

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

### Working Together We Will Meet the Challenges We Face

In a Letter to the University Community, UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Santa J. Ono says:

*"The COVID-19 crisis has created a challenge that none of us could imagine even several weeks ago. There are many issues that we are all currently dealing with as a university, as a region, as a nation and globally..."*

*"I have heard from many of you and know that this is a stressful situation. I encourage all of you to look after yourselves and to be mindful of the well-being of others as we navigate these uncharted waters. This is a time where we must come together as a*

*caring and empathetic community. Please be assured that I have asked everyone to focus on empathy, compassion and flexibility during this difficult time as we consider decisions moving forward..."*

*"I know that there are many unanswered questions and new ones that will arise in the future. We are actively considering these issues and will endeavour to communicate decisions as they are made, following consultation with appropriate provincial and federal government officials..."*

*"I have absolute confidence that working together we will meet the challenges that we face."*

## Hampton Place Resident Joins the UNA Board of Directors

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

Bill Holmes, a well-known Hampton Place resident who has volunteered countless hours to issues facing the University Neighbourhoods, has joined the UNA Board of Directors following the resignation of Director Matthew Delumpa. His first appearance was at the March 17 Board meeting that took place by video conference.

UNA bylaw 5.10 allows Directors to appoint a UNA member to fill a vacancy on the Board, and the Board appointed Bill to serve as Director up to the time of the next UNA election which will take place in the fall of 2020.

The Board also revoked the appointment

of Murray McCutcheon as Board Secretary and appointed Bill as Board Secretary.

Bill is a long-time resident of Hampton Place, having lived in the neighbourhood since 2001. He is a retired income tax lawyer. Before becoming a lawyer, he was an actuary.

Bill has been involved with the UNA since 2012. His involvement began as a resource person for the UNA committee established to look into the water and sewer rates that UBC was charging stratas.

In 2015, he served as a member of the UNA Elections Advisory Committee, whose mandate was to consider reforms to the UNA election policies and procedures.

**DIRECTOR continued on Page 2**



Bill Holmes riding across Great Britain (969 miles in 9 days)

## PROTECTIVE PRINTING PROCEDURES IN PLACE

### The Campus Resident Was Produced with Care Regarding Transmission of COVID-19.

Web Express Printing & Mailing is the proud printer of over 100 newspapers and magazines.

Web Express is committed to providing safety for employees, publishers and their readers to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We have undertaken numerous disinfecting measures like crew separation and equipment wipe down. We have also limited entry from delivery people and customers to increase social distance. We reassure readers the manufacturing process requires very little touch from our staff.



[www.intwebexpress.com](http://www.intwebexpress.com)

## UNA and UBC Take Measures to Ensure Community Safety

### READ THE LATEST UPDATES

[www.myuna.ca/covid-19-information/](http://www.myuna.ca/covid-19-information/)

<https://covid19.ubc.ca/>

#### Facilities Closed

**Wesbrook Community Centre**  
(3335 Webber Lane)  
Closed until further notice

**Old Barn Community Centre**  
(6308 Thunderbird Blvd.)  
Closed until further notice

**UNA Main Office**  
(5923 Berton Ave.)  
Closed until further notice

#### Services Suspended

- Parking permit renewals (parking permit expiry date will be extended until further notice)
- Parking enforcement will be limited to essential services (accessible zones, car-share zones, no-parking zones, fire lanes, bus stops, loading zones)
- All fitness passes
- All spring break camps
- All room bookings
- All events for April, including Easter at the Barn and Earth Day
- All remaining winter programs and classes, including drop-in programs (Spring programming will be assessed in the coming days.)

#### Playgrounds Closed

**Wesbrook Place**  
Nobel Park playground  
Michael Smith Park playground  
Mundell Park playground  
Khorana Park playground

**Hawthorn Place**  
Jim Taylor Park playground  
Larkin Drive playground  
Eagles Park playground

**East Campus**  
East Campus playground

**Chancellor Place**  
Iona Green Park playground  
St Andrews Hall playground

*All playgrounds are closed until further notice*

#### Fields Open

**No Bookings Required**

**Community Field**  
(Ross Drive / Berton Avenue)  
and  
**Nobel Softball Diamond**  
(3055 Wesbrook Mall)

# UNA Board Backs Final Draft of Bylaws

*Several motions related to UNA Bylaws were passed at Board meeting March 17; final draft of bylaws will be placed before UNA members for full approval likely in the fall*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

At its open meeting on March 17, the UNA Board approved several motions relating to the project to revise the UNA Constitution and Bylaws.

The outcome of this meeting was nothing short of “terrific” in the opinion of Richard Watson, Elected Resident Director and Chair of the UNA Board.

Mr. Watson, a Hawthorn Place resident, made the comment moments after the UNA Board approved the motions which will be submitted for vote to UNA members later this year.

The Board voted as follows: the two UBC Appointed Directors (Carole Jolly and Tor Album) and the Alma Mater Society (AMS) Appointed Director (Christina Initchi) abstained; four Resident Elected Directors (Mr. Watson, Jane Kang, Bill Holmes, Terry Muller) voted in favour. Elected Resident Director Murray McCutcheon was absent at the meeting held by video conference.

The motions are posted on page 2 of the Agenda package for the meeting available

on the UNA website. All motions were approved except the last one, which was moved to the closed meeting for consideration.

The process for revising the UNA Constitution and Bylaws involves 3 documents, which are currently at the proposal stage:

- Revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws
- Revised Neighbours’ Agreement between the UNA and UBC
- UNA-AMS Memorandum of Agreement

### Revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws

In order for the revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws to take effect, they must be approved – in a general meeting of UNA members – by three-quarters of the members who vote (in person or by proxy).

### Revised Neighbours’ Agreement

At its March 17 meeting, the UNA Board approved the following motion: *Moved that the Board approve for a vote by UNA members the UNA Constitution and Bylaws, version 7a, subject to the condition precedent that UBC unconditionally agrees to enter into the Neighbours’ Agreement 2020, version 17.*

A Resident Director explained to *The Campus Resident* that the approval of this motion means that the UNA Board has agreed to submit the revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws to a vote of members, but only once the UBC Board of Governors has agreed that UBC will enter into Neighbours’ Agreement 2020.

The reasons for this condition are the following:

- One of the changes made in the revised Bylaws is the elimination of the Appointed Director positions. The current Bylaws provide for UBC to appoint two directors to the UNA Board and the AMS to appoint one director. Critics of the current UNA governance system have long argued that the presence of Appointed Directors is anti-democratic – depriving residents of their full political rights.

- The current Neighbours’ Agreement 2015 between the UNA and UBC requires that UBC be permitted to appoint two directors to the UNA Board.

- Neighbours Agreement 2020, which would replace the current Neighbours Agreement, does not contain this requirement. Once the UNA has assurance that UBC will enter into Neighbours Agreement 2020, the revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws can be adopted without violating the agreement between the UNA and UBC.

It is unlikely that the Board of Governors will consider Neighbours’ Agreement 2020 at its April meeting. Thus, it may not be known until June whether the Board of Governors will agree to the revised agreement.

If the Board of Governors agrees to Neighbours’ Agreement 2020 and UNA mem-

bers approve the revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws, UBC and the UNA will then sign Neighbours’ Agreement 2020, bringing it into force.

### The UNA-AMS Memorandum of Agreement

The UNA-AMS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is included in the process because of the concern expressed by the AMS regarding the proposed elimination of its right to appoint a director to the UNA Board. The MOA is the result of discussions between UNA and AMS representatives, and is based on six propositions endorsed by the UNA Board in November 2019. It is intended to facilitate and enhance the ability of the two organizations to work together on matters of mutual interest.

At its March 17 meeting, the UNA Board approved a motion to enter into the MOA, subject to the condition that UNA members approve the revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws.

The AMS has not yet indicated whether it is willing to enter into the MOA.

The revised UNA Constitution and Bylaws and the UNA-AMS Memorandum of Agreement are available in the Agenda package for the open UNA Board meeting.

## DIRECTOR continued from Page 1

In 2017, Bill served on the first Bylaw Review Committee established to consider substantive amendments to the UNA Bylaws. In conjunction with his role on the committee, he worked closely with the UNA’s lawyer on the drafting of the revisions to the bylaws.

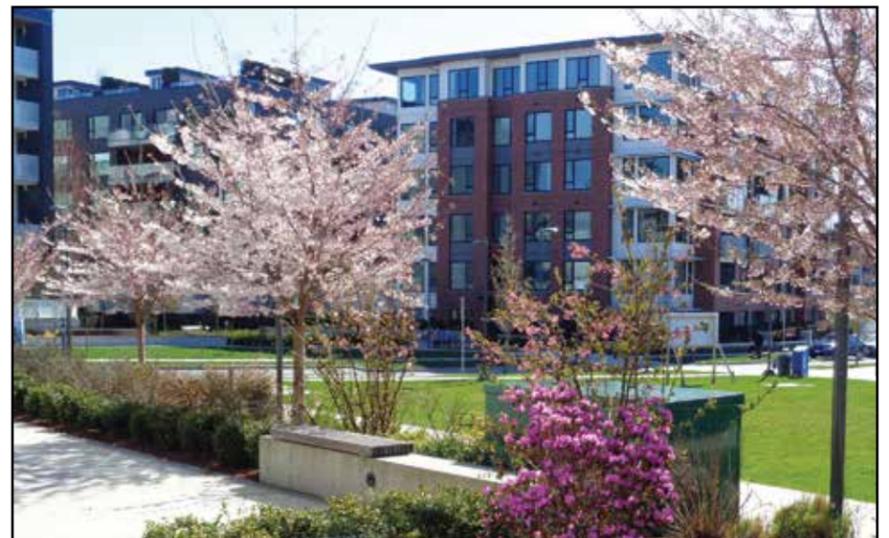
Bill is a member of the current bylaw committee (called Working Group) that has developed a final version of the proposed UNA bylaws. In addition, he is a member of the UNA Negotiating Committee charged with negotiating amendments to the Neighbours’ Agreement between the UNA and UBC.

From 2016 to 2018, Bill led a small group of residents that fought to have our community taxed fairly by the provincial government. The impetus for the formation of this group was the introduction of the fire service charge which – in conjunction with the rural property tax – imposes an unreasonable tax burden on residents of the UBC Neighbourhoods.

From 2012 to 2018, Bill served as the Alternate to Maria Harris, the Electoral Area Director for Metro Vancouver. In this capacity, Bill participated in numerous meetings of the Metro Vancouver Board and the TransLink Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation.



Bill Holmes hiking in the Swiss Alps



Spring in University Neighbourhoods

# UNA Updates Privacy Policy and Appoints Privacy Officer

*Privacy Policy describes the principles applied by the UNA when protecting community member personal information in its custody or control*

to provide a solid platform that can support any kind of information sharing agreement with external organizations. It presents an operational impasse, and it is a significant hurdle that prevents the UNA from providing more streamlined services to the residents,” said the UNA executive.

The Privacy Policy which governs the UNA position on its protection and use of personal information has grown out of date. It has not been updated since June 2007.

“This update will set a robust privacy policy to ensure the accuracy, confidentiality and security of personal information. It also includes a step by step response plan during a privacy breach situation.

In a memo to UNA Directors at their March 17 meeting, Wegland Sit – Interim Co-Executive Director and Operations Manager of the UNA – said that provincial and federal legislation was recently revised, and the language of the UNA Privacy Policy is now inadequate.

“The update will lay the foundational work to align our Privacy Policy with external organizations like ICBC. It plays a key role in modernizing the UNA online services going forward.”

The Board approved the up-to-date UNA Community Privacy Policy and appointed Mr. Sit as UNA Privacy Officer.

“This (current) policy is not robust enough

# THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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## The UNA Community Gardens: We Invite Residents to Rediscover This Community Space

*University Neighbourhoods Association Staff*

Spring has officially sprung! Hundreds of community gardeners in our neighbourhoods are gearing up for the planting season now that the last bits of frost have melted, keen to get some of their initial seeds into the ground at one of the four UNA community gardens which reopened March 15.

In our community, we have 180 community gardening plots that are part of the Rhodo, Hawthorn and Nobel Gardens, which 360 growers share. We also have the Old Barn Children’s Garden where our youngest growers are no doubt eager to get their hands into the dirt to sow seeds and later marvel at what grows above and below the soil.

Each of these greenspaces is supported by a volunteer Garden Committee, which is comprised of a few local gardeners. These individuals connect with fellow growers during active planting season, deepening the interaction between the community of gardeners and also encouraging an overall compliance to each of the garden’s guidelines.

These Committees are most active during the planting and harvesting season – from mid-March to mid-October. During last year’s horticulture season, the UNA worked with the Garden Committees to facilitate a series of onsite gardening-related workshops, celebrations and collaborations with other community partners.

At the Rhodo Community Garden, a temporary garden, we secured a two-year permit extension, which means that community members can continue to count on this greenspace for all of the health and wellbeing benefits they reap from being in the garden.



At the request of gardeners, we created communal spaces in our gardens where plants and resources are being shared, and growers are increasing their interactions with one another by using their newly installed message boards.

In previous months, there were many initiatives led by the UNA that were especially targeted to UNA gardeners:

- Mik Turje, of the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, gave gardeners tips on growing food in less than ideal spaces and led a session dedicated to orienting novice food growers with planting crops;
- gardeners improved their knowledge about managing pests with horticulturist and master gardener Kristin Crouch; and

- they experienced Richard and Jilian Scarth’s passion for building nests for mason bees, which led to the inclusion of a mason bee housing structure at Hawthorn Garden thanks to a collaboration with the UBC Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (SEEDS) Sustainability Program.

We hope to invite the community to join us in more activities in the coming seasons.

We welcome everyone to visit these community gardens – especially now that we have started the process of replanting. To those who haven’t visited in a while, consider wandering by; to those who may have never visited, come to discover what your neighbours are growing; and to those

who know these magical areas well, we hope you continue enjoying them.

The UNA community gardens are wonderful places to experience, particularly in the late spring and summer time when they’re in bloom. They are spaces where we can slow down for a few minutes to enjoy the restorative space and energy that living plants and growing vegetables provide.

In these extraordinary moments in which we’re living, it is possible that these gardens may provide you with some space to navigate the collective anxiety that we’re all feeling as we focus our efforts on keeping our communities and loved ones healthy.



# Climate Emergency Forum Starts UBC Community Engagement Process

*Forum is organized in response to UBC Declaration on Climate Emergency; public report outlining recommended actions will follow*

**John Tompkins**  
Editor

A forum on how UBC can best contribute to combatting the climate change emergency underway around the world praised the University for its efforts to date.

At the same time, it concluded more can be done.

According to one forum attendee, an example of what more can be done was “getting all UBC investment in oil and gas stocks off campus.”

Santa J. Ono, UBC President, addressed the forum and pointed to the significant effort UBC has taken to date.

“I especially want to compliment our students and faculty – indeed, students and universities around the world.”

“This is the first stage of what we need to do,” said the President.

Professor Ono spoke after the hundred or more people attending the forum had received a traditional Musqueam welcome from Musqueam Band member Morgan Guerin.

Walter Merida, Associate Dean, Research and Industrial Partnerships, UBC Engineering and Senior Faculty Advisor to the President, introduced a panel of four to the audience. As moderator of the forum, Professor Merida drew panelists out on a series of questions about climate change and the emergency it is provoking.

Panelist Christine Boyle, a Vancouver city councillor, said she was inspired by the work underway in Vancouver to combat climate change, and while complimenting UBC on its efforts, she also called for more to be done.

Panelist David R. Boyd, UBC Associate Professor of Law, Policy and Sustainability, spoke of the financial potential of investing in such climate-sensitive stocks as Tesla Motors.

Panelist Gregor Robertson, Global Ambassador of Mayors for Climate and former Vancouver mayor, said many buildings on campus have to be “decarbonized”. He referred to climate change as “a virus.”

Panelist Adriana Laurent, a UBC student and member of the UBC Climate Hub, spoke to the way in which the student-oriented Hub was approaching the climate emergency. “We believe UBC can help facilitate the transformational social change needed to address the climate crisis. Collectively, we can shape UBC’s climate emergency response,” she said.

The four-hour event was organized by UBC Campus and Community Planning in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre on campus.

Please read below Climate Emergency Update from UBC President Santa J. Ono.

## Climate Emergency Update

*In December 2019, UBC declared a Climate Emergency. At the time of the Declaration, I announced that I would establish a climate emergency community engagement process to provide the UBC community with opportunities to come together to consider the full scope of our impact and align UBC’s emissions reductions plans with 1.5oC; to embrace the need for a managed decline of fossil fuel use and a rapid and*

*just transition to a sustainable economy that also aligns with UNDRIP(United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; to infuse climate justice throughout our activities, priorities, and decision-making frameworks; and to support community coping and adaptation in the face of climate crisis.*

*Details on the community engagement process will be announced soon but the three pillars of the process include:*

- *Establishing a Climate Emergency Community Engagement Taskforce, which will oversee the community consultation process.*

- *Various opportunities for the UBC community to provide input and initiate action through conversations across campus, a resource website and a larger campus-wide town hall.*

- *A public report that defines the pillars of climate emergency and outlines recommended actions which emerged from the engagement process.*

*Since early January, a core working group has been assembled to oversee the execu-*

*tion of these pillars. The working group includes representation from the Climate Hub, Campus and Community Planning, UBC Communications, VP Students, VP Research and Innovation, VP Academic and the President’s Office.*

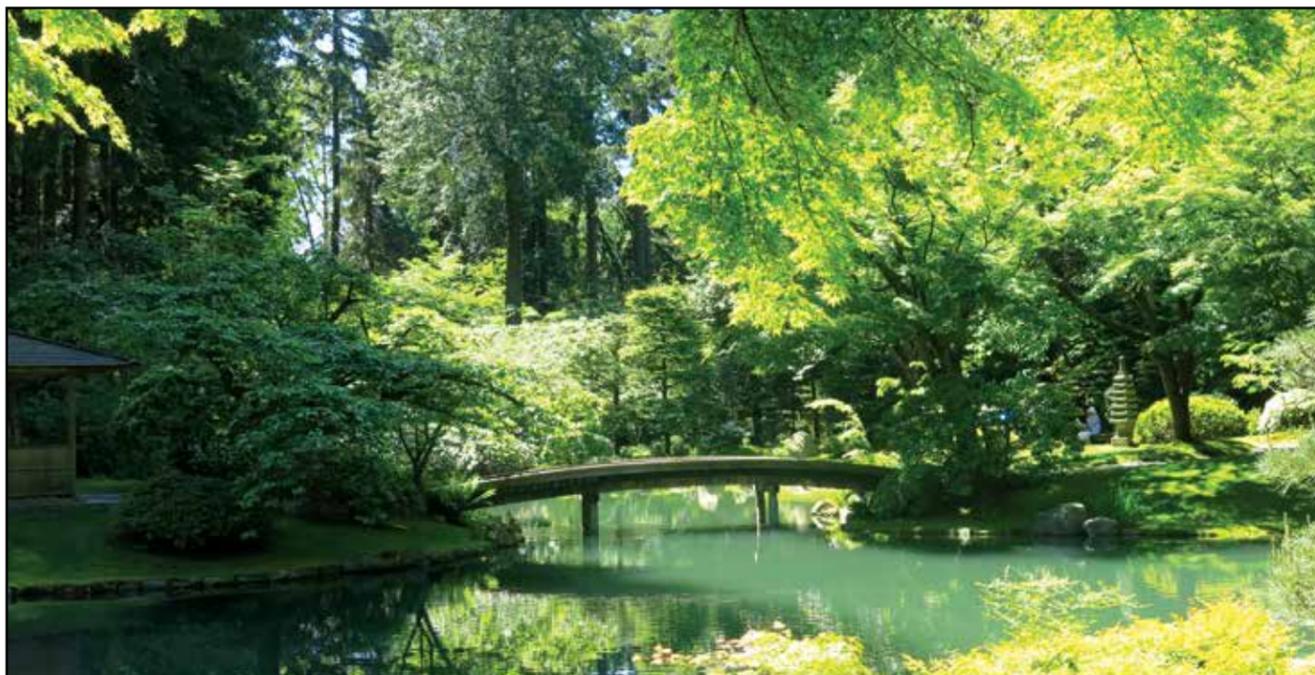
*Actions in progress include: recruitment of new Climate Hub staff to help lead the process; establishment of the Climate Emergency Community Engagement Taskforce; assembly of critical communications and engagement support across campus; and content creation for toolkits to support conversations within and across academic departments, campus communities, and staff units.*

*I’m pleased to note that the task force includes faculty, students, staff, representatives of the Board of Governors and the AMS. It will be co-chaired by Michelle Marcus from UBCc350 and Walter Merida, a Senior Advisor to the President and professor in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. I’d like to thank all the members for agreeing to serving on this important task force.*

*UBC President Santa J. Ono*



## UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden Temporarily Closed



Nitobe Memorial Garden. Photo credit UBC Botanical Garden.

In light of the evolving COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden are both temporarily closed to the public until further notice.

“This decision has been made with careful consideration, as we strive to be part of the local solution to this global situation,” says a notice on the website.

UBC Botanical Garden is Canada’s oldest university botanic garden, established in 1916. The total collection of approximately 120,000 accessioned plants represents some 6,000 taxa and includes significant collections of Magnolia, Acer (maples), Sorbus (mountain ash, Styracaceae (storax family), Rhododendron and climbing plants.

Nitobe Memorial Garden is considered one of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan. It was designed to create a reverence for and sense of harmony with nature.

## LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

## UBC: Among the Best in the World

The prestigious QS World University Subject Rankings have just been released and I'm proud to say that the University of British Columbia has shown a remarkable upward trajectory in the rankings over the past three years.

This upward trajectory – which has resulted in UBC placing in the top 25 universities globally in 13 subjects and in the top 50 in 36 subject areas in the QS rankings – comes at a time when many North American universities have been losing ground in international rankings. Our results are thanks to the hard work, talent and dedication of our research and teaching faculty, students, administrators and staff. This success would not have been possible without the investments made in UBC by government, and support from donors, alumni and friends of the university.

Over the past three years, we've moved up in the QS rankings in several areas. For example, we've risen from 34th to 25th in Computer Science, from 70th to 30th in Engineering & Technology, from 35th to 25th in the Arts & Humanities, from 18th to 9th in Education, and 42nd to 24th in Natural Sciences to take just a few examples. (A full list of all the areas in which UBC has improved is not possible because of changing criteria and categorization by QS over the past few years).

QS (Quacquarelli Symond) World University Rankings is one of the most respected university rankings in the world, along with Times Higher Education (THE) and the ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities). To produce the rankings, QS weighed academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper and H-index, which is based on the set of the academic's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications.

The full QS rankings are available here: <https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/>. They are broken down into five broad subject areas, and then into 48 specific subjects.

UBC placed either first or second in Canada and in the top 30 in the world in all five broad categories (last year's rankings are in brackets):

- Arts & Humanities: 25 (25)
- Engineering & Technology: 30 (42)
- Life Sciences & Medicine: 30 (31)
- Natural Sciences: 24 (26)
- Social Sciences & Management: 24 (29)

In individual subjects, we placed in the top 20 worldwide in the following subjects this year:

- Agriculture & Forestry: 14
- Anatomy & Physiology: 15
- Earth & Marine Sciences: 17
- Education: 9
- Engineering – Mineral & Mining: 9
- English Language & Literature: 17
- Environmental Sciences: 11
- Geography: 7
- Library & Information Management: 1
- Linguistics: 19
- Pharmacy & Pharmacology: 18
- Psychology: 13

- Sports-related Subjects: 2

It's not only in the QS rankings that UBC does well. All three of the major ranking bodies consistently place UBC among the best universities in the world. In the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings, for example, we placed 34th in the world (2nd in Canada) and 19th among public universities in the most recent survey. THE also ranked us as the most international university in North America and among the top three universities in the world for making a global impact. (Read more about UBC's rankings here: <https://www.ubc.ca/about/our-place.html>.)

Rankings are of course open to interpretation and are to some extent arbitrary and subjective. Even so, our consistent placement among the top universities in the world in all three rankings shows that the University of British Columbia is one of the world's great universities.

I'm proud of UBC. I hope you are too.

Best wishes

**Santa J. Ono**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



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



**UBC Koerner Library and Ponderosa complex at sunset. Vancouver Island at the background.**  
Photo credit Don Erhardt, UBC.



**UBC Ridington Reading Room.**  
Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.

# Helping Save Lives: UBC Researchers Receive Federal Grants to Develop Treatments and Prevent Coronavirus Spread

Yue Qian, an assistant professor in the UBC department of sociology, could only look on, feeling helpless, as coronavirus ravaged her home city of Wuhan in China – the epicentre of an outbreak that has killed more than 3,000 people and infected more than 90,000 globally.

“When the quarantine was first issued, I was so worried,” says Qian. “I was desperately trying to connect with my family in Wuhan to make sure they were OK. Watching from afar has been really hard.”

In March, Qian was announced as one of the UBC researchers – along with Dr. Richard Lester, Dr. Srinivas Murthy, Natalie Prystajecy and Dr. Mel Krajden – who are the principal investigators of teams collectively receiving more than \$2.8 million in grants from the federal government to study coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The funding is focused on accelerating the development, testing and implementation of measures to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The federal government is providing the funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Canada Research Coordinating Committee through the New Frontiers in Research Fund, the International Development Research Centre, and Genome Canada.

“The outbreak of COVID-19 represents a significant issue for public health in Canada and around the world,” says Gail Murphy, vice-president, research and innovation at UBC. “Thanks to this generous funding from the Canadian government, UBC researchers can bring multi-faceted approaches to gaining a deeper understanding of this outbreak and help to develop treatments and prevent its spread.”

## Studying Human Experiences and Mental Health Consequences of Quarantine

While Yue Qian’s family members have not been infected, she says some friends’ family members were less fortunate, with many being hospitalized and some dying from COVID-19.

Qian and her team, which includes co-investigator and UBC sociologist Amy Hanser, are receiving \$400,468 for their proposed project to study the human experiences and mental health consequences of quarantine.



Yue Qian

“Getting this funding means a lot to me because I get to conduct research that I care deeply about,” says Qian. “I feel that this is the least I can do to help people in my hometown who are suffering a lot right now.”

While she is still in the process of setting up her study, Qian says she has already noticed a common theme during phone conversations with family and friends back home.

“I’ve learned that people are incredibly resilient and that everyone has their own way of coping when they are faced with a difficult situation,” she says. “It’s important for us as social scientists to be able to understand their experiences. I hope my research can contribute in this way.”

## Researching an App for Providing Care to Patients in Isolation

Dr. Richard Lester, a physician and associate professor in global health at UBC, is leading research to determine the potential for a mobile virtual health care app, called WelTel, to help people who are self-isolating to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Lester and his team – which includes co-investigator Giuseppe Carenini, professor in the UBC department of computer science – are receiving \$500,000 from CIHR to deploy the app, which has already been successfully used in Kenya helping HIV patients adhere to their antiretroviral therapy to achieve undetectable levels of the virus and prevent the spread of HIV.

“Now we have an opportunity to show how WelTel can help stop the spread of COVID-19 through supporting patients who are self-isolating at home,” says Lester.

## Developing Clinical Guidelines to Treat Infected Patients

Dr. Srinivas Murthy, clinical associate professor in the UBC department of pediatrics and investigator and pediatrician at BC Children’s Hospital, is leading a national study of hospitalized patients with confirmed COVID-19.

His team – which includes Manish Sadarangani, assistant professor in the UBC department of pediatrics and investigator at BC Children’s Hospital – received \$954,936 to conduct research on how best to treat the disease. The team is also working to develop formal treatment guidelines for the World Health Organization.

Historically, when an outbreak occurs, the research has primarily focused on the medical and biomedical response, and less so on the social sciences – including the fear, racism and misinformation that can spread.

With COVID-19, we’re seeing a tremendous interest in not just accelerating the basic science work but advancing the social sciences and policy research too. This is a positive step forward and will help to strengthen the global response.

*Dr. Srinivas Murthy, UBC, who was among the international experts convened at the World Health Organization’s headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, to strategize how to combat the novel coronavirus outbreak.*

“It may sound rudimentary, but we still do not know who gets sick and why an individual may become sicker,” he says. “It’s important to gain a deeper understanding of COVID-19 in order to help infected Canadians and people around the world.”

Murthy is also co-investigator on several other projects led by researchers across Canada who also received CIHR funding to study COVID-19.



Dr. Srinivas Murthy

## Trying to Answer the Unknowns of COVID-19

A team of researchers from UBC, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Simon Fraser University is receiving \$1 million from CIHR, in addition to \$150,000 they received last month from Genome BC.

The team – co-led by Natalie Prystajecy, clinical assistant professor in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine at UBC, and Dr. Mel Krajden, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at UBC and medical director of the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory – is also trying to answer the many unknowns about COVID-19.

“There are many unanswered questions about COVID-19,” says Prystajecy, who is also the program head for the environmental microbiology program and the molecular microbiology and genomics program at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory. “For us, being on the frontlines of the response, it is incredibly important to try to fill in some of these knowledge gaps.”

## Collaborating with Researchers Across Canada

A number of UBC researchers are also contributing to additional COVID-19 projects across Canada that also received CIHR funding.

UBC’s Josef Penninger, director of the Life Sciences Institute and Canada 150 Chair

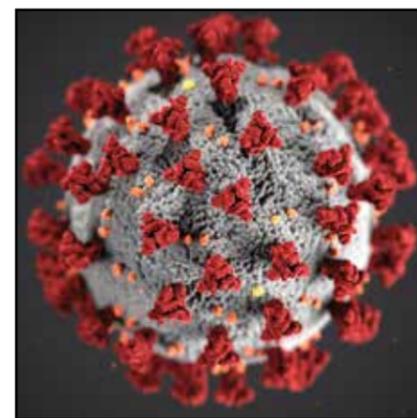
Functional Genetics, is also co-principal investigator of an international research team led by Dr. Haibo Zhang at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, that received \$1 million from CIHR to perform a clinical trial on patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Francois Jean, associate professor in the UBC department of microbiology and immunology, is co-principal investigator of a project led by Dr. Richard Leduc at the Université de Sherbrooke, which received \$856,000 from CIHR. Their research team is developing new anti-viral host enzymes, which have contributed to the spread of a number of serious human viruses including the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease.

Julie Bettinger, associate professor in the division of pediatric infectious disease at UBC and investigator at the Vaccine Evaluation Centre at BC Children’s Hospital, is principal investigator of a project led by Dr. Scott Halperin at Dalhousie University that received \$499,904. The project will examine the cultural dimensions of COVID-19, such as how individuals and community understand and react to the disease. The data will be used to improve the process by which public health policies are created and implemented.

The CIHR funding will support the researchers’ work over the next two years. Research findings and data produced as a result of the funding will be shared rapidly and openly to inform the global public health response and to help save lives.

Source: UBC News



This illustration of coronaviruses was created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A novel coronavirus was identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China in 2019. The illness caused by this virus has been named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Photo by CDC on Unsplash.

# Community Spirit Remains Strong in Point Grey Fiesta Summer Festival Cancelled, Will Be Back in 2021

Dear Fiesta Friends,

It will likely come as no surprise to you that Fiesta 2020, your community's annual start-of-summer celebration since 1986, has been cancelled. This is in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the evolving Canadian government health-care directives on public gatherings.

This decision was made in discussion with the West Point Grey Community Centre and Point Grey Village Business Associations.

As you know, the Point Grey Fiesta is a vibrant community event that brings together 10,000+ community members and organisations each year for a unique celebration and carnival. Saturday in Trim-

ble Park features stage performances, arts and culture groups and exhibitors. The family favourite – the weekend carnival – is a major attraction, especially the Sunday Father's Day Special.

The involvement of our entire community: businesses, community members and performance/arts and culture groups, is the backbone that has supported Fiesta

for the past 35 years. We will be taking this unexpected hiatus to refresh and re-energize. It is inevitable that after this crisis has passed, our community will relish the prospect of being able to celebrate together once again next year.

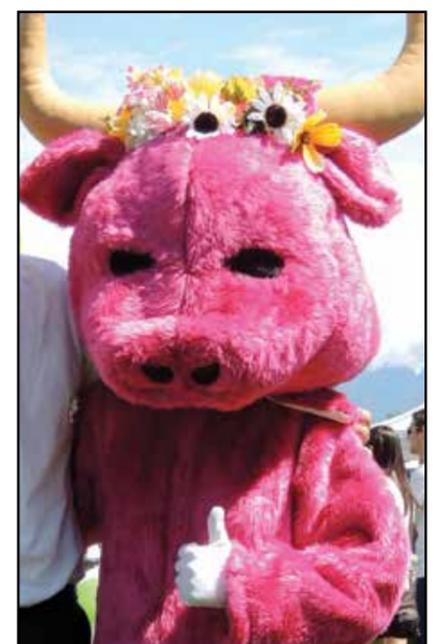
Fiesta 2021 will demonstrate that we are a remarkable community. We will have met the challenges thrown at us and shown that our community spirit remains strong.

Be part of Fiesta next year from June 18-20, 2021. Mark these days in your calendar!

With sincere best wishes from the Fiesta Family to you and yours.

*Point Grey Fiesta Organizing Committee*

*The photos of the 2019 Fiesta celebration and carnival were presented by the Point Grey Fiesta Organizing Committee*



Aberthau Mansion heritage house, one of West Point Grey Community Centre core buildings.  
Photo credit West Point Grey Community Centre Association.

# Kids Take Over UBC: Mission Accomplished!

**Elias Rieger**

*Community Programmer (Co-op)  
UBC Campus + Community  
Planning*

While our Community Programming team are doing their best to keep everyone safe by practicing social distancing, something that comforts me is knowing that we were lucky to have recently experienced one of the most special days of the year on campus – *Kids Take Over UBC*.

On Sunday, February 16, the third annual *Kids Take Over UBC* took place in the Arts & Culture District and nearby venues. Once again, kids took on adult-sized roles to help deliver fun-filled activities in some of the most creative spaces at UBC.

**Powered by kid and youth volunteers**

Prior to the big day, we recruited over 30 neighbourhood children and youth to help run the festival. Some of them helped create social media content about the programming, while others had the chance to be interviewed live on Global TV. On event day, these young volunteers ran the registration booth, provided guests with information and even led workshops. While some adults may have been involved in organizing *Kids Take Over UBC*, we wouldn't have been able to pull it off without the perseverance of our volunteers!

**Note: UBC has cancelled all on-campus and off-campus events with more than 50 people (including sporting events), whether indoors or outdoors, that are organized by students, faculty and staff.**

**For more information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and UBC's response visit <https://covid19.ubc.ca>**

**Cultural activities for the whole family**

With the help of these young volunteers, we welcomed 300 families to campus. Throughout the day, kids and their families were able to explore the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, while making their mark with creative pieces and stories for display with the specimens. They also took over the First Nations Longhouse and Xwi7xwa Library, sharing stories and knowledge from Indigenous cultures in the region.

The Museum of Anthropology hosted powerful discussions around pressing issues like climate change and inclusivity. At the Frederic Wood Theatre, parents and kids kicked it up a notch at *Parents Are a Drag*, joining local drag queens Peach Cobblah & Isolde N. Barron for a drag dress-up spectacular!



**Families learning about stories and history of the land on which they stand at the First Nations Longhouse. Photo credit K. Ho - photosbykho.com.**

There was no shortage of engaging adventures at the UBC School of Music, where kids explored whimsical found-sound instruments in the Musical Playground and got their hands on some real instruments at the *Instrument Petting Zoo*. Outside in Tuning Fork Square, kids took over the stage with a diverse array of performances, including a speech about loneliness, a cellist, a jazz quartet, and the *CRAZI Dance Crew*, a K-pop dance group. It was amazing to see such an enthusiastic crowd – one of the guests said it best: “Friendly people, but hey, this is Canada!”

All in all, *Kids Take Over UBC* gave a chance for children of all ages to experience the inspiring place that many of us adults take for granted in our day-to-day lives. Now that many of us are spending most of our time at home, we realize how lucky we are to live, work and play at UBC, one of the most beautiful places in the world. Soon enough, we will all, adults and children alike, be able to take over the campus again. In the meantime, visit [www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca) to check out our photos, video and ideas to keep creative and having fun while we hunker down at home and keep everyone healthy and safe.



**An incredibly silly and fun performance, *Parents Are a Drag*, at the Frederic Wood Theatre. Photo credit K. Ho - photosbykho.com.**



***CRAZI Dance Crew*, a group formed by youth on campus, showing off their moves to some K-pop hits. Photo credit by K. Ho - photosbykho.com.**

## UEL Governance Study: Province Picks Urban Systems

*Long term outcome of study could be change of governance on the UEL; currently, provincial government manages this unincorporated community neighboring UBC*

The Province has selected Urban Systems Ltd. – a firm with expertise in the field of municipal governance – to study governance on the University Endowment Lands (UEL).

According to its website, Urban Systems is “an inter-disciplinary professional practice providing strategic planning, engineering, environmental science, and urban design services to both public and private sector

clients throughout Western Canada.”

As well as conducting an inventory of the existing UEL governance system, Urban Systems will engage with stakeholders about the future of governance in the community.

As an unincorporated area, the UEL does not have an elected mayor and municipal council. It's the only urban area in British Columbia to be administered directly by the provincial government.

The Musqueam Nation and UEL residents will be key participants in the *UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study*, which is expected to take about two years and cost the Province – which manages the UEL – up to \$300,000 in consulting fees.



**Heritage hedge separates UBC from UEL at Wesbrook Crescent and College Highroad**