Faculty and staff residents express concern about inability of UBC to keep homes cool during recent heat wave; they say climate change was not factored in when rental buildings were constructed

John Tompkins, Editor

Nineteen UBC faculty and staff members living in seven buildings on campus have added their names to a report that states temperatures in the rental units in which they live were either uninhabitable or almost uninhabitable at times during the heat wave in June 2021.

The report, which will be delivered to UBC Campus & Community Planning, UBC Properties Trust and Village Gate Homes, and owner of the properties, is written in the form of a letter of concern (or petition).

The petitioners write, “We are very concerned that our housing and neighbourhood design are dangerously inadequate to meet the challenges of climate change.” They call this development very alarming “given we were attempting to mechanically cool our homes with fans or air conditioners and still struggled or failed to maintain livable temperatures.”

Of note, residents report being unable to sleep, becoming sick or having medical issues exacerbated, experiencing negative impacts to mental health, and signs of heat stroke in pets.

It is clear from this recent heat wave, they say, that UBC residences are not designed for the increased and extreme summer temperatures caused by climate change.

“We need help now to keep our homes livable during the summer.”

Below, the renters note several issues and, in the interest of opening a dialogue with UBC Campus & Community Planning, UBC Properties Trust and Village Gate Homes leadership group, they suggest requests for possible solutions or questions related to each issue.

Issues and Requests

Issue 1: Heat-related issues are common across faculty & staff residential buildings, even some of those built recently (e.g., Mundell House), indicating a lack of consideration for climate change’s impact on summer temperatures in the design of these buildings.

Request 1a: An immediate town hall with the leadership group from UBC in order to hear residents’ concerns and provide information about how and when UBC is planning to a) update existing buildings to allow units to be cooled to habitable temperatures and, b) build future buildings with climate change in mind.

Request 1b: Provide UBC residents with an update, with concrete timelines and actions, for the implementation of UBC’s Green Building Action Plan (GBAP), specifically the Priority Action listed in Appendix II: Residential Action Plan to “Develop a strategy of GBAP requirements for retrofit and renovation projects in neighbourhoods” (pg. 12).

As a New School Year Approaches, High School Students Are Wary of Going Back Into Classrooms

As covid cases continue to rise nation-wide, some students are hoping for virtual options

Nicole Duane
Grade 11 student, Lord Byng Secondary School

In mid-March of 2020, schools around B.C. announced their closures in wake of COVID-19’s rising infection rates. I doubt that any student anticipated how long the pandemic, or back then only epidemic, would last.

Last year’s closures were met with mixed reactions. Some students were ecstatic at the prospect of an early summer break, while others were anxious about missing whole months of learning and falling behind the next year. While teachers made an admirable attempt to transition towards virtual classrooms, issues like our lack of access to technology and improper time management meant that many of us did not receive the education that we otherwise would have.

Flash forward to September 2020. We were all a bit disappointed that the virus hadn’t calmed down by then, months into mask-wearing and social distancing. Us high school students were also hastily introduced to the quarterly system; two full classes in two months, each alternating weekly between virtual and in-person lectures. The idea was great; each student belonged to a secured “bubble”, and free masks were handed out so we didn’t have an excuse to not wear one. However, the arrangement proved to be difficult for many students; we only had two months to complete each course, and with class times being cut by around 3/4, the material was extremely condensed and sometimes missing a unit or two.

Some courses, like culinary arts and P.E., meant free time during its virtual week (how do you run laps over Microsoft Teams?!), while those unlucky enough to have double academic classes had to scramble to complete their coursework and watch video lectures. Of course, there are a lot of students who prefer online learning over the traditional school day; those cite the accelerated courses as advantages, rather than hurdles, to their learning. However, there’s no doubt that we cannot condense an entire school year’s worth of learning to a few weeks and still expect students to absorb and process the information just as deeply.

So what happens now? Despite warnings of an upcoming fourth wave, schools are planning to switch back to in-person classrooms in September. This plan was unveiled months ago, long before the Delta variant appeared on our radar. It now feels like choosing between two evils; virtual, accelerated courses, which are ineffective learning methods for many high-schoolers, or going back into the classroom, which may be risky health-wise. Our new semester system means that each student will only be taking 4 classes simultaneously, rather than all 8, so there will be less social contact than usual — but it’s still a big step up from last year.

The issue is even more concerning if we look over to our U.S. neighbours, who are decidedly experiencing another spike. Even though some students are ambivalent about the issue, others would much prefer to stay at home and watch lectures digitally.

These students, along with many parents, are hoping that schools would offer them that option. Schools are doing what they can to make the upcoming school year feel normal — but when did “normal” begin to feel synonymous with “dangerous”?
Rustam Sengupta

Rustam Sengupta is a serial entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience in creating products and organizations that he believes can change the world. His previous success story is with Boond – a company he established in 2009 – which set up solar power plants in some of the remotest places in Africa and Asia. He was selected as one of the top 36 entrepreneurs who accompanied the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi as a part of his Start Up India delegation to the US in 2015. In addition to his role in impact investment advisory and deal structuring to start-ups, he has had wide experience in private banking and strategic consulting and has worked in agencies like Standard Chartered (in Singapore), Syngenta (in Switzerland) and Deloitte Consulting (in the US). He is now an investor and consultant for anyone with a bright idea or looking to make a difference.

Daniela Yi-Kikka

Head of Product (Design)

Diverse experience in UX/UI design, quick prototyping and instrumental in helping companies shape their visual identity.

Abhay Sundaram

Senior Developer

With over 15 years of technology experience, ‘the head geek’ is instrumental in building the Tuktu platform.

Komal Makkad

Marketing Head (Services)

Marketing veteran with extensive experience in brand management and marketing strategy with global brands. She heads the marketing services for Tuktu.

Manuel Andaya - UX/UI Designer

A recent BCIT graduate and front-end specialist tasked with bringing Tuktu’s UI design to life.

Gloria Mo - Marketing Intern

A fourth-year Cognitive Systems major from the University of British Columbia, assisting with social media and sharing Tuktu’s mission with the world.

Fr. Babu Mathew - Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Vancouver

Muzda Stenner - Realtor, ReMax Realty

Ms. Komal Makkad, Marketing Head for the new company, said the staff at Tuktu are committed to helping shape the future of community care. Their communication efforts focus on building social capital that brings generations together. They want to ask the big questions, analyze the trends and spark collaboration!

In the Inuktitut language of the Inuit people living in the arctic regions of Canada, Tuktu means Caribou, a species of deer that is a significant part of the local people’s culture and spiritual relationships with the land. Tuktu is also one of Canada’s iconic species that reminds us why communities matter.

At Tuktu Care, Ms. Makkad said in a recent e-mail interview, “Our guiding principles aim to simplify the lives of seniors, by ensuring safe, flexible, and affordable care, so that they can continue to live independent, fulfilling lives.

“We strive to provide a supportive, community-driven online platform, matching seniors with people from their community who want to provide everyday services and companionship.

“By enabling synergistic relationships between seniors and the community at large, we hope to build elevated communities for care – because in Canada, we care!”

TUKTU continued on Page 4

Apply to be part of the new UNA Land Use Advisory Committee

The UNA Board of Directors is establishing a Land Use Advisory Committee to serve as an advisory committee to the Board regarding land use planning and development on the UBC Campus, as well as to act as a forum to facilitate discussions on land use planning and development with residents.

Apply to be part of this committee by visiting: bit.ly/1uoscommittee
Students Send UBC Stiff Note Concerning Safe Return to Campus

Signatories of the letter are Cole Evans, President, Alma Mater Society, Eshana Banghu, VP Academic and University Affairs, Alma Mater Society.

On behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC, we are writing in regards to the health, safety, and well-being of the UBC Community as we return to campus this fall. On July 21, 2021, the AMS Council unanimously passed a motion to call on the University of British Columbia to do more to ensure the safety and security of members of the UBC Community by mandating vaccinations in student residences and mandating masks in lecture halls.

According to the AMS Return to Campus Survey, to which 7,933 UBC students (enrolled and incoming) responded, there is significant discomfort around the current messaging and measures being taken by the university. There is no doubt that the university is aligned with the Public Health Office (PHO). There is also no doubt that it is unacceptable for UBC, an institution that prides itself as a leader across the country, to only be doing the bare minimum in ensuring the safety and security of its students, staff, and faculty.

The student union, representing all 56,000+ undergraduate and graduate students, strongly believes that the University must do more than the bare minimum to ensure that we have a safe return to campus and that students feel comfortable attending UBC. The Alma Mater Society calls on the administration and the Board of Governors to address the concerns brought forth by the community through clear and comprehensive communication, mandating masks in lecture halls, and requiring vaccinations in student residences at UBC.

82% of students (with the knowledge that there are no mandatory vaccinations in Canada) would be in support of a policy to mandate vaccinations in student residences. As raised by us in previous correspondence, there is an increasing number of universities in North America that have mandated at least one dose of vaccination to be on campus, as well as to reside in student residences (with exemptions). It is disappointing to see UBC fall behind as other Canadian institutions take the lead in this arena and implement extra measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their respective communities.

UBC has shown exemplary leadership in the past by mandating masks on campus before the PHO mandate in 2020, and it is difficult to understand why the University is hesitant to show the kind of leadership that’s desired and needed by the community now. 60% of students have concerns about being exposed to CO-VID-19 in classrooms and lecture halls.

With thousands of students coming back to campus who will be seated in packed lecture halls alongside hundreds of students, we ask that the University implement measures in those high-risk areas. This could be through a mask mandate in lecture halls, or other measures that the University deems will truly address the concerns of the UBC community.

UBC students are looking to their University’s leadership to go beyond the bare minimum by taking the extra measures of mandating vaccinations in student residences, mandating masks in lecture halls, and clearly addressing community concerns to ensure the place students call home feels safe enough to be their home. The reverberant message of the students we represent can no longer be ignored or dismissed by the University as it has been so far – this is an opportunity to demonstrate to students that the University’s leadership is genuine in their efforts to listen to and work for students.
Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Team at UBC Takes Steps to Ensure We Can Breathe Easy

Over the past 18 months, learning, research, and work at UBC has been taking place remotely wherever possible.

But one group of people has diligently stayed on campus to keep infrastructure humming: the team responsible for ensuring that heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems function properly.

Now, as UBC prepares for a return to on-campus learning and instruction, these essential workers are doubling their efforts to ensure university spaces meet or exceed guidelines set out by WorkSafeBC, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Their efforts are also being guided by the university’s COVID-19 HVAC working group to support the health and safety of the UBC community, which brought together professional engineers and building mechanical systems experts from UBC Facilities and Safety & Risk Services in UBC Vancouver, as well as Health, Safety and Environment from UBC Okanagan, and faculty members from the school of population and public health's occupation and environmental health division.

“That committee, which was well represented by both campuses, came up with some specific recommendations to get UBC campuses ready,” explains Adrian Hingston, associate director of health, safety and environment at UBC Okanagan.

“One recommendation, consistent with the BC CDC recommendations, was to bring in outdoor air where possible, and to make sure systems are operating as designed,” says Hingston. “ASHRAE also recommended after-hour building flushing to get fresh air through the buildings and they also recommended moving to a minimum MERV—minimum efficiency reporting value—13 filter.”

What this means, in practice, is that every air filter in the university is being audited and replaced as necessary over the summer months.

“Historically, we would just follow the same guidelines as we always would, and change things out according to each unit’s maintenance schedule. Now, we have to do everything within two months, to make sure it’s all at a base starting point,” says Shaun Macdonald, head millwright with UBC Facilities’ Buildings Operations in Vancouver.

“We want to be in the best possible shape for September 7,” adds Martin Gibbs, manager of engineering and utility services, Facilities Management, at UBC Okanagan.

“Typically, we don’t go in and blitz all the buildings as we are doing this year, because if we do them all around the same time they all come due at once,” Gibbs says.

On the Vancouver campus, there is the additional challenge of ventilating older buildings that do not have HVAC systems.

“We’re looking at purchasing portable air filters and fans for spaces that don’t have mechanical ventilation,” says Stephen Li, mechanical engineer in Buildings Operations, UBC Vancouver, who is busy working through a list of hundreds of spaces that UBC Safety & Risk Services has flagged for review in the run-up to September.

The work is a bit of a juggler’s act, he says.

“What are the priorities? How do we handle it? Do we put in electric heat, or would that overload the electrical supply? How much electrical supply do we need that will allow us to install those portable fans and filters? How many fans do we need to bring in the right amount of outdoor air to be code compliant?” says Li. “Those are all questions that I have to answer.”

All of this is occurring on top of the regular daily task of responding to calls. “We still have work orders coming in from spaces that are being occupied right now,” notes Li.

With about 900 spaces being assessed for upgrades at UBC Vancouver, and 24 buildings at UBC Okanagan being outfitted with minimum MERV 13 filters, it’s a large task by any measure.

But it’s one that the operations teams are pleased to be taking on.

“The campus after March 2020 felt so eerie,” says Li. “But that is not the case anymore. People are coming back to campus, and we are pleased to be taking on this challenge.”

Shawn Kenney (left) and William Guest (right) from UBC Vancouver changing the MERV 13 air filters in an air handler unit located in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building. Photo credit: UBC

For the first time, their vulnerability made us scared and worried for them. Thankfully after many scares, they are now managing their life and looking forward to 2021. We also met a lot of nice people this year (many virtually) and started unique relationships that we hope to cherish in future.

Professionally, climate change and clean-tech continue to play a vital role in my career. Additionally, I have also started getting excited about the senior care space and innovation opportunities in home-based community care. 2021 is poised to be an interesting year, and I hope we can stay in the present and rethink how we plan to live our lives. I hope we can prioritize what is real and build empathy and kindness for others and ourselves. Most importantly, I pray that we unite as a human race and stay grounded and resilient.

Thank you all for being a part of my life - I realize that I am connected to you much more than I understood before and even though we may be physically isolated, what I have learnt from you is the biggest treasure I possess.

Shawn Kenney (left) and William Guest (right) from UBC Vancouver changing the MERV 13 air filters in an air handler unit located in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Building. Photo credit: UBC

Further information can be found at www.facilities.ubc.ca/covid-19/building-ventilation-safety-measures/
Preparing for the Fall Term

In just a few short weeks, we will begin the new academic year. I know that many members of the UBC community have concerns about the return to campus. I have heard directly from many people, as well as from the AMS, the Faculty Association, elected Governors and others.

I am grateful for all the suggestions, and I understand and value people’s concerns.

I and my team have shared their suggestions and concerns with the UBC Executive, with the COVID planning teams at UBC and with provincial officials through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.

I have been in regular communication with the Chair of the UBC Board of Governors about the return to campus, and I have had discussions with the full Board.

Together with public health officials, we continue to monitor key COVID-19 metrics such as case numbers, hospitalization rates and progress with vaccinations. We are working with the local and provincial health authorities to deliver vaccinations on campus and via mobile units, continue and potentially expand rapid antigen testing on campus, and test and ensure robust and industry standard ventilation in learning spaces.

We have developed detailed safety plans for every space on both campuses and other UBC locations. Each of these involves a careful risk assessment vetted by WorkSafe BC and the relevant government ministries. We continue to partner with government to facilitate the safe arrival of international students and to provide them with testing/quarantine and vaccinations upon arrival.

As you know, case numbers have begun to rise recently, and the highly contagious Delta variant is becoming more prevalent. Because of this, I strongly recommend that all members of the UBC community are fully vaccinated, before returning to campus.

Recognizing that some members of the UBC community may still need to be vaccinated at the start of school, I strongly recommend all members of the community continue to wear masks indoors.

We will continue to partner with the public health officer and health authorities to care fully monitor COVID cases on campus. Risk assessments are being carried out on a real time basis and are informed by public health data. The Provincial Health Officer has the authority to issue additional public health measures such as mandatory masking, if required. In fact, this has already occurred in the Okanagan region, which includes UBC Okanagan, because of a renewed COVID outbreak there. We have purchased a significant supply of non-medical masks so that we are ready to implement a campus-wide strategy if advised by the PHO.

Changes to public health guidelines can only be issued by the province, and I will continue to keep the provincial government aware of concerns voiced by the UBC community.

And we will update the community on any changes to public health guidelines that may arise in the future.

Working together will be the best way that we can ensure a safe start to the academic year. I look forward to seeing you on campus.

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

B.C. Coroners Service Reports June Heat Wave Killed 569 People

The B.C. Coroners Service has confirmed that 569 people died as a result of the extreme heat wave that hit the province at the end of June.

The final tally is a 300 per cent increase over the number of deaths that had been reported to the B.C. Coroners Service during the same period in previous years.

- Seventy-nine per cent of those who died were 65 or older.
- There were almost 900 heat stroke-related calls between June 24 and July 7, B.C. Emergency Health Services said.
- BCEHS responded to 104 heat stroke-related calls in Vancouver, the most of any region.
- Kamloops and Kelowna had the highest rate of heat stroke-related calls, with 29 and 28.8 calls per 100,000 people, respectively.

Jobs were posted Friday for 85 paramedics and 30 dispatchers to “meet this extraordinary demand for ambulance services,” Health Minister Adrian Dix said.

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What Really Goes On in a Hospital Emergency Department?

Medicine has changed in the two decades that Dr. Fred Voon has been a physician. The questions from his patients in the emergency department have remained the same, such questions as: *Why is the wait so long?* *Why did that person get seen ahead of me?* *Why do I have to tell you the same story I told the last person?*

Dr. Voon, a clinical assistant professor with UBC’s department of emergency medicine, tackles these questions and more in his new book, *Your Inside Guide to the Hospital Emergency Department—And How to Prevent Having to Go!* Republished from ubc.ca to receive a review copy. You can contact Erik Rolfsen at erik.rolfsen@ubc.ca to receive a review copy.

If somebody has to call 9-1-1, will they even have time to read this book? I hope they have time to read the book because that means it’s not imminently life-threatening! Some people might want to just keep it available on their shelf so they could take it with them if they ever did have to call the ambulance or end up in the emergency department.

Your Inside Guide to the Emergency Department—And How to Prevent Having to Go! is available at drvoon.ca. News media can contact Erik Rolfsen at erik.rolfsen@ubc.ca to receive a review copy.

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HEAT continued from Page 1

Issue 2: No central cooling system exists in many of the existing VGH residential buildings (with the possible exception of Oakwood Residences) forcing residents to install individual air conditioners in their units or suffer intolerably high temperatures.

Request 2: Provide information to residents about what, if any, solutions exist for updating existing buildings with central cooling systems. When possible, implement these solutions.

Issue 5: Residents are prohibited from adding shadings, awnings, light-reflective materials to windows, doors and balconies.

Request 5a: In the short term, (i.e., summer of 2021 or until the above issues are fully addressed), amend the Residential Tenancy Agreement item “Outside” to allow residents to temporarily install shadings, awnings, etc. to attempt to more passively cool their units.

Request 5b: Install light-and-heat shading fixtures over the balconies of each unit in a building.

List of Petitioners:
- Bridgette Clarkston, Webber House Resident
- Katie Marshall, Cypress House Resident
- Jenny Peterson, Webber House
- Neil Armitage, Webber House
- Julien Exeux, Magnolia House
- Kimberly Huyser, Dahlia House
- Sema Kalay, Mundell House
- Ryan Taylor, Mundell House
- Andrew Owen, Nobel House
- Lori Rozali, Webber House
- Ryan Bochnak, Mundell House
- Emily Cranston, Mundell House
- Lora Moon, Cascara House
- Olig Azzeddine Mundell House
- Caitlin Donnelly, Mundell House
- Karina Antonenko, Larkspur House
- Daniela Palombo, Mundell House
- Stephan Koenig, Webber House
- Cinda Heeren, Webber House

Bridgette Clarkston: Only with an AC unit running 24 hours a day could we keep one room of our apartment at 29 degrees. Adjacent room was 31.1 degrees Celsius with blinds drawn, window closed. I have an infant, I need to be able to keep my house at a livable temperature when it’s too hot to be outside. I felt trapped and very anxious during the Heat Dome. Public cooling centres are helpful but potentially risky for those (like infants) who can’t get a COVID-19 vaccine right now. And what about “regular” heat waves (like we’ve had in July and August)? My apartment hits 28-29 degrees in the evenings when it is mid to high 20s outside because our building holds in the heat.

Erica Jeffery: 30 + Celsius in adjacent room with no AC, fan off, black out curtain drawn.

Neil Armitage: All blinds drawn. Windows closed and then opened at night, temp would get to low of 31. Difficulty sleeping. Had to put our dog into a cool bath several times a day as she was showing evidence of heat exhaustion.

Andrew Owen: Fans, spray bottles, feet in cold bucket, compost in fridge, changed garbage daily, dog had to be cooled. Blinds closed when facing sun.

Anonymous Resident: Because balcony absorbs substantial heat from sun during day, opening windows along balcony in evening/night had minimal effect as balcony continued to radiate the heat absorbed earlier.

Katie Marshall: All blinds drawn, constant monitoring of outside temperature relative to interior. Jury-rigged swamp cooler had minimal effect. Slept with ice packs in bed when sleep was possible at all. Partner has medications that interfere with water balance and had substantial physical difficulties (severe nausea).

Sheila Teves: Dog had to be cooled down with ice packs.

One Letter Leads to Another

When Bridgette Clarkston—a faculty member at UBC—saw an article in the June issue of The Campus Resident related to the use of land, she found it very interesting.

“I thought I would share a related resident-initiated effort about climate change and our neighbourhoods,” Ms. Clarkston would say.

After the heat dome had subdued a little, Ms. Clarkston—an associate professor who teaches in the botany department—solicited details from Village Gate Homes tenants to document how unusable the buildings are in warm weather (even under regular summer conditions) and sent a letter of concerns to UBC leadership (letter is attached).

“I had a reply from leadership at UBC properties Trust with an offer to have a meeting — this is being scheduled for September.”

In an e-mail to the newspaper, she said, “I’m sending you this because I believe this is an issue of interest for many UNA and UBC residents and could be worth includ- ing in a future Campus Resident article.

“My initial letter was centered on VGH resi- dents because that’s where I live (Webber House in Wesbrook Village) I believe, how- ever, that the current climate-related plans for UBC are either not sufficient or aren’t going to be implemented soon enough.”

Dear UBC Leadership,

Please find attached a letter of concern signed by 19 residents from seven Village Gate Homes properties regarding increas- ingly uncomfortable — and during the re- cent heat dome, unbearable — summer temperatures in Faculty & Staff rental homes across UBC. We are very concerned that our housing and neighbourhood design are dangerously inadequate to meet the challenges of climate change.

We outline five specific issues related to this topic along with requests for immedi- ate and concrete action.

We also document temperatures and expe- riences from 20 different residential units for your consideration — these are linked as a spreadsheet in the letter.

We look forward to hearing your response and thank you for your time.

Statistics Submitted by Bridgette Clarkston

1. Names of Houses (Webber House, Noel House, Dahlia House, Cypress House, Mundell House, Magnolia House, Lark- spur House) Total 20 suites
2. Floors range 1-6
3. Facing Directions: East, West, North, South, Southwest, Southeast
4. Temperature Range in Celsius 29-34.5 degrees
5. Cooling devices: Air Conditioning (AC) =2, Fans=16, Other Cooling De- vices=10
6. Common complaints: 3 month old baby in hot suite, baby overheated, too hot to sleep, pets overheated, due to pre- existing medical condition (asthma) went to Emergency, forced to stay at hotel

Comments from Residents During the June 2021 Heat Dome

A thermostat reading of 31.1 degrees Celsius in an apartment at UBC/CUNA at 9:00 p.m. during the infamous Heat Dome of June 2021. Even though the apartment had Air Conditioning, it could only cool one room.

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Aisha Asma Houfian: June 27th night was absolutely awful, although I’m North African and used to extreme heat. What helped me sleep is taking a cold shower right before going to bed, but I woke up around 4 am and couldn’t stand the heat. I laid on the balcony for an hour or so, and surprisingly the breeze was a really nice and fresh 24°C, but the temperature inside the apartment remained the same.

Ryan Bochnak: We moved to a hotel for three nights, our 2-year-old developed a heat rash, the unit does not cool down at night because it is not possible to open windows more than a crack.

Emily Cranston: The apartment is always warm despite being east-facing (typically 3-10 degree warmer inside than outside) - during the heat wave we had to move to a hotel because of health concerns for our 8-month-old and we had to take the cat to the vet for medical treatment and rehydration.

Karina Antonenko: Keep windows, blinds and curtains closed during the heat, then use fans in the evening & night to pull it cooler air. During the day use the fans and evaporative cooler inside. Even with all that it was impossibly hot, too hot to sleep. Had to use cool baths for hours at a time when I started to feel too overheated and dizzy.
Resolving Parking Disputes Proves Easier with New Website

No need to go to court; just log on and process online

University Neighbourhoods residents and other British Columbians now have access to a new website to help them better understand and resolve violation ticket disputes faster and without always having to go to court. The system became effective from Thursday, July 8, 2021.

“We know that integrating technology into our justice system has significant benefits, making it easier and more efficient for people to interact with the courts,” said David Eby, Attorney General.

“This new tool will consolidate existing information into one place, helping British Columbians to learn about and resolve their ticket issues without always having to go to court. It is another step forward as we work to update B.C.’s justice system to better support the needs of people.”

British Columbians can find more information online and access the new site.

The web-based tool uses plain language and simple questions to guide users to relevant information and resources to help resolve their ticketing issue themselves. The site provides details about:
• how to pay and dispute tickets;
• how to request a fine reduction or time to pay; and
• other ticket-related information, depending on the individual’s needs.

The site will provide information about provincial violation tickets, including tickets related to the Motor Vehicle Act such as speeding or red-light violations and driving without insurance. British Columbians will also find information about tickets issued for offences under municipal or federal laws, such as operating without a business licence or fishing without a licence.

“The Provincial Court welcomes this new online resource for people to obtain information about their traffic and other violation tickets, and the steps they can take to deal with them,” said Melissa Gillespie, chief judge of the Provincial Court. “Our website metrics show there’s a high interest in this information, and the ‘guided pathways’ in this tool will help people find specific information about their type of ticket quickly and easily.”

This project is part of a broader commitment to modernize the justice system and make it easier for British Columbians to access justice.

Quick Fact: Every year, more than 500,000 violation tickets are issued in B.C., with about 80,000 ticket disputes scheduled for hearing at the B.C. Provincial Court.

Learn More: To find more information about paying or disputing a violation ticket, visit tickets.gov.bc.ca. For information about traffic, ticket and bylaw cases at the Provincial Court, visit provincialcourt.bc.ca/types-of-cases/traffic-and-bylaw-matters.

WILDFIRES continued from Page 3

How can people stay healthy during fire season?

First and foremost, you should try to stay as far away from wildfire smoke as possible. During smoky days stay indoors if possible, close windows and maintain a cool comfortable environment. Reduce your level of activity and avoid outdoor exercise during smoky periods.

If you have an air conditioner in your home or car, use the recirculation mode so you draw in less air from the outside and consider installing higher quality filters. Purchase a portable air cleaner and use it in rooms where you can close the door and windows.

Does yearly exposure to wildfire smoke produce negative health effects over time?

If people are exposed every year to high levels of smoke from wildfires, the risk of a cumulative negative impact on health will likely increase. And while Canadians deal with the effects of local fires, we must remember that we’ll also feel the effects of smoke from fires in other parts of the continent.

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2021 FALL

PROGRAM GUIDE

The Old Barn & Wesbrook Community Centres

Registration is now open!

Register early to secure your spot, at myuna.ca/recreation

BECOME A UNA SOCIETY MEMBER TODAY

Participate in Elections and General Meetings

A UNA Society Membership entitles eligible residents to participate at UNA general meetings and to vote and run in the UNA Board of Director Elections.

You can verify and manage your membership online through your UNA Account or in-person at the Wesbrook Community Centre or the Old Barn Community Centre.

Visit myuna.ca/society for more information.

* Membership is not automatic when you sign up for a UNA Account or UNA Card – residents must sign up and proof of address is required.

The homepage of the new BC Provincial Court online ticket information and payment system.