

How to Vote in the Oct. 24 Provincial Election

NEWS

By JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

The provincial election is coming
up fast. Election day is Oct. 24.

This time, voters will elect 93
members of the legislative assembly
(MLAs), each representing an
electoral district (also known as
ridings). You will only be voting
for the representative in your riding.
To find your riding, enter your
address here.

In most cases, you won't be vot-
ing for a party or its leader direct-
ly. However, the party that wins
the most ridings (not necessarily a
majority of them) will be invited
to form government, and its leader
will become premier of British Co-
lumbia.

Before this election was called
on Sept. 22, the B.C. New Demo-
cratic Party (NDP) had 47 MLAs
— the minimum needed for a ma-
jority government. That made Da-
vid Eby, the leader of the BC NDP,
British Columbia's premier. There
were also 39 B.C. Conservatives,
two B.C. Greens, and five indepen-
dents.

On election day, the polls will
be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If
you are a Canadian citizen over
the age of 18 and have lived in B.C.
since Apr. 23, congratulations! You
are eligible to vote unless otherwise
disqualified by law.

Voter registration is now closed,
but you can register in person when
you go to vote. To prove your iden-
tity and address at the polls, bring
one of the following: a B.C. driver's
licence, a BC Identification Card
(BCID), a B.C. Services Card (with
photo), a Certificate of Indian Sta-
tus, or any other card issued by the
provincial or federal government
that has your name, photo, and ad-
dress on it.

If you do not have any of these,
bring two pieces of ID that show
your name, at least one of which
shows your current address — elec-
tronic scans of documents work.

Continued on page 3.

PETE FRY, THE CITY'S FIRST GREEN MAYOR

In an ecstatic night for Vancouver progressives, Pete Fry was elected mayor
— with a progressive supermajority on city council, school board, and park
board. Now he faces a new a second challenge: following through.



After serving as a city councillor since 2018, Pete Fry has been elected as Vancouver's first Green party mayor. Aleah Kippan for *The Ubyssy*

By RAFFERTY MEIER
Technology Reporter
& STEPHEN KOSAR
Deputy News Editor

Pete Fry will become Vancouver's
next mayor after a progressive wave
that saw left-leaning candidates
elected across the city.

Fry was elected mayor Saturday

night with 47.3 per cent of the vote,
defeating incumbent Mayor Ken
Sim, who garnered 32.7 per cent.

A city councillor since 2018, Fry
will become the city's first Green
Party mayor. This victory comes af-
ter a nine-month-long campaign in
which Fry and the Greens took on
Ken Sim's centre-right party, ABC.

All four Green council candi-

dates, three park board candidates,
and two school board trustee candi-
dates were elected as well.

Fry told a crowd of supporters
on election night that his greatest
thanks were owed to the people of
Vancouver for putting their trust in
him and his team.

Continued on page 3.

The BC NDP's plans for British Columbia

NEWS

By ISHITA SHARMA
Immigration Reporter
& JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

David Eby is running for re-election
as British Columbia's Premier and as
Member of the Legislative Assembly
(MLA) for Vancouver Point-Grey. His
challengers are Conservative candi-
date Alex McMillan, Green candidate
Beatrice Sharpe, and CentreBC can-
didate Michael Davis.

Eby grew up in Kitchener Ont-
ario, completed an undergraduate
degree at the University of Waterloo
and went to law school at Dalhousie
University. In 2013, he unseated
then-premier Christy Clark who was
the MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey.
Eby has represented the riding ever
since. In 2017, he became B.C.'s At-
torney General, and in 2020 Minister of
Housing.

In 2022, then-premier and BC
NDP leader, John Horgan stepped
down from his role due of health con-
cerns, Eby took the leadership of the
party and became premier. Horgan
died of throat cancer in 2024. Under
Horgan's leadership the BC NDP
had their biggest victory in history
winning 57 out of 87 seats in the 2020
general election. Eby would lose 10
seats in 2024 but remain the premier
with the smallest possible margin for
a majority.

That one seat majority is part of
Eby's own reasoning to explain call-
ing a snap election two years early. In
a leaders debate, Eby said he needs a
“strong mandate” from British Co-
lumbians to take the “big swings”
needed to address the province's is-
sues.

His decision was heavily criticized
for timing provincial elections just
one month after municipal elections
across B.C. and because it happened
days after former Conservative leader
Kerry-Lynne Findley stepped down.
Green Party leader Emily Lowan
called the election “a brazen attempt
to hold onto power.”

Continued on page 5.



Meet VanJazz, the New Festival in Town

By ELENA MASSING
Editor-in-Chief
& Arts and Culture Editor

Vancouver is a few years into a re-
surge in desire for local, inde-
pendent music, says Cory Weeds.
There's always been decent support
for live shows, but since the pan-
demic, it's only grown louder. Peo-
ple are buying more recordings than
they ever have in the 20-plus years
Weeds has worked in the scene;
rooms that had never been full be-
fore suddenly have waiting lists.

Weeds doesn't know why this

is happening now. What he does
know, however, is that there's a void
in what the city actually has to offer
in return — especially in the realm
of jazz.

Since the late '90s, Weeds has
promoted concerts in Vancouver.
That endeavour eventually turned
into 13 years of running the dearly
missed Cellar jazz club. Alongside
the venue, he started the jazz la-
bel Cellar Music, which, over its
25 years, has released hundreds of
records — one of their records has
won a Grammy, and others, Junos.
He also founded the Jazz at the Bolt

festival, is the executive director
of Vancouver Jazz Orchestra Soci-
ety, and took over programming at
Frankie's Jazz Club a decade ago.

As great as Frankie's is, it hadn't
quite satisfied Vancouver's hun-
ger on its own. Younger musicians
wanted something different, Weeds
said — spaces where they could be
more *innovative*. “I used to say, un-
til somebody comes along like me,
I gotta keep doing this,” Weeds told
me. There just hadn't been anybody
else willing to make it happen.

Continued on page 6.



EDITORIAL | Page 02

The Greens are Best for BC.

On housing, Indigenous rights, the climate
crisis, and addressing B.C.'s multi-year
deficit, the Greens come out ahead of the
other parties. And yet, that doesn't mean
you should necessarily vote for them.

Our province is going through multi-
ple crises: housing, complex questions
about the future of DRIPA and recon-
ciliation, and climate change, to name a
few. We need a party with a bold and
positive vision for the province.

SPORTS | Page 8

The Past, Present, and Future of Rowing

UBC's rowing program has sent count-
less athletes to the Olympic podium, but
the way they got to that point is often
under-appreciated.

SPORTS | Page 9

An Overtime Thriller in Langley

Zeke Nicholson's OT goal salvaged a 6-5
win against Trinity Western, but Men's
Hockey can't be happy nearly falling to a
team they've never lost to.



OPINION | Page 10

UBC Can't Build Student Housing Alone

Legal and financial barriers keep UBC
reliant on the province to fund student
housing development, writes Finley
Ludeman in his debut column.

It's your campus, stay informed.

Read *The Ubyssy*.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Published in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the traditional, ancestral and stolen territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the xʷməŋkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Greens are Best for B.C.

On housing, Indigenous rights, the climate crisis, and addressing B.C.'s multi-year deficit, the Greens come out ahead of the other parties. And yet, that doesn't mean you should necessarily vote for them.



Skye Shen for *The Ubyyssey*

Editor's Note

This article is an editorial, which is an opinion essay by the Editorial Board, the body of the newspaper's staff who debate and decide positions on the news of the day.

The Ubyyssey's editorial board is made up of journalists who write their views as a collective in the newspaper's name. The board meets weekly to deliberate about issues that matter to the UBC community.

Our province is going through multiple crises: housing, complex questions about the future of DRIPA and reconciliation, and climate change, to name a few. We need a party with a bold and positive vision for the province.

This vision is found in the Greens.

Realistically, the Greens won't win more than a couple seats. While David Eby's NDP is far from perfect, an NDP government would be better than one formed by Lorne Doerkson's Conservatives. In some ridings, voting NDP is more responsible to avoid splitting the left-of-centre vote.

The Greens are best poised to improve the lives of British Columbians. To address housing and the cost of living, they promise to build 26,000 permanently affordable non-market homes and to provide free transit, starting with youth under 25 and seniors. Their proposal to publicly cover mental health care will likely benefit students.

Unsurprisingly, the Greens also have the best policies on climate change. While the NDP and the federal government invest billions in liquid natural gas projects, the Greens are committed to ending fossil fuel expansion, including fracking and pipelines.

The Greens are the only party you can trust on Indigenous rights. In 2019, the NDP passed DRIPA, which fulfilled

one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action by beginning to implement the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples across B.C.

The NDP have since wavered on their support for the statute, nearly suspending the act following misinformation about it threatening private property ownership. They have vowed to maintain DRIPA, but when the political winds change, we aren't sure we can trust them given their history of flip-flopping at the first sign of pressure.

The Conservatives are committed to repealing DRIPA.

The Greens, however, are and always have been committed to implementing DRIPA. They will also uphold Indigenous self-determination and protect Indigenous languages.

On human rights, both the NDP and Conservatives support involuntary care. Voluntary care is far more humane. The Greens realize this and plan to invest in measures to that end.

The Greens' policies would be funded by a progressive tax on wealth above \$50 million, which they estimate will raise \$22.2 billion in the first year, followed by \$5.4 billion each following year. And this tax would only affect 0.1% of the population. This is a far cry from the NDP's tax plan, which would raise taxes on individuals making above approximately \$190k per year — decidedly not the ultra-rich.

Nevertheless, the Greens will not form a government.

In this election, only two parties have a realistic chance of leading the next provincial government: the incumbent NDP and the Conservatives. While we were not particularly impressed by either party, we find the NDP to be the better of the two.

The economy is perhaps the NDP's weakest area. Eby's government has brought increasing deficits and multiple credit downgrades. However, we are more concerned by the Con-

servatives' plan for an austerity government. Their signature economic proposal involves reducing taxes: \$1000 across the board, tax cuts on alcohol, and a tax freeze. What the Conservatives haven't said is which services will be reduced to accommodate these tax cuts. When British Columbians are having a hard time making ends meet, service cuts are not the answer.

While Eby's spending has not always been the most targeted, the last few years have seen some improvement in our healthcare. Fewer British Columbians lack a family doctor, thanks to U.S. doctors being hired. Yet the crisis isn't solved. Measures like urgent and primary care centres help some, but will be limited as long as we have a doctor shortage. We expect continued incremental improvements from a re-elected Eby government. Even these mild improvements might not happen under Tory austerity.

In recent years, the average asking rent price has dropped, in part due to NDP policies, reducing the cost of living. The Conservatives, on the other hand, do not seem to have any robust policy on housing, outside cutting red tape. B.C. needs more housing, and the Conservatives won't deliver it.

While the Conservatives have dropped two candidates over offensive social media posts, we are still concerned by the Conservatives' decision to keep Heather Maahs — who said that books depicting queer characters were "grooming" — and their campaign director Katy Merrifield, who made an Islamophobic X post in June.

This behaviour from a few conservative candidates, and the type of politics OneBC promotes, is antithetical to the health of our society. Residential school denialism, anti-queer rhetoric, and religious discrimination do not have a place in our province. While there is much in politics for which there can be reasonable disagreement, OneBC and some Conservatives' figures fly in the face of

any good-faith political discussion.

CentreBC is a party we respect. It hasn't promoted culture war issues and instead focuses on a platform of fiscal conservatism to address B.C.'s annual budget — even though we prefer the Greens' approach, this is a respectable stance. CentreBC would likely be a positive force in BC politics by moderating the further-right Conservatives. However, despite being led by longtime MLA Elenore Sturko, CentreBC might not make it into the legislature.

As much as we'd like to write an unequivocal endorsement for the BC Greens, that isn't responsible. A Tory majority government would be detrimental for British Columbians, as we said above.

While the outcomes for much of Vancouver are essentially decided, this is not a given everywhere. In municipalities such as Surrey and Maple Ridge, the race is neck and neck between the NDP and Conservatives.

In these areas, voting Green may do more harm than good. In splitting the vote on the left, a reduced NDP vote would increase Tory candidates' chances of winning.

The NDP isn't better than the Conservatives on every issue, but they are on most. We aren't happy to be bailing Eby out of the mess he made by calling this election, but the cost of his failure will be borne by all of us, not just the NDP.

If you are in a riding that is already likely to elect an NDP or Conservative candidate, you should vote Green. Their policies push the province in a direction that's better for all British Columbians.

Even though the Greens are unlikely to win, your vote sends a message about the type of politics that we need in this province.

Election day is Oct. 24. If you're a Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old and has lived in B.C. since April 23, you're eligible to vote. [u](#)

News

Pete Fry, The City’s First Green Mayor



After serving as a city councillor since 2018, Pete Fry has been elected as Vancouver’s first Green party mayor.
Aleah Kippan for The Ubyyssey

By JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

Continued from page 1.

“We’re not going to let you down,” he said. “We love the city a lot, and we’re here to work for the city.”

The city, he said, “had some problems, but what city doesn’t have problems? I think the reality is how we face those problems and how we face them together ... We love this place, and we’re going to make it awesome. And I’m excited to take that dream with all of you.”

Pete Fry immigrated to Vancouver from Ireland and worked as a graphic designer, illustrator, and small business owner before winning his first city council race in 2018. Prior to his first election, Fry built a strong reputation as a grassroots civic organizer, chairing the Strathcona Residents Association.

While on city council, Pete Fry introduced the city’s first Renter’s Office, established animal welfare bylaws and led the charge for a ban on the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks. After winning re-election in 2022, he went on to lead the opposition against Mayor Ken Sim and, in January, announced his candidacy for mayor.

By the time election night rolled around on Saturday, Fry won with 98,494 votes, 31,027 more than Sim’s 67,467, who came a distant second. Voter turnout, at 43 per cent, was the highest in the city since 2014.

Fry is being joined at City Hall by a progressive supermajority that will control city council, as well as both the school and park boards.

Alongside the Greens, the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE) won seats for all of its candidates across all three bodies. Between these two parties and the also progressive OneCity, left of centre candidates won every seat on the park and school boards, and all but one seat on the 10 seat city council.

When asked about how effective city council might be given the diversity of parties, Fry told

reporters, “Just watch me,” seemingly in reference to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau’s famous phrase during the October Crisis of 1970.

“I’ve worked with hundreds of councillors and mayors around British Columbia. They can function just fine without a party system at all, and the lack of partisan politics doesn’t seem to hinder their ability to get things done,” Fry said. “My priority is to get folks who are working for the betterment of Vancouver, not their political interests, not their partisan interests, but they want to get stuff done for Vancouverites.”

Fry ran his campaign on tackling affordability and bringing “good government” back to city hall. He told The Ubyyssey before being elected that “the last four years have been largely dysfunctional under Ken Sim and the ABC majority.”

Now elected, Fry is expected to make affordable housing a priority. He proposed on the campaign trail to use city land to build affordable housing, and vouched to bring back the city’s renter office, which was eliminated by ABC councillors in 2023.

He also told a crowd of journalists on election night that he wants the province to help with the Greens’ plans to proactively intervene with street disorder and community safety issues in Vancouver.

The B.C. Conservatives are narrowly leading the NDP in the polls for the upcoming provincial election this Saturday.

If the conservatives form government, they promise to “enforce mandatory treatment” for individuals facing severe addition and mental illness, and hire 1,000 new law enforcement officers to “strictly” enforce the law and prevent street crime.

The NDP has not said much about new plans for public safety, but has stated its current government has hired 250 more RCMP officers and is currently building two involuntary care facilities, on top of two already built.

Vancouver has its own police department, but it’s overseen by a separate board — with the majority of its members being provincial appointees.

Pete Fry will take office on Nov. 2 and will immediately face the daunting task of drafting Vancouver’s annual budget, which must be finalized early in 2027. [🔗](#)

TA Union Votes 96.1 Per Cent in Favour to Ratify Collective Agreement

By SABA MAJD
Deputy News Editor
& STEPHEN KOSAR
Deputy News Editor
& JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

CUPE 2278, the union representing TAs and other academic assistants on UBC’s Vancouver campus, has voted to ratify their collective agreement with the university, ending the possibility of a TA strike.

Union members voted 96.1 per cent in favour of the agreement. Its full terms, formed earlier this month, were shared with members last week but have not yet been made public.

Contingent upon the university’s ratification, CUPE 2278 President Jessica Wolf told The Ubyyssey that a strike is no longer a possibility and that union members are “happy with this agreement.”

Wolf said the university is “making plans to vote ... soon,” but did not have a specific date.

The union won a “supplemental” health plan that will work alongside the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan, Wolf said, which she called a “huge win.” Health care has “consistently been the biggest priority for our members,” she added.

Until now, members have not had employer-provided extended health or dental coverage through their CUPE 2278 jobs, and she

said the plan adds thousands of dollars in coverage.

Also among the terms of the agreement, exam invigilators at the Centre for Accessibility won paid 15-minute breaks per shift, Wolf said, along with changes to hiring, training, scheduling, and leave. Graduate academic assistants, who signed to join the union in July 2023, now also have a first contract.

The union also asked for limits on class sizes and “balanced” workloads for TAs. Wolf said the union did not win hard limits on the issue of workloads, but got commitments from UBC to keep discussing the issues, to identify relevant information, and to set up a better process for addressing staffing. She called it “a good step to build on moving forward.”

She said the union prioritized pay equity, with targeted increases for the lowest-paid members, including exam invigilators and undergraduate TAs. The agreement also eliminates the UTA II classification, which moves all undergraduate TAs into the higher-paid classification.

General wage increases are flat rather than percentage-based, which Wolf said is more equitable and keeps the lowest-paid workers from falling behind.

She said CUPE has achieved “some really big wins in this agreement,” and she attributed the success to the support of the union’s members and a strike vote that saw over 95 per cent of mem-

bers vote in favour of job action in late September.

The agreement also includes “language limiting the minimum funding clawback,” which Wolf said “UBC was previously unwilling to discuss.” Clawbacks refer to the practice of discounting a graduate student’s TA salary from their minimum funding package. They can also take other forms, such as discounting external funding awarded to students.

Wolf said the university had previously framed the issue “as a student issue rather than a worker issue.” The agreement now sets a “fixed dollar amount limit” on how much can be discounted from the salary.

Wolf said that throughout this bargaining process, the union has “learned that if we want better learning and working conditions at UBC, we have to fight for them.” She added that “having collective support and building collective power is what works.”

The university has been reached for comment.

UBC Vancouver’s Senate, which is meeting tonight, was expected to hear a report on the formation of an ad hoc Labour Disruption Preparedness Committee. Presumably, the committee will no longer be needed.

This story was published and submitted for print on October 21 at 7:00 p.m. check [ubyyssey.ca](#) for the latest coverage. [🔗](#)

metrovancover

ELECTORAL AREA A
VOTES

Notice of Election by Acclamation

Public Notice is given to electors of Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver Regional District, that the Director has been declared elected by acclamation, eliminating the need for an election.

David Hocking has been elected for the 2026–2030 term. The Director is your elected representative for Electoral Area A who sits on Metro Vancouver Boards.

Learn More



View Electoral Area A election information online.

metrovancover.org/boards/elections

Contact

For questions about the 2026 General Local Election or acclamation process, contact:



604-432-6200



elections@metrovancover.org

How to Vote in the Oct. 24 Provincial Election

By JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

Continued from page 1.

If you still do not have these, someone can vouch for your identity at the voting site. They must be a registered voter in your electoral district, be your relative or have legal authority to make personal care decisions for you. You will both be asked to make a solemn declaration.

If you live on campus, your riding is Vancouver-Point Grey, where Eby is running for re-election against Conservatives candidate Alex MacMillan, Greens candidate Beatrice Sharpe, and CentreBC candidate Michael Davis. Not every party is running a candidate in every riding. For example, OneBC, led by former B.C. Conservatives MLA Dallas Brodie, is not fielding a candidate in the Vancouver-Point Grey riding. To find out who is running in your riding, check this list.

During advanced voting, you can vote at any location, but on election day, you have to vote in your riding. For Vancouver-Point Grey, there are two polling stations on Oct. 24: Norma Rose Point Elementary School and University Hill Secondary School.

You can also vote at your district electoral office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on election day. Find yours here. If you plan to vote by mail, request a ballot here and ensure it's delivered by 8 p.m. on Oct. 24.

If you're unsure of who to vote for, The Ubyyssey has profiled the Vancouver-Point Grey candidates and published explainers on what each party is proposing on issues across the province.w

Find all of our coverage of the provincial election here. If we're not covering your riding, look for other outlets like CBC or The Tyee. 📰



NDP The Party and their Plans for the Province

By ISHITA SHARMA
Immigration Reporter
& JUAN PABLO SASTOQUE VEGA
News Editor

Continued from page 1.

During a leaders debate Eby defended the decision and said that his government's main preoccupation had become "surviving for another day," which led him to call the election. He also said the province and the country faced the "existential threat" of U.S. tariffs.

The race across the province remains tight. A recent poll by the Angus Reid Institute found 46 per cent of decided voters intend to vote Conservative, and 43 per cent NDP, and eight per cent Green. Additionally, 73 per cent of people who said they would vote for the BC Conservatives also said they are "very certain" of their choice. Only 54 per cent of BC NDP voters say the same.

The Ubyyssey interviewed Eby and asked him about post-secondary policy, his plans to address youth unemployment, SkyTrain to UBC and the climate.

On post-secondary policy, Eby told The Ubyyssey if re-elected he would maintain the two per cent cap on yearly tuition increases, and said the BC NDP is "committed" to "predictable" tuition increases for international students.

Last November, Eby's government commissioned a review of the post-secondary sector. At the time, the review was heavily criticized by student groups, including the AMS, for its four-month timeline. It was scheduled to be publicly released March of this year, that was later pushed to May. Though it has been completed, the review is still not public. Eby told The Ubyyssey the consultation period was longer than expected, which delayed the reviews completion. He did not specify why it has not been released yet, but committed to releasing the review in full if re-elected and to act on its recommendations.

Conducting reviews has historically been a way the province addresses post-secondary crisis like the one the sector is going through. According to the province's own numbers 16 out of the 25 public post-secondary institutions in B.C. reported a deficit at least once between the 2018-19 and 2024-25 fiscal years. This is largely because of a decrease in revenue from international student tuition after the federal government tightened immigration policy. UBC's position is better than most, but Provost Gage Averill told the Board of Governors projects a \$50 million deficit for the 2027-28 fiscal year. 16 out of the 25 public post-secondary institutions in B.C. reported a deficit at least once between the 2018-19 and 2024-25 fiscal years

Eby told The Ubyyssey that UBC's financial position would allow the university to "potentially, depending" on the review's recommendations, provide support to other schools in the province and referenced the take over of Okanagan University College (OUC). In the early 2000s UBC's then-president Martha Piper chaired a board that recommended to the province the expansion of an existing university's mandate to Kelowna. Soon after Okanagan University College (OUC) was dissolved, its campus was bought by UBC, and UBCO was born. At the time Piper's involvement in the recommendations was perceived as a conflict of interest and criticized.

BC's unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 24 was 12.9 per cent in September, over double the province's overall rate, according to Statistics Canada. When asked what he would do about it, Eby said young people face an "experience gap," where jobs are available but employers are hesitant to hire people who have not worked yet. The BC NDP's is promising "youth hiring tax credit," said Eby. It would businesses a \$5,000 refundable tax

credit for hiring a young person between 18 and 30, giving them their first full-time 12 month job. A refundable credit means the business receives the money even if it owes no tax. Eby said the credit applies across sectors. He also pointed to trades training expansion, citing \$250 million. The province announced \$241 million over three years in May to create 5,000 new skilled-trades training seats in 2026-27, which Eby said began rolling out in September.

Housing is central to the BC NDP's platform. Eby told The Ubyyssey that rents have fallen over year for 24 months in a row, and that developers are sitting on unsold units while lobbying to scrap the foreign buyer and vacancy taxes. Rentals.ca and Urbanation reported in June that asking rents in Vancouver have fallen over year for 30 consecutive months, and the provincial government said in August that asking rents across B.C. have fallen year over year for 20 consecutive months. Those figures track asking rents on listings, not what current tenants pay, and Urbanation's president attributed softer rents partly to a weak economy, a decreasing population and record apartment completions. As of May, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported 5849 completed and unsold apartments in B.C., with 75 per cent of them in Metro Vancouver.

If re-elected, they promise to would raise the speculation and vacancy tax from one to two per cent for domestic owners and from four to five per cent for foreign owners. Eby also said they would introduce a tax on large developer-owned condos left unsold for more than a year, and seek a federal agreement to cut development cost charges by up to 50 per cent, which the party says is about \$40,000 per unit.

The province's own plan for unsold condos has drawn criticism. In June, Prime Minister Mark Carney and Eby announced a partnership to convert more than 2,200 vacant condos into affordable homes, with the province buying units for a new rent-to-own program. Each government is putting up \$150 million in cash, with another \$15 billion earmarked for financing or loans. Critics have called it a bailout for developers. Economist Marc Lee of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives wrote that it would help distressed developers and put a floor under condo prices, while pointing out that the province had cut non-profit housing funding in its February budget. Developers and housing experts also doubt it will work. Developer Jonathan Friesen said it would only succeed if developers agree to prices that suit them, and the Co-op Housing Federation of B.C.'s Thom Armstrong asked why developers have not sold at palatable prices already. Eby has said the plan would not apply in Vancouver, where the numbers don't work, but could in places like the Fraser Valley, the Okanagan and Vancouver Island.

The BC NDP also promises to impose a 30-day permit deadline for small residential builds in large municipalities.

He acknowledged clashing with municipalities over housing targets, but defended the approach. Eby said the province had to set housing targets because the population is growing and young people need a path to homeownership. Over a dozen Metro Vancouver mayors wrote to him last year asking the province to repeal Bills 44 and 47, citing limited coordination and consultation, while Housing Minister Christine Boyle said the legislation is working to bring down rents. Eby's relationship with former Vancouver mayor Ken Sim has also been strained. Sim said the premier left him high and dry after the province declined to give outright approval to dissolve the city's park board, saying elected officials sometimes "don't keep their word." In August, Sim called on Eby to

commit to at least 100 involuntary care beds in Vancouver and accused the province of leaving the city with an outsized share of supportive housing.

The Broadway Subway, now under construction, extends the SkyTrain's Millennium Line to Arbutus Street. It is expected to open next year.2027. A further extension to UBC, frequently referred to as the UBCx project, has been long demanded by students.s . A 2018 report to the TransLink Mayors' Council estimated an underground extension from Arbutus to UBC would cost between \$3.3 billion and \$3.8 billion. The project has been stalled for a lack of funding from senior levels of government for the business case and the construction itself.

The Ubyyssey asked whether Eby would commit to funding the business case and construction. He said the province's support is "not theoretical," and pointed to funding for geotechnical drilling to identify station locations and for planning the route. The province's Ministry of Transportation and Transit took over leadership of the UBC extension in 2022 and is developing its business case and funding strategy, and the federal government contributed \$14 million to that business case.

Eby said the project is "a bit more complicated than other SkyTrain projects because there are so many partners in it." Namely the MST partnership of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. MST has significant development planned at the Jericho Lands, a 90-acre site in Point Grey that the three Nations are leading the development of. The extension would include a station within the site. Eby said he expects financial contributions from MST toward the project's cost. The other actors he mentioned should contribute to the project financially were UBC and the federal government.

"We're going to finish the SkyTrain ...We're not going to abandon people at Arbutus street," Eby said. He did not further elaborate on a timeline.

B.C.'s Climate Change Accountability Act sets a target of cutting emissions at least 40 per cent below 2007 levels by 2030. A 2025 report by the Ministry of Energy and Climate found the province is not on track to meet its emission targets. When asked about it Eby said the targets were set before the trade war and that diversifying exports away from the U.S. requires projects such as LNG.

LNG, or liquefied natural gas, is natural gas that has been cooled into a liquid so it can be shipped overseas by tanker. B.C.'s LNG comes from natural gas that is extracted in the northeast through hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and sent to the coast to be liquefied. Environmental groups say it adds climate pollution at every step. Natural gas is mostly methane, a potent greenhouse gas that leaks during extraction, and efforts to limit those leaks have been criticized as insufficient. The first phase of the LNG Canada project is expected to produce about four megatonnes of emissions each year, and a second phase would double the terminals emissions, which critics say would make it harder for B.C. to meet its climate targets. An independent review of the government's CleanBC plan, released in November, warned that new LNG projects "stand to all-but wipe out hard fought gains in other sectors."

He said LNG Canada Phase 2 has 30 per cent lower emissions than the best performing facilities in the world. He also pointed to a clean economy fund for heatpumps.

Eby urged young people to vote, saying he "can't overstate how significant" the election is "for the future of the province."

B.C. voters will elect the next Legislative Assembly of British Columbia on Oct. 24. 📰

The Future of Housing Policy



Skye Shen for The Ubyyssey

By CHARLIE BRANTON
News Reporter

On Oct. 14, British Columbia's party leaders debated many issues, including the economy, child care, health care, and transportation. Debate moderator Shachi Kurl, however, labelled housing as "one of the biggest pain points." In recent years, B.C.'s provincial government has implemented many changes to housing policy, including five-year housing targets for certain municipalities and cracking down on short-term rentals.

BC Greens

Led by Emily Lowan, the Greens' platform focuses primarily on housing affordability, chiefly through direct governmental action and building non-market homes to take initiative away from the private sector.

The party has also promised to immediately reinstate the Community Housing Fund — which was paused indefinitely by the NDP — and Indigenous Housing Fund, setting an annual target of 26,000 housing units per year. Support for the Rental Protection Fund is another part of their platform, which will also include the protection of 2,000 annual "deeply affordable rental homes."

They will implement vacancy control and tie rental increases to the unit — rather than the tenant — to reduce landlords' incentive to evict tenants without fault. They will also "provide support" to the Residential Tenancy Branch to speed up resolution times for landlords and tenants and require the branch to be responsible for collecting and holding deposits.

As befits any green party, the BC Greens' platform expressly advocates for integrating housing policy with climate solutions, suggesting the promotion of conservation, energy efficiency, and low-carbon designs and materials. Absent from the campaign is any policy on specific home cooling systems, which was included in their 2024 platform under Sonia Furstenau, following the notorious heat dome the province saw in 2021.

BC Conservatives

Led by Lorne Doerksen, the Conservatives have promised to match the federal tax credit with provincial tax relief for families with seniors. They've also proposed prioritizing B.C. wood in government-funded housing. The party has also pledged to "enforce safety rules" in supportive housing.

On affordability, the Conservatives have promised to cut construction taxes and charges, work with municipalities to approve homes and bring them to market faster — specifically for "family-oriented" homes — and help local governments develop official community plans to determine density targets. They have also pledged to match the federal tax credit

During Oct. 14's debate, Doerksen criticized Eby's approach to municipal collaboration, ac-

cusing him of dictating the terms and limits of housing construction.

BC NDP

Under the NDP, led by incumbent David Eby, rent prices in Vancouver and Burnaby have fallen for over two years, and the government has injected substantial capital into housing projects to increase the availability of homes across the province.

At UBC, the provincial government has provided \$300 million towards the Lower Mall Precinct Project, which is currently undergoing construction to meet the demand for more student housing on campus.

In their 2026 platform, the NDP have committed to building more middle-class homes, supporting heat pump installation, and eliminating PST for first-time buyers. They have pledged to protect renters by purchasing at-risk buildings through the BC Rental Protection Fund, work with the federal government to lower construction costs by up to 50 per cent, and streamline permits via a province-wide technical code.

On affordability, the NDP plans to increase the Speculation and Vacancy Tax by one percentage point for both domestic resident owners and foreign speculators. They will also introduce an Unsold Condo Tax on finished condos that have remained vacant for more than a year, which they believe will unlock up to 5,000 condos across B.C. for buyers and renters.

In an election, however, the incumbent can always be judged by their record, and on housing, the success of NDP legislation is contentious.

CentreBC

Led by Elenore Sturko, CentreBC is not projected to be a major player in this provincial election. They have, however, constructed a fully-costed platform that focuses primarily on housing affordability.

Their primary commitments are to build 5,000 homes annually by 2030 and to implement a new funding structure for cities that binds funding to results in housing construction. The party says quicker timelines for houses getting on the market will save money in rents and prices by reducing borrowing and holding costs.

CentreBC plans to build 1,000 new supportive homes with on-site health care and fund 1,500 rent supplements. They also pledge to create a \$125 million housing performance fund and rebate the PST on building materials for certain rentals, starting in 2027.

OneBC

Led by Dallas Brodie, OneBC's platform on housing is quite minimal. They have just two proposals: eliminating the Step Code and blocking municipal rent control programs.

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Greens

By JITYA BAGGA
Research Policy Reporter
& RAFFERTY MEIER
Technology Reporter

Beatrice Sharpe is running to be Vancouver-Point Grey’s MLA with the BC Greens, on a platform of sustainability and affordability.

Vancouver-Point Grey is B.C. Premier David Eby’s home riding, where Sharpe will also be running against Alex McMillan from the Conservatives and Michael Davis from the newly-formed Centre-BC party.

Sharpe is currently studying political science and environmental studies at the University of Victoria and has been involved in green politics for years. She served as the chair of the Young BC Greens in 2025 and is currently the chair of the Green Nation Collective Changemakers, an organization that produces innovative ideas to promote sustainability.

The BC Greens advocate for vast structural economic reforms, proposing a \$22.2 billion plan to tax the wealthy in order to pay for an extensive social services agenda.

This social agenda includes programs such as vacancy controls, which cap the rate at which landlords can raise the cost of rent. There are some concerns that vacancy controls run the risk of disincentivizing future housing development. When presented with this, Sharpe responded by stating, “We can actually explore options for partnership deals with these developers for having to still work on creating more housing.” This is in line with the broader BC Green platform, which includes the construction of 26,000 new homes.

According to Sharpe, the housing crisis needs to be addressed immediately and that, “whether that affects the market or not, the baseline should be tailored to people’s needs.”

The BC Greens are also proposing a free public transit initiative. This initiative would prioritize youth under 25 and seniors over 65. In order to accommodate the influx of bus users, the Greens plan to double the number of buses to increase population mobility. Sharpe emphasized her support for Green policies to extend public transit to communities in need outside the Vancouver Metro area.

Sharpe heavily criticized Vancouver-Point Grey’s incumbent, Premier David Eby, and the BC NDP for their track record. She said that Eby “failed on delivering health care to people,” while spending millions of dollars on liquefied natural gas projects.

The difference between the BC NDP and the BC Greens, Sharpe said, is that the Greens “have an actual plan ... to get action in B.C. and treat the needs of everyday people.”

The BC Greens have outlined affordability, health care, education, public safety, a new wealth tax, and sustainability as priorities in their platform. Greens leader Emily Lowan is running to be the MLA for Saanich North & Northern Islands, after incumbent Green MLA Rob Botterell announced he would not be seeking re-election. The riding has been won by Green candidates since 2017.

If elected, this will be Lowan’s first seat in the legislature or in elected office.

Before entering the political space, she was a climate organizer. She held roles with CAN-Rac — a nationwide climate advocacy organization — as well as the Corporate Mapping Project — an initiative mapping power and influence in the oil, gas, and coal industries of B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Now, she is running with a “vision to make the province work for the 99 per cent.”

Lowan says her identity as a young person and renter, as well as her previous experience as a minimum wage worker, is what makes her the right person to be the new B.C. premier. She says she is bringing progressive ideas to

ensure that the basic needs of all B.C. residents are met, while keeping sustainability in mind.

A recent Angus Reid poll found that 46 per cent of decided voters intend to vote Conservative, with 43 per cent support for the NDP. The Greens are trailing, a distant third, with eight per cent support. But, if the Greens were to hold the balance of power in the new legislature, Lowan plans to push for a proportional representation voting system, a tax on “excessive” wealth, an increase of social housing, better access to health care, and a proactive response to the climate crisis.

Emily Lowan and her team did not respond to multiple interview requests from The Ubyyssey. We also got in touch with the party’s media contact but did not receive a follow-up.

The new B.C. government will be inheriting a \$13.8 billion deficit, and the BC Greens project needing \$9.28 billion in additional revenue. They plan on achieving this by introducing a one-time excessive wealth tax to raise \$22.2 billion in 2027–28. In total, the Greens expect to raise \$25.3 billion in additional revenue that year.

In succeeding years, the Greens project making an additional revenue of \$9.14 billion through a wealth tax and a royalty system established under the NDP government in 2022, which promises the legislature 50 per cent of oil and gas profits.

As for combatting the cost-of-living crisis, the Greens want to open public grocery stores, starting with an initial 20.

The Co-operative Housing Federation of BC says 12,500 affordable homes need to be built annually to combat the housing crisis. The Greens plan to restart the Community Housing Fund, which aims to build 20,000 affordable rentals for people with low-to-moderate incomes, as well as the Indigenous Housing Fund, which aims for 3,500 new homes for Indigenous Peoples, both on and off reserve.

The party’s goal is to build and maintain 26,000 housing units per year, along with implementing vacancy control — tying rent increases to the unit rather than the tenant and thus disincentivizing landlords from removing tenants without fault. Further, the party wants to raise social and disability assistance rates and index them to inflation. They also strive to instate a basic income for youths formerly in care in order to reduce poverty.

The Greens say the cost of transportation is a major issue the party wants to address. Census data shows the average British Columbian spends around \$12,000 a year on transit, primarily on a personal vehicle. According to the Greens, too many people lack safe, reliable, and comfortable public transit, making driving the only viable option.

They plan to combat this by providing more transportation options. Within the first year, the Greens plan to add regional transit buses on Highway 99 — in the Sea-to-Sky corridor — and create a committee to ensure TransLink’s long-term funding. Their platform also includes a commitment to fund the SkyTrain extension to UBC, but seems to lack a framework or funding plan for the goal.

On public safety, the Greens believe that drug use is a health and social issue, not a criminal one. They plan on providing regulated alternatives to illicit drugs to reduce fatalities associated with overdose. This works in conjunction with the Greens’ health plan, which seeks to increase medical accessibility by building community health centres in every riding, as well as increasing funding for nurses in order to help maintain a “safe” nurse-to-patient ratio.

The Greens have also committed to upholding Indigenous rights and implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DIPRA) through legislation. 🇺🇵

Conservatives

By WILSON WANG
Governance Reporter

Alex McMillan is running to be Vancouver-Point Grey’s next MLA for the B.C. Conservatives. He’s vying to beat incumbent NDP Premier David Eby on a platform of enforcing public safety and cutting taxes.

McMillan’s career spans across business and public service. Beginning as a political staffer, he has collected 11 years of experience as a civil servant working for the provincial government in Victoria. On the business side, he recently served as an interim CEO for the B.C. Chamber of Commerce and, as of February, has returned to working in his own consulting practice. His career has focused on advising for public and government relations. McMillan did not respond to The Ubyyssey’s interview requests.

The Conservatives’ platform emphasizes safety across many areas, from public spaces to inside classrooms.

Concerning public safety, the platform focuses on crime, mental health crises, and addiction. The party promises to expand the Justice Institute of British Columbia’s Police Academy, while deploying officers to the “hardest-hit neighbourhoods” to end street disorder.

They also plan to strengthen the justice system by hiring 50 more Crown prosecutors and 20 more trial judges. To combat crime in rural communities, they plan to add 500 more officers to the RCMP.

Regarding mental health and addiction, the platform takes an interventionist approach. Besides expanding mental health care access, the Conservatives propose expanding involuntary, “compassionate intervention” by amending the Mental Health Act. These amendments would appear to grant police officers greater legal powers, making it easier for police to take “visibly distressed” people who are publicly consuming drugs into mandatory treatment.

“Intervention is not just necessary; it is the most humane thing a society can do,” said Conservative Party Leader Lorne Doerksen in a recent speech about public safety.

Involuntary care has existed in B.C. for a long time but was put in the public spotlight during the 2024 provincial election, when Premier Eby announced plans to expand involuntary care for people facing addiction. This election, both major parties have committed to expand this form of intervention.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has acknowledged involuntary care “may be a needed last resort for those at extreme risk of harm to themselves or others,” but has warned that the province is relying heavily on involuntary care “without really examining whether it is effective.”

McMillan’s Conservatives platform also involves ending safer supply programs: harm reduction services that provide safe, prescribed medications otherwise only accessible to users through toxic and unregulated illegal drug supplies. The prescribed alternatives includes opioids like heroin or stimulants like cocaine.

Earlier studies have shown safer supply can lower short-term death risks for individual recipients, but also that it did not reduce overall overdose deaths on a systemic scale in B.C. since its introduction in July 2021. As of February 2025, however, the safer supply program has been transitioning to now require consumption of these prescribed alternatives to be witnessed by health professionals.

According to their official plan, the party also promises to remove Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity 123 from education in the name of providing “safe schools.” SOGI 123 inclusive programs, as defined by the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child

Care, refers to a set of resources that helps teachers to integrate more inclusive language and representation in their classes. Its aim is to “stop discrimination and bullying” through anti-bullying policies, as well as education around “the experiences and challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ people.”

The Conservatives’ platform does not specify what specifically about repealing SOGI 123 will make schools “safer” or how SOGI 123 currently impedes safety in schools.

Within the riding of Vancouver-Point Grey, there are several parks, numerous beaches, and residential areas. An issue experienced across this riding, like much of the province, is the cost of living and inflation. As such, Alex McMillan and the BC Conservatives have tried to frame themselves as the party that won’t take more money from British Columbians in taxes.

A baseline for the conservative campaign has been the simple policy of “no new taxes.” For British Columbians, if elected, the Conservatives say there will be no new taxes throughout the entirety of the next government, as well as no increases in current taxes. The Conservatives have framed this tax freeze as a much needed relief for British Columbians who have been “squeezed” by nine years of NDP governance.

The second major taxation proposal introduced by McMillan’s party was announced on Oct. 8. By raising B.C.’s personal exemption — the base amount of tax credits a taxpayer gets — from \$13,216 to \$32,000, the Conservatives say they will help families save \$167 a month to cover rising costs.

The Conservatives have also stated they will replace ICBC’s current no-fault model — an insurance model that prevents individuals involved in crashes from suing others involved for compensation — with a hybrid system that would allow individuals seriously or permanently injured in crashes to seek compensation in court.

The NDP government introduced the no-fault insurance system in 2021, stating that the system would save British Columbians an average of 20 per cent on their auto insurance. An ICBC report to the B.C. legislature in May showed that insurance rate increases levelled off in 2021, and have not increased since.

The Conservatives also told the CBC that if elected, it would allow private insurers to compete with ICBC.

Plenty of the Conservatives’ time has been spent discrediting David Eby’s economic record. For instance, in last week’s debate, Conservatives leader Lorne Doerksen said, in response to the Premier defending his economic plans: “Nobody believes you anymore, Mr. Eby.”

Adding to the 58 per cent dissatisfaction rate with Premier Eby across British Columbia — according to a recent survey — Alex McMillan is banking that his party’s rhetoric is correct when British Columbians take to the polls.

On Sept. 29, the Conservatives promised in a press release to remove PST from Canadian alcohol in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs on the industry. Also included in this release was a commitment from Conservatives leader Lorne Doerksen to keep U.S. booze off the shelves of British Columbian liquor stores.

Despite this, Doerksen has received criticism from Eby for not being able to stand up to “extremists” in his own party, let alone Donald Trump. This followed controversial remarks from Conservative candidate Heather Maahs regarding SOGI 123 materials in schools — a resurfaced video shows Maahs calling education about 2SLGBTQ+ people “grooming.” Doerksen has refused to drop Maahs as a candidate. 🇺🇵

CentreBC

By VIHAAN SHAH
AMS Reporter
& OMERA MOHSIN
Governance Reporter

Michael Davis is running to be Vancouver-Point Grey’s MLA with CentreBC. He called the party “fiscally conservative and socially progressive” in an interview with The Ubyyssey. CentreBC is promising a balanced budget by 2034-35, cuts to income taxes, speeding up home-building, and expanded health care coverage.

CentreBC is unlikely to form government. It only has candidates in 35 out of 93 ridings, which is 12 short of the seats needed for a majority. Recent polls put its support at three per cent, the lowest of all parties.

Vancouver-Point Grey, the riding where UBC’s Vancouver campus sits, has been held by Premier David Eby since 2013, when he upset then-Premier Christy Clark. In recent years, the riding has been held by three premiers: Eby, Clark, and Gordon Campbell. Four candidates are on the ballot: Davis, Eby for the BC NDP’s, Alex McMillan for the BC Conservatives, and Beatrice Sharpe for the BC Greens.

Davis is CentreBC’s secretary and said he wrote its bylaws. He decided to run because he lives in the riding, and the party did not yet have a candidate when the snap election was called.

“I am done with Mr. Eby, and I don’t trust the Conservatives,” said Davis. “So, you know, step up or shut up.”

Davis said he wants “competent government” without “racist and homophobic elements.” He pointed to Conservative candidate Heather Maahs’s comments about SOGI 123, the province’s LGBTQ+ school resource, along with a June 17 post by Conservative campaign director Katy Merrifield where she called Islam an “abhorrent ideology” and urged followers to “defend Western civilization.”

Interim Conservatives leader Lorne Doerksen said he does not share Maahs’s views, but that she will remain a candidate. Eby asked Doerksen to remove Merrifield as campaign chief. Merrifield claims her post targeted extremism, not Muslims, but did not elaborate on how that is made clear in her original wording.

CentreBC is young. Karin Kirkpatrick, a former BC United (previously B.C. Liberals) MLA, founded it on April 2025, and it has changed leaders several times since. In September, eight former Conservative MLAs joined CentreBC, only for seven of them to return to the BC Conservatives four days later, when Eby called the snap election. The only one who remained was Elenore Sturko, who took over as party leader.

Sturko is a former RCMP staff sergeant, who served as a Surrey RCMP spokesperson. She was first elected to the legislature with BC United in a 2022 by-election as the MLA for Surrey South. She then moved to the Conservatives in 2024 and won Surrey-Cloverdale that fall.

Sturko was removed from the Conservative caucus in September 2025 after saying she had been prevented from voicing her “more socially liberal beliefs.” She joined CentreBC on Sept. 18 and became leader on Sept. 22. She is currently running in Surrey South. Davis described her as an ex-RCMP officer with a young family.

When asked about the concerns over the party’s stability, Davis said, “It’s really easy to stand behind Elenore because I share a lot of her values.” He believes the party has “settled on a pretty strong leader” and is “happy to stand with her,” despite the frequent changes recently.

For Davis, CentreBC’s platform is about balance. The platform was released on Oct. 10 and outlines the path towards a balanced budget by the 2034/35 fiscal year, with the deficit falling to about \$9 billion by 2030-31 from over \$13 billion in 2026.

CentreBC’s platform promises to lower the first income tax bracket rate to 5.06 per cent on Jan. 1, 2027. Sturko said the party has “estimated what every commitment costs.” On reducing the deficit, Davis compared paying provincial debt to paying off a personal credit card.

“If you’re paying more to pay off your credit card than you are for anything else, you got a problem,” he said.

Balance is also at the centre of the party’s plans for housing. CentreBC would raise the renter’s tax credit — which “provides up to \$400” per year to low and moderate income renter households. CentreBC would raise it to \$600 a year, index it to inflation, and give the full credit to households earning up to \$80,000 (up from about \$66,000). The party would also set a provincial standard of six months for rezoning and eight weeks for building permits by 2028. The party also plans to rebate the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on building materials for purpose-built rentals started between 2027 and 2032.

Davis said many older single-family neighbourhoods in his riding have become less dense, because homes that once held four to six people now only hold two. When those residents need assisted living or long-term care, he said, the neighbourhood has none. “The neighbourhood needs to change, but it’s quite resistant to change,” he said. When asked what CentreBC would do for students at UBC, Davis said he could not think of anything specific “off the top of [his] head.”

Davis said he was unfamiliar with the province’s unreleased post-secondary sector review. The province commissioned a review of the post-secondary sector last November, with a four-month timeline. Student groups, including the AMS have criticized the review, which was completed but remains unreleased. In a follow-up email, he said CentreBC would not hold a dedicated review.

According to Davis, CentreBC would create a \$125 million/year Post-Secondary Stabilization and Skills Fund. Institutions would have to draw on their reserves first, cut administrative overhead by at least five per cent, and direct the money to health care, trades, technology, and teaching programs. The province’s own figures show 16 of 25 public institutions ran at least one annual deficit between 2018–19 and 2024–25, and UBC projects a \$50 million shortfall for 2027–28.

When asked how the party arrived at \$125 million, Davis said he wasn’t part of discussions on the topic. When asked whether post-secondary funding is protected if savings fall short on the province’s end, he said it is.

CentreBC would also designate university campuses as vital public assets that cannot be transferred or sold under land or treaty agreements, according to Davis’s email to The Ubyyssey.

On the topic of AI in universities, Davis wrote that CentreBC would seek “guaranteed computing access” for B.C. universities through a federal partnership, but did not elaborate on what that meant. He added that by 2028, CentreBC would set up seven sector skills partnerships among employers, unions, and colleges.

On health care, he said the party is “not even considering any sort of privatization.” Their platform vouches to ban Alberta-style dual practice, in which doctors work in both the public and private sectors.

Davis departed from the party’s views on Indigenous rights. Sturko has proposed repealing sections of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Davis said he does not think the original legislation was the problem. “I think it’s with the implementation acts,” he said. According to Davis the party is still discussing it internally. He said the real pathway forward is “modern-day land treaties.” CentreBC’s platform commits to “negotiated modern treaties.” 🇺🇵

Meet VanJazz, the New Festival in Town

Vancouver's newest jazz festival doesn't have a lineup built to fill arenas — it will, however, fill a void in the city's cultural identity.

By ELENA MASSING
Editor-in-Chief
& Arts and Culture Editor

Continued from page 1.

Until there was. A few years ago, Tim Reinert decided to create Infidels, a promotion company and record label. Since then, it's become one of the biggest private jazz concert organizations in the country, producing around 300–400 concerts yearly. You'll find everything from straight-ahead jazz, to free jazz, to world music, because “as long as it's creative and interesting, we do it,” Reinert said.

Reinert isn't the young person Weeds thought would succeed him, they joked (they're around the same age). But he does have the right attitude — a willingness to “put his money where his mouth is” and stand up for Vancouver's artists.

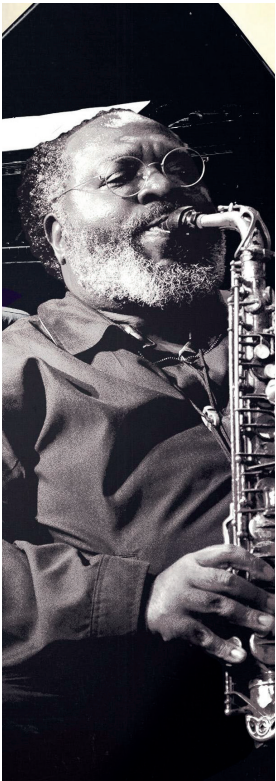
For years, Weeds and Reinert debated whether the city had room for a new festival. Individually, they work with countless venues and artists on a regular basis. They had always mused about the possibility of bringing that all under one umbrella, and recently, Vancouver's jazz community seemed stronger than ever. Between the two of them, they had a bunch of shows already in the works for this October, including one featuring drummer Carl Allen with the Vancouver Jazz Orchestra. “We looked at that show and went, ‘This is an amazing concert. How can we build on this?’” Reinert said. Within a couple days of that initial realization, the Julian Lage Quartet — who will be playing this week at the Chan Centre — signed on, and it snowballed from there.

So, VanJazz began: a new jazz festival, co-run by Weeds and Reinert, appearing at venues across Vancouver from October 14–25.

Save for the occasional out-of-town artist (Carl Allen, Darius Jones, Buster Williams, and Myra Melford, to name a few), the majority of this year's VanJazz acts are based in Vancouver. There are trios, quartets — of both seasoned musicians and newer faces — and a few larger ensembles, like the Ghibli Jazz Orchestra playing Joe Hisaishi's scores at the Chan Centre, and a 13-piece band doing a live rendition of the iconic *Rocky Horror Picture Show* soundtrack at the Hollywood Theatre.

In all honesty, VanJazz's lineup isn't all that different from the shows that Infidels usually books. So, Weeds posed me a question: “Why would you put on a festival?” I shrugged. “Why wouldn't you just keep doing what you're doing?”

Performances happen all the time, and people will continue to attend them. But VanJazz is after what Weeds calls a “festival mentality” — something



VanJazz will host crazy free jazz, big band jazz, video game jazz. Collage by Skye Shen for *The Ulyssey*

that Vancouver doesn't see a lot of. The promise of a festival gets listeners excited. People like to pore through a calendar, meticulously planning out their day to get as much music in as possible, at least from how Weeds sees it. Even those who typically go to live performances aren't really “calling their friends and going, ‘Oh, what are you going to do this week?’” Weeds said. When concerts are presented as a package, though, there's a different appeal.

This strategy might be needed to shut down the notion that jazz can only be listened to from a pedestal. Reinert has long been bothered by others' beliefs that jazz is elitist — but he acknowledges that in some ways, the jazz community has done this to themselves.

That's why the Infidels' creativity has to extend beyond the music, into the ways it reaches out to the city's residents. Sure, there are the heavy-hitting gigs at the Rickshaw and Hollywood Theatre, but Infidels gigs find the most success in smaller, unexpected venues. Reinert doesn't only do shows in jazz clubs. He turns to boxing gyms, churches, “pretty much anybody that's silly enough to let me use their space.” The first Infidels show I saw was at All-City Athletics, a boxing gym found only by turning down an easily-missable alley and entering through a nondescript back door. It was easily one of the most memorable gigs I've ever been to — inside, you'd find intriguingly low ceilings, old stone walls, vintage-inspired neon lighting, the lingering scent of sport. Somehow, the excitement of being in that room made the music approachable. Even the far-from-seasoned jazz listener who'd attended with me was hooked.

The Knockouts series won't be coming back anytime soon (the gym shut down last fall due to space-related financial challenges), but Reinert carries the ethos of that series into the rest of his organizing. Most of the people sitting in that gym knew nothing about jazz. “And they didn't care, because what a cool room! What a cool space!” Reinert said. “Typically, the way that jazz works is we build these jazz clubs and then go, ‘Hey, community, you can come to us.’ I basically said, ‘Well, I'm coming to you. I'm not going to wait.’”

Reinert observed that people who don't go to jazz shows regularly feel a certain level of knowledge or sophistication is required to enjoy the music — Infidels was built to destroy this mentality. “You shouldn't have to feel like you have to go to school to enjoy a concert. That's kind of ridiculous,” Reinert said. “Only jazz does that.” At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if you go to an Infidels or VanJazz show having never encountered

the names Miles Davis or Ella Fitzgerald. Reinert couldn't care less.

“Do you like to have fun, and do you have \$20?” he said. “Great, then you're our kind of person.”

VanJazz has been marketing itself as “A New Kind of Jazz Festival.” I asked Weeds and Reinert what made it different.

“Jazz,” Weeds said.

He was only partly joking. Jazz festivals — for financial reasons, mostly — are straying from programming jazz musicians. When Reinert organizes a funk or world music show, for instance, it sells infinitely more tickets than a jazz combo. Festivals notice this, too, and book fewer jazz acts each year, to the point where their headliners are from completely different genres, and the only actual jazz shows appear in smaller venues, having received minimal promotion.

Weeds and Reinert have opposite booking strategies. Weeds's programming for Frankie's, according to Reinert, “is absolutely unique, and it's utterly indispensable to the scene,” but it's always guaranteed to draw a crowd. Reinert describes himself, by contrast, as taking a “carnival barker” approach, throwing stuff at the wall and seeing what sticks. That's what makes this partnership work. Weeds knows what people will like, and knows how to make it happen. Reinert is willing to do the opposite.

VanJazz will host crazy free jazz, big band jazz, video game jazz — but no matter the style or area of the world it comes from, jazz is always going to be the festival's priority.

“It's a real jazz festival that's not depending on a rock star. Or, if I'm being even more honest, it's not depending on a rock star, a country star, a blues star, or a jazz star,” Weeds said.

He isn't trying to discredit musicians like Buster Williams or Carl Allen by saying they're not stars. But these performers are not filling arenas. Jazz doesn't usually live in those spaces. In fact, VanJazz doesn't have headliners; the festival isn't relying on well-known names or artists from out of town to bring new audience members in. The Ghibli Jazz Orchestra is their closest thing to a headliner, and even that ensemble is comprised entirely of musicians based in the Lower Mainland.

Weeds and Reinert didn't just invite people to be a small part of the festival. “We are making sure that tiny little club shows at Meo Chinatown, where there's only three people in the band, get as much focus as when Cory leads his big band at Fabrique,” said Reinert.

“I feel very proud of that,” Weeds said. “It's a jazz festival in the true sense of the word.”

More information on VanJazz can be found at vanjazz.ca

MUSIC REVIEW

The Subtle Mastery of the Julian Lage

By ANNABEL MOIR SMITH
Music Critic

One of the gifts of good live jazz is witnessing a song be reinvented in real time by a performer whose understanding of the tune — and their instrument — enables them to build it into something new. On October 14, the Julian Lage Quartet gave the crowd at the Chan Centre this joy in spades.

Wednesday was the first night of VanJazz '26, a brand-new jazz festival running until Oct. 25. Tim Reinert, founder of Infidels Jazz and one of the festival's directors, came onstage before the show to thank the crowd for being there on the festival's inaugural night, telling us we were about to see “one of the greatest bands in contemporary jazz.”

As well as kicking off the festival, the performance at the Chan Centre was the quartet's first stop on their international tour. Lage, bassist Jorge Roeder, drummer Kenny Wollesen, and keyboardist John Medeski debuted as an ensemble in 2025. Their first album together, *Scenes From Above*, came out in January of this year — Wednesday's set consisted mostly of songs from its tracklist, but they did play a few songs from Lage's earlier projects and some unreleased work. Roeder and Wollesen are longtime collaborators of Lage's, but *Scenes From Above* marked his first time recording with Medeski, who's best known for his work as part of the jazz fusion trio Medeski Martin & Wood.

It's difficult to talk about Julian Lage without the words “former child prodigy” cropping up at some point. A guitar virtuoso, Lage was playing onstage with Carlos Santana as an eight-year-old, and famously performed at the 2000 Grammy Awards at the age of 12. Now, at just 38, he's led or co-led over a dozen albums and played as a sideman on countless more. But Lage didn't conceive of himself as helming the quartet. He wrote the songs on *Scenes From Above* with the players' qualities in mind, more interested in being a band member than a band leader. That focus on balance showed in the performance — intimacy, restraint, and conversation between musicians superseded show-off-y playing throughout the night. It was obvious these musicians had great respect for each other, and no desire to dominate the sound. Lage went so far as to literally step into the shadows when he wasn't playing.

That's not to say Lage's mastery wasn't on full display. He achieves astounding richness and complexity of sound with a guitar alone. Once or twice, I had to do a quick double take during an unaccompanied solo from Lage, just to make sure there really wasn't an organ or bass adding texture.

Lage has a reputation for being one of the world's

greatest improvisers, and he lived up to it here. He has a knack for taking a song to a totally unexpected place, and making it seem inevitable once he gets there. A few wistful minor-key licks in “Ocala” injected surprising melancholy into an otherwise calm, light-hearted tune. He brought rock sensibility into the soul jazz of “Talking Drum” with a solo that, if I'd had my eyes closed, you could've told me was Jimmy Page and I'd believe you. Someone in the row in front of me wolf-whistled in the middle of Lage's “Red Elm” solo, which sums up better than words how it feels to hear a master at work.

The interplay between Lage's guitar and Medeski's organ was the centerpiece of *Scenes From Above*, and their chemistry was only heightened onstage — witnessing the pair exchange ideas was a true meeting of the minds. The quartet's performance of “Speak to Me,” the title track of Lage's 2024 album and the opening number of the setlist, culminated with Medeski and Lage in a fevered back-and-forth; they passed phrases back and forth, completing ideas and doubling melodies, almost as if they were daring each other to go further — the energy never dipped from there.

In a project where balance is the name of the game, Medeski's organ grew a bit overbearing at times. But it was stunning to hear him squeeze out all the possibilities of the instrument, using it as a substitute for a steel drum for calypso-inflected tunes “Opal” and “Ocala,” and adding distinct gospel flair that had been absent from the recorded version of the dreamy “Solid Air.” Medeski performed an extended solo during “Borrowed Light,” an unreleased track that I can only describe as wonderfully manic, and he brought an incredible dynamism to the performance, pumping all four limbs and barely staying in his seat.

The rhythm sections were less up-front, but their brilliance shone in subtler ways. Wollesen's propulsive drumming kept the momentum of the performance at full blast without once overpowering his fellow musicians. Roeder was solid throughout, and achieved a wonderful expressivity on the double bass during his moments in the spotlight. It was obvious that all four musicians are playing at the highest level and having fun doing it.

Of course, not all improvisations landed, and not all the threads were the best to follow — that's the nature of experimentation. But missteps were few and far between, and the rapport between these four musicians shaped the performance at every turn. At those moments when Lage's improv magic kicked in, the songs were his sandbox, and it was a privilege to watch this quartet build their castles. [📌](#)

THEATRE REVIEW

‘Heist’ is a Hollywood-Style Caper on Stage

By ZACHARY KANEVSKI
Theatre Critic

The doors open, the crowd begins trickling in, and we’re greeted by a peculiar sight projected onto the front curtain: a grid of illustrations scattered like pieces of a puzzle. We see a revolver, a red gem, a spider, several fragments of a blue-print, and a dozen or so stylized letters of various colours and fonts.

Theatregoers whisper to each other, taking guesses at what the letters might spell and what the blueprints could contain. But none can solve it — some letters are yet to be revealed, and the pieces we do see are sliding around the screen, the whole image never visible at once. Only later, when the lights dim, the music swells, and cinematic opening credits play does everything click in an electric reveal.

The Arts Club Theatre Company’s take on — and B.C. premiere of — Heist by Arun Lakra is a high-tech story and even higher-tech production inspired by Hollywood’s many classic capers. This show brings the beloved hallmarks — and maybe some of the weaknesses — of a blockbuster heist film to the stage in an innovative performance that blurs the boundary between stage and screen.

Heist follows the criminal mastermind Marvin (played by Charlie Gallant) and his crew of thieves, including Tainui Kuru as Ryan, Alexandra Lainfiesta as Angie, Andrew McNee as Kruger, and Jennifer Tong as Fiona, who each, in true Hollywood fashion, bring a special criminal talent to the table (that of the con-man, cat burglar, muscle, and hacker, respectively). The show takes us through two intricate jewel thefts, using mid-action flashbacks to slowly layer competing romances, ulterior motives, and plot-reframing reveals onto the already complex crimes.

The show’s pace is propelled by the use of projections of dynamic images (like timers counting down and scrolling lines of code) to punctuate actions and instantly create new environments (a pool house, a shooting range, and the front steps of a mansion), allowing for rapid changes between scenes. Paired with snappy acting from the cast, this tech brings the feel of a blockbuster to new life on the stage.

These effects are the work of a five-person design team led by Wladimiro A. Woyno Rodriguez. He’s the co-creator of The Precursor Lab at SFU, a prototyping studio that helped Arts Club develop the medium-blurring tech side of Heist.

However, the stage team oversees more than intricate projections. While the characters execute their capers, stage manager and UBC alum Michelle Harrison pulls off a mind-boggling number of sophisticated behind-the-scenes operations. Harrison and co. swap out physical set components to accompany projections and distribute the many high-tech (and charmingly campy) props our characters need to outwit thermal-regulated jewel cases and infrared sensors.

These works of smoke and lasers make the show feel as stunning as a Hollywood production. But unlike in the film biz, all these cues must be pulled off perfectly the first time: there are no second takes on the stage. With the endless

moving pieces and unforgiving pace at which cues must be executed, it takes some talent to pull this off smoothly — not unlike a masterfully planned heist.

There’s a montage — announced by an “Assembling the Team” title card — that joins these elements with the actors especially well. Marvin convinces his crew to come back together for one last job in a series of intercut one-on-one conversations. Each of Marvin’s four thieves stands in different quadrants of the stage while Gallant moves between them, continuing the pitch with a different criminal.

The projections switch to a new environment for each conversation, announced by a gunshot from Kruger’s firing-range pistol. Gallant’s energetic performance shines here: he prances about the stage, demeanour shifting immediately — almost jarringly — between cuts to portray the distinct dynamics Marvin has with each of his crew. The focus on each crook’s reaction to Marvin gifts Kuru, Lainfiesta, McNee, and Tong the space to give their roles unique life and identity, all at a speed Ocean’s Eleven would be proud of.

A cinematic play needs a cinematic antagonist, and The Spider (our team of thieves’ villainous mark, portrayed by Patti Allan) delivers. Allan also makes use of the set and space, but where Gallant’s movements are jumpy and electric, Allan slowly struts with enough maniacal confidence to give Disney’s worst a run for their money. We don’t get as much time with The Spider, so forgoing subtlety to quickly establish threat is useful here.

Heist’s use of movement illustrates an area in which it surpasses its Hollywood counterparts. Cinema’s heroes are restricted to the camera’s gaze, but our crooks can climb around the set and repel from the ceiling in three dimensions. I was leaning around in my seat to get a better view of each laser in the security grid and track the gadgets tossed between criminals.

Alas, there are some things Heist should’ve left to cinema. Sequences with the combined team of crooks sometimes fall into quippy action-movie dialogue and the need to reference pop culture that — while good for quick laughs — cheapen the tension and emotional beats. Act I relies so heavily on exposition from Marvin to introduce his fellow thieves and their relationships that we miss opportunities to see the characters’ strengths and weaknesses for ourselves.

The story-changing twists and time jumps tend to strain the plot once all the cards are revealed. I do wonder if a few more personal and earnest moments between characters could have granted this production some of the heartfelt clarity otherwise lost in the thousand cogs and gears of this colossal operation.

It’s hard to keep your brow furrowed when the scene suddenly changes to six days earlier, and our best guess at the true mastermind’s identity is upended again in the latest reveal. The show was a blast. Our thieves and their not-so-un-suspecting mark are just too much fun not to fall in love with. Heist’s sprinting pace, the cast’s use of space, and the tech crew’s innovative work recreate all the big screen has to offer, and more. 🍿

FOOD REVIEW

Evelyn’s Cafe & Bistro is a True Diner



By JACK PARANSKY
Food Critic

Different species of quiet exist in nature. They share the same phenotype (silence), but are divergent in their expression. There’s the tense quiet of an arena before an athlete attempts to make that game-winning free throw. In the awkward lulls of conversation lies a deadly and noxious quiet. Each library has a monotonous quiet as students either work or just pretend to. None, however, are so beautifully mundane as the quiet of a diner in the morning. Evelyn’s Cafe & Bistro has this in spades.

I grew up loving the American diner. This doesn’t mean the blue plasticine, jukebox-touting and roller-skating affectations used by places that call themselves “doo-wop junctions.” The archetypal diner is a place that hasn’t changed their decorations since the ‘60s or early aughts. It’s small, the food is good and cheap, and dark coffee flows.

Vancouver is not a diner city — it’s the land of loud fizzing and flowing mimosas and crunchy, viral croissants. In other words, we’re a brunch town. These restaurants are fine, but not reasonable for a spontaneous breakfast or lunch. Jam Cafe has a line out the door waiting for Plain Jane Pancakes (\$19), Very Berry Earl Grey French Toast (\$22), or a boozy drink priced over nine bucks.

I don’t mean to shame any of our brunch-eating readers. I only mean to argue that a meal before 5 p.m. serving some variation of scrambled eggs should not have premium prices attached. To be a functioning metropolis, we need a place where tired people can sit down and eat a nice breakfast that doesn’t siphon away grocery money.

That’s why I’m glad Evelyn’s Cafe and Bistro (which goes by Evelyn’s Caff  & Grill on their sign) exists. They serve all-day breakfast, with American classics and Chinese food alike. It’s small, nestled right next to the Yew Street stop on the 99. The wooden interior and red benched booths transport you to a joint inside a New York subway station. Old art hangs on the yellowing walls. The ancient menu looks down from above the register, white stickers slapped on new prices to keep up with rising inflation.

The place is filled with that wonderful diner quiet. Every person in there silently eats their food, reading a book or playing on their phone. Even the young child eating breakfast with his family stayed quiet. Maybe it was manners, or the atmosphere of the restaurant mellowing out his natural screaming tendencies.

Prices here are what

food should cost. A stack of three pancakes or French toast are \$10.95 each. Every sandwich is under 11 bucks. The most expensive breakfast item is \$15.48 for a Chicken and Veggie Cheese omelette that comes with hash browns and toast. You don’t feel like you have to get your money’s worth here. You can just sit down and eat a nice, well-priced breakfast.

The coffee (\$2.86 for a small, \$3.81 for a large) comes from a push dispenser. It smells like morning and should come with its own ‘70s-inspired, saxophone-filled noir backing track. The medium roast isn’t too bitter — it’s warm, and pairs nicely with a sugar packet from their side station. Coffee, sometimes, is allowed to be just that.

Fiona — this piece’s photojournalist — got the Fried Egg sandwich (\$6.19). Exactly as advertised, it was a well-done fried egg meets buttery brown rye toast. She gave me the other half when she was too full.

With a dose of sriracha from the table, this was a filling breakfast meal. The large eggs were cooked well, the toast was the same. It’s simple food for early morning hours when your brain has no palate to pull from the tongue.

I did get one of the pricier items on the menu. It’s a personal favourite of mine: the Smoked Salmon Eggs Benedict (\$14.29). They split an English muffin in half, and pile on lox, poached eggs, and hollandaise sauce. Next to it sat a crumbled plane of hash browns that joyfully took up the rest of the plate.

The eggs were perfectly poached, popping at the lightest touch and intermingled with the rest of the hollandaise to make an orange and yellow ombre. The hollandaise was warm and creamy, balancing the salty lox and muffin. The sauce and yolk flowed nicely into the hash browns and acted as a refined condiment.

I can espouse the intricacies on why this dish works, the effort needed to make an emulsified hollandaise, the slight garnish on the top brightening the dish’s colour palate. But that’s not why Evelyn’s is so good. Diners are places with simple and affordable food marinated in the wonderful quiet of early morning patrons. In a city of loud food-fluencers begging for attention on sponsored posts about new and hip brunch spots, I was happy to find silence.

Total Cost: \$24.51 (before tax and tip)

Atmosphere: Quiet, minimal decorations, great for a silent meal or morning conversations.

Location: 2176 W Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. 📍

FOOD REVIEW

A Biryani on Fraser Street that Brought Me Warmth



By JACK PARANSKY
Food Critic

Fraser Street is not close to the university. Fifty minutes away from UBC on the R4 during rush hour, the Nest is only for the bird, and President Bacon is a formal name for cured pig butt. But the moment you open Hyderabad Biryani House’s door, the smell inside brings homely comfort far from campus. The aroma is thick, spiced, fried, herbal, and draws the hunger out of you like juice from a squeezed tomato. It’s the perfect vamp for food that lives up to this introduction.

Since 2022, Hyderabad Biryani House has aimed to bring authentic Hyderabad food to the Sunset neighborhood. They obviously derive joy in carrying this tradition. Someone has to — the Lion City’s cuisine is a complicated condensation of flavour profiles from other regions in India, Turkey, Iran, and more. Here, herbal basmati rice houses delicately slow-cooked meat. Masalas are made with chemically-precise spice combinations. It’s warm, filling, and — with ramen and pho — completes the canon of food perfectly suited to keep students full during nutrient-starved epochs of midterms.

The restaurant environment itself is mathematically optimized for the clientele it could hold. The kitchen is close to the guests who sit in a floor space designed for dozens. TVs are mounted to the wall like a proud taxidermical display in a big game shop — silently playing Wheel of Fortune, one of the Got Talents, or a nightmarish show actually called Hardcore Pawn — while songs like “Bol Do Na Zara” play from the stereo. The music is loud, but not loud enough that one couldn’t make good conversation.

The Gongura Chicken (\$18.95) came as a dark brown and orange curry in a metal basket with a tealight underneath — an aesthetic treat for anyone paying attention, and a smart way of keeping the food reasonably warm without overcooking it. The steam gently danced into the air as its aroma tugged at every bone in my body.

The chicken was an example of why thighs are the best part of the bird: just enough fat to compliment the tender meat that broke apart with barely a tooth movement. The curry itself was tangy, steeped in umami, and hearty. I was nearly (notice: nearly) full after just half of this dish.

The naan (\$3.50) was warm, buttery, and acted as a well-constructed glutenous vehicle to passage curry to mouth. In every compliment I could give, it tasted homemade. The bread itself pulled apart with a lightly gummy texture, complimented the taste of the dish, and helped me get my money’s worth as I sopped up every last drop of deep, orange stew.

Only a fool would go to a place called Biryani House and not have biryani. Goat Dum Biryani (\$20.95) is a mountain of yellow and white basmati rice hiding deposits of slow-cooked goat meat and bone. The por-

tion had to be excavated, working around a small bone standing like a flag on a conquered peak.

Dum Biryani is the distillation of what makes good food: layers of meat and rice are sealed in a container to simmer with turmeric or saffron and cook in their own juices for hours at a time. It traditionally comes with a deep red mirchi ka salan (a peanut curry) and pale white raita (yogurt sauce).

Extra sauce poured upon or cooked with slow-cooked meat is homologous around the globe — each culture has some variation of this: Montr al poutine, Texan brisket, Brazilian feijoada. It’s the culinary equivalent of the simple and loud group song.

You could see the effort and time spilling out of the the goat biryani in every grain and herb. The rice was lighter, almost a fruity sweet. My stomach was thankful for this brightness, considering its capacity was quickly running out.

The slow cooking process earned how tender and flavourful the goat was. I can attest — from my father’s grand experiments and few failures — this is not an easy thing to do. It was gamey and hearty in the way only a well-cooked goat could be.

The side sauces changed the profile of the dish. The raita let tartness flow into it, cutting past the natural sweetness of the rice. My personal favourite was the mirchi ka salan — the peanut sauce filled each crevice of the goat and bolstered its gamey flavour.

The spices need their own conversation. I ordered medium heat for each and the waitress looked slightly disappointed. Maybe it was a rational judgment of spice tolerance based on my Eastern European complexion, maybe it was a silent mercy from the knowing chefs, but the meal wasn’t devastatingly hot. I got to sit in the spice and feel how each of the dishes employed it.

The Gongura Chicken didn’t decrease in piquancy over time or rest, but kindled alive in the centre of the mouth, the flame rising like a blacksmith’s bellows. The Dum Biryani surrounded the mouth with heat, closing in for a devastating final blow as soon as you put down your fork.

The greatest compliment I could give is that the food made me so full I started to fall asleep at the table. This was a monstrously large portion of food, and two starving college students could barely take down the beast. We did it with a smile, left the restaurant, and deliriously made our way back to the R4. So rarely do I become inebriated from sheer volume of food, but Hyderabad Biryani House made me deliriously tired — the happiest feeling after a meal.

Total cost: \$21.70 per-person (pre-tax and tip)

Atmosphere: Bright indoor lighting. Slightly loud music, but good for conversation.

Location: 6231 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C. 📍

The Past, Present, and Future of Rowing

UBC's rowing program has sent countless athletes to the Olympic podium, but the way they got to that point is often under-appreciated.

By **SOFIA CAMPANHOLO**
Deputy Sports Editor

"I want to be on that wall."

That's what Kristina Walker thought 12 years ago, when she first arrived at the UBC Boathouse as a novice rower and saw the wall of Olympians.

She went on to compete at two Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 — she received a silver medal in the latter.

Most people would think it is almost impossible for an athlete to reach the Olympics only six years after starting the sport. But at UBC rowing, that's the standard.

Rowing is, by far, the UBC varsity sport with the most Olympic athletes — only 11 years separate the start of the men's program and its first Olympic medal. But how did they accomplish this?

It all started with the development of Vancouver itself. The rowing program's origins date back to 1886, the same year the city was incorporated and the Vancouver Boating Club was established. Three years later, the Burrard Inlet Rowing Club followed. The two organizations eventually merged in 1899 to form the Vancouver Rowing Club, and in 1911, the VRC moved into its clubhouse in Stanley Park, which would later become home to UBC rowers at Coal Harbour in 1921, the year the men's program was created.

Eleven years after the club was founded, UBC history was made. The Olympics saw a UBC student on the podium for the first time ever. Bronze medal winner Charles Edward "Ned" Pratt kicked off a century-long streak of Thunderbird rowers competing to be the world's best.

Twenty Summer Olympics stand between Los Angeles 1932 and Paris 2024 — and ever since, there has been at least one UBC rowing athlete there — 81 rowers, 18 gold, 22 silver, and eight bronze medals.

It was at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne that UBC rowing cemented its place in Canadian sports history. The university's four-oared crew captured Canada's first-ever gold medal in rowing, while its eight-oared crew added a silver medal. It was a breakthrough performance that introduced UBC rowing to the global stage and set the standard for generations of T-Birds to come.

To Mike Pearce, the head coach of the men's team, the Olympics of the '50s and '60s fundamentally changed the program. "There weren't really national teams ... The best team in the country would represent the country — and UBC was often the best team in the country," he said.

But it's never easy to maintain legacies. Great athletes without proper training facilities cannot become the greatest. In 1963, the VRC's future was put into question when structural concerns threatened the closure of its clubhouse. The building was assessed and reinforced, allowing UBC rowers to remain at Coal Harbour. But that wasn't working anymore — they needed their own facility.

The program moved to Burnaby Lake — but just like Stanley Park, it was too far from UBC. And that's why, in 2006, the Boathouse on the Fraser River was born. "That was a massive turning point for the program because it gave the program a home," Pearce said.

Pearce emphasized that the rowing facility being close to the water and the university is a great advantage for the team. And Craig Pond, head coach of the team, added the climatic ad-



UBC provides a pathway, but the transition to the Olympics requires athletes to adapt to a different competitive environment and level of commitment. Collage by Jianna Haobam for *The Ulyssey*

vantage of it being in Vancouver — the program doesn't have to worry much about winter conditions limiting on-water training like programs farther east.

Even with so many facility changes, the team's medal count continued to grow — and part of this was, of course, wanting to be part of a legacy. But the program's ability to produce Olympians comes from a combination of factors beyond historical medal totals — legacy alone doesn't produce greatness. A big part of what creates champions is development; and UBC has mastered this art like no other.

Unlike most sports, rowing doesn't necessarily require early-life training, which makes it a perfect university sport — especially at a school with over 60,000 potential athletes. What it requires is strength and endurance, which is why it's a sport made for physically mature adults. But if you don't have to be a rower to join — and in fact, the majority of UBC's Olympians were novice athletes — how do the coaches find potential?

According to Pearce, there are some specific attributes he looks for when recruiting. He prioritizes freshmen and sophomores so he has many years to work with them. Ultimately, the goal with new athletes is to lead them from the novice team to the junior varsity team and finally, the varsity team. Pearce also looks for students who can endure hours of physical exertion and who want to commit to this demand. "You need people who are not afraid of hard work? In fact, they [have to] love it," he said.

For the women's program, recruiting is very similar. Pond looks for work ethic more than anything. Besides the required physical attributes, such as lung capacity and strength, he wants students who are willing to train almost every day.

After identifying potential, the next step is to develop talent, turning those physical attributes into performance. And throughout this development, Pond is able to grasp their Olympic potential. "A lot of it really comes down to just their attitude. Obviously, there's some physical components ... they've got to be gifted athletes," he said. Pond notes that potential is not always immediately clear. Most times, only after months of work can he identify the trends that suggest that an athlete could progress to the highest level.

But in the end, it always comes back to the work ethic. "A

lot of the girls that I've seen going into the Olympics have just been prepared to work harder than everybody else," Pond said.

Walker is a perfect example of why attitude is so important. When she got recruited as a novice rower, she was also a member of both the cross country and track and field teams and she remained on them for the entire year before deciding to commit strictly to rowing in her second year. When asked about how hard it was to play more than one varsity sport, her answer proves why she is an Olympian.

"It was a dream. I love training, and training [and] having more excuses to train harder. It was what I wanted," she said.

Walker also painted a picture of what it's like to be coached by Pond. According to her, even though the environment is very competitive and Pond makes clear what his goals are for the team, he is not a strict coach. The longing to be the best needs to come from within. "It was up to us to try to make something happen for ourselves," she said.

UBC provides a pathway, but the transition to the Olympics requires athletes to adapt to a different competitive environment and level of commitment. Walker said that at the national-team level, they don't have to worry about exams or other responsibilities. There, the athletes are much more unified around a single goal: "be the best athlete that they could possibly be," she said.

To increase medal count, great coaching is important. But for legacies to endure, identity is everything. The history of the program became part of the team's identity through relationships, traditions and expectations. The legacy is something the athletes encounter, interpret and pass on. And Lattimer, who competed at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics, knows this very well.

Lattimer believes there are two things that maintain the program's success, despite numerous changes throughout almost 100 years: tradition and the "inability to settle for mediocrity."

In terms of traditions, he describes the Boathouse as a place where athletes can learn about the program's history simply by looking at the stories displayed on its walls, and that history establishes the program's reputation while giving athletes an opportunity to become part of something significant.

"The culture is carried

by the athletes ... [it] has been passed down through generations," he said. "[It's] malleable enough to be able to adapt to the athletes that show up and make it their own. But it has this level of tradition and expectation that permeates through decades, not just years."

Walker shares similar feelings. To her, being surrounded by athletes who had already achieved the highest level of success on the Boathouse wall made her Olympic ambitions feel achievable.

"The legacy that came before us was the path that led us, or led myself, to make that journey possible," Walker said.

And to Lattimer, the sense of belonging and tradition reached beyond the rowing program. As a former member of the Thunderbird Athletic Council, he saw how athletes across different sports came together to support one another, creating a community that made the university experience even more rewarding. To him, this, in addition to the quality of his teammates and coaches, heavily impacted his motivation to become an Olympian.

This sense of belonging also marked Walker's university experience. She said that the team "was a group of people that felt like home," and that she built lifelong friendships in the program.

Traditions and cultures can't be cultivated if coaches do not care about them. Pond, who has been coaching the women's team for 27 seasons, described his role in shaping a team culture built around trust, positive relationships, and a shared commitment to success. He thinks that culture cannot simply be imposed by a coach: it also depends on the personalities within the group and whether athletes can develop the trust necessary to function as a team.

And Pearce, who has been coaching the men's team for 31 seasons, celebrated the achievements of previous UBC rowers because their experiences inspire current athletes. To Pearce, the legacy builds a positive pressure that increases motivation. "If you earn a spot in our program, then you want to leave your mark too, right?"

But a legacy takes more than tradition and a shared sense of belonging to keep going. Behind the culture that brings athletes together are the resources that allow them to train, compete, and reach their potential. For UBC rowing, sustaining

that legacy also means investing in the equipment, facilities and support that make Olympic dreams possible. Building a legacy takes generations, keeping it takes sacrifices.

Lots of things have to come together to make UBC rowing as great as it is — and most of them are very expensive. High-quality rowing equipment, strength and conditioning facilities, scholarships, coach salaries, nutrition, and mental health and injury-recovery services are just some of the costs the team needs to cover. A single rowing shell can cost up to \$65,000. The university helps in part with the expenses, but there is one group that is financially indispensable for the program: the alumni.

Pearce deeply values the investments made by the alumni. "They had a great experience at UBC, and many of them want to give back to ensure that the next generation of students are also going to be able to have a great opportunity." Also, Pond knows firsthand the importance of their engagement, which was vital for the women's program's growth.

The importance of alumni goes beyond financial investment: there are concrete ways that the program's history remains connected to its current athletes. Tricia Smith, the UBC rower who has participated in the most Olympic Games of UBC rowers, and Canadian Olympic Committee president, remains connected to the team. The daughter of Kathleen Heddle, UBC's most decorated Olympian, who won three gold medals and one bronze, graduated as a 'Birds rower last year.

Gold for Life, an alumni-led committee, works to connect former and current rowers. The women's team's 50th anniversary, which happened last month, was a celebration attended by athletes from multiple generations, during which they were able to meet, share stories and build meaningful connections.

Walker is very grateful for the infrastructure she had during her time at UBC, saying that all the alumni donations, great equipment and opportunities became more distinct after she graduated. All of these investments distinguish UBC from the other Canadian programs, and they also are the foundations for elite rowing performance in Canada as a whole.

"You don't really realize that until you leave it," she said.

Walker only fully appreci-

ated the resources after leaving. Lattimer is the opposite: he recognized those advantages before even joining UBC. He began his university studies at Western, but before he left, he spent the summer rowing at UBC with the provincial team. After he experienced the Boathouse, the facilities, and the coaching, he submitted his transfer request right after starting his first year at Western.

Still, even with the investments, UBC is not the only program that has made improvements. Because of the changing demands of elite sport that time brought with it, UBC rowing needs to continue to find ways to endure the adjusts. For example, Lattimer believes that the program continues to succeed partly because the coaches have adapted training methods and expanded opportunities to race against strong international competition, such as in England and the United States. "The way in which they've continually adapted to the changing factors in the environment just makes the place a very attractive one for athletes," he said.

According to Pearce, training has become smarter; athletes face increasingly demanding academic expectations, and, because of technology, tools like biomechanical analysis are being used more and more. But even with these changes, Pearce says that some things remain consistent: motivation, hard work, and drive.

"Generation after generation that come through, you're dealing with people that are that are very motivated. They want to achieve things. They want to push themselves, and that part never changes," he said.

The program's longevity, then, is not only about maintaining a legacy. It is also about responding to changes in sport science, technology, and student life, while also holding true to what makes a rower, a rower.

That balance is reflected not only in how the program develops its athletes, but also in how the men's and women's teams have grown together over the decades.

Pond has been the women's program head coach for almost half of its existence. Since its creation in 1976, the team has had to go through periods of limited support and equipment, especially during the time they operated in a parking lot at False Creek. Now, 50 years later and practicing in "one of the top facilities in the world," Pond and Pearce stress how much the men's and women's programs benefit from each other's success. Both coaches support the programs equally in terms of funding, support and athlete development.

"To have both genders being successful, is really important," Pond said.

Both teams often train and travel together, and the coaches believe that this shared approach helps create a more cohesive environment at the Boathouse. To them, both programs must develop in parallel — that's a big part of UBC's rowing culture, and Pearce thinks other varsity sports should follow their approach instead of treating men's and women's teams as entirely separate operations. "It's an area where a lot of teams could do better," he said. "Why would you have a men's tournament and not a women's tournament at the same time?"

When reflecting on the women's program's 50th anniversary, Walker showed immense gratitude toward the athletes who built the program and recognizes the early barriers they faced. 🍷

Game Analysis

An Unexpected Overtime Thriller in Langley

OCTOBER 17 OCTOBER 17 OCTOBER 17

By RUBY FRASER
Men's Hockey Reporter

When Men's Hockey geared up to play the deceptively beatable Spartans, it was practically a guaranteed win.

Since the Trinity Western Spartans first joined Canada West in 2020, the T-Birds have ranked higher in the regular season standings every year, consistently finishing no less than five spots ahead of them. UBC has played them 28 times in conference play and won all 28. TWU shouldn't have stood a chance.

Yet, at the end of regulation, the teams were tied at five.

The 'Birds escaped with a win, thanks to Zeke Nicholson's overtime winner — but it's hard not to view this result as a concerning omen for UBC.

It didn't start that way. The first period was all UBC. The 'Birds' dominance shone through, the puck dancing between UBC players with little intervention from Trinity Western. As the Spartans struggled to gain possession in UBC territory, the T-Birds applied serious pressure on their goalie, Raphael Audet, who'd face 16 shots in the first period alone.

It was a vicious onslaught, led by forwards Brayden Schuurman, Josh Williams, and Austin Fraser. This trio combines deadly precision and wicked-fast passing — the reason they had a collective seven points on the season coming into this game. With these three on the attack, UBC was bound to get a goal in sometime. It was just a question of whose stick would land the blow.

In the end, it would be Schuurman. The determined assistant captain turned confidence into conviction, netting a rebound goal just under four minutes into the game, the first goal of the night and his third marker of the season.

It was another point to add to his already impressive stats, continuing a scoring streak that has propelled the T-Birds through their first three games of the season. Not only has Schuurman proven himself to be one of the team's leading scorers, but he has a knack for scoring the game's first goal, doing so in all their games this season.

This was a wake-up call for the Spartans, who had done little but throw bodies so far. They gained more traction as the game progressed, but lost out on a near backdoor goal midway through the frame. Their inability to convert was UBC's gain.

The 'Birds responded fast, capitalizing on TWU's fumble, leaving Audet scrambling to block several shots sent out by forwards Nicholson and Logan Doust. After the Spartans' short-lived spur of energy, UBC had regained the upper hand. For the Spartans, it would only get worse from there.

With about six minutes left in the period, Trinity Western's Zack Whittaker received a penalty for slashing and was forced



UBC's 6-5 win over TWU was a close game, but it shouldn't have been. Courtesy TWU Spartans

to watch an unfortunately timed UBC power play. Despite the Spartans' penalty kill putting on an admirable performance, they weren't expecting a contribution from the goalie.

UBC's goaltender Cole Schwebius got the play started, delivering a pass that ploughed across the ice and on to forward Jake Wright's tape for a lethal low-glove goal. With five minutes left, UBC had a deserved 2-0 lead.

The Spartans took their anger out on Schuurman, responding to the rapid fire chances from the forward and his teammates with a clean but hard hit that took him several seconds to shake off. This hit must have given the Spartans the jumpstart they were looking for, because seconds later, off a great break-out pass from Mikhailo Simchuk to set up a two-on-one, Danylo Korzhyletskyi scored a backdoor goal to end the first period with his team on the scoreboard.

While they were still up a goal, the Thunderbirds almost lost their grip on the game going into the second period. Why? Penalties, penalties, penalties. If it weren't for Wright, the shocking second period could have had detrimental consequences for the T-Birds.

Wright carried the 'Birds through the second period. Scoring a goal less than two minutes in, the forward converted after a failed wrap-around attempt by Thorpe to restore the two-goal lead. It wouldn't last.

The Spartans bounced back almost immediately, giving UBC little time to celebrate, with Riley Joslin tucking the puck into the top-right corner two minutes later. The playing field was nearly even now, with UBC leading 3-2. Whatever pre-game confidence UBC had was dwindling.

That goal sent UBC spiraling, setting off a succession of penalties that nearly cost them the win.

Less than four minutes into the period, Doust got entangled with Korzhyletskyi, leading to a two-minute penalty for roughing. Coach Sven Butenshon sent out Schuurman, Kayden Sadhra-Kang, Fraser, and Williams, a line of well-picked players who successfully killed the Spartans' power play with little issue. It wouldn't be the first time they'd be needed.

After returning to their full five-player lineup, Wright took a shot and, assisted by Sullivan and Thorpe, landed his third goal of the night. His hat trick

was made even more impressive, because those same three goals were his first of the season, all within 10 minutes of game action. But once again, the Spartans didn't let them ride that high for long.

Not even four minutes later, Sullivan received a hooking call that forced the 'Birds onto the ice shorthanded once more, and the Spartans weren't going to miss their chance again. Despite a near-identical UBC penalty kill, TWU's Simchuk snuck a goal in. UBC was still in the lead, but once again, it was an untenable position.

The Spartans visibly came alive after Simchuk's goal, finally beginning to match UBC's zone presence when Schuurman was sent to the penalty box for a two-minute delay of game penalty. If there was ever a time for TWU to tie the game, this was it.

But instead, this error launched one of the 'Birds' most impressive penalty kills. Right off the draw, UBC dominated the ice, refusing to allow the Spartans any offensive zone presence. Their four players ripped the opportunity right from the Spartans' gloves, spending the entire two minutes hitting shot after shot at Audet. Just like that, they finished off the second period in emphatic fashion, sending the Spartans to the locker room down a goal once again.

Going into the third, the 'Birds were immediately blindsided by a renewed TWU effort. In the span of 14 seconds, the Spartans scored a one-timer, followed by an immediate second goal off the resulting draw, putting the Spartans in the lead for the first time all game.

But before the Spartans could cushion that lead, they earned a tripping call, sending them onto the ice shorthanded once again. This left them exposed to UBC's killer top power play unit: Schuurman, Williams, Keaton Dowhaniuk, Wright, and Thorpe. With that firepower, it was unsurprising when UBC's captain, Thorpe, landed a goal with only 13 seconds left in the power play. That goal marked his first of the season, but also the start of a tense fight for the puck as the last 10 minutes of game time ticked away in a tie game. 🐉

Thunderbirds  6	Spartans  5
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RECENT RESULTS		
	University of Northern British Columbia	0
	UBC Thunderbirds	5

Oct 17, 7:30 PM	SOCCER-M
Thunderbird Stadium	

	University of Northern British Columbia	0
	UBC Thunderbirds	7

Oct 17, 5:00 PM	SOCCER-W
Thunderbird Stadium	

	Trinity Western University	1
	UBC Thunderbirds	4

Oct 17, 3:00 PM	HOCKEY-M
Father David Bauer Arena	

	UBC Thunderbirds	1
	Trinity Western University	4

Oct 17, 3:00 PM	HOCKEY-W
The Arenas at LEC	



Schuurman, Williams, and Fraser all had a number of scoring opportunities. In the end, Schuurman scored the first goal of the game. Courtesy TWU Spartans

UPCOMING GAMES		
	University of Calgary	Oct 24, 4:00 PM
	UBC Thunderbirds	War Memorial Gymnasium VOLLEYBALL-M
	University of Calgary	Oct 24, 5:45 PM
	UBC Thunderbirds	War Memorial Gymnasium VOLLEYBALL-W

Opinion

NO VACANCY

UBC Can't Build Student Housing Alone

Legal and financial barriers keep UBC reliant on the province to fund student housing development, writes Finley Ludeman in his debut column.

By FINLEY LUDEMAN
Housing Columnist

Everyone studying at UBC knows the struggle of applying for student housing. With waitlists, rejections, and months of uncertainty, finding a room on campus can feel nearly impossible.

Although UBC appears close to Vancouver on a map, students discover every day just how disconnected the university can feel. Hours spent on delayed buses, sitting in stand-still traffic, or riding a bike through kilometres of forest make commuting to and from campus a daily challenge. For students balancing classes, work, extracurriculars, and their own health, living on campus is less of a convenience and more of a necessity.

With only 14,000 beds and 61,000 students, the problem is obvious. The data shows that each year thousands of students are rejected or wait-listed from housing. In 2022 alone, over 8,000 students were looking for a unit on campus that the university could not accommodate.

So what is the university doing?

The short answer: everything they can. And that's the problem.

UBC is currently building the Lower Mall Precinct which will provide 1,508 students housing beds, including 1,333 new beds and 175 replacements. However, this is the only housing development currently in the construction or planning stages. No other major student housing projects are in the development pipeline — a first in six years.



The main reason more student housing isn't being built? Funding.

UBC wants to build more housing — the Board of Governors highlighted it as a priority in the UBC Housing Action Plan published in 2023. But building more student housing is extraordinarily expensive, and UBC does not have the financial assets to fund building on the scale required.

Telling the university to “just build more” isn't a real solution. The Lower Mall Precinct is expected to cost nearly \$560 million. With an operating surplus of just \$78 million in the 2024–25 fiscal year, UBC just doesn't have the money — even if it wanted to transfer additional money into the capital budget.

Furthermore, due to legal and financial barriers, UBC is limited in how it can fund student housing projects. Unlike private developers, provincial policy prevents UBC from borrowing money externally to fund new student housing. As a result, the university is heavily reliant on government funding.

In British Columbia, student housing is largely funded by the provincial government through one-time loans and grants. At UBC, the provincial government is contributing \$300 million towards the Lower Mall Precinct, a significant contribution that is one step towards solving this crisis.

However, British Columbia has no dedicated legislation to fund student housing. Instead, the government acts solely through one-time grants and capital funding programs rather than planning laws, regulatory reform, or dedicated funding streams. Because the funding comes from capital budgets, universities can't rely on consistent investment. The amount of money that is available changes from year to year.

Furthermore, no level of government across Canada

recognizes student housing as a distinct category of housing. Seniors housing, military housing, Indigenous housing, and workforce housing all receive specific zoning rules, funding programs, development fees, and data collection. Student housing doesn't. These frameworks are not perfect, but they make it easier to build and fund these types of specialized housing.

This is a significant policy gap. 1.8 million full-time post-secondary students need housing across Canada each year. We cannot, and should not be overlooked and treated as an afterthought. Although the province provided funding for the Lower Mall Precinct, this does not come close to providing enough beds for today's needs — let alone the needs of the future. Plus, there's no guarantee of funding for other necessary student housing projects.

In a city with a near-zero vacancy rate, skyrocketing rental prices, and an existing housing crisis, students cannot be thrown into the volatile rental market of Vancouver. Available space off-campus can be almost as hard to find as on-campus, and the surge of students renting contributes to a decrease in availability, driving up rental prices for everyone.

So what are we supposed to do?

The solution isn't so simple. The university cannot solve a problem of this scale on its own. Nor can we solve it by doubling up rooms with bunk beds and squeezing more students into existing infrastructure. The current model makes funding major student housing projects difficult, so governments need to change that model.

At the provincial and federal level, we need a clear comprehensive approach that acknowledges the urgency of this crisis and funds long-term solutions.

There are already propos-

als for what a different approach could look like. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has proposed the Canada Student Housing Strategy. The strategy would rely on Build Canada Homes, a federal initiative established in 2025 to provide the financing and aid needed to build affordable non-market and market housing across Canada. CASA called on the government to provide \$1 billion in grants and loans for residences and non-profit student housing through this program.

This is the kind of initiative the government should be taking — treating the student housing shortage as the crisis that it is. This proposal could create a dedicated funding stream. Universities could rely on a continuous cash flow to fund and build student housing projects, instead of relying on one-time grants that aren't guaranteed and aren't frequent.

Although \$1 billion seems like a big number, it should only be the start. When projects cost hundreds of millions of dollars, \$1 billion almost seems like too little, but it is a step in the right direction.

As the government has failed to step up, private corporations have taken up the challenge and are utilizing this crisis to profit.

Private corporations view this as an opportunity. Thousands of students looking for housing with no solution in sight means demand is “apparent and undersupplied.” In addition, as young people require parents to sign as guarantors on student leases, corporations are provided greater assurance that rent will be paid.

This might seem like a solution that provides the beds we so desperately need, but it isn't. Private companies make millions in profit, charging prices that are unaffordable to many students. Rents are often thousands of dollars for shared rooms, significantly more than official on-campus student housing. These private rentals may alleviate some of the current needs, but a solution that prices students out is not a solution at all.

Solving the student housing crisis is not simply about making university life more comfortable. Funding university housing is beneficial to everyone across the province.

British Columbia faces a shortage of doctors, nurses, teachers, and other skilled workers. To address this, the province has heavily invested in expanding education and training for these professions. But we can't train more people if they cannot actually afford to attend university. Our priority should be making education in these fields accessible and affordable by increasing the supply of affordable, on-campus student housing.

A student spending thousands of dollars each month on rent has less money for tuition, food, and other necessities. A student spending hours commuting has less time to study, work, and participate in university life. A student who cannot afford to live near campus may eventually have



Collage by Skye Shen for *The Ulyssey*

to reconsider if university is financially viable for them at all.

These are conclusions we do not want students to come to. More importantly, they are conclusions that British Columbia cannot afford if we expect to train the workforce we so desperately need.

For years, governments have allowed universities to carry a responsibility they do not have the budget or resources to fulfil. UBC is building what it can, but if the government wants more students in universities, they need to make sure those students have somewhere to live.

And students have a way to make governments listen.

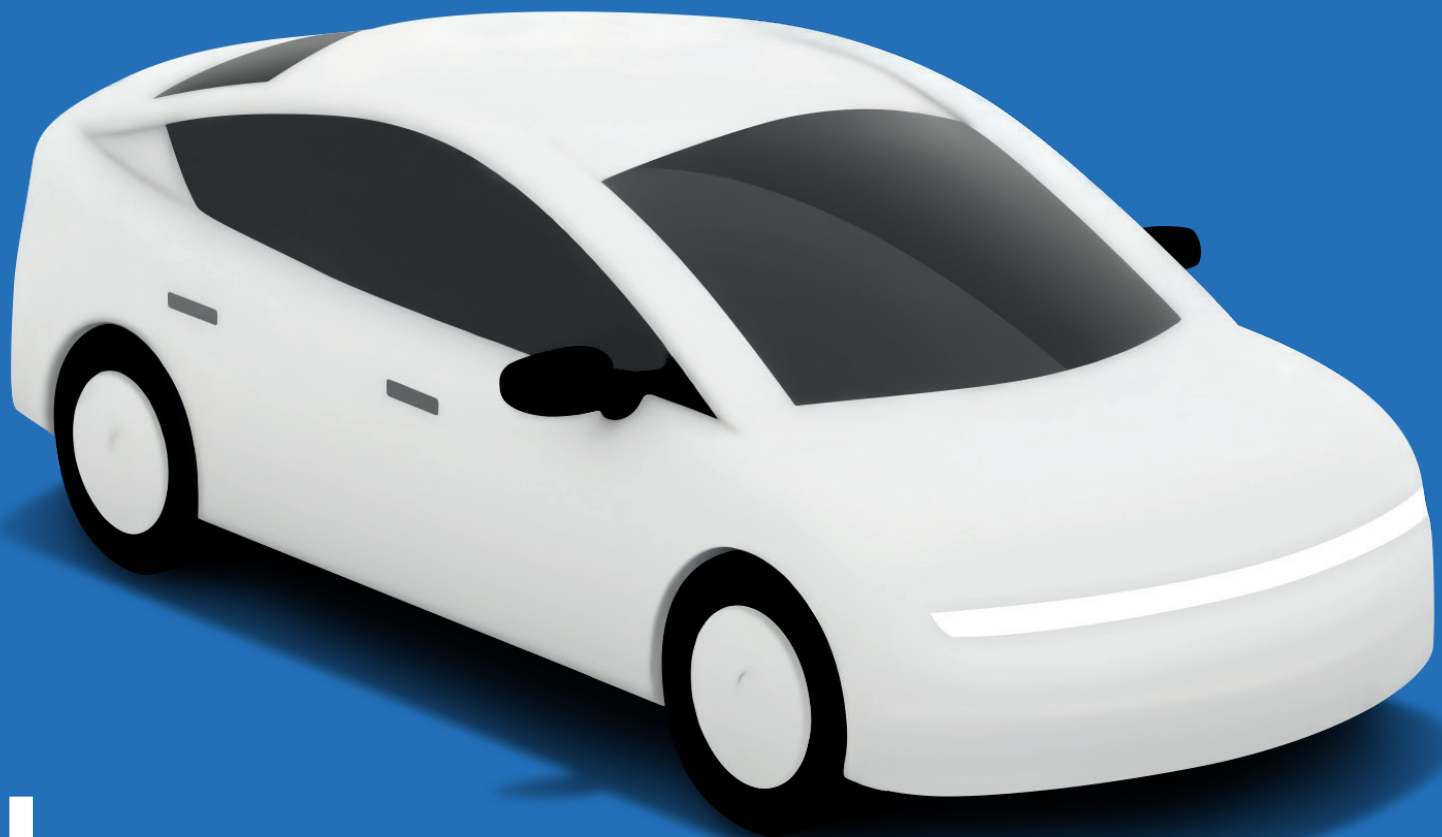
Students are one of the

least consistent voter demographics. Governments at every level have shown their unwillingness to solve this crisis, but with a provincial election around the corner, our votes carry the power to change that. By speaking up, turning out to the polls in large numbers, and lobbying the government, we can make student housing availability and affordability a priority for candidates.

We should not accept a system in which thousands of students are turned away from student housing every year, universities cannot afford to build enough beds, and governments leave the problem for someone else to solve. [📌](#)

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Constructor's note: I'd gotten some requests after my previous puzzle to make my next one a bit trickier, with some more of the fun misleading clues. So among this puzzle's normal clues are some extra deceptive ones sprinkled in, including an extra-scary long answer right in the middle that ties the themed connected clues in each corner together. Remember to stay on the lookout for any clues ending with question marks (?) to represent that you might need to think a little bit outside of the box. Have fun! For questions or feedback, reach out to games@ubyssey.ca

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If you want to make
the next crossword,
go to ubyssey.ca/join

We're also looking for Digital Designers, Print Designers, Sports Videographers & Systems Developers

1. First of two options, alongside
- 70-Across, which may result in getting 1-Down
- 6 Droop
- 9 Canadian “Hallelujah” songwriter Leonard
- 14 Fruity home for a porous character
- 16 Occurred, as a conversation topic
- 17 Haunted remains?
- 18 Mediterranean island nation
- 19 Scrappy-___ (cartoon nephew)
- 20 Part of a panda costume
- 21 2012 horror video game, featuring a creepy titular Man
- 23 “Really, really, really ___ zig-zig *ah* “ (Spice Girls lyric)
- 25 Canadian yogurt brand, stylized with an umlaut over the second letter
- 26 Chem. or bio.
- 28 Like a Battleship after being hit four times
- 30 Genderqueer identity, casually
- 33 Aviatrix Earhart

1. Pranked a porch with paper, informally, as a stereotypical staple of 39-Across
- 2 Like a millionaire in Montevideo
- 3 Crushing on
- 4 Top corpo (abbr.)
- 5 K as in Kalamata, Greece
- 6 Pops into existence, like salmon (or like a video game enemy)
- 7 Disease that was the focus of the Ice Bucket Challenge (abbr.)
- 8 Materials for bedazzling, like rhinestones
- 9 Guest appearance in a movie, like many a Stan Lee role
- 10 Colour associated with 39-Across
- 11 "Give me just one more moment!"
- 12 Direction opposite of oeste
- 13 Looming, as a quickly approaching deadline
- 15 Word after floor, game, or master
- 22 "Just as demonstrated"
- 23 Doc that only works after death?
- 24 Did some boring work?
- 26 One below a medium

36 Up and leaves
38 Word often abbreviated to R
39 The scariest part of a fall?
42 Entirety
43 Villainous hideout
44 Youths who get high in the night?
45 Political alliance
47 Had all the answers
49 UBC, for one (abbr.)
50 Nat King ____ (jazz singer)
52 "Samesies!"
55 Asset for a triathlete
58 Maize unit
59 Month in between avril and juin
62 Goddesses of inspiration
63 Striped sugary stuff, and a stereotypical staple of 39-Across
66 It lets Luigi live on?
67 Cherishes, as a pirate does his booty
68 Sounds of shock
69 Title for Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, but not George Harrison and John Lennon
70 Second of two options, alongside 1-Across, which may result in getting 63-Across

27 Pieces of protection for
F-holes and G strings

29 Starter starter

31 Stock in the grocery store

32 Yearns (for)

33 “Moby-Dick” captain

34 Tiny thing that comes with
an extra charge?

35 Respond to the alarm

37 Give a darn?

40 One from Berlin?

41 “Additionally...”

46 Occur, as a conversation
topic

48 Hot dog or long dog

51 Traits of Daffy Duck and
Sylvester the Cat

53 Exclamation after a magic
show

54 Secret romantic rendezvous

55 Pollution portmanteau

56 Bluefin, for example

57 Plays a part, or parts of plays

59 “Less is ____”

60 Measurement whose units
include barns, myriads, and
squares

61 Research centre (abbr.)

64 Grande, but shorter?

65 Bad dog

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