook Community Centre.

# Joys and Woes of Electric Vehicle Ownership on UBC Campus

**Marcel Franz**

*Professor of Physics*

*Dept. of Physics &*

*Astronomy, UBC*

*Wesbrook Place Resident*

In February 2020, B.C. government announced its renewed commitment to *CleanBC*, the Province's climate action plan, backed by \$419 million investment in green infrastructure. Some \$20 million of this budget will go to the EV purchase incentive program, which provides consumers with a \$3,000 rebate for the purchase of an electric vehicle. In addition, grants are given towards the installation of charging stations at homes and workplaces.

On paper this plan looks great – the Province is clearly behind expanding the share of EVs on the road – but what is the situation on the ground? My family purchased an EV about two years ago, and I thought I'd summarize our experiences with owning an EV on the UBC campus for the benefit of those who might be thinking of joining the EV revolution.

It has been a mixed bag. First the good: EVs are super-fun to drive. They are quiet, accelerate like sports cars, require very little maintenance and, obviously, don't burn gas. To the extent that the electricity used for charging is produced from sustainable sources (and in B.C. it mostly is), driving an EV does not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions which makes it a satisfying experience. Our Chevy Volt is a plug-in hybrid: it has an electric motor powered by a battery which gives about 100 km on a full charge. When the battery is depleted, the gasoline engine kicks in and one can drive additional 500 km or so on a full tank. In two years, we

put about 22,000 km on the Volt and of these about 19,000 were in the full electric mode.

So, what's not to like? There are few things about operating an EV that we were not expecting. One of them is heating. Come winter, EVs reveal some limitations: in cold weather, the battery holds less charge, and the range goes down – in our case from 100 km to perhaps 70-80 km. In addition, if you want to ride in comfort and heat the cabin, the range goes down further. In a conventional vehicle, burning gas produces lots of excess heat which must be dissipated through the cooling system. Heating, then, is simply a question of diverting some of this excess heat to the cabin. By contrast in an EV, any heat for the cabin must be produced electrically from the same battery that powers the car. This depletes the battery and reduces the range. We noticed this to be significant even during Vancouver's mild winter; elsewhere in Canada where real winter exists, the range reduction must be even more severe.

Charging the EV is another pain point. Pre-pandemic, my wife would use the Volt to commute to Langara College which has (free!) charging stations in its parkade. This was reasonably convenient, although the 4-hour limit on charging – which is typical of public charging stations – meant that she often had to trundle to the garage in the middle of the day to re-park. After COVID-19 shut everything down, we realized that charging infrastructure in our UBC neighbourhood (Wesbrook Village) is totally lacking. The University has many charging stations located in various parkades, but although charging is ostensibly free, one has to pay a \$4 per hour parking fee. It takes 4-5 hours to get a full charge on our Volt and paying \$16-20 in parking fees to get 100 km worth of charge simply does not make sense. (For comparison, the actual cost of electricity – at the regular residential rate – would be



**The lone charging station reasonably close to Wesbrook Village is in the UHill Secondary School parking lot. It has been “Out of Order” since February, and repeated attempts to contact its operator ChargePoint produced no results.**

about \$2.50; using gas instead would cost about \$7.) Also, the nearest UBC parkade is a good 20-minute walk from our place, so even if the parking fee was more reasonable, this would not be a convenient solution. (For comparison, imagine having to refuel your conventional car every other day and spend 40 minutes each time to get to and from the gas station.)

And this leads to the main lesson we learned: For an EV to be truly practical – and by this, I mean as hassle-free as a conventional car – one must have ready access to a charging station. For a condo dweller, this means having a charging station at one's dedicated parking spot in the underground garage, or, somewhat less ideally, an on-street public charging station within a block or two from one's building. The latter is not really ideal since the availability will vary and, because stations normally have 2- or 4-hour time limits, one always has to remember to re-park, often before charging is complete. Importantly, there are currently no standard charging stations that would be usable with the Volt in our neighbourhood.

What most EV owners will want, really, is to come home, park in the garage, connect the car to the charger and find it fully charged next day. Anything more complicated than that, like hunting for an available charging station around the neighbourhood, will add hassle to one's life and, over time, will make the EV less convenient and appealing than a normal car.

When we first purchased our EV, we expected it would be possible to install a charging station in our assigned parking stall in the building or, at least, to be able to use the regular wall outlet that is nearby for this purpose. (Most EVs are able to charge from a regular 120V wall socket but this takes much longer, about 16 hours for our Volt to get a full charge). Arranging this however has proven complicated. For one thing, the parking stall is owned by the strata corporation which must approve all alterations. The charging station would have to be powered from the communal strata grid and, as best

as we were able to find out, there currently does not exist a simple way to meter the amount of electricity used. To complicate things further, BC Hydro has a monopoly on all electricity sales in the Province. Even if we could meter the charge, the strata corporation by law is not allowed to re-sell electricity to us. Bottom line: after two years and many meetings, it is still not clear how to proceed with the installation.

In its *CleanBC* plan, the government projects that EVs will comprise 30% of all cars on the road by 2040 and sets an ambitious goal to achieve 100% of new car sales to be EVs by 2050. The future clearly belongs to EVs. To make their ownership truly practical, however, two things must happen first:

(i) many more on-street charging stations must be installed in city neighbourhoods, and

(ii) a new regulatory and technological framework must be put in place that will allow painless installation of charging stations in condominium garages where most of us currently park our cars. There are no serious technical issues holding up these upgrades – only the red tape. For many decades, BC Hydro has been perfectly able to bring electricity to individual apartments and meter it in a way that is transparent to customers. That same technology can easily be adapted to bring electricity to every parking stall in those buildings and bill usage directly to the tenant.

EVs have come down in price and are becoming ever more affordable. The key impediment preventing their wider use is the lack of public charging stations and, even more importantly, various legal and logistical obstacles involved in their installation in condominium garages. If the B.C. government is really serious about its commitment to the clean transportation, then it should focus on removing these barriers. Investment in the charging infrastructure – rather than the rebates on EV purchase currently on offer – would be a far more effective tool for increasing EVs' broad appeal.

## Changing Colours in University Neighbourhoods



# UBC Launches Indigenous Strategic Plan

*“The plan pledges to respect and uphold the rights and knowledge of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, including x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam) peoples who are the traditional owners of the land where the Vancouver campus now stands,” says Chief Wayne Sparrow (yək<sup>w</sup>yak<sup>w</sup>ələq), Musqueam Indian Band*

September 14 marked a significant milestone in UBC commitment to truth and reconciliation: the university celebrated the launch of its new Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP).

This makes UBC the first university in North America to commit to taking a human rights-based approach to its Indigenous strategic framework.

UBC President Santa Ono hosted the virtual event on campus land, located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam people. Attendance at the online event was reported to be 1,200. Musqueam dancers and singers performed in-person at the foot of the famous Reconciliation Pole on Main Mall.

Numerous guest speakers participated in the event, including Musqueam Elder Larry Grant, Indigenous leaders and human rights experts. A panel discussion with Indigenous staff, students and alumni also took place.

The plan represents a university-wide response to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ Calls for Justice.

It also represents the UBC Vancouver campus’ response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

The plan, intended as a guiding frame-

work for faculties, units and portfolios across both campuses to develop their own plans, outlines eight goals and 43 actions the university will collectively take to advance its vision of UBC as a leading university globally in the implementation of Indigenous peoples’ human rights.

“The new Indigenous Strategic Plan acknowledges our responsibility toward the truth as an institution of knowledge and learning and how we need to collectively evolve to respond to the urgent need for meaningful reconciliation,” says Sheryl Lightfoot, plan co-lead and Senior Advisor to the President on Indigenous Affairs at UBC and Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics.

“Our expectation is that this plan moves beyond our UBC goals. We want it to demonstrate how public institutions, not just governments, can play a critical role in upholding, advancing and implementing the human rights standards set out in the UN Declaration, and inspire others to do the same.”

The ISP commits to reviewing university policies and practices to ensure they live up to the requirements of the Declaration and other human rights standards. As one aspect of this commitment, UBC will work with Indigenous communities and partners to co-develop research protocols consistent with the imperatives of free, prior and informed consent and ownership and control of Indigenous

knowledge and information. Other intended impacts include:

- Catalyzing research with Indigenous peoples, with appropriate protocols
- Developing deeper research and operational partnerships with host nations and other Indigenous communities
- Enhancing Indigenous content and scholarship through curricula
- Better recognizing Indigenous knowledges in scholarship
- Providing public education tools and dialogues
- Placing more Indigenous individuals in leadership roles
- Recruiting more excellent Indigenous students, faculty and staff
- Changing financial procedures in order to fairly compensate Indigenous knowledge holders in a timely manner.

“In light of current calls for deep social change in our societies, UBC must be a place that confers equal rights on all, without discrimination,” says Professor Ono.

“In order to do this, we must dismantle mechanisms of oppression that still exist in our systems and work together to build new structures that honour the human rights of everyone, equally. We must move beyond words and take meaningful action. As a centre of research and learning, as a university with campuses on Musqueam and Syilx territory, and as an institution of Canadian society, we understand that our responsibilities do not end with the courses we

offer or the efforts we’ve undertaken to make the university more diverse and inclusive. Meaningful reconciliation requires more than this and we are prepared to do the hard work.”

The plan builds upon UBC’s first Aboriginal Strategic Plan that was launched in 2009. It was developed with the guidance of Indigenous Elders, leaders, and other experts, and through extensive dialogue with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and other members of the UBC community.

“We’ve come a long way over the past decade in particular but the consultation process highlighted the reality that there’s still a long road ahead in order for us to see Indigenous students, faculty, staff and partners not just survive but thrive,” says Margaret Moss, plan co-lead and Director, First Nations House of Learning at UBC.

“We want to ensure our campuses are places where Indigenous students, scholars and knowledge keepers truly feel welcome and are able to reach their fullest potential. We want our campuses to prominently reflect and celebrate cultures and traditions of the Indigenous peoples on whose territories they are located.”

UBC, on both campuses, has long demonstrated a commitment to Indigenous engagement. In more recent years, UBC Vancouver campus initiatives have included the installation of a Musqueam welcome pole or qeqən, carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. to mark the hundred-year anniversary of UBC, the installation of bilingual street signs that acknowledge the traditional territory of the Musqueam people, the raising of the Reconciliation Pole, and the permanent raising of the Musqueam flag. These efforts build upon earlier initiatives such as the introduction of the Musqueam 101 speaker series and hənqəmīnəm language classes. This has all been underpinned by the apology given by President Ono on behalf of UBC for its complicity in the history of residential schools, at the opening of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, in April 2018.

“True reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians will be an ongoing network of renewed relationships. Reconciliation requires all Canadian institutions to confront their roles in enduring systemic violations of Indigenous human rights throughout the country. In the Indigenous Strategic Plan, UBC commits to acknowledging this truth. The plan pledges to respect and uphold the rights and knowledge of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, including x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam) peoples who are the traditional owners of the land where the Vancouver campus now stands. Musqueam looks forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with UBC as we implement this new strategic plan together. This is just the beginning,” says Chief Wayne Sparrow (yək<sup>w</sup>yak<sup>w</sup>ələq), Musqueam Indian Band.



Reconciliation Pole, Hereditary Chief 7idansuu (James Hart), Haida.

Photo credit Hover Collective, UBC. UBC and University Neighbourhoods are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.