

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

Published by the University Neighbourhoods Association

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

UBC, UNA, and UBC Properties Trust Unite in the Fight Against Climate Change

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You may be aware that the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, recently took place in Glasgow. With climate change top of mind, you may wonder what actions UBC is taking in collaboration with the UNA and UBC Properties Trust to address the increasing frequency and intensity of climate events that are im-

pacting our campus neighbourhoods and beyond.

In recognition of the growing climate crisis, UBC declared a climate emergency in December 2019 and identified accelerated climate actions, including the development of a Climate Action Plan 2030 for UBC's institutional campus. Accelerated actions identified for the neighbourhoods included updates to the Residential Environmental Assessment Program (REAP—UBC's green building program for neighbourhood residential construction) and the development of a low carbon energy strategy for future neighbourhood development.

UBC launched the first version of REAP in 2005 to guide the sustainable development of all residential buildings planned for the UBC Vancouver campus. REAP, which was developed by UBC in consultation with the UNA and UBC Properties Trust, enables water and energy efficiency, more sustainable use of resources, and higher-quality indoor environments and construction practices. Our most recent version of REAP (Version 3.2) introduces improved levels of performance that enhance occupant health and increase the overall sustainability performance of UBC's residential buildings.

REAP continued on Page 3



UNA residents will be able to charge electric vehicles and access a Modo carshare electric vehicle at a new EV charging station on Wesbrook Mall.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Truck Traffic Dangerously Heavy in Wesbrook Village

*In response to Neighbours Out
Walking / Shopping Need Better
Protection from Speeding Drivers,
published in the October 2021
edition of The Campus Resident*

This is a good article. With all the traffic problems, I have been meaning to write concerning our area, Wesbrook Place (Wesbrook Village).

We live on Wesbrook Mall, which is a busy street: one articulated bus every 4 minutes; through traffic to/from UBC; heavy construction trucks; garbage trucks; outflow from the Village shopping all comes onto Wesbrook at Birney and most turns North; parents picking up school children; foot traffic of all ages; bicycles, scooters.

The concern is that eventually the population of Wesbrook will be around 13,000 people of all ages, but especially young children. Foot and bike traffic will thus increase. Traffic calming and amelioration needs to be done now, rather than wait until there is a death or serious injury. The Village was not designed for the through movement of delivery trucks; every store in the Village receives its goods via truck,

but there is no truck exit from the Village, just a return to busy Wesbrook Mall. The semi-trailers seem out of place here.

Traffic rules are routinely broken: car, trucks, bikes run stop signs; many vehicle including buses exceed the 30 Km speed limit, especially when travelling North to South. U-turns in the middle of Wesbrook are common.

In addition to excellent suggestions in the previous letter to the editor (October), these may help to reduce traffic flow and provide safety to all pedestrians:

- 'Blinkies' at the South end of the 16th/Wesbrook roundabout; traffic exits the circle quickly, and people are often hard to see.

TRAFFIC continued on Page 2

UBC Remembrance Day Ceremony Returns to Gym as in-Person Event

John Tompkins,
Editor

After being turned into a virtual event by the pandemic in 2020, the Remembrance Day ceremony at UBC this year returned to its traditional roots at The War Memorial Gymnasium.

The ceremony at the Gym, which has been site of this annual event since the Gym was opened in 1951, is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and members of the on- and off-campus community to honor and remember all those who served in times of war, military conflict and peace.

This year's ceremony included participation and recognition of UBC's two major

campuses—in Vancouver and the Okanagan. The Remembrance Day Ceremony included short readings, remarks from special guests and musical performances by UBC's School of Music.

Alec Dan, a member of the Musqueam Indian Band, and Pamela Barnes, Syilx Okanagan Nation, welcomed those attending the event.

After a moment of reflection, Professor Nancy Hermiston, University Marshal, led the audience in a singing of "O Canada". The "Last Post" and two minutes of silence followed.

After this, again came some famous words, written by Laurence Binyon (1869–1943) and delivered by Professor Hermiston.

The laying of the wreaths began, followed

by more poetry, reciting *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae.

Music for the event was provided by UBC Brass Quintet.

More information found at ceremonies.ubc.ca/remembrance-day-ceremony.



**SEE UNA
ELECTION NOTE
ON PAGE 2**

Government Goes Electric in Support of New Cars

The B.C. government is giving \$10 million in rebates to help apartment and condo dwellers install electric vehicle charging stations in their buildings. Bruce Ralston, minister of energy, mines and low carbon innovation, said condominiums, apartments and workplaces that purchase and install electric vehicle chargers can receive a rebate of up to 50 per cent of the cost to a maximum of \$2,000 a charger. “This ensures that more people can choose to go electric,” Ralston said at a news conference. The CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate program also offers up to five hours of support services from an EV charging station expert to help owners and strata members navigate the process.

British Columbians wanting to charge their electric vehicles (EVs) at their condominium building or their place of work can access further funding to help buy and install EV chargers through CleanBC’s Go Electric EV Charger Rebate program.

“To better support British Columbians living in condominiums and apartments, we’re offering rebates to make more buildings EV ready,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. “With the highest uptake rates of EV adoption in North America, we want to make sure that more people supporting our transition to a low-carbon economy have easy access to charging infrastructure.”

The Province’s CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate program is receiving \$10 million as part of Budget 2021 to help with the up front costs that come with EVs. Condominiums, apartments and workplaces that purchase and install eligible EV chargers can receive a rebate up to 50% of costs to a maximum of \$2,000 per charger. Customers who take advantage of the EV Charger Rebate may have access to top up rebates through participating municipalities and local governments.

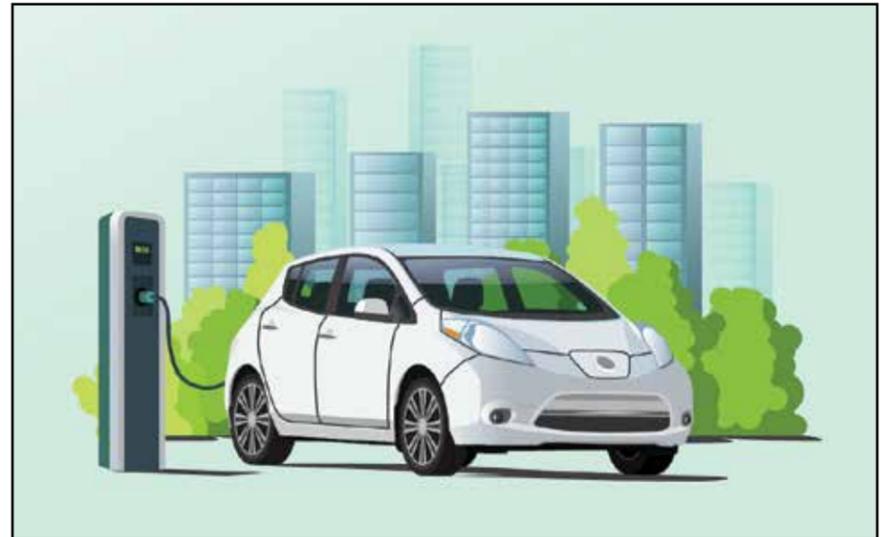
“People in British Columbia are switching to electric vehicles in record numbers as part of the transition to a cleaner, better transportation system,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. “We are building on that progress and accelerating positive change through the CleanBC Roadmap. We’re making it more affordable to own an electric vehicle and charging station, so people can improve their driving experience with no air and climate pollution,

and lower fuel and maintenance costs overall.”

The strata council for a condo building in Vancouver’s Olympic Village neighbourhood made use of the EV Ready program, as well as federal support to upgrade their building’s electrical infrastructure. The strata council worked together to first determine, through a load review, if there was enough incoming power to support a level 2 charger for every owner. Once this was determined, the strata’s chosen electrical contractor went to work with the base installation, as well as individual chargers for owners who ordered them. The strata council also ensured a charger was installed in the guest parking.

“The majority of owners in our building came together and gave our strata council approval to make the necessary updates to the building’s infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging where we live,” said Jim Bayles, vice-president of strata council. “While upgrading the electrical and installing the EV chargers was something we were going ahead with anyway, we were pleased to receive quick support from the Province through their CleanBC program as well as from the federal government.”

CleanBC’s EV Ready option supports the adoption of EV infrastructure at apartment and condominium buildings. EV Ready provides rebates for the development of EV Ready plans, a strategy for buildings supported by professionals to make at least one parking space per unit EV ready, and the installation of electrical modifications and upgrades needed to support widespread future access to EV charging for residents.



Up to five hours of free support services from an EV charging station adviser are available through the EV Charger Rebate program for condominiums, apartments and workplaces that need help moving from idea to installation.

Single-family homes, including duplexes and townhouses, can get a rebate of up to 50% of purchase and installation costs of an eligible EV charger to a maximum of \$350 through the EV Charger Rebate program.

The Province is providing a range of rebates through its CleanBC Go Electric programs and building out the fast-charging network to ensure the increasing demand for EVs is supported. B.C. has one of the largest public-charging networks in Canada with more than 2,500 public charging stations throughout the province.

The CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate program aligns with the recently released CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. Announced on Oct. 25, 2021, the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 details a range of expanded actions to accelerate the transition to a net-zero future and achieve B.C.’s legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets.

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

Quick Facts:

- The CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate program provides a convenient single point of service for provincial and any local government rebates.
- EV adviser services for multi-unit residential buildings and workplaces are available through Plug In BC.
- British Columbia is leading the country in transitioning to EVs, with more than 60,000 light-duty EVs on the road.
- British Columbia was the first place in the world to have a 100% ZEV law and is leading North America in uptake rates of EVs at nearly 10% of new sales in 2020 – five years ahead of the original target.
- The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commits B.C. to adjusting its ZEV Act to require automakers to meet an escalating annual percentage of new light-duty ZEV sales and leases, reaching 26% of light-duty vehicle sales by 2026, 90% by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

Learn More:

To learn more about home and workplace EV charging station rebates, eligibility and application processes, including the EV Ready program, visit: goelectricbc.gov.bc.ca/

To learn more about EV advisor services, visit: pluginbc.ca/ev-advisor-service/

To learn more about the suite of CleanBC Go Electric programming, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/zeroemissionvehicles

To learn about the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, visit: <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Out with Coal and Oil, in with Green Industrial

The UNA election cycle is underway, and UBC students are a part of it. Clearly, things have changed, and many living in the UBC area are cognizant of political events going on here, not the least of them being person to person discussion.

The larger world in which similar discussion took place (in Glasgow, Scotland) the last week or so, was no doubt filled with talk just like the talk in Vancouver. For them also we must be grateful for fetching before us the ugly world of oil and gas use.

For many years, the topic of climate change has been swept under the rug and profits came before every thing else. Around the world and especially so in Third World Countries we have been putting climate change on the backburner and this has led to the current situation that we can no longer ignore. Examples of climate warming, more frequent extreme weather phenomena such as hurricanes, tornadoes and drought to name

a few are widespread and are creating a bleak view of the future. Tornadoes have long been part of the weather world in some countries, but have not appeared to any extent in this country. This might be about to change.

The public is now pressuring governments to act quickly to slow down climate change so that ourselves and future generations may enjoy the fruits of this earth without paying a steep price, of a toxic climate, which will inevitably materialize unless we act quickly and collectively.

The reform students throughout Vancouver have seen the political light, as have older students and their professors, as have leaders and those who they lead. The UNA election also leads the way. Coal, oil, plastic be gone. Out with the old, and in with the new.

As stated on Page 5 in an opinion piece, Who can see this?

TRAFFIC continued from Page 1

- Create a 3-way stop at Wesbrook and Berton, to slow the traffic from 16th.
- Ban all construction traffic on Wesbrook Mall between Berton and Gray; trucks can use the BCS road created for them.
- Lower the speed limit from Gray to 16th to 20 km/hr. To enforce this, place real speed bumps, not humps, before each crosswalk.
- Ban delivery trucks greater than (this is a guess) 20,000 kg GVW; eliminate tandems and semis completely.

- Create a truck exit from the Village; Berton to Gray was the obvious plan, but is shut off now. A new route could be from Berton between the school and Save On Foods to 16th Avenue.
- Repaint the crosswalk and road lines frequently.

How do we get all this done? Some food for thought.

**Regards,
Larry Burr,
Chair BCS 3915**

Out of COP Comes Chance to Spur Green Industrial Development

A Foreword given to delegates of COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties)

Alok Sharma,
*President Designate,
London, England*

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought devastation to millions around the world, disrupting many parts of the global economy. Governments, including our own, have stepped up to protect lives and livelihoods. But climate change has continued, and it ultimately threatens life on earth.

As countries begin to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, we must take the historic opportunity to tackle climate change at the same time – to build back better, and greener. We can deliver green recoveries across the globe that bring in good jobs, trillions in investment and ground-breaking new technology. And we must. To keep the temperature of the planet under control – limiting its increase to 1.5 degrees - the science dictates that by the second half of the century, we should be producing less carbon than we take out of the atmosphere. This is what reaching ‘net zero’ means.

The journey is already underway. Despite the pandemic, the direction of travel is changing. Around 70% of the world economy is now covered by net zero targets, up from less than 30% when the UK took on the Presidency of COP26. The world is moving towards a low carbon future. Clean energy, like wind and solar, is now the cheapest source of electricity in most countries; many of the world’s car makers are shifting to make only electric and hybrid models; countries around the world are starting important work to protect and restore nature; cities, states and regions across the world are also committing to reduce emissions to zero.

The UK is leading the way – over the last

30 years British governments have grown the economy by 78% while cutting emissions by 44%. That shows green growth is real. In 2012, 40% of electricity came from coal. That figure is now less than 2%. That shows that change is possible.

The UK was the first country to pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, we will completely phase out coal power by 2024 and will end the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. We are introducing legally binding targets to restore nature and radical reforms to agricultural subsidies. The Prime Minister has set out a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution to help us reach our climate commitments whilst creating thousands of highly skilled jobs and already, many more Brits earn their living from clean green jobs.

Around the world we are also seeing progress. Together with the United Nations, Italy, France and Chile we hosted the Climate Ambition Summit which brought together 75 leaders from around the world. It was a major stride forward, with new commitments on climate announced by every leader who joined. It’s an important indicator that we are all serious about getting carbon emissions down now. Even so, we’re going to need much more. We cannot wake up in 2029 and decide to slash our emissions by 50% by 2030. That’s why the next six months will see the UK push others not to flinch from the big policy decisions: ending coal power, phasing out polluting vehicles, making agriculture more sustainable, tackling deforestation and supporting developing countries with finance.

Unfortunately reducing emissions is not enough. For many nations, the picture is far bleaker. For a time, time I served as the UK government’s minister responsible for international aid – I have real sympathy with less developed countries that feel it’s for the developed industrial nations to help sort out a problem largely of their making. Indeed, one of the reasons we are determined to hold COP26

in person is to ensure the voices of these countries are heard and acted on. For those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, who are already seeing their homes disappear under water and their crops decimated by drought - COP26 simply can’t be another talking shop.

In 2009, rich countries promised they would work towards raising \$100bn each year by 2020 to help these countries tackle climate change. Donors need to demonstrate that the target will be met and surpassed.

As COP President Designate, I am determined that we will. There is no viable pathway to net zero emissions that does not involve protecting and restoring nature on an unprecedented scale. If we are serious about holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees and adapting to the impacts of climate change, we must change the way we look after our land and seas and how we grow our food. This is also important if we want to protect and restore the world’s biodiversity, upon which all life depends.

At COP26, we will work with partners to take forward action on protecting and restoring forests and critical ecosystems, and we will champion the transition towards sustainable, resilient and nature positive agriculture. COP26 needs to be decisive. Whether future generations look back at this time with admiration or despair, de-

pends entirely on our ability to seize this moment. Let’s seize it together.

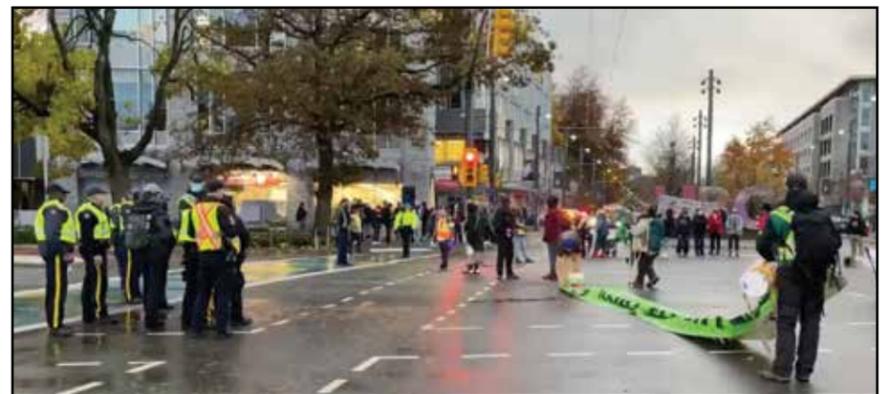
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Local activists are similarly applying pressure on University of British Columbia to show they are not waiting any longer for them to divest from fossil fuels.

Extinction Rebellion Vancouver feels the science is clear and we must end our fossil fuel addiction if we are to have any hope of a livable future. Among Universities, UBC is ranked “No.1 in the world for climate action and impact”. So as an educational institution, local activists feel why do they still fund our own destruction?

The group led a non-violent protest on UBC’s Vancouver Campus on October 26, calling for climate action and fossil fuel divestment. Beginning at Jim Everett Memorial Park, the protest then blocked the main university intersection of Westbrook Mall and University Mall, re-routing all traffic including bus routes.

Extinction Rebellion Vancouver acknowledges that their actions take place on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations and is committed to standing alongside & in support of the original stewards of these lands.



Extinction Rebellion Vancouver’s call for climate action and fossil fuel divestment, at the primary entrance of UBC at Westbrook Mall and University Boulevard.

REAP continued from Page 1

A few examples are measures that improve energy performance, reduce light pollution and specify low emission products and amenity spaces in buildings to support community building.

REAP 3.2 addresses the UBC climate emergency through energy efficiency performance targets, greenhouse gas reporting and establishment of climate adaptation and resiliency measures. These include a requirement to design new buildings for future climate temperature conditions ensuring that our new neighbourhood buildings are ready for events such as the heat dome event that occurred this past summer. The methodology that allowed for this requirement was developed from a UBC project, and UBC is one of the first jurisdictions to establish such a requirement for new buildings.

REAP 3.2 also establishes a require-

ment to provide electric service to at least one parking stall per unit in strata developments for electric vehicle charging, which will allow residents to easily establish home charging for increasingly popular electric vehicles and facilitate the transition to zero emission electric vehicles.

To ensure future neighbourhood development is low emission and climate resilient, UBC has launched the Neighbourhood Low Carbon Energy Strategy project to identify the most effective option for providing low carbon energy for future neighbourhood development and ensure buildings are designed for future climate conditions. This project will inform future new REAP building requirements, including measures to reduce energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions in the operation of residential buildings and reduce utility costs.

UBC Campus and Community Planning

(C+CP), the UNA and UBC Properties Trust also collaborate on emission reduction projects. A great recent example of this partnership is a project to install a neighbourhood electric vehicle charging station on Westbrook Mall that will be available to UNA residents and will support a Modo electric carshare vehicle. This project was supported by the REAP Contribution to Low Carbon Transportation fund and a federal Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program grant. Building on the success of this project, we are launching a new project to identify opportunities for establishing additional stations.

Other examples of collaborative projects include an electric vehicle charging station guide that was recently completed and is available from the UNA to assist UNA strata councils in establishing electric vehicle charging stations in their buildings. C+CP also undertook strata building energy benchmarking project

in partnership with the UNA, providing UNA stratas with an energy performance report, providing C+CP with valuable information about building performance to support our building policy development. We look forward to continuing this productive collaboration for future initiatives that support the UNA and neighbourhood residents in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change in the UNA neighbourhoods.

About the author: Ralph Wells is the Community Energy Manager for Campus and Community Planning Sustainability and Engineering. Ralph is responsible for developing energy efficiency and emission reduction policies, programs and projects for the UBC Vancouver campus residential neighbourhoods. You can learn more about REAP at bit.ly/3bWAX0b and more about the UNA EV charging station guide at bit.ly/3qj9omd.

RCMP, “What Pedestrians and Drivers Can Do to Make Our Roadways Safer with the Return of Shorter, Rainy Days.”

Statistics made available by
RCMP Richmond

In a news release, the RCMP want to remind pedestrians and drivers about being vigilant as shorter, rainy days return.

The release uses statistics from Richmond detachment of the RCMP. However, they apply to other detachments as well, including University detachment on Wesbrook Mall.

In 2020, Richmond RCMP investigated a total of 38 collisions involving pedestrians. 24 of those occurred during the winter months.

With darker conditions and poor visibility, we see more collisions involving pedestrians, says Corporal Adriana O’Malley, who released the report. The effect of these collisions can be huge on all those involved. It’s so important we as the police, as well as the public, do everything possible to prevent someone from being injured or killed.

In 2020, Richmond RCMP investigated 3 pedestrian fatalities. To date in 2021, Richmond RCMP have investigated 28 collisions involving pedestrians and no fatalities.

In addition to conducting targeted enforcement at high trafficked pedestrian corridors from mid-October to mid-November, Richmond RCMP want to

remind pedestrians and drivers of ways they can help prevent these collisions from occurring.

Ways pedestrians can help prevent being involved in a collision include:

- Make eye contact with drivers, as it’s hard to see pedestrians when visibility is poor in fall and winter. Never assume a driver has seen you.
- Be careful at intersections. Watch for drivers turning left or right through the crosswalk. Drivers may be focused on oncoming traffic and not see you.
- Always cross at designated crosswalks and follow pedestrian signs and traffic signals.
- Remove your headphones and take a break from your phone while crossing the road.
- Be as reflective as possible to make it easier for drivers to see you in wet weather, at dusk and at night.

Ways drivers can help to try and avoid collisions include:

- Focus on the road. Always leave your phone alone while driving. #LeaveYourPhoneAlone
- Be ready to yield to pedestrians, especially when turning at intersections and near transit stops.
- If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian.
- Expect the unexpected, even mid-block, as pedestrians may not be using a crosswalk.

It is incumbent on both drivers and pe-

destrians to take steps to help make our roadways safer. By working together, we can help create a safer driving culture in BC.

(published by Cpl. Adriana O’Malley, Media Relations Officer, Richmond RCMP. richmond.rcmp.ca)

Additionally, RCMP University Detachment is alerting the community regarding an increase in property crime (especially theft from vehicles) these last few weeks. September seemed to have less property crime than previous years, but the beginning of October has shown a significant spike.

Multiple theft from vehicles in the Acadia Park townhouse complex as well as Thunderbird Blvd and Hawthorne Lane

have occurred. University RCMP would like to remind the community to not leave anything of value in their vehicles and be vigilant for suspicious people or activity and contact the non-emergency line at 604-224-1322 if you see anything suspicious.

University RCMP have increased patrols especially on foot in the Acadia Park townhouse area in the early hours of the morning and late at night.

Finally, RCMP continue in their investigation of the car accident at UBC that left two students dead. The accident took place around midnight, and involved a car driven on to the sidewalk striking the students. Investigators are asking the public for any information that may help them in their investigation.

SUBWAY Rapid Transit; Construction Continues

Line to be completed in 2025; line beyond to UBC is under active planning

John Tompkins,
Editor

Suddenly, a \$3 billion rapid transit scheme that was once but a dream in the minds of local of planners seems halfway complete.

“The Broadway Subway project remains on track with no change to the timeline,” states the company building the Broadway Subway rapid transit project at its website.

Planning and analysis on this line have been underway for many years, and included the City, Province, TransLink and the region’s mayors as part of the Mayors’ Council.

A decision was made by the mayors to fund and build rapid transit to UBC in two phases based on available funding. Funding is in place for the Broadway Subway Project, which is defined from VCC-Clark to Arbutus, with completion in 2025.

The City, TransLink and UBC are involved in a planning initiative to extend the subway to UBC. In the meantime, the

Arbutus Street terminus will be designed to allow for future rapid transit expansion to UBC.

The Broadway Subway Project is a 5.7 km extension of the Millennium Line, from VCC-Clark Station to Broadway and Arbutus. It will provide fast, frequent and convenient SkyTrain service to B.C.’s second largest jobs centre, world-class health services, and emerging innovation and research hub, and growing residential communities.

- 700 metres will be elevated, extending from VCC-Clark Station to a tunnel portal near Great Northern Way.
- Five kilometres will be tunneled below the Broadway Corridor from Great Northern Way to Arbutus Street.
- Six underground stations will connect communities and the region, including a direct underground connection to the Canada Line at Cambie Street.
- The 99 B-Line bus service will connect from Arbutus Street to the University of British Columbia.

The project is on schedule for the new line to open in 2025.

The health and safety of construction workers is a top priority. The construction contractor is ensuring protocols and policies are in place that follow the requirements of the provincial health officer to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

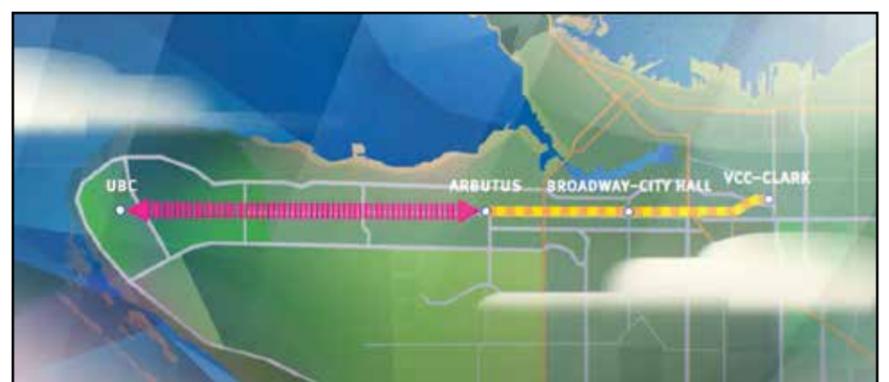


Illustration of the corridor for the UBC SkyTrain extension. Photo credit TransLink.

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

UNA Elections 2021: All-Candidates Forum

**November 18, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.,
Online Forum (Zoom)**

All UNA Members are invited to attend an All-Candidates Forum to learn more about the candidates running in the UNA Elections 2021.

UNA Members will elect seven members to its Board of Directors at the 2021 UNA Elections that runs from November 8 to November 30, 2021. The All-Candidates Forum will be held on November 18, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. A link to register will be sent out to the email address associated with your UNA Membership.

For more information, visit myuna.ca/elections.

LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

Universities Must Take Global Action to Tackle Climate Change

This month, thousands of delegates from around the world gathered in Glasgow, Scotland, for COP26, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties. I am proud to say that a delegation of eight UBC students, faculty members and staff attended this critical event.

The UBC delegates took part in COP26 to deepen their understanding of how global climate negotiations work, with positive impacts for their research and programs. They also shared UBC's exemplary work on the climate emergency with this global gathering, and shared their experiences with the wider UBC community when they returned. Please check out UBC's COP26 website at sustain.ubc.ca/cop26.

Many people believe COP26 was the world's last best chance to get runaway climate change under control.

COP26 included a symposium on how research universities can contribute to facing up to the climate challenge, I had the privilege of taking part in the Science for Net-Zero Symposium, which was organized by CESAER - the European association of leading universities of science and technology, ISCEN - the International

Sustainable Campus Network, Science Europe, and the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

At the symposium, we agreed to a call for collective action for global action to tackle climate change. The call is for universities, national research performing organisations and research funding organisations, to look at how their actions and ambitions around climate change can collectively be upgraded. The call to action includes pledges to reduce our own carbon footprint and preparing the next generation of students and re-searchers for a net-zero transition, among other commitments.

UBC is already stepping up to the challenge. For example, we have committed to – and are now implementing – full divestment of its investments from fossil fuels. Since the beginning of 2020, UBC has transitioned \$214 million to fossil-fuel-free or low carbon investments — representing over 20% of our public equity holdings — and currently only 1.4% of the endowment is estimated to be exposed to fossil fuel investments.

Divestment alone does not address climate change; it is, however, one large step. That

is why UBC has also committed to reducing our carbon emissions footprint in line with Paris Agreement targets needed to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees by 2050.

UBC is proud of being recognized as a top three university for taking urgent action to combat climate change in 2021, ranked #1 in both 2019 and 2020 by the Times Higher Education. This recognition comes not just from our efforts to divest from fossil fuels, but in all aspects of our operations and within our university community.

In 2020, UBC became a signatory to the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), and a founding signatory of Investing to Address Climate Change: A Charter for Canadian Universities.

UBC is actively working to create the most sustainable campuses in the world, and has been pursuing this goal since 2010, when our first Climate Action Plan set some of the most aggressive greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for a post-secondary institution in North America.

Thanks to an expansion of our Bioenergy Research & Demonstration Facility, we are advancing toward a 63% reduction in GHG emissions since 2007 by the end of this year.

Our ambitious new Climate Action Plan



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

2030, which goes to the Board of Governors later this month, will accelerate our efforts. It commits the university to achieving net-zero operational emissions by 2035, a full 15 years ahead of the previous target date.

We know the urgency of the climate crisis and UBC is prepared to directly face its challenges. At this pivotal moment, the decisions and actions we take today will reverberate beyond our own borders and lifetimes.

Climate Action: Stop. Think. Try.

Nicole Duane
Grade 11 student,
Lord Byng Secondary School

If we really think about it, climate change is easily one of the most pressing issues of late.

However, since the situation seems to escalate so slowly, it's easy to let ourselves sweep our worries under the rug. But we've heard the news: *Trees are being cut down at an alarming rate! The ice caps are melting! The Arctic is shrinking!* These incidents, however appalling, are happening hundreds of kilometres away and thus difficult to connect to our personal lives. But climate change could definitely leave a mark in our lives, too: rising sea levels could flood lowlying cities like Vancouver, and higher levels of CO2 in the air reduces the nutritional value of our crops. And in person, we've seen lingering smoke tainting our skies after a summer wildfire, and felt suffocating heat that seemed impossible a decade ago in our mild Vancouver weather.

There are plenty of school clubs that aim to spread awareness about our environment; posters spouting facts about climate change pop up periodically around our hallways, and signs telling us to *Not Waste Water!* and *Recycle Your Plastics!* looming over sinks and trash bins. They capture the modern issue of climate change perfectly: ever-present, yet easily ignored. They have almost become conventional wall decor at this point—as mundane as the circular 'no smoking' symbols plastered on glass doors.

Why does climate change almost feel like a background issue to the general population? Sure, we'll walk an extra few steps to toss our recyclables in the correct bin, and take extra care to turn off the lights when we leave a room, but these actions are trivial, insignificant, in the grand scheme of things. We've seen the pictures of overflowing landfills, of sea animals entangled with trash, and of beaches littered with filth. Then we walk into a grocery store and buy snacks individually wrapped in plastic, inside a slightly bigger plastic box, and toss it inside a yet bigger plastic bag filled with other plastic-wrapped items. We sip on flimsy paper straws and tell ourselves that no, it's okay, it's just how the world is. We think of the big corporations and how little impact we have compared to them, to justify our behaviour, because of course it's not our fault, just look at them!

It's true, in a way. You can't stop climate change by not purchasing plastics. Ten people can't stop climate change by not purchasing plastics. Neither can a hundred. A thousand. But if all of us didn't, then we'd be a lot closer. That's the issue—our actions feel insignificant because they are. Climate change isn't an issue us individuals can solve, so a lot of us sigh, *At least I tried!*, and turn away.

But you don't have to stop there. Solving climate change isn't about what you can do; it's about how many people you can influence. Join a rally. Support a cause. Sign a petition. Vote for politicians with our future as their priority. Do what you can to make climate change an issue bigger than ourselves—it's not about you, or me. It's about saving the world.

2022
WINTER

PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Programs
at the Wesbrook
Community Centre &
Old Barn Community
Centre

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Spending Time in Nature Promotes Early Childhood Development

Want to ensure your child hits their expected developmental milestones? New UBC research suggests living in areas with high exposure to greenspace can help set them up for success.

For the study, researchers at the UBC faculty of forestry and faculty of medicine analyzed the developmental scores of 27,372 children in Metro Vancouver who attended kindergarten between 2005 and 2011. They estimated the amount of greenspace around each child's residence from birth to age five. They also assessed levels of traffic-related air pollution and community noise.

The results highlight the fundamental importance of natural green spaces like street trees, parks and community gardens, authors say.

"Most of the children were doing well in their development, in terms of language skills, cognitive capacity, socialization and other outcomes," says study author Ingrid Jarvis (she/her), a PhD candidate in the department of forest and conservation sciences at UBC. "But what's interesting is that those children living in a residential location with more vegetation and richer natural environments showed better overall development than their peers with less greenspace."

According to the researchers, the reason for this is partly greenspaces' ability to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution and noise—environmental challenges that have been shown to adversely affect chil-

dren's health and development through increased stress, sleep disturbances and central nervous system damage.

"Few studies have investigated this pathway linking greenspace and developmental outcomes among children, and we believe this is the first Canadian study to do so," adds Jarvis.

The researchers assessed early childhood development using the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a survey completed by kindergarten teachers for each child. The tool measures a child's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations.

"More research is needed, but our findings suggest that urban planning efforts to increase greenspace in residential neighbourhoods and around schools are beneficial for early childhood development, with potential health benefits throughout life," says the study's senior author and UBC research associate, Matilda van den Bosch (she/her).

"Time in nature can benefit everyone, but if we want our children to have a good head start, it's important to provide an enriching environment through nature contact. Access to greenspace from a very young age can help ensure good social, emotional and mental development among children."

The study, published recently in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, includes contributions by researchers at the University of California Berkeley, University of Cali-

fornia Los Angeles, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, BC Children's Hospital and BC Centre for Disease Control.

Disclaimer: This work was supported by data made accessible via Population Data BC, the Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium, and the Integrated Remote Sensing Studio at the University of British Columbia. All inferences, opinions, and conclusions drawn in this study are those of the authors, and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Data Steward(s).

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Ingrid Jarvis

Environment Canada Confirms Tornado Hit UBC

Weather pattern includes tornado, bomb cyclones and heat dome

Environment Canada had previously reported a tornado over the Strait of Georgia just west of the Vancouver International Airport at about 5 p.m. on Nov. 6.

The weather office says the storm then swept over a section of the University of B.C. campus, where buses, pedestrians and cyclists were diverted from a main access road that was still being cleared of fallen trees and branches on Monday.

No one was hurt and the Environment Canada tornado watch was quickly lifted.

British Columbia has been hit by a series of unusual weather events, ranging from a heat dome in late June that created the hottest-ever temperatures recorded in Canada, to two so-called bomb cyclones that hammered the south coast last month.

This report was first published by The Canadian Press, Nov. 8, 2021.

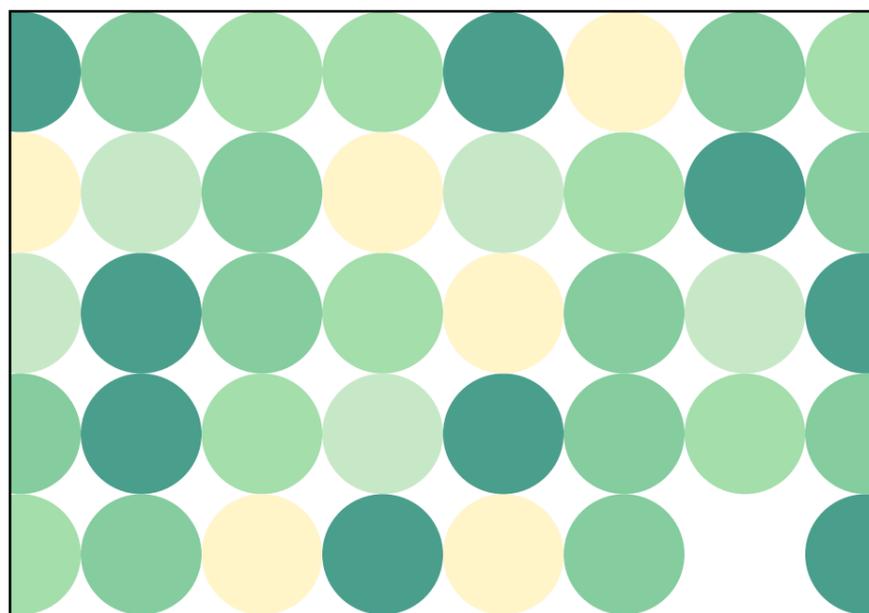
A tornado with wind speeds up to 110 kilometres per hour passed over the University of British Columbia on Saturday, November 6, fetching yet another quirk of nature that had already seen a 'heat dome' and two so-called 'bomb cyclones' earlier.

Environment Canada confirms all events. The weather office confirmation comes after a survey of the damage, which found broken and uprooted trees, debris, downed power lines and a damaged vehicle.

An update posted Monday afternoon November 8, says the preliminary rating of EF0, which is the lowest on the Fujita tornado scale, could change if more information becomes available.



Debris and damage from storm at UBC. Photo credits: CTV News.



UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

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A UNA Society Membership* entitles eligible residents to participate at UNA general meetings and to vote and run in 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 opt-in and proof of address is required.



UBC Researchers Help Communities Prepare for Effects of Climate Change

The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) took place last week and one of its four goals was to help countries adapt to climate change in order to protect communities and natural habitats.

From creating disaster preparedness apps to training local climate champions, UBC researchers are already working with communities to help them prepare for the effects of climate change.

A thorough list of inputs helps individualize plans for each household, including whether someone menstruates, has anxiety, accessibility issues, is part of the LG-BTQ+ community, signs, is a refugee or in Canada on a temporary visa. And pets aren't forgotten: users can input the number of animals in their household.

Preparing for emergencies is like insurance, says Dr. Reynolds. "You do a little bit of work now and hopefully reap the benefits down the road. We know things like sea level rise, coastal flooding, tsunamis, are going to happen and we can put steps in place to prepare."

Wine, cheese and climate change

Tackling climate change over wine and cheese with your neighbours sounds too good to be true. But Dr. Stephen Sheppard, a professor emeritus in the department of forest resources management in the faculty of forestry, says local climate change action should be fun. "If you can get people to do things together, you get safer, more resilient neighbourhoods but also stronger communities. You could go to the pub, have some fun with it – it's got to be fun, or no one will do it."

Over the next 12 months, his team will train local residents for Cool 'Hood Champs, a free program hosted by four Vancouver community centres. In a series of three workshops, participants learn to identify local climate targets, impacts and solutions, and craft their own climate action plans with practical actions, ranging from installing a shade structure or a vegetable garden to watering neighbourhood trees during a drought.

This year's program is an extension of a pilot from last year, where 29 participants completed all the workshops, and 70 per cent chose to take home trees to plant in their yards. Local action is vital, says Dr. Sheppard, because individual behavioural decisions affect whether governments achieve emissions targets, and practical solutions can help people feel better. "What can you do about climate change? You can ignore it, worry about it, or do something about it, using



UBC Forestry's Cool 'Hood Champs program workshop facilitator Dr. Stephen Sheppard (front) asks participants questions during a neighbourhood climate action session recently held in Vancouver.

App-daptation for disasters and hazards

Planning for a disaster can be scary, but UBC researchers are making it easier with a new app tailored to individual households.

Dr. Ryan Reynolds, a postdoctoral researcher in the faculty of applied science's school of community and regional planning, found residents in Port Alberni were confused as to which households were at risk and where to find information following a tsunami warning and evacuation in 2018.

Hoping to address this gap, his team has created the Canadian Hazards Emergency Response and Preparedness Mobile App (CHERP) app, which will be piloted in seven communities on Vancouver Island starting next month. "I know from speaking with people post-disaster that anything we can do to reduce that confusion goes a long way to building trust in emergency responses."

The app helps residents create preparedness, communication, evacuation and on-the-day emergency response plans for local hazards and potential disasters such as sea level rise or coastal flooding. Not sure if your household is in the inundation zone for a tsunami warning? The app will tell you based on your location.

Updates on Health Requirements for British Columbians

Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

By order of the Provincial Health Officer, proof of vaccination will be required to access some events and services that the UNA provides at the Wesbrook Community Centre and the Old Barn Community Centre.

Mask Requirement in Indoor Facilities

As per BC Provincial Health orders, masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces throughout B.C. to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 as B.C. pre-

pares for the fall and respiratory illness season.

The latest order from the provincial health officer (effective October 12, 2021) requires people ages 5 and older to wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

The UNA is requiring everyone who is in a program with children ages 5 and older to wear masks in indoor public settings as well.

You can learn more by visiting the UNA's website, myuna.ca

positive processes you can control.'

Dr. Sheppard and his team are also piloting a three-year program with Oak Bay council, where citizen workshops will be hosted through community hubs including schools, churches, and volunteer programs, with funding and staff support. "The pilot will show with backing and funding, citizens themselves can run workshops, take local action and involve others, sustainably."

Adaptation, not maladaptation

However, climate adaptation interventions are not automatically positive, says Dr. Sameer Shah (he/him), a sessional lecturer at the UBC Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) in the faculty of science. When applied without consideration of the social context, they can deepen inequities.

In a study published in June, Dr. Shah and colleagues looked into the Government of Maharashtra's campaign in India to make 25,000 villages drought-free by 2019, a campaign that cost nearly US\$1.3 billion.

The team interviewed households in three villages, as well as government officials and key informants, and found that government interests had led to a narrow focus on certain types of water conservation interventions. These benefited a particular group of people, generally those who were already well-off, and often excluded those who didn't have enough land or money to invest in water-related adaptations, or were located further away from waterbodies, including members of historically disadvantaged groups.

According to a 2020 report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the campaign had little impact in achieving water neutrality and increasing groundwater level. Here, technical solutions are not enough, says Dr. Shah, and interven-

tions need to incorporate the social context in which they occur. "As researchers, we can't just say 'this is the science' for an intervention, and then hang up our hats. We need to be focused on issues of governance and distribution."

Getting the global community involved

When it comes to climate action on mitigation and adaptation, we need everyone involved, says Dr. Jiaying Zhao, Canada Research Chair in Behavioral Sustainability and associate professor at IRES and the department of psychology in the faculty of arts.

She and her colleagues have posited a set of interventions to target different subsets of the entire population to make sure no one is left behind.

Two of these five groups, the "late majority" and the "laggards", make up 50 per cent of the population and are often overlooked by behaviour change interventions, the authors say.

The "late majority" are characterized as adopting climate actions to fit in with others. Interventions include using social norms, peer pressure, and peer influence to encourage climate action. The "laggards", or those most reluctant to act, need peer role models to deliver messages and to endorse climate action, says Dr. Zhao. "You need to use the right messenger to deliver the right message."

Policy makers and researchers should acknowledge these different groups of people and their distinct motivations for climate action, and tailor interventions to each group, she says. "We should get everyone onboard, not just the keeners, as soon as possible."

Story by UBC Researchers.

Republished from news.ubc.ca.

Life Expectancy Varies by as Much as 9.5 Years Across Metro Vancouver

Life expectancy in Metro Vancouver can vary by as much as 9.5 years depending on the neighbourhood in which you live, a new UBC-led study has found.

Vancouver remains one of the healthiest cities in the world, but inequality in life expectancy between its neighbourhoods has grown considerably since 2001.

“In these data we can see the actual inequality that occurs within the city and where it occurs,” said Jessica Yu, a doctoral candidate at UBC’s school of population and public health who was lead author of the study published this week in *Health and Place*. “We are seeing high inequality within a city that has a relatively high life expectancy overall.”

The study is the first in Canada to analyze life expectancy and causes of death at the census tract level over a period of more than a quarter-century. Using de-identified data from the Population Data BC research resource, Yu and her team harmonized information on age, sex, cause of death, residence and location of death with Statistics Canada population data from census years 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

The result is an interactive data map that can be manipulated to show life expectancy and mortality rate by various causes of death at the census tract level over 27 years.

It came as little surprise to the researchers that life expectancy is lowest in pock-

ets of the region where poverty has taken hold. However, the data reveals stark contrasts between census tracts within close proximity of each other. For example, residents living just five kilometres apart in the City of Vancouver may be more than 10 years apart in life expectancy.

Overall life expectancy in Metro Vancouver increased during the study period. At the 2016 census it was 86.6 years for women and 82.5 years for men. However, certain areas such as the Downtown Eastside and Haney in Maple Ridge had a life expectancy of less than 75 years for both women and men.

Statistically, residents of those areas have life expectancies that are comparable to the average life expectancies in Indonesia (71.8 years) and Russia (73.2 years). Life expectancy was highest in West Vancouver, West Point Grey, northwest Richmond and parts of South Surrey and Coquitlam.

The causes of death that drive some of these disparities are evident in the data. Death rates from cancers, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases varied widely between census tracts. For these causes, some neighbourhoods had a mortality rate 17 times higher than others in the city. Prostate cancer among men yielded particularly stark contrasts.

To measure how inequality has changed over time, the researchers compared the gap in life expectancy between the 10



Street scene in Downtown, Vancouver.
Photo credit: GoToVan | Flickr Creative Commons.

per cent of census tracts with highest and lowest life expectancy.

Interestingly, the gap shrank between 1990 and 2001 but then reversed direction and grew for the final 16 years of the study period.

The study doesn’t reveal why these inequalities have grown since 2001, but Yu noted that some census tracts have more services, more green space and more transit access than others.

“Can these sorts of things explain some of these disparities? Now that we have this important dataset, I’m hoping future studies will make these linkages and help

explain why we are seeing some of the inequalities,” Yu said. “That research could help urban planners and health planners direct resources accordingly.”

The study reveals more about death and its causes at the neighbourhood level in Metro Vancouver than any before. However, attributing those outcomes to specific policies or social factors is work that’s still to come.

All inferences, opinions, and conclusions drawn in this study are those of the authors, and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Data Steward(s).

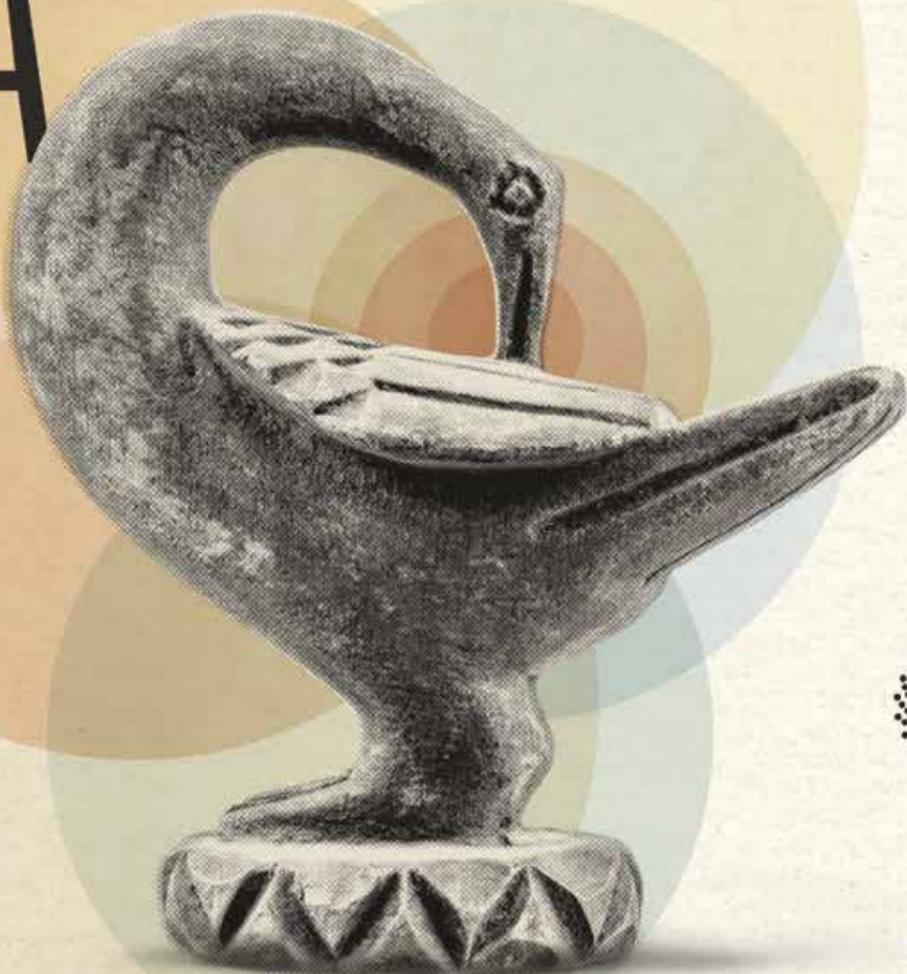
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