

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

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The UNA at 25



This year, the University Neighbourhoods Association is celebrating its 25th anniversary, marking a quarter-century of providing municipal services and building community. On page 4, UNA board chair Eagle Glassheim reflects on the association's evolution and what he thinks is perhaps its greatest achievement: engaging residents to help build and run a unique place that thousands of people call home. (Photos L-R: UNA / Rhea Paez / UNA)

OPINION: Cracking the Code for Affordable Childcare

A campus resident likens the process of finding childcare on campus to the classic boardgame Mastermind. Spoiler alert: she doesn't exactly win.

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UBC Theatre Unveils 2026-2027 Season

Tickets are now on sale for six productions produced, performed, and directed by students in the UBC theatre and film program.

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Challenges Face Wesbrook Businesses

Rising commercial rents are forcing local businesses to close and causing others to question whether they can continue to operate in the university neighbourhoods.

BY ERIC WILKINSON

Businesses say they are struggling to keep their doors open in Wesbrook Place.

Billboards at either end of the neighbourhood claim that Wesbrook is home to over thirty businesses; however, recent closures have reduced that number to about twenty. According to some local proprietors, the foremost cause of these

closures is rising commercial rents.

In July, both Rogers' Chocolates at 3312 Shrum Lane and Lucky's Exotic Bodega at 3335 Westbrook Mall shut their doors permanently, and Poke by Ryuu at 3358 Wesbrook Mall ceased operations in late August. The expiry of Rogers' existing lease meant that the chocolatier faced a rent increase that narrowed its profit margins too significantly to remain open, a source with the business told *The Campus Resident*.

Unlike residential rental rates, commercial rent increases are unregulated in the province. Residential rent increases are currently capped at 2.3 per cent per year, but a number of businesses in Wesbrook said that upon the expiry of their leases, they anticipate rent increases between 25 and 33 per cent.

Chantal Chau, Retail Operations Manager at Murchie's Tea & Coffee, said they faced a dilemma when it was time to renew their lease a few years ago. "We were hesitant to do so because of the significant increase in rent, but we chose to move forward with it in hopes of building a strong presence and positive relationship with the Wesbrook community." That rent increase was 25 per cent, on rent calculated per square foot.

Some residents were surprised to find in mid-July that Lucky's Exotic Bodega had shuttered overnight, seemingly without warning. A notice appeared initially on the inside of the door stating the business hoped to re-open at a later date.

A copy of an eviction notice obtained by *The Campus Resident* states that Lucky's had subleased its storefront in Wesbrook from a numbered company. UBC Properties Trust served that intermediary with an eviction notice due to tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid back rent.

The empty storefronts that once housed Roger's, Lucky's, and Poke by Ryuu now join the former home of Freshii (3351 Wesbrook Mall), which has been vacant and available to rent for nearly a year.

The Campus Resident reached out to the leasing agent to inquire what the asking rent is for the former Freshii space, but was told rates are not disclosed to the general public.

The summer is generally a slower and less profitable time of year for businesses in Wesbrook since much of the student population leaves the area. Local business representatives said foot-traffic is where most sales come from for businesses in Wesbrook, rather than customers passing through the village.

Chau pointed out that one of the billboards that greets motorists entering Wesbrook Place only features a handful of local businesses, some of which are no longer in operation. She also noted that a visitor would already have to be heading toward Wesbrook to see the billboard.

BUSINESSES CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Pedestrians walk by a commercial unit available for lease on Wesbrook Mall. Several businesses have closed down in the neighbourhood during the summer. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

FIFA Forever!

Live match screenings at Soccer in the Square in Wesbrook Village during the FIFA World Cup were an opportunity to build community and show the importance of public places, writes Jayne Seagrave.

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Check out this month's Summer Photo Contest winner!

In this month's Arts and Culture section, check out the next winner of *The Campus Resident's* ongoing summer photo contest, and more.

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University Adopts New Rainwater Management Plan

Campus has adopted a new rainwater management plan that aims to address climate change risks, campus growth, and protect infrastructure and surrounding ecosystems.

Details of the new plan were included in a monthly report by UBC Campus and Community Planning to the UNA's Board of Directors during their July meeting.

The adopted rainwater management plan was developed with the consultation of the UNA and is aligned with Campus Vision 2050. It replaced a previous 2017 iteration with updates to place greater emphasis on the use of green infrastructure to help manage rainfall.

The plan is intended to serve as a guide to managing rainwater through infrastructure projects and capital development. To that effect, the new plan has called for the integration of surface facilities in public spaces to reduce rainwater buildup, updates to trunk and storm sewers, the treatment of rainwater, and the development of green infrastructure.

Development Application received for Wesbrook Tower

UNA's Board of Directors were also informed about a planned development for Wesbrook Place South.

In July, the UBC Development Review Committee (DRC) assessed an application from UBC Properties Trust for a development permit for a 30-storey residential tower in Wesbrook Place.

The project is planned for lots 8 and 9 in Wesbrook South, located at the junction between Wesbrook Mall and Binning Avenue and adjacent to the site of the former Pulp

Directors briefed on new plan and received preliminary details on a development permit application for a 30-Storey Tower in Wesbrook.

BY DANIEL LI



The east waterway in Wesbrook Place, pictured here on August 25th. The waterway currently helps move rainwater from runoff sources and assists with stormwater management. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

and Paper Institute of Canada building at 3800 Wesbrook Mall, which was demolished in 2024.

According to application documents, the current plan for the proposed tower would have two-levels of commercial spaces and a child care centre, along with 495 rental homes.

In an email from UBC Media Relations, a spokesperson said the proposal was presented to the committee on July 23.

"The DRC serves as a technical review and coordination body rather than an approval authority, bringing together subject matter experts from across the university to review development proposals and provide feedback on planning, servicing, transportation, sustainability, operational, and design considerations," said Kurt Heinrich, Associate Vice-President, Communications.

"The proposal was generally well received by the Committee. The project team is using feedback from committee members to address technical requirements and evolve the design."

Heinrich said the proposal will continue to be refined before a public engagement period this fall.

Following public consultation, it is expected the project will be presented the UBC Development Permit Board for consideration and approval later this year.

(NOTE: UNA directors did not have a scheduled meeting in August and are expected to meet again on September 22.)

With additional reporting from Emmanuel Samoglou.

DANIEL LI IS A FORMER STUDENT OF UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY AND IS PURSUING A BACHELOR DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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University Says International Student Enrolment Increasing

While financial pressures persist, the number of international students enrolled at UBC has begun to increase after years of decline.

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

The University of British Columbia is continuing to manage the impact of recent cuts to international study permits and is now seeing an increase in enrollment from students abroad.

In early 2024, the federal government made an announcement that would have a deep impact across the Canadian post-secondary system in coming years: limiting the number of international study permits issued.

It would not be an insignificant cap, either. In 2023, the last year before the policy was instituted, 701,714 new and continuing permits were issued to students. For 2024 and 2025, the government's target was to issue 485,000 and 437,000 new and continuing study permits, respectively.

This announcement was significant for Canadian post-secondary institutions. As a whole, many of these schools have relied on revenue brought in by international student tuition for many years, as it is often much higher than domestic student tuition. Nationwide, the cuts meant a loss of billions of dollars, putting strain on many schools.

The actual number of new study permits issued in 2024 dropped by 41 per cent from 2023 to just above 292,000

permits. By 2025, that number of permits issued was sitting at 115,060.

At the end of 2025, the government announced further cuts as a part of the 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan. This year, the government intends to issue only 155,000 new study permits (408,000 new and continuing permits), and 150,000 new study permits each year for both 2027 and 2028.

The end result has been a stark decrease in the number of study permit holders in Canada.

According to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the total number of study permit holders peaked in June 2024 with 1,033,101 people. Since then, as reductions started to set in, that number has fallen to 632,850 in May 2026.

Systemically, these cuts have meant less international tuition revenue being funnelled into Canadian colleges and universities with resulting budget constraints. However, a UBC spokesperson said the cuts have been absorbed without a significant impact on student numbers.

"UBC navigated this period thoughtfully, and we're now seeing encouraging signs, with a positive increase in both enrolment and applications," said Thandi Fletcher, Acting Director of News and University Affairs.

"Like many institutions, UBC responded with careful financial planning and responsible stewardship of resources."

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OPINION

Mastermind: Cracking the Code for Affordable Childcare

A campus resident likens the process of finding childcare on campus to the classic boardgame Mastermind. Spoiler alert: she didn't exactly win.

BY SAANA WALKER

You wouldn't think that finding the perfect daycare spot for your children would be like playing a game of Mastermind, but that's what it turned out to be. I know this because my husband and I almost cracked the code. Almost.

In Mastermind, one player secretly creates a code using a sequence of coloured pegs, and the other player tries to guess the exact combination within a limited number of turns. With some feedback from the code-maker, the guesser works to logically narrow down the possibilities and deduce the secret code before running out of attempts.

Using this analogy, being the mastermind means cracking the code to secure an affordable, local, good-quality daycare spot for your children when you need it.

It shouldn't be so difficult, but to succeed you need a combination of luck and strategy. And to make matters more complicated, some players are given more pegs (aka resources) than others, making it impossible for some people to ever crack the code.

Without further ado, let's play.

Strategy #1: apply early and often

Almost the very second after finding out that we were pregnant with our first child, we did what we had heard must be done to secure a daycare spot in Vancouver: we signed our unborn baby up for dozens of daycare waiting lists. Some were places we truly wanted. Others were far from our home and inconvenient, but we applied for these anyway to maximize our chances of securing a spot.

We had our hearts set on a daycare centre that we could see from our window. We would be able to walk there. We knew our child would receive good care. And, to our delight, it happened to be part of the provincial government's \$10-a-day program. That would be our jackpot.

But being on these waitlists can be frustrating. The rumour is that they are two to three years long—but that is about all the information you get. Often, you can't

call the daycares, and emails go unanswered. The uncertainty itself is nerve-wracking: how does a two-year waitlist fit with a family's schedule? Even if you sign your baby up as soon as they are conceived, by the time the mother returns to work when the baby is one year old, around 21 months will have passed. That can leave a months-long gap between when a parent is expected to return to work and when a daycare spot becomes available. That's where many people panic. That's when many turn to private nannies.

So, we studied the board, trying to plan our next move. If daycare is a game of Mastermind, then the waitlists are the first clues—but they tell you almost nothing. Without clear rules, parents are left to invent their own strategies, hoping that one of them will eventually line up the right combination of luck and timing.

Strategy #2: stall until the children are older

For several reasons—one of them being the hope of better chances of securing daycare when our baby was older we opted for the 18-month parental leave, sharing it between the two of us. But despite our now toddler being already 1.5-years-old by the time we needed a daycare spot, nothing had opened up. In fact, we had not been contacted by any of the childcare centres we were waitlisted for. It was strange to observe how some families received offers and others didn't. Presumably, these families qualified for priority standing on their waitlist, but at times this still appeared random to us (luck #1: qualify for waitlist priority).

Now we were in a position where both of us needed to return to work but had no childcare. For some families this means that one of the parents, usually the mother, leaves their job to fill in the gap since hiring a nanny often makes little financial sense unless the parent's income is above a certain threshold. We were fortunate because my sister-in-law was able to take care of our daughter temporarily as a stopgap. So, for a month we had a live-in nanny who generously slept on a cot on the floor of our tiny apartment while we figured out something else (resource #1: get family help).

That "something else" came in the form of a second baby (luck #2: easy pregnancy). I was able to start my maternity leave three months before my due date and take care of our toddler. If I had thought pregnancy was hard the first time, being nine months pregnant while chasing a wild toddler taught me otherwise!

Then another challenge took me by surprise. On most weekdays, I would take the kids to nearby playgrounds, but instead of finding them full of kids we usually found them empty. My toddler would list all her friends' names, asking if they could come and play with her. One by one, I needed to tell her that all her



friends were at daycare and couldn't play with her. She often refused to play alone, so we would just walk back home, both of us disappointed. The need for a daycare is most often framed as a service for the parents that allows them to go to work. But our kids have needs too. Even though they love their parents, they also crave time with their peers.

Finally, an offer

When our daughter had turned two and our son was three months old, we finally received a daycare offer. However, it did not come through any of our waitlists. A part-time spot opened up at our daughter's best friend's daycare, and her parents kindly recommended us.

Though the daycare had an extensive waitlist, it was not even consulted, and—to our mild discomfort—we skipped the line entirely (resource #2: have the right connections). It wasn't on our list—it was farther away and required an hour-long round-trip bike commute—but it was still better than nothing. And our daughter loved hanging out with her best friend all day long.

We signed our daughter up for two days a week, as full-time care would have been too expensive while one of us was on parental leave and receiving Employment Insurance.

And here is one of the ironies of the system: receiving EI disqualifies you from receiving B.C.'s Affordable Childcare Benefit, which is meant to help lower-income families pay for daycare.

Although there were times I was grateful to spend more time with my daughter, I also felt bitter—bitter over a system that does not seem to adequately care for people.

Strategy #3: know when a new waitlist opens

About half a year later, we received news that a new daycare would be opening in our neighbourhood. It would be closer than our daughter's current part-time daycare and seemed to have a good chance of eventually becoming one of the coveted \$10-a-day programs. So, on the very second the waitlist opened, we added both children's names to it. They held a lottery with the early applicants' names—and we won (luck #3: win an actual lottery). We now had spots secured for both children.

CHILDCARE CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Handsome Sports Car Driver

On June 26, I was the eighty-two-year-old senior retrieving a shopping cart from the raised buggy return area of the Wesbrook underground parking lot. Your low-slung, expensive sports car was parked to my immediate right, less than one meter away. You started and revved your car engine with such a roar that I had a massive startled reaction. My hands flew up, my head and spine snapped back, and I couldn't figure out which way to run. All this resulted in a fierce headache reminiscent of my previous stroke.

When I was able to look at you, you were laughing and continued to laugh as you backed out and roared away. I couldn't recover in time to get your license plate, but believe me, your face and car are permanently ingrained in my mind.

I will be looking for you and will have no qualms about loudly calling out your immature, disrespectful behaviour.

And remember, your "manhood" is not measured in decibels. 🗣️

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OPINION

The UNA at 25

For its 25th anniversary, University Neighbourhood Association board chair Eagle Glassheim reflects on the association’s evolution and what he thinks is perhaps its greatest achievement: engaging residents to help build and run this unique place we call home.

BY EAGLE GLASSHEIM

In 2001, campus was on its way to becoming a small city. The university had developed Hampton Place in the 1980s, and UBC was planning additional residential neighbourhoods in what became Hawthorn Place, Chancellor Place, and Wesbrook Place.

The emerging city would have a lot in common with other municipalities: roads, sewers, parks, community centres. But there was a crucial difference. UBC owned and managed all of the land, which was not part of Vancouver or any other municipality. Twenty-five years ago, the university and some engaged residents, led by Jim Taylor, created the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) to manage the rapidly growing city. A lot has happened since then, not least being a five-fold increase in population in the neighbourhoods. There are now two community centres, a significant commercial district in Wesbrook Village, close to a



dozen parks and greenways, playing fields, and an extensive public realm of sidewalks, trees, and gardens. The UNA began as an appointed board, tasked by UBC with assisting the university in managing the neighbourhoods. But the UNA’s responsibilities have grown along with the neighbourhoods and their increasingly complex operational needs. The 2008 Neighbours Agreement gave the UNA a direct role in managing the public realm, including the new Old Barn Community Centre. In 2020, the UNA introduced a fully-elected board, completing a transition to both managing public assets and representing residents with UBC and the Province. Since then, the UNA has functioned more like a municipality, with elected directors and professional management (including a Chief Administrative Officer, similar to a city manager elsewhere). But the UNA is still unique in many ways. It’s the only hybrid university-municip-

ality in British Columbia and one of the few in North America. While it keeps infrastructure reserves, maintains public assets, and engages in long-term planning like other municipalities, it does so in close collaboration with UBC, which retains the ultimate authority over land use and planning. The UNA has also substantially increased its role in promoting connection and well-being in the neighbourhoods. It has sponsored a community newspaper since 2010, and it runs extensive public programming for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Resident volunteers play an essential role in all these civic initiatives. This is, to me, the single greatest achievement of the past 25 years of the UNA: getting residents involved in building and running our unique city. EAGLE GLASSHEIM IS THE CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION AND A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT UBC.

BUSINESSES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It would be beneficial for all companies if Wesbrook advertised farther,” said Chau. “Since UBC property is isolated by a forest, it would be beneficial to have advertising farther out, such as on Blanca.” Saleem Ahamed, Director at Doughgirls Comfort Kitchen & Bakeshop, was sanguine about how business is going, explaining that the business sees a healthy 300 customers per day and 400 on weekends. With three years until the bakery’s lease is up for renewal, he is concerned about the future but confident that he can negotiate from a position of strength. “I consider us an anchor store here,” Ahamed said. “It

wouldn’t benefit Wesbrook to see us go.”

Residential rents also affect businesses

The relatively high cost of residential rent in the university neighbourhoods is also adversely affecting local businesses. Employees at some businesses—particularly cafes like Blenz, Murchie’s, and Doughgirls—noted that several of their regular customers had moved away from campus because they were able to find cheaper comparable housing in other neighbourhoods such as Kitsilano or West Point Grey. Employees at ShareTea, and Rogers prior to its closure, also remarked that they would have liked to live on campus and closer to their jobs, but housing costs are prohibitively expensive for them. Every customer service worker interviewed said they lived elsewhere and commuted to UBC. Given the isolation of campus from the rest of the city, many owners who spoke to *The Campus Resident* said having a prosperous business sector is necessary to maintain a sense of community here. And each of the proprietors interviewed expressed their desire to remain on campus and contribute to its growth. “Businesses like ours contribute to the vibrancy and livability of the neighbourhood,” said Kim Scarrow of Havyn Hot Studios, a hot yoga and pilates studio located at 3378 Wesbrook Mall. “We’re hopeful that, as the community continues to evolve, UBC Properties Trust will work with local businesses to ensure that we can thrive alongside the growth of the neighbourhood.”

Get Together on Neighbours Day

BY AMIE BERNAERDT

Get ready for the annual flagship event for the campus neighbourhoods!

The UNA’s annual Neighbours Day happens on September 12 at the Wesbrook Community Centre from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As with previous years, the celebration will feature live entertainment, games, food, and art to enjoy. This year, some of the highlights include a BBQ snack bar, a watermelon eating contest, face painting, balloon art, and live music and performances by local acts. Last year, over 1,500 people attended Neighbours Day celebrations and roughly 80 people volunteered to help with the event. Thirty-five community partners and vendors were also present at the festivities. Over the past two years, the Neighbours Day stage has played host for numerous performances, from J-Pop group Non-Sweet to indie rock band Bealby Point, to Merlin the Magician and ROOTS’ Peruvian folk-dances. This year, there will also be a Kids Market, where children aged 6-18 are able to showcase and sell their handmade goods. There’s something for everyone at Neighbours Day, so join your fellow neighbours at the party.



Last year’s UNA Neighbours Day. (Photos: UNA)

The logo for Metro Vancouver, featuring the words 'metrovanancouver' in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

ELECTORAL AREA A

VOTES

Notice of Nomination

Metro Vancouver Regional District Electoral Area A 2026 General Local Election

Public Notice is hereby given to the electors of Electoral Area A that nominations for the office of Director of Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver Regional District, will be received at the office of the Chief Election Officer, Metro Vancouver, 27th Floor, Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6, from Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) between 8:00 am September 1 to 4:00 pm September 11.

Electoral Area A refers to the unincorporated lands of the Metro Vancouver Regional District. This includes the University Endowment Lands, University of British Columbia lands, Bowyer Island, Grebe Islets, Passage Island, Barnston Island, and the areas of Howe Sound, Indian Arm, and West Pitt Lake.

A person is eligible to be nominated, elected, and hold office as a member of local government if they are all of the following:

- A Canadian citizen
- Not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from being nominated, elected, holding office, or otherwise disqualified by law
- 18 years of age or older on general voting day, October 17, 2026
- A resident of British Columbia for at least six months before the day nomination papers are filed

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the following expense limits apply for candidates during the 2026 general local election campaign period:

- An expense limit of \$10,489.21
- A third-party advertising limit of \$924.28

Nomination packages, including information on the requirements and procedures for making a nomination, are available online at metrovanancouver.org/boards/elections

Notice of Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting is available to eligible voters. To receive a mail ballot package, submit a completed request form by 4:00 pm October 1, 2026.

To be counted for the election or assent voting, your completed ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer **no later than 8:00 pm on October 17, 2026**. You can mail the completed ballot package or drop it off at Metro Vancouver’s Information Centre, 29th Floor, Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

For request forms and full instructions, visit metrovanancouver.org/boards/elections, or contact us by email: elections@metrovanancouver.org or phone: 604-432-6200.



UBC recently added five two-bedroom guest suites at Symphony, a residential building located at 3638 Wesbrook Mall. The suites are available for staff and faculty tenants to rent out for visitors to campus. (Photo: Emmanuel Samoglou)

UBC Expands Campus Accommodation Options

den unit for two adults for \$120 per night, and their two bedroom/two-bedroom and den units can accommodate 4 adults, with rates at \$220 per night with a \$150 booking cleaning fee per booking.

In addition to Symphony, there are also studio and one-bedroom suites at Theory, Echo, Evolve, Mundell House, and Pine House – all located in Wesbrook Place. And you don't have to be a resident of those specific buildings to reserve them — all suites are open to all UBC faculty and staff renting through Village Gate Homes. Those wishing to book a stay can do so via the resident portal on the Village Gate Homes website.

The university also has a limited number of hotel and suite accommodation options available for all community members.

Those looking for an upscale apartment-style stay may be interested in West Coast Suites, which offers year-round one-bedroom suites featuring full kitchens, complimentary coffee, and living spaces at a higher price point, while Gage Suites at UBC provides hotel-style rooms and traditional suites. Both are located centrally at 5961 Student Union Boulevard near the UBC bookstore.

Another option is Carey Lodge, located on the calmer side of campus on 5920 Iona Drive. Rooms here come with complimentary breakfast and Wi-Fi.

Lastly, the Pacific Spirit Hostel at 1935 Lower Mall is a budget-friendly option that offers single and double rooms primarily during the summer months, from the middle of May to late August.

With the addition of the new rental suites to existing options, more residents now have the option to spend extra time with their guests right here on campus.

AIZA MUBASHIR IS A GRADE 12 STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL.

STUDENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

In the 2025-2026 academic year, UBC recorded an increase of 3 per cent in overall student enrolment at the school's Point Grey campus. When looking specifically at international students, there was a 14 per cent increase from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026, following three years of decline.

While admission rates have held steady, the number of applications submitted by prospective international students dropped by 36 per cent between 2021-2022 and 2025-2026, according to UBC's Annual Enrolment Report. For domestic undergraduate admissions, the number of applications has not declined.

The annual budget for the 2026-2027 academic year remains balanced; however, a UBC budget report makes note of ongoing financial pressures facing the university.

"There is no question that we are experiencing challenging times—we are notably navigating international student visa and tuition constraints, rising costs, and global uncertainty— yet through a disciplined and strategic approach to our planning, we continue to build fiscal resilience," wrote UBC President and Vice-Chancellor Benoit-Antoine Bacon in the report.

UBC has so far been able to avoid university-wide layoffs and cuts, using hiring pauses and implementing a voluntary retirement program for eligible staff to ease budget pressures.

However, the drop in international students has taken a toll on other post-secondary institutions in the Metro Vancouver area.

Last year, Kwantlen Polytechnic University warned tuition revenues could fall by 49 per cent, and in April, University Canada West laid off 240 staff members due to the government's decision to reduce the number of international study permits. For Langara College, a popular option for hopeful students trying to transfer to UBC, international student applications for the spring 2025 semester dropped by 79 per cent.

AMIE BERNAERDT IS A FIFTH YEAR STUDENT AT UBC, MAJORING IN CREATIVE WRITING AND ANTHROPOLOGY. SHE LIVES IN WESBROOK PLACE.

With the addition of new guest suites in Wesbrook Place, university staff and faculty have an expanded range of accommodation options when hosting guests

BY AIZA MUBASHIR

Spanning over 993 acres of land, UBC is regarded internationally as a beautiful campus and an attractive destination for visitors.

Yet residents have often said the university's Point Grey campus lacks a suitable supply and range of accommodation options needed to host visitors.

This summer, UBC Properties Trust (UBCPT) and its subsidiary Village Gate Homes leveraged the city's co-hosting of the FIFA World Cup and the long-term need for more accommodation options in the campus neighbourhoods by adding five two-bedroom guest suites at Symphony, a staff and faculty residential building located in Wesbrook Place at 3638 Wesbrook Mall.

There are now a total of fourteen suites in Symphony on offer for visitors, including 13 two-bedroom units. With air conditioning, in-suite laundry, and fully equipped kitchens, the Symphony Guest Suites are an attractive option for UBC staff and faculty members looking for a

temporary stay, as one recent visitor found out.

Ontario resident Kim de Bellefeuille told *The Campus Resident* she had a "truly excellent" experience staying at Symphony during her July visit to B.C.

Instead of the "limited confines of a hotel room", she said she had "a fully stocked home away from home".

"It was clean, quiet and comfortable, with ample space — and better value than any other accommodation I could have found on my own. It also felt entirely safe and secure, so for a woman staying alone, I had total peace of mind," de Bellefeuille said.

When asked what could be improved, de Bellefeuille had a few suggestions. "It would be helpful if the guest could receive the booking and procedural information along with the staff tenant", she said.

"When it comes to information in the small print, two sets of eyes are better than one, and I might have reduced undue logistical stress on my host if I could have taken care of some aspects of my stay, like communicating with the office about the booking, fob retrieval, etc".

Overall, de Bellefeuille's favourite part about staying in the guest suites was "having my own modern, cozy living space just a few steps away from my friends."

Symphony has a one-bedroom and

EV Chargers Installed in Wesbrook

BY TCR STAFF

New electrical vehicle chargers have been installed on Ross Drive to provide more charging options for electric vehicle drivers.

The new BC Hydro charging site features three new direct current (DC) fast chargers with a total of six charging ports, allowing up to six vehicles able to charge at the same time.

The 180 kW chargers can provide an average electric vehicle with approximately 180 kilometres of driving range in about 10 minutes, the UNA says. The stations support both CCS and NACS connectors, making them compatible with a wide range of electric vehicles.

The Ross Drive site complements BC Hydro's existing charging station on Webber Lane, adjacent to the Wesbrook Community Centre. Together, the two locations now offer eight charging ports for EV drivers in the UBC area, with additional expansion planned for the future.

The new chargers were made possible through collaboration between the UNA, UBC Campus and Community Planning, and BC Hydro.

Representatives gathered on July 29 to officially open the Ross Drive site. UNA Board Chair Eagle Glassheim welcomed attendees and was followed with remarks from Carole Jolly of UBC Campus and Community Planning. The event also included a demonstration of the new chargers by Scott Petrie of BC Hydro.

The UNA said the project is an example of the ongoing collaboration between the UNA and UBC on community sustainability initiatives and supports the university's Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan.



BC Hydro's new electric vehicle chargers officially opened for public use on July 29. Pictured here (L-R) are Carole Jolly, Director, UBC Community Development and Transportation), BC Hydro's Scott Petrie, Chair of the UNA Board of Directors Eagle Glassheim and UNA Chief Administrative Officer Paul Thorkelsson. (Photo: UNA)

UBC Theatre Performances Announced for Upcoming Season

Tickets are now on sale for six productions produced, performed, and directed by students in the UBC theatre and film program.

BY DANIEL LI

Six live theatrical performances have been announced as part of UBC Theatre & Film’s 2026-2027 season. This month, from September 17-19, *Beckett 26: The*

Reorganization is set to run at the Frederic Wood Theatre at 6354 Crescent Rd, with proceeds going to fund the Errol Durbach, Norman Young and Peter Loeffler scholarships. The production will feature vignettes from the works of Irish playwright Samuel Beckett. The winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature, Beckett is most well-known for writing the existentialist play *Waiting for Godot* and his role in the Theatre of the Absurd. On September 30, free admission will be offered for

Where Have All the Buffalo Gone? at the Frederic Wood Theatre in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Using a nonlinear structure, the play tells the history of the Métis people covering the fur trade, the near extinction of the buffalo and the organization of the Métis Association of Alberta in the 20th century. The experimental production *Everybody* runs from October 29 to November 7 at the Dorothy Somerset Studio, located at 6361 University Blvd. Borrowing the conventions of the original 15th century morality play of *Everyman*, the production seeks to interrogate the meaning of life through interactions with the personification of various abstract concepts including Love and Friendship. This winter, *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge, Really* is scheduled to be performed from November 18 to December 5 at the Frederic Wood Theatre. Adapting the original Bram Stoker novel, the play focuses on the role of Mina Harker, a pregnant woman, as she and Dr. Van Helsing combat the encroaching shadow of Count Dracula. In the new year, William Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* will be performed at the Frederic Wood Theatre from March 17 to April 3. The iconic play of mistaken identities, shipwrecks and heart-rending romance explores the question of who we really are in a dazzling comedy that was originally written to celebrate the end of the Christmas season. To close out the 2026-2027 season, Virginia Woolf’s *Orlando* runs from April 6-14 at the Frederic Wood Theatre. Based on the novel of the same name, the production follows the young nobleman Orlando whose search for meaning and love drives him around the world and through the years. Single and seasons tickets are now on sale online at theatrefilm.ubc.ca/buy-tickets, with discounts for students and seniors.



Cast members of *Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?*, an upcoming play by UBC Theatre & Film that tells the history of the Métis people. (Photo: Javier Sotres)

UNA

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

REGISTER NOW

OVER 200 PROGRAMS OFFERED

Try a new fitness class, learn a new musical instrument or drop in to play a sport with your friends! There’s something for everyone at the UNA community centres.

Registration for Fall 2026 recreation programs is ongoing. Spots are limited, so sign up soon!

For more information, visit myuna.ca/programs or drop by the **Wesbrook Community Centre** (3335 Webber Ln.) or the **Old Barn Community Centre** (6308 Thunderbird Blvd.).

2026 FALL

PROGRAM GUIDE

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

DRAW ON FALL LEAVES

Remember Your Best Moments
Decorate your leaf with playful patterns and bright designs! Each line and swirl should tell the story of a happy memory.

Win a \$50 gift card! Drop off your drawing at the Wesbrook Community Centre and help us build a collage. Follow @unacommunity on Instagram for details.

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CHILDCARE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In accepting the spots, we knew the first year would be expensive with two kids in daycare. But we had high hopes that the centre would become \$10-a-day after its first year of operation. All the other daycares in the same organization were, and their track record seemed promising. Then, just a few weeks after we had registered our children, we saw the news: the BC government was pausing the \$10-a-day daycare program, and no new facilities would be admitted over the next three years. With two children in daycare, we would be paying \$2,200 per month for the foreseeable future. The government explained the pause as a response to “a bad, unfair system,” calling the \$10-a-day program a “lottery.” It didn’t feel like a simple lottery to us—it felt like Mastermind, a game we thought we had won but had just lost. What made this news especially frustrating is that there is a straightforward way to fix this system: base daycare subsidies more closely to family income, not on who manages to crack the code. To us, the announcement felt like a rather transparent way to save money in the provincial budget at the expense of families like us. Others already in this system would continue to benefit while we were shut out. I was working when I heard the news. I texted a nearby friend, who lived close by my office in the Downtown Eastside: “Are you at home? I need someone to cry with.” She welcomed me in, made tea and baked chocolate chip cookies. Canada’s women’s hockey team had just lost to the U.S. in the Milano Olympics, and it felt

like an oddly fitting moment to cry and talk about the injustices of the world.

Winning the lottery, with a pricey ticket

In the end, securing two spots at our daycare was like winning a lottery. We can walk to the daycare, making the drop offs and pick-ups very convenient. It’s a beautiful, new facility with excellent toys and loving staff, whom our children adore. But if this was a lottery, it has taken a very expensive lottery ticket to win it. In total, getting our two children through the remainder of their daycare years will cost us more than \$80,000 (resource #3: have money). When my husband and I are both back at full-time jobs, we fall into the affordability gap—our family income is just too high to qualify for the affordable childcare benefit, but too low to be able to comfortably afford to cover our expenses, with rent and childcare now comprising 60 per cent of our monthly income. It has also been a long process. We spent years studying the board, trying strategy after strategy, hoping that luck would swing our way, and using our limited resources as well as possible. What might seem like a simple budget decision to policymakers felt, to me, like losing a game of Mastermind. That is what the daycare system in British Columbia feels like to me: a game where the rules are hidden and the pieces are unevenly distributed. Some players start with extra clues; others begin with fewer pegs. Some get extra lucky. We almost cracked the code. Almost.

SAANA WALKER IS A CAMPUS RESIDENT.

IN OUR WORDS



Community members at Soccer in the Square, celebrating Team Canada's victory over Qatar on June 18. (Photo: Supplied)

Live match screenings at Soccer in the Square in Wesbrook Village during the FIFA World Cup were an opportunity to build community and show the importance of public places, writes Jayne Seagrave.

BY JAYNE SEAGRAVE

It began very slowly, low key, and somewhat understated. There were only a few of us there, watching the group stage matches of the FIFA World Cup at “Soccer In The Square” in Wesbrook Village. At the first game on June 11 there were maybe twenty of us, with numerous seats available. I chatted to a man who had arrived from Ukraine the day before and like me, was supporting England, but really, we both soon agreed, we were just here to appreciate the soccer. As the match progressed more joined us, and by the time the final whistle blew there were only a few unoccupied seats, and a lovely banter had been created between me and my seven new friends. Gradually as the tournament—which lasted five weeks from June 11 until July 19—progressed, more joined the audience. Suddenly and unannounced, I noticed that a pizza tent was set up, and then an enthusiastic, larger-than-life personality who exuded confidence appeared to stir up and ignite the already excited crowd. His name was Jordan Wade, a local media personality, and he came with swag,



Writer Jayne Seagrave. (Photo: Supplied)

FIFA Forever

included soccer key rings, UBC-branded writing pads, gift vouchers to various restaurants) which he gave out while leading the pre-game introduction and half-time entertainment. He asked us which teams we were supporting, initiating cheers, and advising us to visit the local eateries during the breaks. He riled up the crowd before the match and during the halftime break. During matchday trivia contests, strangers formed teams to answer an eclectic array of questions on soccer and the campus community, with winners taking home prizes. As would be expected, Canada’s games were packed. And as the tournament progressed more were bitten by the World Cup bug. It seemed that quite a few in the audience had never seen a soccer game and were not acquainted with the rules. Questions such as, “why a yellow and not red card?”, “What happens if there is a draw?” and “Can anyone explain the offside rule?” stimulated discussions between strangers as the audience sat rapt by the event. As the weeks passed and the crowd size increased, I began to bring a camping chair and arrive at least two hours before the kickoff time. My canvas chair was placed amongst the others—many whose owners were my new friends, and who remained guarding our real estate—as I left for a hike in the forest. When I returned, I found my chair just as I had left it, cared for by my new mates. At this point, home-made cookies were shared, packets of chips passed around, soccer stories recounted as an always friendly rivalry and teasing took over. Everyone cheered when a goal was scored, no matter which team it was. The only enemy on the big screen was FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who without exception received a chorus of boos whenever his image was shown. Another President was also awarded the same reaction. “Soccer In The Square” created friendships and a bonding which I predict will last way beyond the five weeks of the tournament. I have already found myself at UBC greeting faces I recognize from those glorious days and exchanging the phrase; “Pity it’s all over” and “Can’t wait

until next time” with the individuals whose faces I know, but whose names forgotten. The shared, local experience at this well organized, low-key, and free event produced lasting memories for all ages, from pre-schoolers to the retired. Hopefully the success of “Soccer In The Square” will suggest to the powers that be that this central space is ideal for future events.

I sincerely hope so. ✍️

JAYNE SEAGRAVE IS A B.C. RESIDENT AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF “CAMPING BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE ROCKIES AND THE YUKON”. SHE SPENDS HER FREE TIME TRAVELLING, WRITES FICTION AND NON-FICTION, AND OCCASIONALLY TEACHES WRITING AND PUBLISHING COURSES.



UNIVERSITY
NEIGHBOURHOODS
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Stay up to date on the UNA’s finances and organizational progress



September 29, 2026 | 7 PM
Wesbrook Community Centre

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Get updates on the UNA’s finances, organizational improvements, and community projects.
- Meet UNA leadership and UBC representatives and ask the questions that matter most to you.
- Connect with like-minded neighbours who care about making our community stronger.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- **To attend**, you must be a **UNA Society Member** (register online at myuna.ca/society) and present a **valid ID with proof of your current UNA address**.
- **Can’t attend?** You can appoint another UNA Society Member or a Board of Director to vote on your behalf using the AGM Proxy Form.

Learn more and subscribe to UNA updates by visiting myuna.ca/agm or by scanning the QR code below.

* Mandarin interpretation will be available during the Question and Answer Periods.



Welcome to The Campus Resident’s Arts & Culture section, where community members of all ages can share their creativity, including: paintings, photography, comics, poems, stories and more. This month, we continue our 2026 Summer Photo Contest with another winner.

The contest concludes next month, so be sure to submit your entry by September 22 to win the final prize – a \$20 gift certificate from Doughgirls Comfort Kitchen & Bakeshop.

To enter, subscribe to The Campus Resident newsletter by visiting thecampusresident.ca/subscribe and email your photo (high resolution) with a brief description to: editor@thecampusresident.ca.

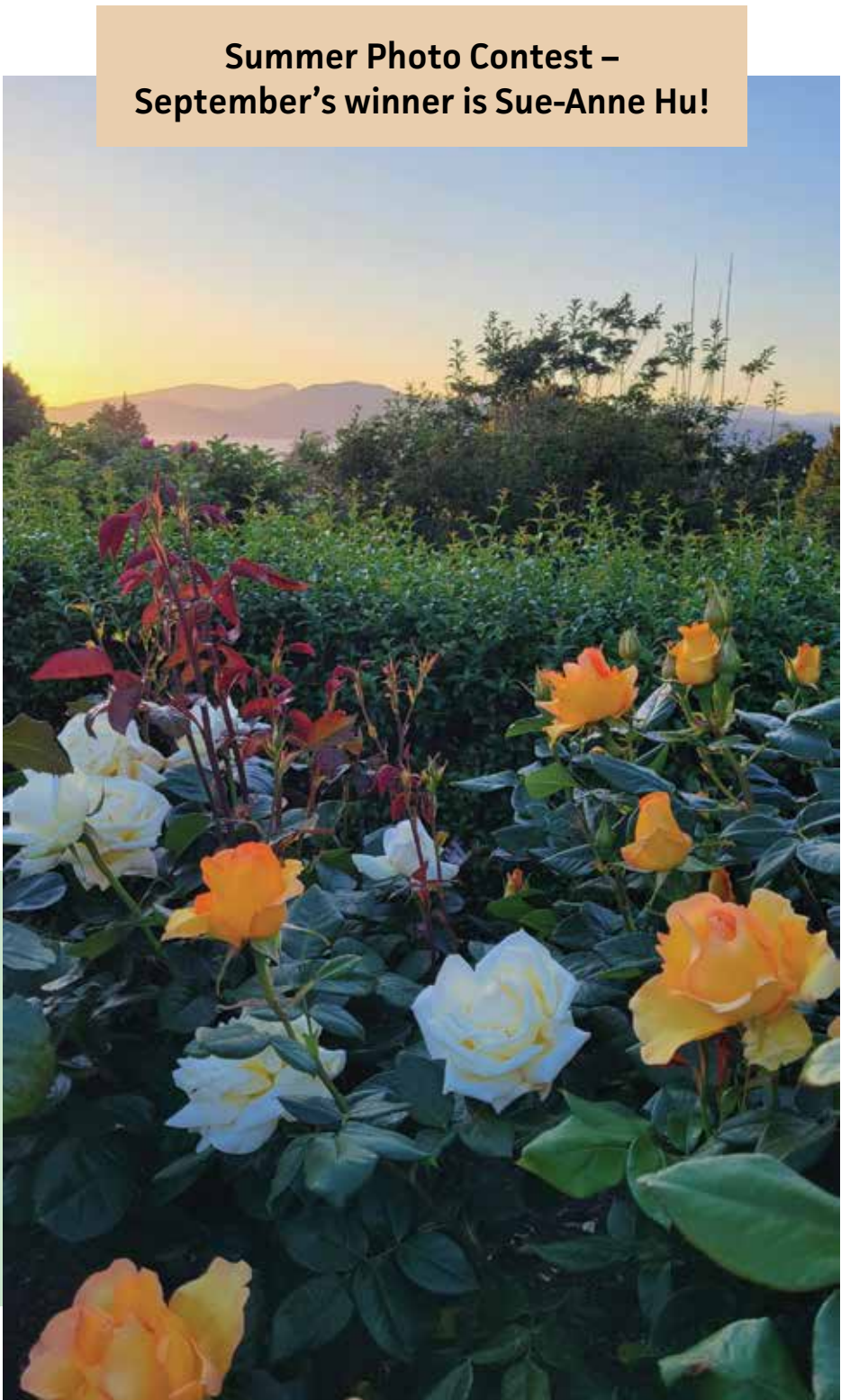
Good luck!

— The Campus Resident Arts & Culture team

Rose Garden Sunset ►

BY SUE-ANNE HU

I took this photo on an evening in early summer at the UBC Rose Garden. It was during a walk with my friend who recently lost her husband. We have been walking and talking more regularly to take her mind off things. I like this photo because life and God's creation is still beautiful even when we go through rough times. I dedicate this photo to her.



Summer Photo Contest – September’s winner is Sue-Anne Hu!

Music in the Park

Annual music celebration took place in July, bringing together local musicians and community members.

BY TCR STAFF

Music in the Park returned to the university neighbourhoods this summer with a wide range of performers. On July 24, community members brought their lawn chairs to Jim Taylor Park for an evening of live music and interactive booths hosted by local community groups. The event began with a number of performers from the local community and were followed by songwriter Shane Floyd and Malaysian-Filipina R&B artist Zelle Eliz, both from Vancouver. The annual event was attended by all ages.



Clockwise from left: UNA volunteer Maryam Khosravi; Attendees at Music in the Park; Performer Warren McKinnon, who also is a member of The Campus Resident’s Newspaper Editorial Committee; Performers Kar-Yee Yuen and Kendra Coleman. Photos by Sammy Tong.