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

In its letter to owners, the government—which manages 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 Mundial 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.

DEGREES continued on Page 2

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

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 (stratas) 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 specializes 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?)

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 charger issue, he said, “It might be interesting to hear from other stratas about their issues and struggles.

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.”
The new applicant has proposed the fol-
lowing hours of operation for the cannabis re-
tail 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 ac-
cepted by the UEL Manager up to and no later than 4:00 pm on June 9th, 2021. Email submissions are ac-
ceptable. All comments form part of the public re-
cord and copies of the comments will be provided to the applicant.

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

Written comments submitted as part of this rezoning application will be consid-
ered 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 Westcoast Village on UBC campus), for the purpose of retail sales of cannabis, cannabis accessories and other

RETAILER continued from Page 1

DEGREES continued from Page 1
“Our honorary degree recipients are a re-
markable group of people that are making a difference in their communities both
globally and locally,” says Deputy Vice-
Chancellor and Principal of UBC Okana-
gan Lesley Cornick.

“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 think-
ing and social and technological innova-
tion, their contributions to the most urgent
issues of our day—including public health
and climate change—are critical in our jour-
ney towards a better, safer and more sustain-
able future.”

UBC confers honorary degrees—the high-
est honours conferred by the university—to
deserving individuals who have made
substantial contributions to society. Hon-
orary degrees are conferred honoris causa,
meaning “for the sake of honor,” and are
awarded as one of three types: Doctor of
Laws, Doctors 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 Offi-
cer and a former political 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 journey towards a better, safer and more
sustainable future.

Greta Thunberg, 18, has gained international
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 trav-
elled 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 re-
ceive honorary degrees from UBC. Below are the recipients:

• Theresaarenautal, an Okanagan busi-
ness lawyer who established the Aribalp,
Nuxalk Access Award at UBCO to help In-
digenous students who are encountering
financial roadblocks to higher education.

• ShasaniAnnand, founder and execu-
tive director of the Vancouver and Lower
Mainland Multicultural Family Support
Service Society, which has provided
co-counselling and support to more than
43,000 immigrant and refugee women and
children experiencing family violence.

• Irwin Cotler, a former Member of Par-
lament, Minister of Justice and Attorney
General of Canada who has been referred
to as “Counsel for the Oppressed” and
“Freedom’s Counsel,” represents the lead-
ning political prisoners in the world today.

• Dame Sally Davies, an eminently re-
pected British medical scientist and for-
mer 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 commu-
nity service and philanthropy in the areas
of health care, child humanitarian,
education and sport.

• Dr. Victor J. drau, an internationally
acclaimed scholar in the field of cardio-
vascular 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 his-
torical novels that deal with the legacies
of race and displacement.

• Al Hildebrandt, a Kelowna-based tech-
preneur and UEL Business Licence. The applicant
must also obtain a Cannabis Retail Licence
from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

• Heather Shay, Planning Officer, at pacifica.g
@canada.ca said residents are encouraged
to seek further information regarding this
rezoning application will be consid-
ered 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

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.

In its website also states, “We’re legacy-
minded and committed to ensuring that
high quality craft cannabis continues to de-
fine the culture of BC. Our stores are com-
unity 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 ‘do-tech’ in
favour of an authentic experience. You
won’t find screens or associates aided to
ipads. Instead, you’ll receive personal-
ized service and thoughtful information
regarding cannabis in a retail environment
that will leave you feeling calm and con-
sidered.”

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

Like the EV car market in British Colum-
bia, 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,
Indigenous and Western approaches to
healing and health for more than 30 years.

Paul Thiele, who oversees his own
visual impairment to study comparative
literature at UBC, before going on to be-
come the co-founder, architect and head
of UBC’s Crane Library, an invaluable
resource centre for visually impaired stu-
dents for more than 50 years.

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 for UEL, Ms. Harris said, “I
would be very worried about a cannabis store
so close to UBC.”

Ilja Vertinsky, speaking for the compa-
any, said, “We are not your traditional pot
shop.” Another store person said, “We’re
clearly not a traditional pot store, with customers in
their 60s, 70s, 80s.”
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 presenta-
tion on the relocation of a community bas-
ketball 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 Bas-
ketball Court – Thunderbird Boulevard & Health Sciences Mall”.

An alternative view—held by UBC ad-
ministrators—is that UBC approval is not required for the relocation. (The UNA has not sought a legal opinion on whether its ap-
proval 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.”

In May, the UNA will have Board approval and jurisdiction over the relocation. This view is based on the fact that Schedule F of Neighbours’ Agreement 2020 states that residents will have long-term access to “Outdoor Basketball Court – Thunderbird Boulevard & Health Sciences Mall”.

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 out-
side 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 vac-
cines from her more than 217,000 follow-
ners 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 try to minimize stress in our lives the
way home from school crossing 16th Avenue, Hampton Place and other resi-
dential areas on campus. Hot language was the order of the day. Since then, it has mel-
lowed.

A wave of indignation swept through Haw-
thorn Place, Wesbrook Place and other resi-
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Myth #2: Vitamin and mineral supple-
mients 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, main-
tain 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 im-
portant part of your recovery, but they won’t act as a cure.

Myth #3: Mosquitoes, ticks and fleas can carry and transmit COVID-19.
Mosquitoes, ticks and fleas transmit disease through their bite to your bloodstream. Be-
cause COVID-19 is not a blood-borne vi-
rus, there’s no evidence it can be spread by mosquitoes, 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 some-
one who hasn’t been vaccinated. While the vaccines have been shown to reduce trans-
mission, 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 vacci-
nated, it will help prevent serious illnesses and the vaccines are very effective at pre-
venting hospitalization due to COVID-19.

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.

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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.

-letter to the editor-

Crosswalk Lights

I think that rather than spending more mon-
ey on flashing lights and other products, an education program should be instituted, es-
pecially in school.

Yesterday a young woman walked across Wesbrook Mall while on her phone with-
out looking in either direction.

Pam Black, Hampton Place.
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/health-vaccines 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-registration/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

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.

Step 3: Get the Vaccine

Visit the vaccine clinic to get your vaccine dose.

We’re now sending dose 1 booking invitations to:
- All people born in 2003 or earlier (18+)
- People born in 2005 or earlier (16+)
- Clinically extremely vulnerable
- Pregnant

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.

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

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

Workers can take 3 days of paid sick leave if they need to stay home as a result of circumstances related to COVID-19.

The program is not part of 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.

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.

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

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.

Professor 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.

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

Full details at myuna.ca
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 you 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 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 lead 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 not 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 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 glob- ally 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.

DOCTORS continued on Page 7

Dr. Matthew Chow, President, Doctors of BC.

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 ‘front lines’ – 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. 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.

My Commitment to You
December 14, 2020

Dr. 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:
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 Rabiston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. “De-spite challenges from the pandemic, our EV sales remain 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 Columbians 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 launch 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 manufacture, 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, 54,649 EVs were on the road in B.C., leading to an estimated 216,000 tonnes in emission reductions 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.

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Historic collection from the Klondike Gold Rush
Gifted to UBC in $2.5M donation

Philip B. Lind, CM

UBC alumni and Canadian telecommunications icon, Philip B. Lind, CM, has donated $2.5 million to UBC. This gift is comprised of the Phil Lind Klondike Gold Rush Collection, an unparalleled rare book and archival collection, dating from the Klondike Gold Rush (1894–1904), and financial support to ensure it is preserved and made available to the public at the UBC Library, where it will support research and learning.

The Department of Canadian Heritage’s Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB) recently designated the collection as a cultural property of outstanding significance.

The collection includes books, maps, letters and photos collected by Lind, whose grandfather, Johnny Lind, was a trailblazer who carved out success as a prospector, arriving in the Yukon two years before the big Klondike strike in 1896 that ignited the gold rush, and he operated and co-owned several claims on Klondike rivers and creeks. Lind says that he made collecting archival materials from this period a real passion of his over the past 50 years.

“My grandfather was there, and he was a central figure in all of this, even though he wasn’t widely known,” says Lind, who notes the first books in the collection were given to him by his father. Lind then developed relationships with collectors all over the West Coast to build out the collection, piece by piece, over the ensuing years. “My hopes for this collection are that more people would hear the stories and experience that have shaped British Columbia. “Looking to our past and critically examining our place in the world can help define a better path forward,” says Santa J. Ono, UBC president and vice-chancellor. “UBC now has the opportunity to understand the stories of the gold rush era in a tangible way, through materials that have survived over a century. I am grateful to Phil Lind for entrusting UBC with this rare, one-of-a-kind collection.”

This extraordinary collection offers so much possibility for both research and teaching, says Dr. Laura Ishiguro, associate professor in department of history at UBC.

“I hope that this is a call to take the North seriously, and to take the history of the Klondike Gold Rush seriously but also to think about the North on its own terms,” she says. “It’s extraordinary, it’s enormous, there’s a great deal of diversity there, but there’s also hard questions to ask about which histories, we know and which ones we don’t.”

To facilitate scholarly and public access to the materials, the library will be making the collection available online through UBC Library Open Collections. A preview of featured collection items is available to view now in a curated photo gallery.

“UBC Library is ideally suited to preserve and provide access to the rare archival and book material found in the Phil Lind Klondike Gold Rush Collection,” says Dr. Susan E. Parker, university librarian. “We’re excited to digitize this collection and make it available to everyone, through the library’s Open Collections. The Lind Collection will be an essential new source for historical research and scholarship across Canada.”

At the centre of Phil Lind’s philanthropy is his steadfast belief that deeper understanding and connection can create a more inclusive world. From revolutionizing the broadcasting landscape in Canada to transforming the potential of telecommunications, his work has greatly contributed to the social, cultural and economic well-being of Canada. Lind is a long-time supporter and advocate of UBC. He has generously invested in many areas of scholarship at the university, including the Phil Lind Initiative, which invites leading U.S. thinkers to UBC for open, thought-provoking dialogue on a range of urgent issues. Lind has also supported the Phil Lind Chair in U.S. Politics and Representation, the U.S. Studies Program, the Rogers Multicultural Film Production Project and the Bellini Curator’s Forum.

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