

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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Candid Conversation at UHill

Learning the “surprising” results of the 2018 Fraser Institute Report Card on BC Secondary Schools, University Hill students set up a reporting group looking “to hear some thoughts from different perspectives”



Fraser Institute School Ranking: Fair or Unfair? UHill Principal Timothy McGeer was frank in expressing his opinion in an interview with Jerry Zhang, Grade 12 student. Photo credit Yize Ma. Please see story by Jerry Zhang on Page 7.

The UBC–UNA Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee

has issued a report on its November 2018 meeting.

Please see Page 5.

UNA Seniors Celebrate Success of Wellbeing Project

Application for second phase of project – funded by the New Horizons for Seniors grant – is under consideration

Senior UBC residents who participated in a three-month *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project organized by the University Neighbourhoods Association celebrated completion of the project with a wrap-up party at the Wesbrook Community Centre on Saturday, December 8.

The goal of the UNA project – funded by the federal government – was to improve the physical strength, mental health and social wellbeing of seniors in the UBC community. The project allowed them to participate in dozens of activities at no cost.

The activities – in education, social and fitness categories – were led by a mix of paid instructors and Senior Ambassador

volunteers and took place across campus: in Wesbrook and The Old Barn community centres, UBC Aquatic Centre, Osborne Centre, UBC Botanical Garden, Roy Barnett Recital Hall, TRIUMF, etc.

“We are happy that it has not been a lonely journey, many of you have joined us in the past 12 weeks to experience, learn, connect and have fun!” said Qiuning Wang, UNA Assistant Recreation Manager, in an invitation to the wrap-up party emailed to all 211 UBC seniors in the *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project.

At the party, Ms. Wang mused on the prospect of organizing a second phase of the project.

“What I want to put forward here is the idea of forming a Seniors Wellbeing Committee that would take the lead in applying for the *New Horizons for Seniors* grant again, relying on the feedback collected from this initial round.

WELLBEING continued on Page 6

UNA GOVERNANCE

New Committee Continues Work on Bylaw Revision

First recommendations and proposed amendments expected by February Board meeting

John Tompkins
Editor

Directors of the University Neighbourhoods Association have taken a major step towards changing the way the growing residential community at UBC is governed.

At their December 4 Board meeting, the Directors approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) of a new committee called UNA Bylaw Working Group 2018–Phase 2.

The purpose of this committee – which will serve as a subcommittee of the UNA Board – is “to consider the recommendations of the UNA Bylaw Committee–Phase 1 and respond to the UNA Board Strategic Plan goal of governance, which includes an exploration of opportunities to evolve governance in a way that meets the needs of a growing community.”

This may lead to significant changes in the composition of the UNA Board that currently includes three unelected directors: two directors appointed by UBC and one director appointed by AMS (student).

At the 2017 AGM that took place in January 2018, UNA members sent a strong and clear message that the composition of the

Board must become more democratic: the members rejected proposed UNA Bylaw amendments that failed to address the issue of unelected directors on the Board.

Since the AGM in January until the recent 2018 AGM on November 5, residents felt the previous Board ignored their message. The new Board formed in November – with a new Board Chair Terry Mullen – swiftly addressed this most contentious issue for residents, namely UNA governance.

The Bylaw Working Group 2018 – Phase 2 will submit to the Board – no later than the February Board meeting – its recommendations, the reasons for them and proposed amendments in regard to the following matters:

- Composition of the Board
- Term of office of Directors
- Election timing and transition
- Election procedures
- Timing of AGM
- Selection and term of Officers
- UNA membership
- Quorum for Board meetings
- Expulsion/discipline of members
- Stipends for Elected Directors
- Election of Directors to extra terms.

The Bylaw Working Group will consider opportunities for broader community consultation and consequential impacts to *Neighbours Agreement* and UBC–UNA decision-making frameworks.

BYLAWS continued on Page 3





MESSAGE FROM THE UNA CHAIR

A new Board of Directors of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) was formed on November 1, 2018. The returning resident directors are Ying Zhou and Laura Cottle, and the returning appointed directors are Carole Jolly, UBC appointee, and Cristina Illich, AMS appointee. The new resident directors are Nataliya Jatskevich, Matthew Delumpa and Terry Mullen; the eighth director is Tor Album, UBC appointee. The Chair of the new Board is Terry Mullen, Matthew Delumpa is the Treasurer and Laura Cottle will continue as Secretary for a second year.

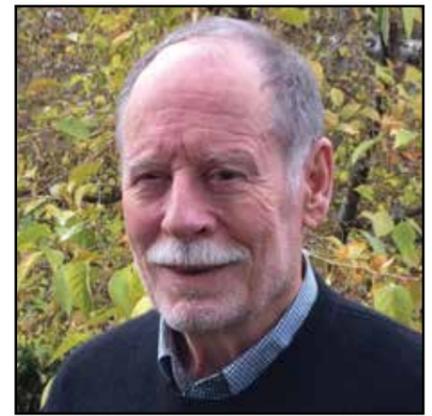
One of the first tasks of the newly-elected Board was to attend the second meeting of the UBC-UNA Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee that was held on November 5, 2018. The report on the outcome of that meeting is available on the UNA website www.myuna.ca.

The new UNA Board met for the first time on December 4, 2018. Of interest to residents who may wish to make a submission to the Board or attend the open agenda session of a Board meeting, the Board has rescheduled its regular monthly meetings to the third Tuesday of each month, rather than the second Tuesday. To confirm a meeting date or to obtain a copy of the agenda of a Board meeting, residents should access the UNA website.

The Board made two procedurally important decisions at the December 4, 2018 meeting: to approve the *UNA Strategic Plan* and to create a working group to address the UNA bylaw issues that have been matters of concern to residents over the past several years.

The Strategic Plan is intended to focus the efforts and resources of the UNA on strategies that will enable it to more effectively achieve its goals. *The Plan* has four major components: Governance, Financial Sustainability, Operational Capacity, and Community and Stakeholder Relations. To provide advice and recommendations in respect of each of these four program areas, four entities named Community Advisory Committees comprised of a UNA director, a UNA staff person, and several resident appointees will be created. The formation of these Committees will take place over the next two years starting with the Community and Stakeholder Relations committee. A process for UNA members to express interest in being on one of these Committees will be publicized. The Committees will supplement, not replace, access to the Board by individual residents.

The Bylaw Working Group is the successor to the Bylaw Review Committees that have met over the past two years. The Working Group will build upon the work of those committees. Its task is to draft bylaws in a number of substantive areas – most notably the composition of the Board, number of directors, term of office of directors, selection of officers, timing of elections and AGM, expanding UNA membership, expulsion/discipline of members, quorums. In some instances, the Working Group may suggest some matters contained in the present bylaws be removed from the bylaws and become UNA policies or procedures. The Working Group will also consider consequential changes to the existing bylaws and to the *Neighbours Agreement 2015* that become necessary as a result of amendments to substantive bylaws.



Terry Mullen

Upon receiving the recommendations of the Working Group, the Board will publicize the proposed bylaw amendments and create a process for obtaining comments from UNA members. The goal is to put the bylaw amendments to a vote of UNA members at a Special General Meeting to be scheduled for the late Spring.

The Working Group is on a tight schedule. Not only must the consultation with UNA members be completed in a timely way but, for some of the proposed amendments, particularly those relating to the composition of the Board, it is necessary to obtain the consent of the UBC Board of Governors. Such consent is necessary because consequential changes to the *Neighbours Agreement 2015* must be made and, for that, both parties to the *Agreement*, that is, UBC and the UNA, must be in agreement. Preliminary discussions with UBC in this regard through the Liaison Committee referred to above have been positive.

Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Board of Directors

Editor's Note: Message from the UNA Chair in Chinese is below.



主席致函

大学邻里协会（UNA）的新一届董事会已于2018年11月1日成立。重返担任居民董事的有Ying Zhou和Laura Cottle，重返担任任命董事的有UBC任命的Carole Jolly，和AMS任命的Cristina Illich。新的居民董事有Nataliya Jatskevich, Matthew Delumpa和Terry Mullen；第八位董事是UBC任命的Tor Album。新董事会的主席是Terry Mullen, Matthew Delumpa为财务主管，Laura Cottle将继续第二年担任秘书长。

新当选董事会的首要任务之一是参加2018年11月5日举行的UBC-UNA 邻域联络委员会的第二次会议。有关会议结果的进一步消息将很快公布。

新一届UNA董事会于2018年12月4日首次举行了会议。有兴趣想向董事会提出建议或出席董事会公开议程会议的居民，董事会已将其定期每月会议重新安排到每月的第三个星期二，而不是第二个星期二。要确认会议日期或获取董事会会议议程的副本，居民们可浏览UNA的网站myuna.ca。

在2018年12月4日的会议上，董事会做出了两项在程序上具有重要意义的决定：批准《UNA战略计划》，以及建立一个工作组来解决过去几年来居民们一直关心的UNA章程问题。

该《战略计划》旨在将UNA的工作重点和资源放在能够使其更有效地实现其目标的战略之上。该计划由四个主要组成部分：治理、财务可持续性、运作能力以及社区和利益相关者关系。为了针对这四个计划的每个领域提出意见和建议，将建立四个名为“社区咨询委员会”的实体，由一位UNA董事、一位UNA工作人员和几位居民任命的代表组成的。这些委员会的建立

工作将在未来的两年里进行，并且将从建立“社区与利益相关者关系”委员会开始。一个让UNA成员表达有兴趣参加其中一个委员会的程序将予以公布。这些委员会将补充、而非取代居民个人与董事会的联系。

章程工作组的前身是在过去两年里举行过会议的章程审核委员会。该工作组将以这些委员会的工作为基础。其任务是在若干个实质性领域起草章程 – 其中最重要的是董事会的组成、董事人数、董事任期、官员甄选、选举时间和年度大会、扩大UNA成员人数、开除/纪律处分成员、法定人数。在某些情况下，工作组可能会建议将现行章程中包含的一些事项从章程中删除，而成为UNA的政策或程序。工作组还将考虑对现有的章程和2015年的《邻居协议》做出相应的修改，这些修改因实质性章程的修订而变得必要。

在收到工作组的建议后，董事会将公布拟议的章程修正案，并建立一个获取UNA成员意见的程序。我们的目标是在春季早些时候的特别大会上，将章程修正案纳入UNA成员的投票程序。

工作组的时间很紧迫，不仅必须及时完成与UNA成员的咨询工作，而且对于一些拟议修正案，特别是与董事会组成有关的修改，有必要获得UBC理事会的同意。此同意是必要的，因为必须对2015年《邻居协议》进行相应的修改，为此，《协议》的双方，即UBC和UNA必须达成一致。通过上述联络委员会与UBC在这方面进行的初步讨论是积极的。

Terry Mullen
UNA理事会主席



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BYLAWS continued from Page 1

Under the ToR, the UNA Bylaw Working Group 2018 – Phase 2 will include:

- Terry Mullen – UNA Elected Resident Director and Board Chair
- Laura Cottle – UNA Elected Resident Director
- Ying Zhou – UNA Elected Resident Director
- Bill Holmes – UNA resident at large
- Mike Feeley – UNA resident at large
- Carole Jolly – UBC Appointed Director (non-voting)
- UBC legal counsel representative (non-voting)
- Johanne Blenkin – UNA Executive Director (non-voting, staff support).

The Bylaw Working Group will be chaired by the UNA Board Chair Terry Mullen. All voting members are appointed by resolution of the UNA Board and meet the following criteria:

- Knowledge of governance and election processes
- Knowledge of the UNA community
- Familiarity with bylaws or other legislative mechanisms
- Knowledge of municipal or not-for-profit member based organizations.

The procedures following the Bylaw Working Group recommendations will include consultation with UNA residents. If the proposed bylaw amendments will require changes to the *Neighbours Agreement* between UBC and UNA, it would be necessary to obtain agreement from the UBC Board of Governors.

Brief History of Work on Bylaw Revision

The discussion on re-writing the University Neighbourhoods Association bylaws and constitution started in December 2015 when the UNA – incorporated as a non-profit society – was preparing to transition to the new BC Societies Act.

When the first set of proposed bylaws was presented to the public in January 2017, the UNA received comments from numerous residents – all of whom objected to the fact that the proposed bylaws continued to provide for three appointed directors on the Board.

Most comments were submitted by campus resident Bill Holmes who proposed several changes to the bylaws and pointed out more than 30 technical deficiencies. One proposition was having all directors on the UNA Board elected by UNA members.



Bill Holmes

“As UNA members, we should be permitted to run our own community without the oversight of unelected directors,” wrote Mr. Holmes.

After reviewing the results of this public consultation, the UNA Board continued working on bylaw revision, and a new set of bylaws was brought to the Annual General Meeting in January 2018. UNA members rejected the revised bylaws by a vote of 176 against and 23 for.

“It appears that most of those who voted against the revised bylaws did so because the proposed bylaws continued to provide for three appointed directors,” wrote Laura Cottle, Chair of the Bylaw Commit-

tee–Phase 1– established after the January AGM – in a report to UNA Directors.

In September, UNA Directors approved Bylaw Review Committee–Phase 1 recommendations to defer any changes to the bylaws and constitution to a Special General Meeting in the spring 2019, to consider more substantive changes to the bylaws and – if necessary – to amend the constitution to reflect the proposed changes. The Committee also recommended that the process be carried out with transparency and consultation with residents.

UNA Bylaw Working Group 2018–Phase 2 continues work of previous bylaw review committees.

Rethink Stadium Road Movement Gains Momentum

*Murray McCutcheon
Hawthorn Place resident*

On November 23, a group of residents and UBC faculty met with David Eby, Vancouver-Point Grey MLA and Attorney-General, and members of UBC Campus and Community Planning (C&CP) to discuss the proposed Stadium Road development. After presenting to Minister Eby a petition with more than 1,400 signatures (electronic and paper), we engaged in a lengthy discussion about our concerns regarding density and height and related impacts on the livability of the community, impact on the environment, availability of schools, provision of amenities, and transportation infrastructure. At Minister Eby’s behest, C&CP agreed to share its planning data and technical analyses related to the proposed development. As we have been urging greater transparency from UBC as a prerequisite for a meaningful dialogue, this is a positive step.

On November 26, we made a short presentation to the Finance and Property Commit-

tees of the UBC Board of Governors. Simply being invited to the meeting was proof positive that our collective voices are being heard. Board Chair Michael Korenberg stressed that UBC residents are a valued stakeholder. He also made clear that UBC would not rush to a decision in February, as first set forth in his October letter, but would take sufficient time to ensure full consultation and evaluation of the community’s concerns. It is excellent news that more deliberation is contemplated.

Finally, more than 1,400 signatures on our petition asking UBC and the Province to respect the current Land Use Plan is a remarkable demonstration of support by people who care deeply about the community they live in and desire to have a voice in designing its future.

We encourage residents to spread the message by sharing the petition (search Stadium Road on change.org) with other UBC residents, alumni, and indeed, the wider community of BC taxpayers, all of whom have a stake in UBC and its long-term development. We also encourage you to write a personal letter to Minister Eby to voice your concern.

lacks campaign procedures.

Currently, UNA residents who are Canadian citizens and do not own property in Vancouver can vote only for Vancouver School Board trustees. The UNA needs more resident representatives at the municipal level to address issues related to our community. I strongly believe we need to make our voice heard in the larger community on issues such as education and transit.

Volunteering on the UNA Board and putting myself forward as a candidate for the Vancouver School Board has been a

great experience for me – a relatively new immigrant. It has been a great privilege for UNA residents to run in UNA elections regardless of their citizenship. This provides an opportunity for all residents – including UBC faculty, staff, students and new immigrants – to get involved in the community and contribute their talents. I encourage more residents to take an active role in our community planning.

Editor’s Note: The opinions expressed here are those of the writer alone and are not to be inferred to represent UNA or UBC policy.

Moving Forward

*Ying Zhou
UNA Elected Resident Director*

It has been my great honour to serve on the UNA Board for the past five years, including three years as Treasurer and one year as Chair, and I look forward to serving one



Ying Zhou

more year. This will complete my third two-year term on the Board – maximum for a Resident Director.

This November, four new Directors joined the UNA Board: three Elected Resident Directors and one new UBC Appointed Director. After meeting with the newly elected board members, I feel strongly that it is time to implement succession planning, and for the purpose of sharing my experience, I will continue to sit on the UNA Financial Committee this year and other UNA committees if needed.

My experience dealing with the provincial government on fire protection service charge has helped me understand how important it is to take an active part in our community if we – campus residents – want to effect change. As a result of my latest experience, running in the recent Vancouver School Board election, I realize UNA residents are poorly informed about Vancouver municipal elections. Residents wishing to enter a Vancouver municipal election would find the UNA

In Somber Ceremony at War Memorial Gym, UBC Remembers

Spiritual moments are many in ceremony just over hour long; Armistice that – a century ago – brought an end to the First World War is recalled in words and music

John Tompkins
Editor

David Eby told three warm and encouraging stories about poppies and Canada at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the UBC War Memorial Gym on Sunday, November 11.

In the first story, the British Columbia Attorney General and Vancouver-Point Grey MLA told of a friend who had just returned from war-torn Middle East where he was asked by several local people to explain why he was wearing a poppy pinned to his jacket.

In the second story, Mr. Eby – a UBC resident and guest speaker at the ceremony – recalled being asked by a child just before Remembrance Day why the cookies he had been served at a neighbourhood gathering were all shaped like poppies.

In the third story, Mr. Eby recounted how – in the days leading up to Remembrance Day – a family of new Canadians had visited him in his Victoria office and how all of them proudly showed off the poppies pinned to their jackets.

In Canada and other countries, Mr. Eby said, people revere the poppy as the colourful symbol of Remembrance.

The Remembrance Day Ceremony in the 67-year-old War Memorial Gym – filled with beautiful music and inspiring remarks



Members of the 12 Vancouver Field Ambulance, Royal Canadian Medical Service – a personnel branch of the Canadian Armed Forces – participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at UBC.

– began at 10:45 am and ended at noon.

Two pieces from *Silent Night Opera* composed by Kevin Puts were performed. UBC Opera Male Chorus sang *Sleep Chorus* with pianist David Boothroyd while Magdalena How, soprano, sang *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Early in the ceremony, the soulful sounds of *The Last Post* came from a solitary bugler in the upper deck of the War Memorial Gym.

Professor Santa J. Ono, UBC President and Vice-Chancellor, hosted the ceremony and reminded over a thousand people present in the War Memorial Gym of the sacri-

fice UBC students, faculty and staff made serving their country in that far-away conflict during the First World War. “In the hundred years since, UBC students, faculty, staff and alumni have continued to answer the call of duty, serving as peacekeepers, as soldiers fighting against tyranny and oppression, as first responders, and in other ways. Representing the university in all its diversity, they gave of themselves to make the world a better place,” UBC President said.

Nancy Hermiston, University Marshall and Director, Opera Ensemble, UBC School of Music, served as EMCEE of the Remem-

brance Day Ceremony. Lindsay Gordon, UBC Chancellor, and Michael Korenberg, Chair of the UBC Board of Governors, also attended the ceremony. Marium Hamid, President of UBC Alma Mater Society, recited the poem *In Flanders Fields* written in 1915 by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD.

On behalf of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), Ying Zhou – UNA Board Chair (at the time) and a Chancellor Place resident – placed a wreath at the War Memorial Gym to honour and remember those who served in times of war, military conflict and peace.

Frank F. Wesbrook The Founding President of UBC, 1913–1918

Despite the outbreak of the First World War and his failing health, Frank Wesbrook created the foundation for the university to thrive for the next 100 years

A compassionate man, President Wesbrook takes particular interest in the “UBC family” fighting on the front lines of the First World War and writes personal let-



First UBC President Frank F. Wesbrook circa 1915. Photo courtesy UBC Archives.

The outbreak of war halts the ambitious plans for building the Point Grey campus but it does not alter the drive of UBC to establish its roots and create a place for higher education in the province of British Columbia.

The university opens its doors to the students on September 30, 1915. Soon however, faculty and students are drawn away from the lecture halls to enlist in the global battle that will take them into the chaotic, muddy trenches of Europe to fight for king and country.

We Wear Poppy to Remember

During the First World War, the poppy flowers were the only plants to flourish in the soil of the battlefields after enormous artillery bombardments. They were covering mass graves and standing out as the lasting memorial symbol to the fallen soldiers.

The famous war poem *In Flanders Fields* was written during the First World War by a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae who was inspired by the sight of red poppies blooming in the fields where the fallen soldiers were buried.

The poppy remains an enduring sym-



bol of Remembrance in Canada, Great Britain and in the United States for those who served or fell in service of their country.

ters to them to build morale and offer hope. Meanwhile, the promise of a quick and glorious war that would see soldiers in the armies of the Central Powers and the Allies be “home before Christmas”, turns into an exhausting, four-year nightmare.

Sadly, many of Wesbrook’s dreams to build the “Cambridge of the Pacific” are

not realized during his time. Wesbrook passes away in 1918, just before the Armistice is declared between Germany and the Allies and the overly punitive Treaty of Versailles is signed.

UBC: 100 years of Discovery /1915–1919 <https://www.ubc.ca/stories/2015-fall/100-years-of-discovery/>

LETTER FROM UBC PRESIDENT

Holiday Reflections

The holiday season is a good time to reflect back on the year that has gone and to look forward to the year ahead.

Looking back, the past year has seen a number of significant accomplishments,

most notably the endorsement of the new UBC strategic plan, Shaping UBC's Next Century. Other milestones included the opening of the new Student Life building, the launching of the UBC Connects lecture series and, of course, the debut of the Blue

and Goldcast, a podcast series that I cohost with UBC's Jennifer Gardy.

You can read about all these – and more highlights of 2018 – on my website at president.ubc.ca, but in this year-end piece I would like to reflect on one significant event in particular – the opening of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, where I delivered an Apology on behalf of UBC for the university's role in the residential school system.

That event, on April 9, in front of hundreds of people – including residential school survivors and their relatives, and representatives of Indigenous peoples from throughout Canada – sticks out in my mind as the most important event to occur at UBC in 2018. You can read the full Apology here (<https://president.ubc.ca/statement-of-apology/>).

My statement on that day was not just an Apology for UBC's part in the residential school system – it was also a promise; a commitment to improve access for Indigenous people to higher education, to develop new courses and programming that will enable our faculty and students to better understand issues of importance to Aboriginal communities, and to build collaborative relationships that work to the benefit of communities rather than their detriment.

These were not idle words. I fully intend that UBC will honour those commitments. We welcome your advice, support, and participation as we do so. As I said on April 9, "Every action that anyone takes to move



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

us forward is significant, and there are always ways in which each one of us can act. We know, however, that even as we have worked towards these goals, we have made mistakes, and we cannot presume that we will not make more in the future. Our commitment is to learn from our mistakes, and, together, to continue to move forward. Our commitment, as a university, and as a community of many members, must be strong, and must always result in meaningful action. That is our realization and it is our duty to act."

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a wonderful year ahead.

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



The Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC.
Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.

Report by UBC-UNA Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee

The following provides a summary of key outcomes from the November 5th UBC-UNA Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee meeting

The UBC-UNA Neighbourhoods Liaison Committee was formalized in April 2018 as part of the evolving partnership between UBC and the UNA and in recognition of the role of the UNA as an advisory body to the UBC Board of Governors.

The Liaison Committee is co-chaired by the UNA Board Chair and Chair of the Property Committee of the UBC Board of Governors. The voting members of the Committee include its co-chairs; the chairs of the Finance and Governance Committee of the UBC Board of Governors; a UNA Board Director; and a UNA member at large. Non-voting members include UBC VP External Relations, AVP Campus and Community Planning, and the Executive Director of the UNA.

The purpose of this committee is to discuss perspectives on issues of shared interest as an opportunity to work together and address areas of concern. A number

of issues were discussed at the November 5th meeting including the UNA financial framework; emerging strategic priorities; evolving governance; and communications of this committee moving forward.

UNA Financial Framework

The Committee discussed the current UNA financial status and received an update on the 2018 Services Levy revenue, which has increased for the first time in seven years due to a stabilization in Vancouver property tax rates. The UNA also discussed their five year budget projection, which forecasts financial stabilization beginning this year and reaching a balanced budget by 2021/2022. The Committee acknowledged the continuation of the UBC Community Services Grant to manage deficits from now until a balanced budget can be achieved. Staff will share the financial model and assumptions with the Liaison Committee, including sensitivity to Vancouver property value and tax rate changes, and will continue to monitor factors affecting the UNA budget in future years.

As part of this discussion, the UNA updated the Committee on work underway to benchmark community services and related costs that will help inform budget planning in future years. The results of this will be shared with the Liaison Committee for in-

formation once they are available.

The Committee also discussed the need to work together on a review of the UNA Reserves Policy to ensure long term financial sustainability. This work will be done in partnership with UBC and will be scoped with UNA Board input over the coming months, and brought back to the Liaison Committee for input.

A report back was provided to the Committee on discussions to date with the Province of BC with respect to the neighbourhood tax framework, including allocation of the general rural tax. Reference was made to the letter sent from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in 2017 that clarified the provincial stance of maintaining the current tax regime for the area. UBC will continue provincial engagement on this question into 2019.

UNA Strategic Priorities

The UNA shared the emerging strategic priorities identified by the UNA Board through their strategic planning process and a brief summary of goals under each priority that will inform the staff and Board's work over the coming three years. The priorities include: UNA governance; financial sustainability; operational capacity; and community and stakeholder relations. As

progress is made, updates will be brought back to the Liaison Committee under each priority area.

Evolving Governance

The UNA updated the Committee on the Strategic Plan goal of governance. This includes an exploration of opportunities to evolve governance in a way that meets the needs of a growing community. Specific items discussed in detail included ways to expand UNA membership, as well as the UNA's bylaw updates, which may include a review of UNA Board composition and voting rights of directors. UBC committed to working in partnership with the UNA to explore this further and a report will be brought back to the next Liaison Committee meeting pending conclusion of a UNA bylaw review process.

Communication

The Committee discussed the value of reporting back to the broader community on key outcomes of the Committee discussions and will be using this template moving forward to share information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is targeted to take place in spring 2019.

Celebrity Visits Campus for Sustainability Talk

Judy Hyojoo Rhee

Student, Grade 11

University Hill Secondary School

Nathalie Boltt, the actress and celebrity well-known for her role in the television series *Riverdale*, visited University Hill Secondary School (UHill) on October 18 and gave a presentation about her advocacy for the preservation of vulnerable orangutan habitat. The presentation – that raised awareness about the destructive nature of palm oil plantations – was a part of a *Sustainability Fair* project in which UHill's Grade 9 students participated.

Following the presentation, the Newspaper Club had a brief interview with Ms. Boltt, who shared the story of how she became an ambassador at Palm Oil Investigations (POI) and how residents of the UNA community can help to protect the livelihoods of orangutans.



The orangutans are driven from their habitat by destruction of the forest for palm oil plantations. Credit Nathalie Boltt's Instagram.

You are an activist for saving the natural habitats of orangutans. How and when did you become an advocate for this issue?

I have always been involved in saving animals and rehabilitating wildlife. It is becoming increasingly critical to save animals' habitats, or we will end up with species that have nowhere to survive but in zoos and on tiny reserves. A friend of mine posted a picture of an orangutan that was badly burned after it wandered into a village in search of food and climbed a tree. The villagers tried to scare it off by making a fire at the base of the tree, but the tree caught fire and so did the orangutan. I was so horrified by this image that when I saw a call for help from Palm Oil Investigations, I offered to make a connection between my red hair as Blossom on *Riverdale* and the 'other redheads', the orangutans. I did this as a plea to my many followers to help stop the terrible things we are causing in Indonesia without even knowing it.

What is your role as an Ambassador at Palm Oil Investigations (a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving orangutan habitat)?

My role is mainly to raise awareness. Many people around the world, especially in North America and China, have no idea that the snack foods they eat and the toiletries and cosmetics they use are leading to the extinction of a species and the decimation of one of the last rainforests on Earth. I am bringing a group of people to Borneo Island on an amazing adventure into the

jungle to see orangutans in their natural habitat – and we have a few spaces left for fans and their families to join us. <https://www.orangutanodysseys.com/>

I am also raising funds for the animal rescue centres there – please donate if you would like to help, as even a few dollars go a very long way. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/poi-christmas-tour>

Why do you think the issue of saving and protecting orangutans is of such significance?

Would you want to live in a world of only people, cars, buildings and roads? With every plant, animal and insect species that we lose, we lose biodiversity. Why are we letting companies cut down the trees that clean our air? Many of these trees can only survive and propagate with the help of the animals and insects that live among them.

We have created an imbalance, and unless we learn to be responsible and care for all life, we have no chance at continuing to thrive. We will simply crash and disappear like every other species that failed to find a sustainable way of living.

What can residents of the community do to help put an end to this crisis?

Take a few seconds to check the ingredients of what you buy. If you see 'palm oil', anything with the word 'palm' in it, or 'vegetable oil', don't buy it. The consumer has power! If no one buys a product, the manufacturer will stop making it. Email



Nathalie Boltt. Photo credit Joanne Honey Thomas.

the Corporate Responsibility Officers of Nestle, Mondelez, Cargill, Unilever and PepsiCo, and ask them to stop or take responsibility for truly enforcing sustainable extraction of palm oil.

Spread the message on social media and talk to your family and friends. Raise awareness and be proud – you are part of something good and powerful.

I use my fame as a platform on which to bring issues into the spotlight and to inspire others to speak up for what they love. Follow me on Instagram and Twitter: @nathboltt and also @POI @palmoilinvestigations and @theorangutanproject.

I believe in a world of kindness, balance, great joy and a sense of community. I think we are starting to see how important all these things are for us.

Your Passport to Wellbeing

WELLBEING continued from Page 1

"A project framework and partnerships have been established, the staff will be able to advise on the application process. If we have a group of seniors who would like to put their minds together, spend some time and craft out a proposal, it is very likely that the Passport Project Phase II could be funded, to support the uncovered areas and gaps identified from this time.

"And we would love to see a group of seniors coordinating the activities for seniors – that is the ultimate goal of the *New Horizons for Seniors* grant."

A number of programs will continue in the

new year:

Mahjong – Mondays
Hampton Walk & Talk Club - Tuesdays
Bridge – Tuesday and Thursdays
Walking Soccer – Wednesdays
Restorative Yoga – Wednesdays
Seniors Table Tennis - Fridays
Zumba Gold – Saturdays

Please check the UNA Winter Program Guide for detailed schedule.

The *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project received an approximately \$12,000 grant from Employment and Social Development Canada under its *New Horizons for Seniors* program.



UNA seniors celebrate conclusion of *Your Passport to Wellbeing* project. Photo credit Sammy Tong.

Electric Car Charging Stations in Strata Parkades “Seem Inevitable”

The recent installation of a public Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) in Wesbrook Village has at least one strata corporation on campus thinking of retrofitting its parkade to accommodate private stations.

"We are at the very earliest of stages in looking at Electric Vehicle Charging Stations," the chair of this council told The Campus Resident.

"At this point, none of our residents has bought an electric vehicle, so we are under no pressure to act. It seems inevitable, however, that in the longer run we will have to deal with this."

The strata chair said his council has taken the (unofficial) position at this time that "anyone wanting to install an EVCS hook-up here would have to pay the installation costs (as much as \$5,000) and have some way of paying for the electricity that they use." Council anticipates meeting with an electrician for the first time soon.

"The object of the meeting is to look into all the factors that must be considered before installing an EVCS (and there are many). We are a fair way from having EVCS hookups at this time."

The Campus Resident has learned that a

condo council in Hawthorn Place installed two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations a couple of years ago, taking advantage of a BC government program that paid for the \$10,000 installation. However, none of the residents in this condo has an electric vehicle and evidently neither unit has yet been used.

The options and procedures for strata corporations and strata lot owners, who are interested in installing an EVCS on common property and within a strata lot are identified in the Guide *Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Strata Properties in British Columbia* initiated by the Condominium Home Owners Association of BC (CHOA) with the partnership and support of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.



Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Wesbrook Village on Webber Lane.

UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Fraser Institute School Ranking: Fair or Unfair?

Selecting a good high school should not be as easy as Googling a random high school ranking

Jerry Zhang

Student, Grade 12

University Hill Secondary School

For years, University Hill Secondary (UHill) has been widely acknowledged as one of the best public schools in Vancouver. Recently, however, people began to question this school because of its 2018 ranking by the Fraser Institute. According to the most recent *Report Card on British Columbia's Secondary Schools* released by Fraser Institute in June, UHill surprisingly dropped from the 28th place to the 120th. As students of UHill, we wondered what happened. With many questions in mind, we interviewed our principal, Mr. Timothy McGeer, on the afternoon of June 29, 2018, hoping to find answers.

Mr. McGeer was very candid in expressing his opinion on this issue. He made it clear that Fraser Institute has never been an official nor school board approved source of information, and "the data presented by Fraser Institute was never seen as something education professionals would make reference to or recognize." The principal added that the information presented in those rankings was misleading and not credible.

In the interview, Mr. McGeer explained the method that Fraser Institute used to rank the schools. The schools were assessed based on six different aspects:

- Students' English 12 average scores, including their provincial exam scores
- Failure rates on the grade 12 provincials
- Grade 12 English scores in comparison to

that of the latest grade 12 English provincial exam;

- Average English 12 mark between the two genders
- Students' graduation rate
- Percentage of students who have to repeat a year.

Mr. McGeer pointed out that the criteria used by Fraser Institute were neither very logical nor scientific: they over-considered the students' English 12 marks, and failed to consider the students' abilities in the scientific and mathematical fields. The way Fraser Institute ranked the school was very narrow, which further proved that the information must not be easily trusted. As a private organization, Fraser Institute did not have access to an abundant amount of data for Vancouver high schools, thus it could only scratch the surface.

The question then arises: *What constitutes a good school?* Mr. McGeer explicitly showed us the various aspects of a successful school and explained why UHill is a safe and well rounded school. The school should provide students with a healthy learning environment, prepare students for their post-secondary education, ensure that students are inhibited from inappropriate drug use, give students abundant choices of team sports or club opportunities, encourage students to attend school and work hard, and so on.

Statistics collected by the COMPASS survey, which every UHill student takes part in annually, show many indicators of a healthy school environment. According to the COMPASS survey, "among the students in UHill, 94% feel safe and 86% feel that teachers treat them fairly." This is important because a positive school climate can promote both positive self-esteem and mental health in students. It would also improve their attendance and reduce the likelihood of engaging in problematic behaviors like drug and alcohol abuse. Evi-



UHill Principal Timothy McGeer and UHill Grade 12 student Jerry Zhang. Photo credit Yize Ma.

dently, the COMPASS survey shows that "only 4% of students reported using marijuana in the past month, only 5% are current tobacco smokers and only 6% reported to have been drinking alcohol in the last month." These statistics are well below the COMPASS average – the average score of all the high schools in BC.

When it comes to evaluating a high school, its ability to prepare students for post-secondary education is essential. Over 90% of UHill students went on to post-secondary education in 2017. A majority of the 2017 UHill alumni decided to stay in Canada while some others chose to pursue their education in the U.S. Most UHill alumni felt well prepared when they entered college or universities.

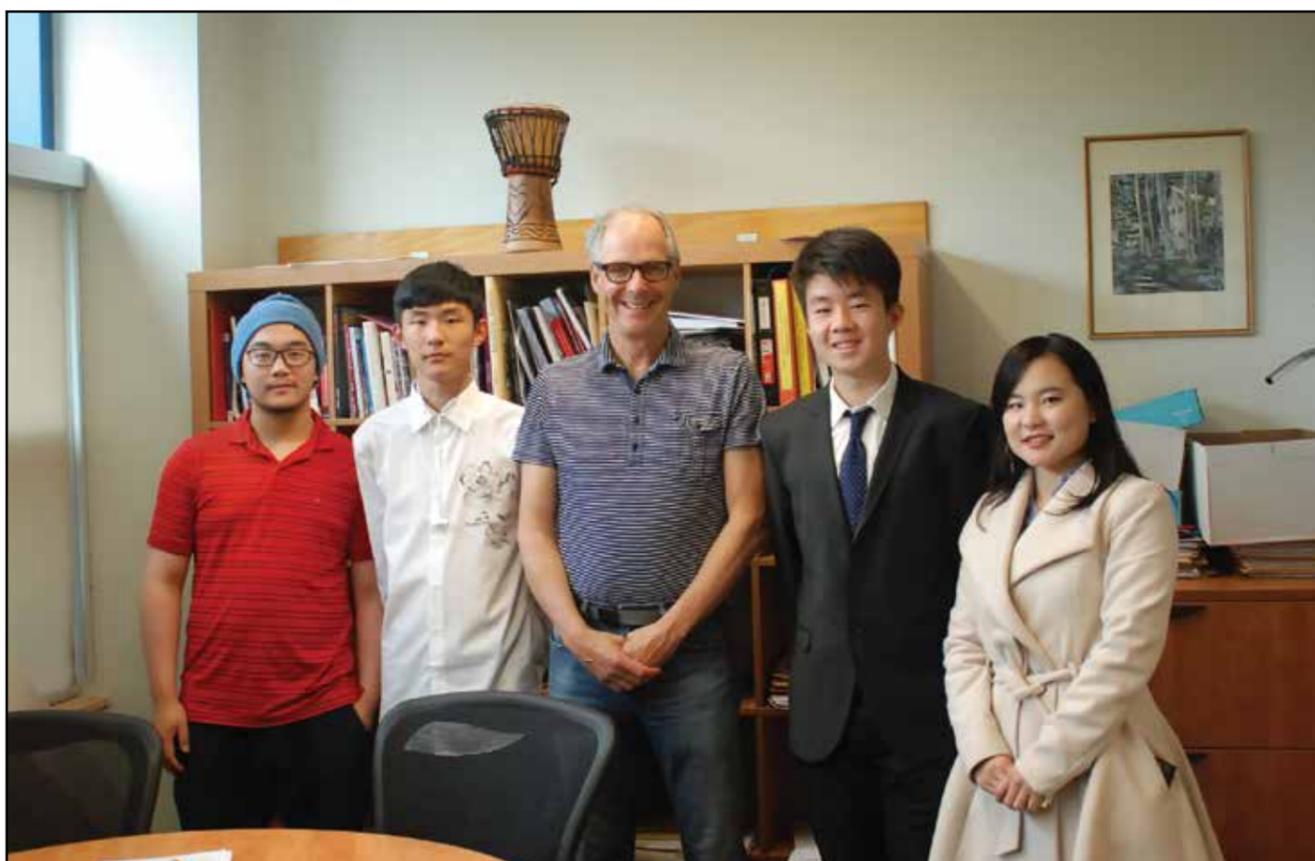
On the other hand, Mr. McGeer mentioned that UHill also had its own areas that need improving. UHill has a very high number

of ELL students. (ELL stands for *English Language Learner*.) Although asking ELL students to achieve well in a standardized test targeting the native English speakers is simply unfair, the difference in the English language levels of the Uhillians does in fact bring some unique challenges for UHill. Mr. McGeer thinks that the lack of practice in writing in English caused a lot of students to struggle in the provincial exam. Currently, the English 12 course at UHill has been modified and is aimed to strengthening students' ability to write in timed and pressured situations much like the provincial exam.

I always have the impression that UHill is an academically focused school, where the teachers are dedicated and students are hard working. My impression is based on the fact that many students from UHill successfully enroll into the top 30 Universities in North America every year. That's why I – as well as many other people around me – was shocked when I heard the news of the decline of UHill's ranking. As for the principal's responses, I agree with the fact that schools should be ranked based on its all-roundness, not just scores from a single subject and a provincial exam. Meanwhile, the decline in ranking reminds the Uhillians to reexamine themselves and to positively face the areas they need to work on.

I personally gained a lot of insight from my interview with Mr. McGeer. As a student myself, I would say that selecting a good high school should not be as easy as Googling a random high school ranking and choosing whatever was number one. We learned that some of those rankings can be unprofessional and misleading. A much better approach, in my opinion, would be to actually experience the school spirit and atmosphere. In addition, talking to the principal, or the parents and students from the target school, can be a direct and effective approach to gain information such as school clubs, student-school relationships, extracurricular opportunities and the community in general. In a word, a school's wellness is far beyond grades themselves.

We would like to hear some thoughts from different perspectives. Please stay tuned for more updates on this story.



School's wellness is far beyond grades themselves. UHill Principal Timothy McGeer (centre) after the interview with students (from left to right) Bernard Zeng, Daniel Ran, Jerry Zhang, Alice Wang. Photo credit Yize Ma.

Christmas Comes to Wesbrook Village at UBC

Extravagant balloon display, roaming carolers and horse-drawn carriage rides are included in long list of joyful events at Wesbrook Village Winter Festival and Holiday Craft Market

For the first time ever, The Wesbrook Village Winter Festival lasted for two days, on the weekend December 1-2, bringing the Christmas festivities and Etsy Vancouver Winter Market to the campus residents.

The Etsy Market – filled with booths selling unique handmade crafts – took place at the Wesbrook Community Centre with thousands of visitors looking for presents and enjoying the Holiday spirit.

The holiday balloon extravaganza was on display in the Wesbrook Welcome Centre at 3378 Wesbrook Mall. Staff at the centre explained that the balloon sculptures, created by A-star Art Parlor, were installed in

four days by two artists working for eight hours a day. They used more than a thousand balloons to create the sculptures attracting admiration from both children and adults alike.

Two carolers from UBC Theater – Bel Quirce and Nicolas Olney-Rainville, both first-year students at UBC in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) program – roamed the Wesbrook Village for two hours on both days serenading the community with festive cheer.

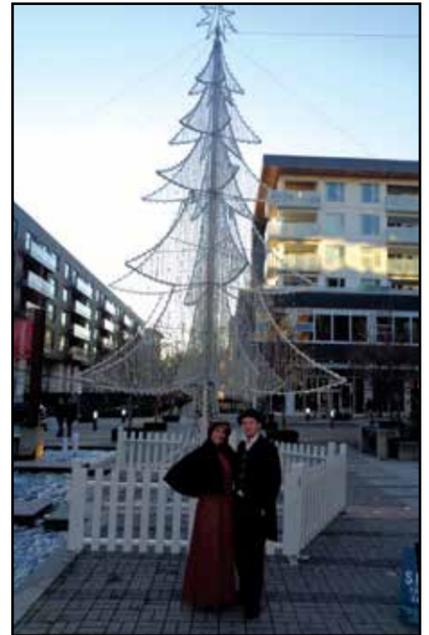
Ms. Quirce, from Peru, and Mr. Olney-Rainville, “mostly from France”, said they volunteered to sing carols through love of

music and had chosen pieces which people could sing along with such as *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night* and *Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer*.

What sort of reception had they received from residents while caroling? “People have been very engaged,” Mr. Olney-Rainville replied with Ms. Quirce recalling with a smile how a two-year toddler had refused to let his mother pass them until they had sung several songs.

The Wesbrook Village Winter Festival also offered such perennial favorites as free photos with Santa, holiday scavenger hunt (with an extra gift from Santa) and outdoor light and tree display – 32-foot tree in the heart of Wesbrook Village on Norman MacKenzie Square. Those having photos with Santa – taken outside the TD Bank – were invited to make a donation of non-perishable item for BC Food Bank.

Back again this year were the community favourite horse-drawn carriage rides. In the welcoming words of staff at the Welcome Centre, the rides “will bring you through



Carolers from UBC Theater Bel Quirce and Nicolas Olney-Rainville.

the Wesbrook Village winter wonderland!” Some festival events will continue through the holiday season.



Wesbrook Welcome Centre staff members Amy and Mark greet visitors.



Outdoor light and 32-foot tree display in Wesbrook Village.

*Season's Greetings
& Best Wishes for
a Happy New Year!*

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