

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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Sundance Topham Honoured to Lead Local Government in University Neighbourhoods

The Board of Directors of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sundance Topham as the organization's next Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) effective June 1, 2020.

Sundance brings to the position a wealth of experience in local government management with demonstrated success in helping organizations, elected officials and communities realize their potential.

Most recently, he held the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Cumberland, B.C., where he led major negotiations, partnerships and initiatives. Prior to working in Cumberland, Sundance was the Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Wells, B.C., and was Senior Communications Advisor for the BC Pension Corporation.

Sundance has a Diploma in Local Government Management from the School of Public Administration at the University of

Victoria and a Diploma in Communications from Camosun College in Victoria.

Sundance feels this is a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the UNA goal of creating a thriving university community through engagement, service and recreation. He says: "The UNA is such a unique community – recognizing that and all the factors that come into play is the key to ensuring that we can continue to build on the successes of the organization. I feel honoured to be selected to lead this organization."

Sundance recognizes the challenge of stepping into a leadership role during the current pandemic and is ready to lead the organization in navigating this unprecedented time.

Richard Watson, Chair of UNA Board of Directors, says he and the rest of the Board are delighted to have Sundance join the UNA as its next CAO. "Sundance's experience in leading townships and mu-

nicipalities, coupled with his progressive mindset and communications background, will ensure that the UNA continues its path towards expanding its services and creating a flourishing university neighbourhood."

"On behalf of the UNA Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincerest thanks to Interim Co-Executive Directors Andrew Clements and Wegland Sit who took over the Executive Director role from Johanne Blenkin while the search for the new CAO took place," says Watson.

The Executive Director title was changed to Chief Administrative Officer in order to align the role with comparable administrative positions.



Sundance Topham

Pandemic Has Changed Our Life... Let's Look Forward to Fitting In

*Jane Kang
Wesbrook Place Resident
UNA Board Elected
Resident Director*

On March 18, the B.C. government declared a provincial state of emergency and called on the public to keep physical distance and stay home as much as possible to slow the spread of coronavirus. The UNA community centers were closed and public activities were cancelled. With schools closed and working at home, residents started the new stay-at-home lifestyle.

The changes are obvious. The outdoor sports grounds with grassy areas were closed. The UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden were also closed. A 6-foot distance warning sign was set beside the forest. People greet each other with the same enthusiasm but no longer shake hands or hug. Trying to keep the distance, two ladies lean in to hear each other's words – this scene is the

first sign of the outbreak. Toilet paper and canned food were sold out – however, with brief tension, supply was quickly resumed. Save-On-Food arranged special shopping hours for seniors and limited the number of customers shopping at the same time. Our daily necessities are fully guaranteed for all.

Our hygienic habits have also changed: we must wash hands frequently and avoid touching faces with unwashed hands. When people were discussing whether to wear face masks, some residents did not want to draw on medical resources, and so a Mask Donation campaign was born – launched by Hawthorn resident Florence Luo. She organized and advanced imports, transportation and customs duties. The other six volunteers were responsible for finance, fundraising and distribution. With donations made online only, \$7,734.35 was raised by April 15 and 10,700 face masks and some goggles were purchased. Thank you to all 52 generous UNA residents who donated money.

PANDEMIC continued on Page 3



Wegland Sit, UNA Operations Manager, accepts from a UNA resident donation of masks for staff use. The UNA Main Office remains closed to the public.

Feed Me!

What's open on campus right now?



MERCANTE **The POINT** **HARVEST**

corner store **Tim Hortons** **Starbucks**

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Participating locations are Mercante, Harvest, UBC Corner Store, Tim Hortons Forestry, and Starbucks Bookstore.

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@ubcfoodie | food.ubc.ca **UBC Food Services**

Subject to Member Approval at Meeting, New UNA Constitution to Come into Effect

Existing Constitution has not been reviewed since UNA was founded

John Tompkins
Editor

The UNA Constitution requires an update to provide continuity with the Neighbours' Agreement between UBC and the UNA, Director Terry Mullen informed the UNA Board in April 2020 meeting.

The Constitution sets out the purposes of the UNA as a society. To recommend amendments to the Constitution and clarify its language, the Board established the UNA Constitution Working Group. The three members of the Working Group are UNA Resident Directors Terry Mullen (Chair), Murray McCutcheon and Bill Holmes.

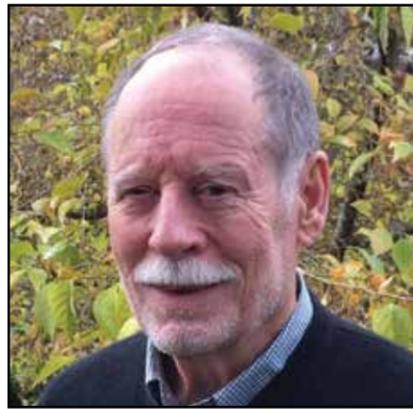
At its May 2020 meeting, the Board approved for consultation the proposals of the Constitution Working Group. The parties to be consulted were identified as UNA members and UBC.

In an email to The Campus Resident, Director Mullen stated the impetus for this project included:

1. The recognition that the purposes set out in the Constitution do not incorporate some of the purposes referred to in section 3.1 of the Neighbours' Agreement 2015.
2. The need to add purposes to the Constitution to encompass several activities presently being performed by the UNA.
3. The desire to improve the syntax of some of the existing purposes, and to rationalize the structure of the Constitution.

Director Mullen sent to UBC a report and background information provided to the UNA Board by the Working Group with a request that "at a minimum" UBC review the two-page report and the proposed UNA Constitution attached to the report.

UNA Constitution Working Group



Terry Mullen



Murray McCutcheon



Bill Holmes

The report to UBC went with the specific request to compare the purposes described in section 3.1 of the Neighbours' Agreement 2015 and the purposes in the proposed Constitution and confirm that the purposes in the Agreement and the corresponding purposes in the Constitution are consistent.

In the cover note to UBC Campus and Community Planning, Director Mullen also noted:

"Additionally, the Neighbours' Agreement requires that the purposes of the UNA "not be inconsistent with" any of the purposes set out in section 3.1. We presume you will comment on both issues...consistency and the absence of inconsistency.

"We are not seeking a comment on the proposed purposes that are not relevant to the consistency/inconsistency issue. Those matters are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the UNA."

Since the UNA Constitution is a document that "belongs to" all UNA members, the residents (UNA members only) were invited in a special email newsletter to send comments on the proposed Constitution to the UNA – not later than June 5, 2020.

The Working Group recommended that the final version of the proposed Constitution be

submitted for a vote of members at the Special General Meeting to be held later this year.

UNA Constitution Proposed by Working Group

1. The name of the Society is the UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION (the "Association").

2. The purposes of the Association are:

- (a) To promote a university-town community that supports and enhances the academic mission of The University of British Columbia ("UBC");
- (b) To undertake community-building measures to develop a healthy and vibrant community;
- (c) To provide services for the Local Areas and Designated Buildings (as defined in the Bylaws) similar to the services provided by a municipality;
- (d) To provide services, amenities and facilities that assist in the development of good neighbourhoods within the Local Areas and Designated Buildings, and that promote health, safety, sustainability, communication, interaction, culture, recreation, comfort, and convenience;
- (e) To operate and maintain property which is designated, leased, licensed or otherwise conveyed to the Association for the well-being of residents with regard to health, safety, sustainability, communication, culture, recreation, comfort, and convenience;

(f) To represent the interests of residents generally, including, for greater certainty, with respect to UBC, the BC Government, Metro Vancouver, Vancouver, and any other public or private entity or any individual;

(g) To take positions on matters relating to land use and development on the UBC campus that the UNA considers to be in the best interests of residents of the Local Areas and Designated Buildings and to present those positions to UBC and other entities;

(h) At the request of the UBC Board of Governors, to act as an advisory board pursuant to section 34 of the University Act;

(i) To foster interaction between residents and the UBC academic community, to assist in enabling such interaction, and to facilitate access by residents to UBC academic programs;

(j) To receive funds from UBC, the residents and others, and to use the funds for the Association's purposes; and

(k) To promote, in the conduct of business and work of the Association, qualities of good neighbours, including civility, fairness, good faith, respect and understanding, all in the context of being a unique part of the UBC community.

New Purposes Proposed to Add to UNA Constitution Include:

- The provision of municipal-like services.
- The representation of the interests of residents generally.
- Taking positions on matters relating to land use and development on the UBC campus and presenting those positions to UBC and other entities.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings Connect Residents

This virtual meeting is a chance for UBC and UEL residents to connect, ask and get answers to questions about local and regional COVID-19 responses and to discuss how we can best support each other

John Tompkins
Editor

Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A Director, hosted Town Hall

meetings for UBC and UEL residents in April and June.

Both meetings got underway after the 7 pm pot-banging cheer for frontline workers. Residents joined the meeting via Zoom. Thanks to the modern technology, they could ask questions of senior officials in the comfort of their homes. Jen said that she organized these community events to provide an opportunity for residents to come together to discuss concerns, suggestions and solutions during the COVID-19 crisis.

Referring to 150 UBC and UEL residents who attended the first online meeting, Jen

said: "The feedback was excellent, and we were fortunate to be joined by a number of community leaders."

The local officials who provided updates and listened to the concerns of residents included:

- Joyce Murray, Federal Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra and Minister of Digital Government
- David Eby, Provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Point Grey and Attorney General
- Professor Santa J. Ono, UBC President and Vice-Chancellor
- Dr. Patricia Daly, Vancouver Coastal

Health Authority's Chief Medical Officer

- Chuck Lan, RCMP Staff Sergeant
- Richard Watson, UNA Board Chair
- Claire Huxtable, UEL Community Advisory Committee President.

In the May Newsletter to UBC and UEL residents, Jen wrote: "What unique times these continue to be for all of us. I hope that you are all coping as best you can and are able to spend some time outdoors as the weather warms. I feel fortunate to live in a place where it's so easy to soak in the beautiful – and healing – spring atmosphere of the forest while maintaining a safe physical distance from others."

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Healthy Seniors, Resilient Community Project Supports Seniors Digital Learning

Qiuning Wang

Assistant Recreation Manager
University Neighbourhoods Association

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNA has redirected funds to a new seniors programming initiative called *Healthy Seniors, Resilient Community* with the aim of addressing the present needs of seniors, as well as forthcoming programs to benefit their health and wellbeing in our community.

A survey was launched on April 21 to collect feedback from seniors on what type of support they need during the pandemic. Responses showed the need to prioritize digital training and virtual recreation programs.

In May, the UNA offered three digital learning sessions and provided one-on-one computer support sessions to help individual seniors. Please email programs@myuna.ca with requests or suggestions, and take part in the survey on our website at myuna.ca/healthy-seniors-resilient-community.

Five seniors – volunteers who have previously led English Conversation clubs at the Wesbrook Community Centre – had a series of video conferencing learning sessions with UNA staff and are now getting ready to run a virtual English Learning Cafe in mid-June. Emerging from these sessions is the need for more advanced training opportunities for seniors who plan to run programs or host meetings on virtual platforms.

With those needs in mind, the UNA – using funding from the *Healthy Seniors, Re-*

silient Community project – is looking to hire a computer support specialist to support seniors learning computer skills. The computer specialist will provide on-going support for seniors who want to learn how to do online shopping, manage email, attend or lead virtual programs, access trustworthy information and stay connected in a safe and secure way. The specialist will also host a monthly computer cafe so that seniors can share their experiences and foster connections within the community. If you are interested in this role, please visit the UNA website for more details at myuna.ca/careers.

A few online recreation programs will be offered to seniors from mid-June through the summer, including Chair Yoga, Singing at Home and Digital Learning Sessions. The monthly Seniors and Friends Virtual Talk is looking for speakers to share their knowledge and experience. Please email programs@myuna.ca if you have a topic you'd like to offer.

The funding for *Healthy Seniors, Resilient Community* project comes from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The UNA received funding from ESDC to support a program for seniors called *Your Passport to Wellbeing (Phase II)* – a continuation of (*Phase I*) – to promote seniors' physical strength, mental health and social wellbeing. This funding was redirected in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNA would like to thank our volunteers Alice, Eileen, Nan, Peter and Victoria for their spirit and enthusiasm to learn new technology and their commitment to support English learning in our community.

In these times, technology has an ever more profound impact on our lives. The UNA is happy to support seniors as they move to-

wards using digital tools so we can all live a connected and empowered life.



UNA seniors Victoria (left) and Alice joined three other seniors to talk via Zoom about how they cope during the pandemic. The project of collecting stories from residents was started by UNA and UTown@UBC. Please see story on Page 4.

Rise Again We Will – But the Path Will Not Be Easy

Graeme Wynn

UBC Professor Emeritus,
Geography

ship, and the misallocation of resources have shaped its course.

And this is to say nothing of the larger crisis of global climate change that has been nudged aside by current events.

With time on our hands, and experience on our side, we (mature scholars) might – arguably should – turn the wisdom and knowledge we have accumulated to shaping a different future.

We will do so in different ways. Having spent an academic lifetime looking backward, assembling fragments of the past into stories about where we have come from, in hope that they might help people to better understand who and where they are, I now think that we need fresh tales to illuminate the virtues of new ways of being in the world.

We should no more accept that a “return to normal” entails rebuilding fossil-fuel-dependent, economically inequitable, socially destructive, needlessly wasteful patterns of existence than we would welcome a return to the Stone Age.

Reprinted with permission from the author. First published in UBC Emeritus College Newsletter April 2020.

How the world has changed.

Not so long ago, retirees were zooming across the globe on planes and cruise ships and getting up to any number of adventures. Now “silver surfers” all, we cruise the web, Zoom from home, and hope that we don't pick up “the virus” – or stumble on the stairs.

The news is almost incessantly sobering, even dispiriting. Then, in the midst of crisis, the New Zealand Prime Minister charms the world at a press conference by reassuring young Kiwis that Easter bunnies and the tooth fairy are to be excused from the COVID-19 lockdown. With this simple act, Jacinda Ardern, a relatively new mother herself, offered more than hope. She affirmed the value of empathy and creativity in difficult times, and reminded us all that “we rise again in the faces of our children.”

Rise again we will. But the path will not be easy. The current crisis reveals that more than a virulent virus ails humankind. The very course of the pandemic reflects this: global integration, gross economic inequalities, incompetent or self-interested leader-

can see some businesses shut down, and you may be worry about the future economy. After the pandemic, will the economy rebound and return to the previous state or will life completely change into a “new normal”?

I don't know the answer, but I know change is inevitable. Let's look forward to fitting in.



Jane Kang

PANDEMIC continued from Page 1

The masks were given to seniors living in the five UNA neighbourhoods and to residents who worked on the front line. The seniors were very grateful as they were anxious about going out shopping without masks.

We continue working and learning from home, participating in new activities – offline and online. Shopping from home and ordering take-out are so convenient. Amazon, UPS and other delivery service vehicles drive through the streets of the community. People who used to meet and communicate in person, dining in restaurants, attending lectures and public events have moved to their computers. Zoom and Teams software have become popular to connect people.

Medical service has also changed: now, you can talk to your family doctor on the phone.

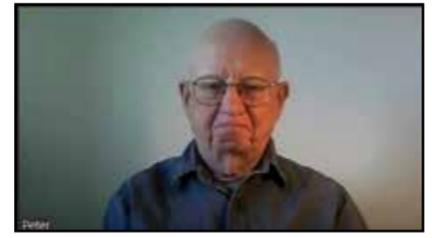
The pandemic changed our way of life. We

UNA Seniors Talk about How They Cope During COVID-19

UNA and UTown@UBC have joined forces to collect stories from our community about how residents are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. Hearing community members' perspectives can be both inspiring and reassuring. It also reminds us that we are all in this together. The first group of residents invited to participate in this project is the senior volunteers' group, which is learning to use online platforms in preparation for delivering English Conversation classes on *Healthy Seniors, Resilient Community*. Eileen, Nan, Peter, Alice and Victoria have been practicing their online instruction skills to transition their lessons into the virtual English Learning Cafe.

What are some new skills or hobbies you have been learning over the past couple of months?

Victoria: I like to walk and observe nature, and this new situation made me pay more attention to the changes that are happening on campus. I have now a different look for blossoms. A less noisy environment also let me hear the birds with more clarity. I have a bird book on my kitchen table, and I refer to that when I see a new bird from my window.



UNA seniors (from left) Eileen, Nan and Peter give interviews via Zoom from their homes.

Alice: I have been writing more often a food column for the Japanese community. Although I have experience with nutrition, I needed to learn new dishes from Japanese cuisine in order to provide different content to the column. It seems like people are much more interested in cooking these days.

Eileen: I have been teaching ESL classes for many years, and now I am working on transitioning from teaching in-person in a classroom, to an online format. So one of the skills I am working on is learning the features of virtual meetings using Zoom.

Peter: I am interested in presenting meals through music, lighting, ambience, etc.

Nan: I have been learning the various features of Zoom.

What life experience has prepared you for these circumstances?

Victoria: I lived in Ghana from 65 to 67, teaching science in school. It was common to see the stores empty sometimes, with a smaller variety of food than we normally see here in Canada. This experience helped me to build the resilience to understand that we will move past this situation.

Alice: I came to Vancouver when I was five years old. Before that, I lived in two different places in the countryside of B.C. The first one was a shack with no electricity, running water or heating, just a small stove in the middle of the room. My father used to grow crops and food was basic. I have a strong memory from this place. We moved to another shack in the mountains outside of Revelstoke. It was very similar to the first one, and we could barely leave the house because there were too many bugs around. We had no books and no toys. As an adult, I know that the majority of the people of the world live without modern amenities. So I know how tough life can be, and it is not the end of the world to not be able to go outside.

Eileen: I was in East Germany during the Cold War. It was common that we had to line up for food. We didn't know what we were lining up for on these occasions, often nothing was available. Our current crisis has made me remember to not take food – or anything – for granted!

Peter: I've had many work assignments that required long periods of solitude, and I've been an industrious reader – so I've got lots to ponder.

Nan: Life experiences, primarily as a parent and my career as a Social Worker, have prepared me for this situation. My faith is also fundamental in dealing with this: I currently attend services via YouTube.

What is something you are looking forward to doing when this is over?

Victoria: I look forward to having the freedom of doing what I want to do. See my family, eat together, laugh, and maybe talk about the past. It will be interesting when we will be able to look back at this situation and talk about what we learned. I miss my grandchildren a lot too.

Alice: I can hardly wait to see my family again. I have two granddaughters and I look forward to sharing food with them again. I also would like to spontaneously speak to people that I don't know again. We became kind of strangers with almost everyone these times.

Eileen: I have been marking international students' admission applications to UBC for the past six years. I just finished marking this year's, and now I have a three months break, so I can look forward to practicing my ukulele.

Peter: In the short term, I will feel really cheered by mingling with the students at UBC. In the longer term, I will go on trying to find a decent place to live in my last few years.

Nan: I am looking forward to getting together with family here in B.C., Manitoba and Ontario. My 8th great grandchild is in Ontario. I am counting down the days to being able to travel again to see them.

Has your perspective or outlook on life changed over the last couple of months?

Victoria: I feel sad about the difference of perspectives that Canada and the US took on this situation. Having a science background makes me expect a lot more from our neighbours on the way they are dealing with this crisis. The word of science is so important for us and we shouldn't take this for granted.

Alice: I don't think we will take for granted simple things anymore. We will pay more attention to things such as speaking to people, seeing family and travelling.

Eileen: It has changed. I've become more interested in history and have started watching series about past civilizations on Knowledge Network.

Peter: I'm becoming more accepting of being – and being seen as – a senior.

Nan: It hasn't changed. I see this as another change that confirms my conception that life is always in flux.

During this time, what have you learned or observed about our community?

Victoria: I love to observe families experiencing nature in Pacific Spirit Park. Just spending time, walking or hanging around in the park is a healing experience, what can be called a forest bathing.

Alice: I like to see how the majority of people seem cooperative with the health authorities' recommendations. I have seen many residents trying to socialize but also trying to keep distancing at the same time. However, I want to say that I experienced three different situations when people were rude to me arguing about keeping distance. I believe that this has a relationship with the fact that my heritage is not Caucasian. Unfortunately, the three people that spoke to me like that were, in fact, Caucasian. I also have heard similar stories here, and I haven't heard anything like this here in a very long time. That's a concern.

Eileen: UBC campus is beautiful! I enjoy meeting the young people and sometimes wonder if I've marked their admission essays. Have you noticed the air seems fresher these days? This might sound strange, but I was thinking the other day that the air is 'delicious'. Has the climate changed due to the results of the pandemic?

Peter: UBC is most definitely a highly privileged bubble in an increasingly vexatious world – and I think most people here realize that. Going virtual is a step away from what really matters.

Nan: I feel that our community is orderly and calm, and kindness prevails.

Pandemic Poem

Helen Wilkes

Elected Member of the UBC Emeritus College

What if this is some kind of
mad wake-up call
Forcing us to re-think issues
large and small?

What might the universe
be trying to tell
Those of us who are mercifully
safe and well?

With distractions and gatherings
all placed on hold
What's bubbling within us
that we ought to behold?

Why is it so awful
to spend time alone?
What gnaws at our subconscious,
like a dog with a bone?

If, in Wuhan, fume-filled skies
have become clear,
And birdsong can once again
reach the human ear
Is the universe saying
that it needs a rest
And that for now,
we must stop doing our best.

So much of "our best" means
that the planet we strip bare
Maybe we must do more
than re-cycle with care.
"Give us jobs!" people cry.
"We want to earn our daily bread."
Yet how much is spent
of the Joneses keeping ahead?

It's a vicious cycle, but in our material
world, when do we have enough?
Is there a way to live well
without acquiring still more stuff?
And will peace ever come
unless we learn to share
In some global way
of which we're now unaware?

I picture a Wuhan seamstress
bent over her sewing machine
I picture her man scrubbing hands
that refuse to come clean
I picture their children,
learning about lands near and far
Dreaming of the day
when they too will own a car.

I picture Italy without tourists
disorged from some huge ship,
An Italy where families on balconies
their Prosecco do sip,
An Italy where amateur Carusos
from their windows now sing
Seeking notes of cheer
to their neighbours to bring.

I find it inspiring,
this desire to reach out,
"Bravo, bravissimo,"
I deeply long to shout.

And here at home,
a neighbour I barely know
Has ever so kindly let me know
If there's ought that I need,
I should just pick up the phone
She's worried about me,
a senior who's living alone.
Gratitude is over-used, yet what can I say?

A day of blue sky, though in the east,
snow softly falls
And from Somewhere Beyond,
a voice gently calls

"Helen, Everyone, do what you can,
however small
Then be proud of what you've done;
stand tall."

Even though no banners
they may have unfurled,
Not sinners but saints I perceive among
those in my immediate world

So to hold up your head,
Be glad you're not dead

Let's turn this scare
Into a time to dare

Dare to re-assess, dare to go within,
dare to take stock
Dare then to go forth,
solid and sure as a rock.

The times are shifting, the future unknown
But our humanity will at least have grown.

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LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

UBC and COVID-19

As our campus community continues to navigate the COVID-19 situation, I would like to share an update with you on UBC's response to support the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and residents.

In response to COVID-19 and the direction of the Provincial Health Officer, the university transitioned to online instruction in mid-March and for the summer terms. Since then we've been working hard to plan for how we might teach later this year.

In collaboration with Faculties, UBC is now planning for a phased resumption of on-campus research beginning this month. This will be a gradual approach over the summer and applies to those researchers who require on-campus resources and cannot conduct their work remotely.

Planning for the resumption of research is being undertaken with the guidance and direction of the provincial government and public health agencies to ensure we are following health and safety guidelines. The health and safety of our community remains UBC's top priority.

During fall 2020, UBC will offer a blend of face-to-face and online courses, adhering to physical distancing and other public health requirements. We will maintain a clear focus on ensuring high-quality face-to-face instruction, where possible, and high-quality remote instruction.

The university is developing an operational safety plan and approval process that Faculties and administrative units will be required to complete before any changes can be made to the remote work arrangements currently in place.

Since mid-March, UBC's Emergency Op-

erations Centre with the Crisis Management Team has played a key role in coordinating our response. They have worked in close consultation with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training and with other post-secondary institutions within B.C. to ensure we are aligned with health and safety guidelines and Work-SafeBC.

Neighbourhood health and safety

To ensure the health and safety of residents, UBC staff are supporting the UNA on compliance and enforcement of physical distancing in campus neighbourhoods. While UBC cannot issue fines or penalties related to public health orders, our staff is assisting provincial health officers by:

- monitoring facilities and areas closed to the public by a public health order;
- providing warnings, information and advice, including warnings to businesses and members of the public who may be acting in contravention of a public health order; and
- providing information on potential contraventions for follow-up by health authorities.

COVID-19 resources

We are in regular contact with the provincial government and public health agencies and will follow their directives to maintain health and safety on campus. I encourage you to visit the dedicated website covid19.ubc.ca or @UBC social channels for resources and timely updates.

Climate emergency virtual community dialogues

Before I close, I would also like to talk about UBC's climate emergency response. In December 2019, UBC declared a cli-



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

mate emergency. The declaration included a commitment to establish a task force, a climate emergency community engagement process and recommendations to the Board of Governors.

We established the UBC Climate Emergency Task Force — which includes UBC students, faculty and staff — to advise on the gathering of ideas from UBC's diverse and insightful community on addressing the climate emergency and the recommendations resulting from the engagement process.

I am pleased to announce we have extended the community engagement process until June 30 and will hold a series of virtual community dialogues. These topic-based dialogues will give the UBC community a chance to learn, engage and discuss bold

actions around the climate crisis. You are invited to take part. Registration details can be found at climateemergency.ubc.ca/events.

I am tremendously thankful to our amazing campus community for their resilience and cooperation in following health and safety guidelines. Kudos to our students, faculty, and staff who worked so quickly to shift our operations online, to keep the campus and research running smoothly, and to plan for our phased return. To you, our residents, thank you for your support and cooperation.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Santa J. Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor

Plunging Online in the Pandemic

Charles R. Menzies
*Professor, UBC Department of Anthropology and Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries
Hawthorn Place Resident*

It's amazing how quickly things can change in a few days. On March 11, one of my students asked if I thought the university was shutting down. I'd just been at an event where top university officials were still shaking hands and physical distancing wasn't yet part of their lexicon. "The university doesn't look like it's shutting down," I said. "But one never knows. Everything could change tomorrow." By March 13, UBC President Santa Ono had declared all-in-person instruction was to end, and by March 16, the university was telling students they could fly home and their exams would all be online. Many faculty had already realized teaching online was very likely on the agenda. But when the announcement came, it was a surprise just the same.

For most of my colleagues, teaching ended in April. But I was signed up to teach three courses in our summer semester, making me part of the vanguard setting — a path every-

one else will follow in September. (UBC has announced that the fall is online, and it may well be the case the winter term will be as well.)

Last September, when I agreed to teach these courses, they were envisioned as a range of small to medium sized in-person classes. But with the pandemic, I was suddenly teaching three online courses, two of them enrolling more than a hundred students each (way more than we anticipated last fall). The pandemic condition has brought us into a new space for learning and teaching.

It's been a major learning curve for me. But having always dabbled in online communications through blogging, video production and podcasts, the technical part wasn't that daunting. I am so impressed by the students. From Bangkok to Jakarta, Yellowknife to Montreal, Cape Town to Shenzhen, my students are literally everywhere in the world. This also means I have to think differently about lectures and assignments — all of which have been modified. Lectures are shorter, but there are extension materials including online sources and videos. Lectures are also recorded, so that students don't have to be present real time. Assignments and tests are restructured to let students progress at their own pace (to an extent) with sliding deadlines.

But with all of that, it becomes clear how problematic our home internet services are. It might be okay to stream a great movie over Netflix, but try an interactive video discussion with a hundred students and you find out who is literally hanging on by thin wire and who has a robust home network.

Disparities in access to good internet services and home equipment are striking. I asked my students who had dedicated workspace in their homes. More than a third of my students are sharing space, moving from front room to kitchen, patio to bedroom, as they chase after quiet home workspace.

I've also heard from my students about their worries for family and friends in essential services or elders that need care. They have shared worries that come from isolation for those living alone or with roommates who have grown apart. Then there are those who have lost their jobs and, despite this modest reopening, have been told there is no job for them to return to. For many, it's been pretty grim.

Yet there is, and I know it's a cliché to say it, a really strong base of reliance among them. At the same time they face increased pressures, disruptions, anxiety and fears, they also express joy in having the good for-

tune to study. They express gratitude for the learning teams UBC has put in place to support their learning. I am not doing this alone.

I may be the public face in the class but there is a team of five working directly with me (four teaching assistants and graduate research associate) and a host of other support in IT, the library, and our administration making sure that UBC learning community continues to thrive no matter where in the world they have scattered to.



Charles Menzies

Thanks for taking care of each other

- ✓ Staying home
- ✓ Practicing physical distancing
- ✓ Creating care packages
- ✓ Picking up groceries for an elder
- ✓ Sharing skills & talents online

While the world has changed over the last few months, our neighbourly spirit has not. Thank you for doing your part to reduce the spread of COVID 19 and keeping our communities connected during this challenging time.

Have an idea for fostering social connection during this time? UBC residents, students, faculty and staff, as well as Musqueam can apply for a Community of Caring grant of up to \$500 to help foster friendship and resiliency from a distance.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until July 1, 2020.

utown.ubc.ca/caringcommunity



Campus Restaurants Reopen by Popular Demand

At date of publication, six UBC-operated restaurants and markets have reopened for takeout: The Point, Mercante, Harvest, Tim Hortons in the Forest Sciences Centre, Starbucks at the UBC Bookstore, and Corner Store

After nearly two months of closure due to COVID-19, UBC-operated restaurants and markets have begun to reopen in line with provincial guidelines. It's a welcome change for students, staff, faculty and community members still living, working, and studying on campus during the pandemic.

In mid-March, UBC Food Services made the difficult decision to close all but its essential locations. Campus dining hotspots like The Point and Mercante shut down virtually overnight as the university responded to information from the Provincial Medical Health Office, BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Harvest Market and the three first year residence dining rooms – Feast, Gather and Open Kitchen – were the only locations to remain open as an essential service to campus residents.

Rey Arandia is one of the many hundreds of dedicated Food Services employees who have shown great courage, adaptability and kindness as we navigate the challenges of COVID-19 together. A familiar personality in the residence dining rooms, Rey chose to remain working on campus to show his ongoing support and commitment to the UBC community.

"I've been at UBC for 21 years," said Rey. "I look forward to work as I get to meet interesting people every day. It's a really fun job but March and April were challenging months. We were interacting with people daily, and even though there were less guests, it felt like the amount of work we were doing increased."

From the start of the shut down, Food Services staff were eager to find ways to support the community. When the Haro Park Seniors Centre in Vancouver's West End needed to adapt their food and beverage service to improve health and safety for their residents due to the pandemic, they contacted Colin Moore, Director of UBC Food Services, for assistance. The Food Services team was quick to respond by lending them 150 serving trays and four rolling racks for the next several months.

As restrictions begin to loosen up and we approach the summer season, Food Services



employees are excited to welcome customers back to the businesses that are open.

To celebrate reopening, Mercante, Harvest, Tim Hortons in the Forest Sciences Centre, Starbucks in the UBC Bookstore and Corner Store are offering **free coffee Mondays after 10 am for the month of June**.

If a picnic is more your jam, swing by Mercante on the way to Wreck Beach to pick up an authentic Italian margherita or prosciutto e rucola pizza, and use the handy pizza box perforations to make four cardboard plates or a smaller storage box for leftovers – but let's be honest, leftovers are not likely! Mercante is open 12 pm–10 pm daily.

Skip the usual wait for tables at The Point by ordering from their new takeout menu. The team is serving up their famous burgers, bowls, cauliflower wings and mouth-watering "epic" brownies 11 am–7 pm Monday through Saturday. And for the month of June, they're offering a **free non-alcoholic beverage** with every entrée purchase!

Or, stop by Harvest to stock up on basic groceries, local veggies, and a great selection of house-made salads, sandwiches,

and prepared meals. Oh, and did we mention they sell the original UBC Cinnamon Bun hot from the oven? Visit them 8 am to 7 pm weekdays or 9 am to 5 pm weekends.

Next time you are walking through campus, stop by to say hi! Your friendly faces are a welcome sight in these unusual times.

For the latest information on openings, hours of operation and special offers please visit food.ubc.ca or follow UBC Food Services on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter at [@ubcfoodie](https://twitter.com/ubcfoodie).





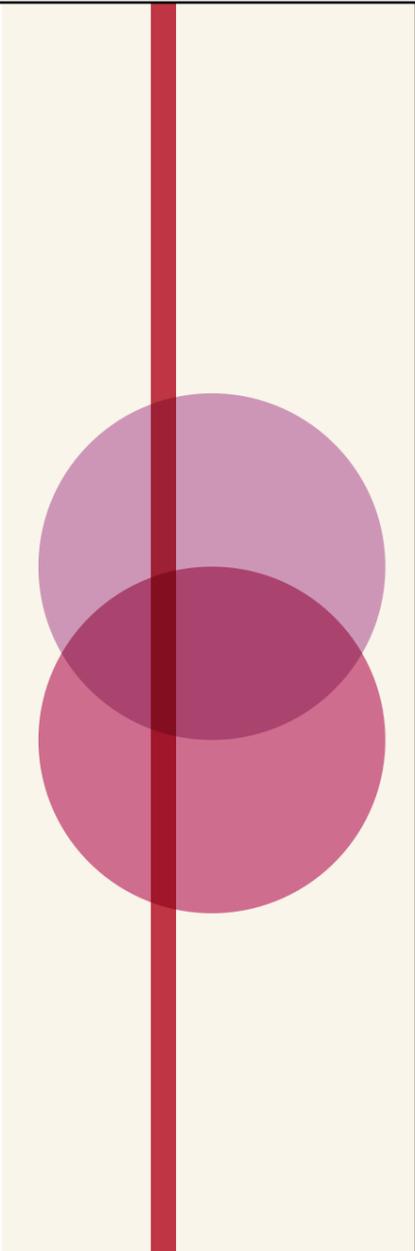
SUMMER PROGRAMS

The UNA is approaching re-opening in a thoughtful way that is in alignment with the Provincial Government's B.C. Restart Plan, and in consultation with UBC and the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA).

Registration for a limited number of summer camps and fitness programs will open in June 2020.

More programs will become available as the situation with COVID-19 changes.

To register, visit myuna.ca.



THE NEW UNA SYSTEM

LAUNCHED: JUNE 1

The UNA has recently migrated our services to a new system that will help you manage your services more efficiently through your personalized UNA Account.

Our long-term vision is to provide residents with a universal neighbourhood access point for managing their UNA services, profiles, family members, recreation programs, facility bookings, sustainability programs and parking services.

If you're an existing UNA Account holder, your new login information has been sent to you in an email from the address: communications@perfectmind.com. If you did not receive the email, please check your spam folder or email support@myuna.ca.

For new accounts, sign-up on our website at: myuna.ca.

Letters Point to Issues Facing UEL Residents

One letter to the Province focuses on shortage of police patrolling the University Endowment Lands; the other – on the loss of rental accommodation in the area

John Tompkins
Editor

The long-standing problem on University Endowment Lands (UEL) of having too few RCMP members policing its community came forth recently in a letter to Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, sent by Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Minister Robinson wrote: "The Community Advisory Council (CAC), in its role of providing advice to the UEL Manager, has noted various concerns that it sees as stemming from or exacerbated by insufficient policing resources on the Peninsula – including the challenge of noisy, disruptive student parties that may get out of control, and vacant properties of absentee owners being a potential target of trespassers and vandalism.

"While the first priority for police resources is clearly matters that put public safety at imminent risk, matters as noted by the CAC can create a sense of community unease and vulnerability if left unaddressed over time.

"I fully understand that police operations are under the internal management and control of the RCMP, and that local detachment requests for increases to police resources are prioritized and considered by BC RCMP Headquarters in the context of the larger needs of the Provin-

cial Police Service. At the same time, I felt it important to share with you the CAC's support for the request for more policing resources in the UEL area, and the UEL Administration's interest in continued good communication with the local detachment to ensure appropriate sharing of information and cooperative efforts where feasible.

"I would also hope that, as part of the review of the local detachment's request, the community may also benefit in getting verified data around complaints and attempted and actual illegal activities, as well as population and resource comparisons, to help further inform understanding of the current policing situation."

The UEL Community Advisory Council has been concerned not only about insufficient policing resources in the area. In a letter sent to the Province, the CAC calls on the provincial government to halt work on development permits in the UEL.

"We cannot understand why this work has continued in the middle of the pandemic, when the Province has declared a state of emergency and every British Columbian has been asked to stay at home," Claire Huxtable, CAC President, wrote in the letter to Premier John Horgan.

"In particular, Development Permit application 8/18 is underway and envisages converting two rental buildings to condos that are unaffordable to the existing renters, exacerbating the already critical rental shortage in our area."

Claire says that the UEL community – 3,000 people living adjacent to UBC – is uniformly opposed to this loss of rental accommodation. "We have previously asked the UEL office to halt work on the project, but the office has refused on the basis of safety pro-

ocols that it has put in place."

The CAC says this ignores that many of the community members are elderly and are advised to avoid all public places, and that going door to door to collect signatures in opposition to the project is dangerous during the pandemic.

"Your government has made protecting renters and protecting the health of British Columbians a priority," the letter to the Province says. "Allowing development work to continue on new permit approvals runs counter to both of these priorities."

Wesbrook Mall: Rehabilitation Phase 2 Continues

Guiding Principles During Construction

- Two-way traffic will always be maintained along Wesbrook Mall.
- Access to driveways will be maintained with only short, planned disruptions.
- Left turn movements along Wesbrook Mall will be limited during construction.
- Impacts to pedestrians and cyclists crossing Wesbrook Mall will be minimized and accommodated for as long as it is safe to do so.
- Bus stops within the project will need to be closed for safety as required but reopened as soon as possible.

Construction Schedule and Potential Impacts

May 4 – June 8: Outside Northbound Lane of Wesbrook Mall

Work in Stage 1 of construction is in the outside northbound lane along Wesbrook Mall, i.e. the far east lane on Wesbrook Mall.

June 8 – July 13: Outside Southbound Lane of Wesbrook Mall

Work in Stage 2 of construction is in the outside southbound lane along Wesbrook Mall, i.e. the far west lane on Wesbrook Mall.

July 13 – August 17: Inside Northbound Lane of Wesbrook Mall

Work in stage 3 of construction is in the inside northbound travel lane and centre median along Wesbrook Mall.

August 17 – September 21: Inside Southbound Lane of Wesbrook Mall

Work in stage 4 of construction is in the inside southbound travel lane and centre median along Wesbrook Mall.

Construction Notice

Construction and detour updates will be posted for each stage of construction. See Construction and Transit Updates for more information (planning.ubc.ca/transportation/construction-and-transit-updates).