

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## Steps from UBC, UEL Store Might See New Life as Cannabis Retailer

*Outlet would be adjacent to UBC; cannabis company operates three outlets in the suburbs*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

The provincial government has mailed a letter to owners of properties adjacent to a vacant store in the University Endowment Lands, advising it has received an application to turn the store into a cannabis retail outlet. The store is located at 5784 Univer-

sity Boulevard, steps from UBC. The store was previously a print shop.

In its letter to owners, the government—which manages the UEL—advises current storeowners and renters in a bank of suites that Burb Cannabis Corporation has applied to the University Endowment Lands (UEL) on behalf of Mandial Holdings Ltd., Inc for an amendment to the UEL Land Use, Building and Community Administration Bylaw for a change of land use district (rezoning) to allow for a cannabis retail store with a proposed floor area of 1236.68 square feet.

**RETAILER continued on Page 2**



The former location of Copy Smart has received a development application to turn the store into a cannabis retail outlet.

## Owner-Researcher Offers Bright View on Future of Electric Vehicles (EVs)



New EV Charging stations being installed in Thunderbird Parkade.

*Upbeat view on EVs seems well supported by facts; however, not all stratas see them as worthy of the extra effort and expense of installing charging equipment*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

Since an article about the charging of electric vehicles appeared in The Campus Resident in April 2021, UBC professor and campus condo owner Werner Antweiler

has heard from a number of other stratas in the neighbourhood.

“They (strata) are all at different stages of Electric Vehicle (EV) readiness,” Prof. Antweiler said. “Some have already installed a limited number of EV chargers.”

Others are at stages of planning or making pitches to their strata councils, or are interested in moving from the limited shared chargers to larger deployments.

Prof. Antweiler, author of The Campus Resident article *Charging Up!*, is an economics professor at UBC’s Sauder School of Business; his research special-

izes in environmental and energy topics.

EV charging is definitely a hot topic on campus, Prof. Antweiler, said.

“I really think we’ve reached a tipping point where EVs are no longer seen as “exotic” but increasingly as “this could likely be my next vehicle”.

(Prof. Antweiler was recently interviewed by the CBC about EV charging in strata buildings; the article can be found here: [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/lack-charging-stations-bc-condos-hurting-electric-vehicle-use-1.5989702?](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/lack-charging-stations-bc-condos-hurting-electric-vehicle-use-1.5989702?))

As for more coverage in the media about the EV charger issue, he said, “It might be interesting to hear from other stratas about their issues and struggles.

“From what I’ve heard so far, every strata seems to have unique challenges—with the building logistics, the power supply, the general level of interest, and the support and opposition within strata councils and at AGMs. Perhaps a topic for one of the future issues?”

At the time of writing, The Campus Resident was aware of several UBC strata general meetings scheduled to be held in the near future. At some, if not all, strata councils will be called upon to address the EV issue of retrofitting their parkades to allow for overnight charging of parked cars. Over 50 strata corporations operate on campus, so a considerable investment is involved.

**Please see Page 7 for a story about numbers of EVs on British Columbian roads.**

## Remarkable Individuals to Receive Honorary Degrees from UBC This Spring

B.C. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, internationally renowned climate activist Greta Thunberg and four Indigenous leaders will be among those receiving honorary degrees from UBC this spring.

Dr. Henry will receive her honorary degree from UBC Vancouver, while Thunberg will receive her honorary degree from UBC Okanagan. They are among 18 remarkable individuals receiving honorary degrees.

“I am delighted to bestow honorary degrees to Dr. Henry and Ms. Thunberg, along with all of our remarkable recipients this spring,” says UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Santa J. Ono. “Dr. Henry and Ms. Thunberg have served as leading voices in the midst of two of the most significant crises we collectively have ever faced: the global pandemic and climate change. They are truly an inspiration to us all at UBC.”

**DEGREES continued on Page 2**

## DEGREES continued from Page 1

“Our honorary degree recipients are a remarkable group of people that are making a difference in their communities both globally and locally,” says Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UBC Okanagan Lesley Cormack.

“It is an honour to have Dr. Henry and Ms. Thunberg, together with all 18 recipients this year, join the UBC community. As a university that is committed to bold thinking and social and technological innovation, their contributions to the most urgent issues of our day—including public health and climate change—are critical in our journey towards a better, safer and more sustainable future.”

UBC confers honorary degrees—the highest honours conferred by the university—to deserving individuals who have made substantial contributions to society. Honorary degrees are conferred *honoris causa*, meaning “for the sake of honour,” and are awarded as one of three types: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, and Doctor of Science. Dr. Henry is receiving a Doctor of Science, while Thunberg is receiving a Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Henry is B.C.’s Provincial Health Officer and a former physician epidemiologist for the B.C. Centre for Disease Control. The calm, assured face of the COVID-19 pandemic response in B.C., she has led the government initiative from a rational, scientific perspective, garnering accolades from across Canada and internationally. Her specialized work in public health and preventive medicine also includes critical international initiatives such as the WHO/UNICEF polio eradication program in Pakistan and the World Health Organization’s response to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

Thunberg, 18, has gained international



Dr. Bonnie Henry

recognition for challenging world leaders to take immediate, science-based action against climate change, and for sparking climate-change activism in many parts of the world. A three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, she has given speeches at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; at the European Parliament; in front of the legislatures of Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States; at the 2019 UN Youth Climate Summit in New York, to which she famously traveled on an emissions-free yacht; and the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid.

Together with Dr. Henry and Thunberg, 18 remarkable individuals in total will receive honorary degrees from UBC. Below are the recipients:

- **Theresa Arsenaault**, an Okanagan business lawyer who established the Aboriginal Access Award at UBCO to help Indigenous students who are encountering financial roadblocks to higher education
- **Shashi Assanand**, founder and executive director of the Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Service Society, which has provided counselling and support to more than 43,000 immigrant and refugee women and



Greta Thunberg

children experiencing family violence

- **Irwin Cotler**, a former Member of Parliament, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada who has been referred to as “Counsel for the Oppressed” and “Freedom’s Counsel,” represents the leading political prisoners in the world today
- **Dame Sally Davies**, an eminently respected British medical scientist and former Chief Medical Officer for England who was instrumental in creating the National Institute for Health Research, now the largest national clinical research funder in Europe
- **Peter Dhillon**, a second-generation farmer, entrepreneur and UBC alumnus well known for a wide range of community service and philanthropy in the areas of health care, child humanitarian support, education and sport
- **Dr. Victor J. Dzau**, an internationally acclaimed scholar in the field of cardiovascular medicine and genetics who helped create the science underlying the class of drugs known as ACE inhibitors, used globally to treat hypertension and heart failure
- **Esi Edugyan**, a renowned author known for crafting thoughtful and sweeping historical novels that deal with the legacies of race and displacement
- **Al Hildebrandt**, a Kelowna-based tech-

nology entrepreneur with an extraordinary record of community and humanitarian service

- **Dr. Tasuku Honjo**, a Nobel laureate and renowned Japanese physician-scientist best known for his work in discovering a critical pathway in the immune response to cancer cells
- **Dr. Deborah Lipstadt**, one of the world’s most eminently regarded Holocaust historians who achieved international recognition when a British writer and Holocaust denier sued her for libel and lost—the sweeping victory of which was depicted in the 2016 film *Denial*
- **Chief Clarence Louie** of the Osoyoos Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation, who has consistently emphasized economic development as a means to improve his people’s standard of living
- **Garry Merkel**, a member of the Tahltan Nation, who has had a long-term interest in the culturally relevant education of Indigenous peoples
- **Dr. Heather Munroe-Blum**, a distinguished university leader, scholar and accomplished businesswoman who has been an influential advocate for universities as vehicles to advance social and economic growth
- **Elder Jessie Nyberg**, a member of the Canoe Creek Band of the Secwepm (Shuswap) Nation, a traditional Indigenous and academic scholar, and visionary leader and community builder
- **Elder Roberta Price**, a member of the Coast Salish Snuneymuxw and Cowichan Nations, who has been instrumental in helping to create shared spaces for both Indigenous and Western approaches to healing and health for more than 30 years
- **Paul Thiele**, who overcame his own visual impairment to study comparative literature at UBC, before going on to become the co-founder, architect and head of UBC’s Crane Library, an invaluable resource centre for visually impaired students for more than 50 years.

## RETAILER continued from Page 1

The new applicant has proposed the following hours of operation for the cannabis retail store:

- 9:00 am to 11:00 pm Monday – Saturday;
- 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Sunday.

Written comments about this application will be accepted by the UEL Manager up to and no later than 4:00 pm on June 9th, 2021. Email submissions are acceptable. All comments form part of the public record and copies of the comments will be provided to the applicant.

For non-medical cannabis retail licence applications in the UEL, Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) must gather residents’ views to make comments and recommendations on the licensee’s application to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB).

Written comments submitted as part of this rezoning application will be considered as gathering residents’ views for the MVRD and will be used to inform MVRD comments and recommendations to the BC LCRB. The proposal is to convert the space that was, until recently, occupied by the Copy Smart print operation (which has since moved to Westbrook Village on UBC campus), for the purpose of retail sales of cannabis, cannabis accessories and other

cannabis related goods such as apparel.

Should a rezoning be granted by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, additional UEL approvals would still be required, including a Development Permit, a Building Permit and a UEL Business Licence. The applicant must also obtain a Cannabis Retail Licence from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

Heather Shay, Planning Officer, at [planUEL@gov.bc.ca](mailto:planUEL@gov.bc.ca) said residents are encouraged to seek further information regarding this Burb rezoning application, or to submit their comments in support or in opposition.

Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A, Mayor’s Council on Regional Transportation said, “As your Electoral Area A representative, I encourage residents to participate in all local land use planning processes.”

In advertising material, Burb says it wants people to understand it has a rationale for its business of selling marijuana to the public, and it has posted a statement to this effect at its website.

The statement reads, “Three pillars of legalization are: protecting our vulnerable youth; eliminating the illicit market; and ensuring the safety of consumers by offering access to tested, safe product.”

The company owns and operates two Burb stores in Port Coquitlam and one in Port Moody. According to its website, Burb is a BC-based private retailer of recreational cannabis.

Its website also states, “We’re legacy minded and committed to ensuring that high quality craft cannabis continues to define the culture of BC. Our stores are community centres that celebrate the plant and preserve the culture associated with it. We hope to see you soon...”

According to the company, its stores are designed with specific customers in mind.

“We’ve purposely chosen to ‘de-tech’ in favour of an authentic experience. You won’t find screens or associates glued to iPads. Instead, you’ll receive personalized service and thoughtful information regarding cannabis in a retail environment that will leave you feeling calm and confident.”

The company claims the BC Government has deemed cannabis retail an essential service. Consequently, “We will be operating all locations under the health and safety guidelines outlined by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It is our top priority to provide a safe environment for our staff and customers and we are taking every possible precaution.”

Like the EV car market in British Columbia, the market for recreational marijuana (Cannabis) in the province is relatively hot. Estimates of the number of marijuana stores like the one proposed for the UBC area run from a low of 65 to a high 200.

The federal Cannabis Act came into effect on 17 October, 2018 and made Canada the second country in the world, after Uruguay, to formally legalize the cultivation, possession, acquisition and consumption of cannabis and its by-products. Canada is the first G7 and G20 nation to do so.

In recognition of this event, the once-named Liquor Control Board is now the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

In a public meeting at press time, speakers spoke for and against the prospect of a cannabis store opening in the UEL.

Prominent resident Maria Harris spoke against. For 10 years the Metro Vancouver representative in the UEL and UBC, Ms. Harris said, “I would be very worried about a cannabis store so close to UBC.”

Ilija Vertinsky, speaking for the company, said, “We are not your traditional pot shop.” Another store person said, “We’re clean, open and inviting, with customers in their 60s, 70s, 80s.”

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## Separate Points of View Persist in Community Basketball Dispute

*UBC is on one side;  
UNA is on the other*

At the last meeting of the UNA Board of Directors (in April), UBC made a presentation on the relocation of a community basketball court used by residents from one side of campus to the other. However, the Board did not pass a motion giving its approval to the proposed relocation.

One view—held by many residents—is that Board approval is required before UBC can proceed with the relocation. This view is based on the fact that Schedule F of Neigh-

bours' Agreement 2020 states that residents will have long-term access to "Outdoor Basketball Court – Thunderbird Boulevard & Health Sciences Mall".

An alternative view—held by UBC administrators—is that UNA approval is not required for the relocation. (The UNA has not sought a legal opinion on whether its approval is required.)

Whether or not UBC requires the UNA's approval for the relocation, the Board should take a position on behalf of residents. UNA Director Bill Holmes said, "That is why I am making a motion for the Board to approve the relocation."

The basketball dispute between two friendly rivalries (UNA and UBC) arose two months ago when UBC posted notices at the outdoor basketball site that it was planning to build a hydrogen refueling station there.

Residents did not take kindly to the news. Young basketball players and others claimed legally they had a right to use it under the Neighbour's Agreement, which governs relations between UBC and UNA.

A wave of indignation swept through Hawthorn Place, Wesbrook Place and other residential areas on campus. Hot language was the order of the day. Since then, it has mellowed.

## Electric Mowing Means Peace in Garden

*Pilot landscaping project in the works to address resident concerns*

*UNA Staff*

To address resident concerns and to improve service delivery, the UNA has been working on new landscaping pilot projects.

On February 2021, the UNA collaborated with external landscape equipment supplier Greenworks Commercial to facilitate an electric landscape equipment demonstration with UNA landscaping teams.

Meridian Landscaping and Badger Earthworks were invited to attend the demonstration program. Greenworks Commercial also provided a one-week free rental program to UNA's landscaping teams to give them the opportunity to test the new electric-powered equipment firsthand. Both landscaping teams had positive comments and feedback on the new equipment.

Starting April 15, the UNA launched a pilot project to implement the electric powered equipment in park spaces in Hawthorn Place.

At Wesbrook Place, UNA staff are working with UBC Properties Trust and Wesbrook Stratas to develop a more consolidated landscaping schedule. This work is in progress and a status update will be provided as soon as they're available.

UNA staff are preparing a proposal that outlines improved landscaping strategies to be included in a UNA Landscape Management Plan will be coming to the UNA Board of Directors meeting in May.

## Debunking COVID-19 Myths: As the Weather Warms, UBC Vaccine Expert Separates Fact from Fiction

As the days grow longer and the weather warms, more Canadians are heading outside to safely enjoy activities during the pandemic.

Dr. Anna Blakney, assistant professor in UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering, Michael Smith Laboratories and vaccine expert, regularly fields questions about vaccines from her more than 217,000 followers on her TikTok account.

Here she addresses some popular myths about COVID-19.

**Myth #1: Warmer weather slows down COVID-19 transmission.**

The best evidence suggests warm weather does not affect the actual coronavirus. However, when the weather is nice more people spend more time outdoors and there's less transmission outside compared to inside. So in theory, there should be less transmission in the spring and summer.

Of course, we should continue to follow public health guidelines while outside—keep physically distanced, wear a mask and wash your hands often. But COVID-19 is a respiratory infection spread by breathing—there's no conclusive evidence on whether or not the outside temperature directly affects transmission.

**Myth #2: You can catch COVID-19 in swimming pools via water transmission.**

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads in the air. The best available evidence strongly suggests that when virus particles hit chlorinated water, like in most swimming pools, the particles are no longer infectious.

**Myth #3: Vitamin and mineral supplements prevent and cure COVID-19.**

Proper nutrition is very important to keep your immune system healthy. We should eat healthy foods, drink lots of water, maintain our vitamin D levels, get enough sleep and try to minimize stress in our lives the best we can. So if you contract COVID-19, vitamins and minerals will remain an important part of your recovery, but they won't act as a cure.

**Myth #4: Mosquitos, ticks and fleas can carry and transmit COVID-19.**

Mosquitos, ticks and fleas transmit disease through their bite to your bloodstream. Because COVID-19 is not a blood-borne virus, there's no evidence it can be spread by mosquitos, ticks and fleas.

**Myth #5: After getting the vaccine, we won't need masks anymore.**

Here in Canada, because the majority of the population has not received their first dose

of the COVID-19 vaccine, we still need to wear masks after we receive the vaccine because it's still possible to infect someone who hasn't been vaccinated. While the vaccines have been shown to reduce transmission, they are not 100 per cent effective at reducing transmission altogether. Once more of the population is vaccinated, the need for masks will decline.

**Myth #6: I've had COVID-19 so I don't need to get vaccinated.**

It's true that past COVID-19 infection gives you some level of immunity in the future, but the vaccine's immunity level is much higher. We want everyone to have maximum immunity and the best way to do that is to get the vaccine. Also, no vaccine is perfect—there's still a chance you could contract COVID-19. But if you're vaccinated, it will help prevent serious illness and the vaccines are very effective at preventing hospitalization due to COVID-19.



Dr. Anna Blakney

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Crosswalk Lights

Today I watched two young students on their way home from school crossing 16th Avenue and Hampton Place intersection on scooters, without bothering to use either of the lights.

This is a daily occurrence with both adults and students, not only on 16th Avenue, but in most of the crossings on campus where it is optional to use the lights.

I think that rather than spending more money on flashing lights and other products, an education program should be instituted, especially in school.

Yesterday a young woman walked across Wesbrook Mall while on her phone without looking in either direction.

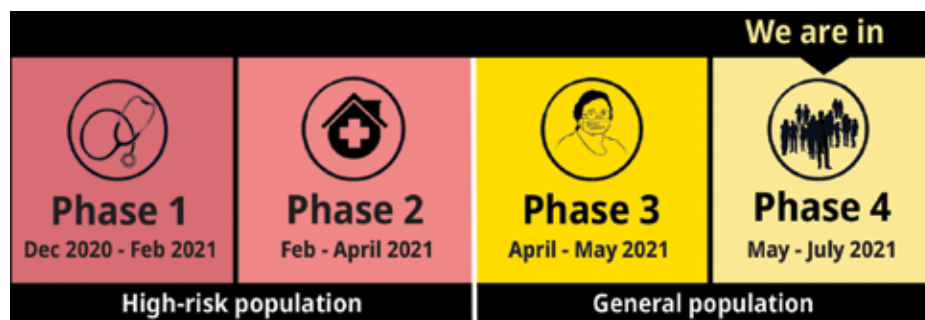
*Pam Black, Hampton Place.*

# COVID-19 Immunization Plan



B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan is designed to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19. This information is taken from [gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19) and is updated frequently. It is subject to change, based on vaccine availability and the latest COVID-19 data. Last updated May 20, 2021.

## Immunization Phases



### Everyone must register with the Get Vaccinated system

Getting vaccinated is easy and safe. Everyone in B.C. must register with the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system once. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register#register>

This includes:

- Seniors, Indigenous people and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable who booked dose 1 through their health authority before April 6
- People who got dose 1 of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD at a local pharmacy

Registration makes sure we have your current email and phone number so we can contact you to book dose 1 or dose 2. Spread the word and help your friends and family complete their registration, book an appointment and get the vaccine.



### Step 1: Register

Registration is open to anyone born in 2003 or earlier (18+).

When you register, you get a confirmation number. Do not lose the number. You'll need it later to book your vaccination appointment.

#### How to register

You can register yourself or someone else, like a parent or grandparent. We will never ask you for your SIN, driver's licence number or banking and credit card details.

#### Register online with a Personal Health Number

It takes 2 minutes. To register online, you must provide:

- First and last name
- Date of birth
- Postal code
- Personal Health Number (on the back of your B.C. driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.)
- An email address that gets checked regularly or a phone number that can receive text messages

We want everyone to get vaccinated, even if you don't have a Personal Health Number or other documentation. It doesn't matter if you are a Canadian citizen or not. Register even if you have already received dose 1 in another location. All of your information will be kept private and will never be shared with other agencies or parts of government.

#### Register by phone

If you don't have a Personal Health Number, you need to register by phone. A Personal Health Number will be created for you.

Call: 1-833-838-2323 | Translators are available, seven days a week, 7 am to 7 pm (PDT). Telephone for the Deaf: Dial 711

#### Register at a Service BC office

You can register in-person at all Service BC offices. Office hours vary by location. Check before you go.



### Step 2: Book an Appointment

Don't expect to book an appointment the same day you register.

You will get a text, email or phone call when you're eligible to book an appointment.

We're now sending dose 1 booking invitations to:

- All people born in 2003 or earlier (18+)
- People born in 2005 or earlier (16+) who are:
- Clinically extremely vulnerable
- Pregnant



### Step 3: Get the Vaccine

Visit the vaccine clinic to get your vaccine dose.

Everyone will get dose 2 within 16 weeks of their first vaccination appointment. You will get a text, email or phone call when you can book a dose 2 appointment. Use your BC Services Card to view your immunization record online 24 hours after getting vaccinated.

### What to Expect at the Vaccine Clinic

We recommend you review information on COVID-19 vaccine safety from HealthlinkBC before your clinic visit.

#### Arrive prepared

Get ready for your appointment:

- Wear a short-sleeved shirt and a mask
  - Arrive a few minutes before your scheduled appointment time
- You can bring one person with you for support.

All clinics are wheelchair accessible. You will be provided a mask if you need one.

#### During the appointment

At the clinic you will:

- Complete a check-in process
- Get either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine dose. A choice will not be offered
- Wait in an observation area for about 15 minutes

You can expect to be at the clinic for 30 to 60 minutes in total. After your appointment, review COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare from the BCCDC.

## COVID-19 paid sick leave



Workers can take 3 days of paid sick leave if they need to **stay home** because of COVID-19. The program will take effect when the legislation becomes law and will be in place until December 31, 2021.

### I'm a Worker

When the legislation becomes law, you will be able to take up to 3 paid sick days if you need to stay home because of COVID-19. For example:

- Diagnosed with COVID-19
- Waiting for COVID-19 test results
- Need to self-isolate or self-monitor
- Following a public health order
- Directed to stay home by your employer because of exposure risks

**To take a COVID-19 sick day, a doctor's note is not required.**

#### Pay

You will get paid your full wage.

#### Hours of work

Full-time and part-time workers are eligible.

This benefit will be available to workers covered under the Employment Standards Act who do not already have a paid sick leave benefits plan. Additional information will be available when the legislation becomes law.

### I'm an Employer

When the legislation becomes law, you will be required to offer employees 3 days of paid sick leave if they need to stay home as a result of circumstances related to COVID-19.

This benefit will be available to employers who have employees covered under the Employment Standards Act and who do not already have a paid sick leave benefits plan. Additional information will be available when the legislation becomes law.

#### Wages

You must pay employees their regular wages.

#### Reimbursement program

If your workplace does not have an existing sick leave program, the Province will reimburse you up to \$200 a day.

WorkSafeBC will administer the reimbursement program. The program is not part of the workers' compensation system and will not impact WorkSafeBC's employer premiums or its accident fund.

Details on the reimbursement program and how to register will be available in June.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

## A Conversation About Anti-Asian Racism

This is Asian Heritage Month; an opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the amazing country we share today. It's a time to celebrate the incredible diversity that is our strength.

Asian Heritage month is taking place against a background of Anti-Asian racism and the continued tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a devastating humanitarian crisis in India. And yet, even in the face of such daunting realities, we see communities coming together, raising their voices and offering support to one another, within and across borders.

Canada is not immune to anti-Asian racism.

Systemic exclusions of Chinese immigrants began over 150 years ago and continued through the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. The more recent wave of anti-Asian rhetoric and violence amplified by COVID-19 is the latest chapter in a long and tortured history. And in these different moments of our history, we also know that Asian women have and continue to disproportionately experience anti-Asian racism and violence.

To my fellow Asian community members – students, faculty, staff, neighbours and alumni – I stand by you. I share in your grief and want you to know that I see you and share in your pain.

As valued members of the university community, I am listening to you. I am grateful to the many of you who attended our community listening sessions and generously shared with me your thoughts about how we might better challenge racism at UBC.

I heard you when you told me that statements are not enough. I agree. You explained that you have been profoundly affected by the rise in hostilities and violence directed at the different Asian communities.

It is my hope that the recently established Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Taskforce will provide recommendations on how best to address racism at UBC. It is only by working together across racial lines that we can stand in solidarity to succeed in our struggle against all forms of racism, including anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racisms.

To the many organizations and people that already work to challenge ongoing forms of anti-Asian racism and discrimination at UBC, including the Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies program and the Asian Canadian Community Engagement Initiative, I thank you. There are many scholars who work tirelessly at our institution to combat forms of anti-Asian discrimination daily through their research and teaching. Staff across our institution engage in anti-racism work as they deliver resources and services in support of UBC's strategic commitments. Students, in and out of the classroom, lead and advocate for social change that inspires hope. Together, we all have a part to play in undoing these pernicious forms of racial violence and injustice.

On June 10 and 11, 2021, the University of British Columbia will be hosting a two-day National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism in Canada. Community organizers, scholars, and public intellectuals, along with key figures in government, health care, media, journalism, the corporate world and the not-for-profit sector will convene frank discussions about anti-Asian racism in our country with the aim



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

of articulating bold and concrete recommendations for action.

The first day of programming will be open to the public, with sessions focusing on the issues impacting Asian Canadians, coalition building across Asian Canadian communities, and effective access and advocacy for systemic change. The second day will be a working session with sector leaders, informed by the outcomes of day one. The event will culminate in a public session; this will be an opportunity to share the list of bold actions and key priorities that will be presented for implementation.

While focused on anti-Asian racism, this national forum will also examine other forms of racism, in particular anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, and fortify our relationships in advocacy.

I invite you to join us for this important event. You can find more details at <https://events.ubc.ca/national-forum-on-anti-asian-racism/>.

**Santa J. Ono**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of British Columbia

## Hidden Heroes Nominations

Local MP Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra) invites constituents to help her celebrate the people in Vancouver Quadra who quietly give back and whose hard work and good deeds often go unrecognized.

Tell us who in your organization or neighbourhood has not received the recognition you think they deserve for their volunteer contributions.


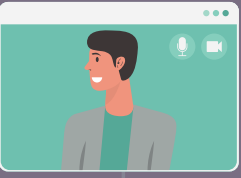
Nominations will be accepted from May 8th through June 18th, 2021. Nominations will be reviewed by an independent selection committee and will be announced to celebrate your local Hidden Heroes in early September (in person Ms. Murray hopes!). Ms. Murray looks forward to the occasion to thank them for their dedication to our community.

Submitting a nomination is easy! Please visit the website at <https://joycemurray.libparl.ca/2021/05/07/hidden-heroes-2021> to share your reasons for nominating your Hidden Hero from Vancouver Quadra.



**Joyce Murray**


If you have any questions please reach out to their office, or email Ying Zhou at [ying.zhou.839@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ying.zhou.839@parl.gc.ca).

## SENIORS' COMPUTER CAFE SPRING 2021 (VIRTUAL) | AGES 55+

**WINDOWS 10 SETTINGS (PART 1)**  
MAY 13 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | #1976

**WINDOWS 10 SETTINGS (PART 2)**  
JUN 17 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | #1977



Full details at [myuna.ca](https://myuna.ca)

# View From Office of Top Doctor

*Matthew Chow, new president of Doctors of BC is a prolific blogger who has many stories to tell about the life-and-death world in which he works in the province. Formally known as the British Columbia Medical Association (BCMA), Doctors of BC is a professional organization which represents 14,000 physicians, medical residents and medical students in the province of British Columbia with many living, working and playing at UBC. By traveling around the province as much as he does, Dr. Chow has become expert at taking the pulse of a health-care community battered by the pandemic but fighting back. Here are three of his early blogs:*

## My Commitment to You December 14, 2020

I want to start my first President's Blog by acknowledging my predecessor, Dr. Kathleen Ross, who has led by example. Before the pandemic, she visited as many communities and with as many members as time allowed. She championed one of the province's first dedicated COVID-19 assessment sites. She vaccinated patients against influenza in a parking lot in the rain. She spoke ceaselessly to the media supporting the profession and reinforcing public health messaging. She advocated tirelessly for all of us, her colleagues.

When the first wave of COVID-19 was breaking across BC, Dr. Ross agreed to continue as our president for an additional six months so that doctors and your association could focus on addressing the pandemic rather than face a transition in leadership. Those six months have been amongst the longest that any of us have experienced. So to Dr. Ross and to all Doctors of BC committee members and Chairs who have served diligently for longer than expected, thank you.

I'm stepping into my role as president during an extraordinary time in history. We are facing a healthcare crisis unlike we have ever experienced in our careers. Doctors have been giving it their all for months, day after day returning to the front lines, all while feeling increased stress, anxiety and even burn out. Our health and well-being are paramount not only during these challenging times, but also as we move beyond this crisis. We must look after ourselves and each other so that we can address the mental health issues already emerging in our patient population and be leaders in advocating for the right mental health supports.

During my term I will carry on Dr. Ross'

work in supporting doctors as we travel through this pandemic and as we move toward life in a post-pandemic world. This health care crisis has forever changed us: it has changed how we practice medicine, how we deliver care, and how we need to design healthcare in the future. And I will ensure our voices are heard every step of the way.

As your president I look forward to supporting the association as it continues its diversity and inclusion work. We recently established the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Working Group, which received a record number of applications, have implemented several recommendations the Barrier Assessment report identified, and are assessing a number of others.

We are innovating, collaborating, and adapting in unprecedented ways, and we are doing so together. Our profession will not only survive this pandemic but thrive in spite of it. The time will come when we have surmounted COVID-19, but to do so we need to stick together now and long after the pandemic is over. This means continuing to embrace our uniqueness, celebrate our differences, and recognize these lend to our collective experience and our collective knowledge.

This holiday season will be very different, with no extended family and friends joining us in celebration. I hope that you have some time to rest and rejuvenate, and that you are able to safely connect with loved ones.

I feel very optimistic about what's in store for 2021. Dr. Henry recently said she can see the light at the end of the tunnel... and I see that light too. I also look forward to being your president this upcoming year. I am

driven by the motto "leave something in better shape than when you found it" and that is what I plan on doing as president. I welcome this opportunity and I invite you to reach out

and share with me what's on your mind, by emailing me at [president@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:president@doctorsofbc.ca). Never has there been a more important time for us to be "Better Together."

## Ode to Non-Frontline Workers March 16, 2021

We hear a lot about our brave healthcare heroes these days. It's often implied that the most heroic are those serving on the 'frontlines'—the people who are providing direct hands-on care to the public. They have been in the eye of this storm and absolutely deserve to be recognized and supported. But it's important we also recognize those who do not have a hands-on role but are anything but hands-off. There is a legion of folks working behind the healthcare scenes who enable healthcare front-liners to do their job.

There are the lab personnel working around the clock to process tests, run sophisticated genetic analyses on a scale we could only dream of ten years ago, and provide vital intelligence to the people leading the fight against COVID-19. There are researchers who are making discoveries about SARS-CoV-2 at a rate that it is outpacing work on other viruses – work that has taken a generation to accumulate. Then there are the immunologists, vaccinologists, microbiologists, and many others who inform our vaccine strategy. Without them, the vaccination campaign would be a blunt instrument rather than a targeted rollout to save more lives and protect the most vulnerable.

There are also the people behind the scenes who are not healthcare workers but have

been working tirelessly to support those who are. Since the onset of the pandemic, our team at Doctors of BC has been advocating on doctors' behalf with public health and government officials on issues of concern, supporting doctors in the way in which they practice, keeping the medical profession informed, and responding to countless emails and messages. They have done so all while experiencing the same pandemic restrictions as everyone else, but with the added pressure of knowing that their work directly impacts those on the frontlines. In a poignant example, some staff have been working hard to ensure every doctor is aware of vaccination schedules so that no one misses out, even as they themselves continue to wait for their own shots.

I also want to mention the staff at the Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities, and indeed across all government. Some years ago when I had my first ever meeting at the Ministry of Health building in Victoria, I asked why there was so much security considering this was a public building. I was told it was because it was not uncommon to receive credible physical threats against the people working there. These days, emotions are running extremely high. There is immense pressure and scrutiny on our public officials. They too are in the position of working countless hours to ensure that other people get vaccinated before they do.

Any time I have approached a non-frontline healthcare worker I've asked how I can support them. The answer I've received is that the simple act of thanking them is enough. And while I take them at their word, I suspect a little kindness, a little patience, and a recognition that they too are human beings would also go a long way. Just like the rest of us, most have not seen family and friends in a long time and some have experienced heart-wrenching personal losses.

More vaccines are arriving weekly and the data from BC and other jurisdictions globally is showing very promising results, even in the presence of variants of concern. We're all rowing in the same direction to achieve the best possible result for British Columbians, whether 'frontline' or not. Let's remember to thank those working behind the healthcare scenes who are also helping make the campaign against COVID-19 a success.



Dr. Matthew Chow, President, Doctors of BC.

## Celebrating Women as Leaders

March 5, 2021

### DOCTORS continued from Page 6

Women make up more than 40% of Canada's physicians. Many have stood at the helm – with thousands more on the front lines – during the pandemic which has highlighted the integral role they play and contributions they make to medicine. With International Women's Day and the first Canadian Women Physicians' Day just around the corner (March 8 and March 11 respectively), I want to tell you about a few of the many women in medicine who I have been privileged to meet.

Dr. Danièle Behn Smith is an Indigenous physician, one of BC's deputy provincial health officers, and host of a 13-part television series on traditional healing practices. I attended a conference where she shared a deeply personal and harrowing account of her journey through medical school. She spoke of the experience of disillusionment as she found the traditional western aspects of medicine to conflict with the wisdom and experience of Indigenous people. She courageously charted her own path in response. I will never forget how she described the well-publicized 2017 death



of a man in a Manitoba emergency room as being caused by racism. The 'r' word can make people uncomfortable, including myself, but Dr. Behn Smith taught me that we must never hesitate to use the right words to describe an ugly situation if we want things to be better. I'm so pleased to see her have such an important role in the fight against COVID-19.

Dr. Liana Hwang is a family physician from Alberta who, alongside a team of colleagues, founded a national Facebook group for physicians during this pandemic. Dr. Hwang and I graduated from the same medical school class – a class that became closer after the tragedy of a classmate's death. She has been one of the brightest stars to come out of our school. During COVID, she and her team have provided more than 21,000 physicians a safe, respectful, and collegial forum to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. It cannot be overstated how difficult the task has been: Many of our colleagues have been through hell and back, and it shows in the poignant posts and dialogue on the forum. Through it all Dr. Hwang and her team have made the forum a critical and trusted source of information and analysis, and an essential part of many colleagues' pandemic journey. She has helped convert frustration, hopelessness, and despair into insight, hope, and understanding. Her leadership is the kind we need in these challenging times.

Dr. Sophia Park is a medical biochemist, the Program Director for the Medical Biochemistry postgraduate training program at the UBC medical school, and a member of the Board of Directors of Doctors of BC. I first met Dr. Park after 'Bell Let's Talk Day' two years ago when she bravely shared her own experience of depression



and treatment on Let's Talk Day. Like it or not, there is still a stigma around mental illness and substance use, even in the medical community. It can be hard to talk about these problems, and even harder to get help. These barriers have taken an untold toll on many lives. People like Dr. Park are extraordinary physicians, leaders, teachers, and neighbours. She demonstrates that physicians are human, that we are vulnerable to the same things as everyone else and that we can recover and grow stronger like everyone else. Illness doesn't define us. Only we can define us. I am proud to have a colleague like Dr. Park.

There are many more women I could highlight. Throughout the pandemic women have demonstrated their skills and knowledge when it comes to effectively leading COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. In fact, many countries that have been suc-

cessful in responding to COVID-19 are spearheaded by women: New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ethiopia and Slovakia.

Women have shown us why gender equity is so important. Imagine if we fully appreciated, celebrated, and harnessed their gifts to the world. Imagine what scientific, economic, social, and cultural progress could be made?

So, on International Women's Day, Canadian Women Physicians' Day, and indeed every day, I want to thank and honour all the tremendous medical women who lead, heal, teach, advocate, and innovate. All people, of all genders, benefit from their collective work.

(Permission to reprint given by Doctors of BC.)

## B.C. Eager to Go Electric: Over 50,000 EVs on Road

*Provincial Government reports on the number of British Columbians who have switched to electric vehicles (EVs) from gas-driven cars; 2020 update is the first report required under the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act, which was implemented in 2019*

A record number of British Columbians (including residents of UBC) have switched to electric vehicles (EVs) with more than 54,000 light-duty EVs registered in B.C., according to the newly released 2020 annual zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) update.

"With the highest reported uptake rates of EVs in North America, B.C. is quickly becoming a leader in the EV industry," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "Despite challenges from the pandemic, our EV sales remained steady in 2020, making it clear that British Columbians are committed to meeting our CleanBC goals and our transition to a clean energy future."

According to the report, British Colum-

bians are also adopting EV technology for less traditional vehicles, such as motorcycles and cargo e-bikes, through the Specialty-Use Vehicle Incentive (SUVI) program. Since the relaunch of the SUVI program in 2017, nearly 550 rebates have been provided for eligible vehicles.

"People in communities across British Columbia (including UBC) are increasingly choosing electric vehicles to reduce air pollution, and for a better driving experience and lower operating costs," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. "This transition is happening because EVs and charging stations are becoming more affordable and available through CleanBC. By investing in cleaner, more affordable transportation options of all kinds, we're reducing climate pollution and supporting new opportunities for people in a stronger economy."

With a growing number of EVs on B.C. roads, the annual report also highlights measures the Province is taking through ongoing and new CleanBC Go Electric programs to ensure the increasing demand for EVs is supported with vehicle and charging infrastructure rebates, education and training and the expansion of a public charging network.

B.C. is not alone in its push toward greater EV uptake. The United States is setting ambitious new goals around EV manufacturing, deployment and charging, which could lead to even greater access to EV infrastructure around the continent for EV drivers.

The annual ZEV update tracks British Columbia's progress respecting its zero-emission vehicle targets, and the 2020 update is the first report required under the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act, which was implemented in 2019.

CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced and sustainable future. It supports government's commitment to climate action to meet B.C.'s emission targets and build a cleaner, stronger economy for everyone.

### Quick Facts:

- As of December 2020, 54,469 EVs were on the road in B.C., leading to an estimated 216,000 tonnes in emission reductions per year.
- EV owners see immediate savings on fuel costs – about \$1,800 every year for the average B.C. driver.
- B.C. has one of the largest public charging networks and the first cluster of public hydrogen fuelling stations in Canada.

At the end of 2020, there were over 2,500 public charging stations in B.C.

- The Zero-Emission Vehicles Act requires automakers to meet increasing annual levels of ZEV sales to reach 10% of new light-duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040.
- B.C. is well on its way to exceeding the 2025 targets with light-duty EV sales representing 9.4% of all new light-duty vehicle sales in B.C. in 2020.



Bruce Ralston

