



# The Victoria Leadership Awards 2012 Nominees

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## University of Victoria Community Leadership Award

### **David Chuenyan Lai**

Dr. David Chuenyan Lai has taught at the University of Victoria for 35 years (1968-2003). His major research interest is Chinatown development, and Chinese Canadian History. He has over 300 publications and has been very active in community service since 1976. He played a significant role in the rehabilitation of Victoria's Chinatown, and in the beautification of the Chinese Cemetery in Oak Bay. Dr. Lai has received 26 awards and honours in recognition of his academic achievement, efforts in heritage conservation, and long-time community service. He was named Member of the Order of Canada in 1983.

### **Becky Cory**

Becky Cory is the coordinator of the University of Victoria's University 101, a program that provides free non-credit university courses for people who have faced barriers to accessing post-secondary education. She has a Masters of Arts in Education and has also worked as a youth outreach worker, life coach, counselor and diversity educator with the UVic Equity and Human Rights office. She is the founding partner of a small design and communications company, Pink Sheep Media. Becky is a bold advocate for the creation of inclusive learning and work environments, and feels most energized when creating positive change in the world.

### **Ali Dastmalchian**

Dr. Ali Dastmalchian is the dean of the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business at the University of Victoria. He created the school's board of advisers - a group of 80 local and international members who serve as advisers and advocates - to establish a critical link between business education and the needs of the business community. He has

established ground-breaking curriculum including the Executive Mentors Program which pairs current students with business professionals, and the Integrated Management Exercises that requires students to provide business analysis to client companies. To date, more than 400 organizations worldwide have participated. He is also actively engaged in community groups including the United Way and BC Ventures Society.

### **Mary Ellen Purkis**

Mary Ellen Purkis was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta where her family taught her the importance of sharing and the value of making a commitment to one's community. She received a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Calgary and worked as an Emergency Room nurse in Calgary before (literally!) taking flight and spending eight years in Edinburgh, Scotland where she completed two graduate degrees. Mary moved to Victoria in 1993 and has a busy life making contributions to family and community, particularly through her work at the University of Victoria and her volunteer connections with the United Way of Greater Victoria and the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation.

### **Brian Richmond**

Brian Richmond received his training as an actor at Burnaby South High School, Vancouver's Holiday Theatre and at the Ecole Lecoq in Paris. Changing his focus from acting to direction and dramaturgy in the mid-70s, he has created over a hundred and fifty professional and academic productions for major theatres and universities across Canada, the United States and Mexico. As a director and dramaturge he has nurtured many of the leading playwrights of his generation including George Ryga, Ken Mitchell, Dennis Foon, Thomson Highway, Carol Bolt, Sharon Pollock, Michel-Marc Bouchard, Sally Clark, Charles Tidler, Allan Stratton, Jacob Richmond and many, many others. Brian taught at McGill, York, Waterloo and Toronto universities as well as the National Theatre School of Canada. He is currently a professor in the Department of Theatre at the University of Victoria. He joined the department in 2001 and served as its chair from 2001 to 2007. The Founding Artistic Director of Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre, he has also served as artistic director for Thunder Bay's Magnus Theatre, and Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille and, most recently, Victoria's critically acclaimed Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre.

### **Susan J. Strega**

Susan Strega, associate professor in the School of Social Work, joined the University of Victoria in 2006. She teaches courses in child welfare and research methods and has written much of the school's current undergraduate curriculum. She has a substantial number of publications including two co-edited books widely adopted as texts: *Research as resistance: Critical, Indigenous and anti-oppressive approaches* and *Walking this path together: Anti-racist and anti-oppressive child welfare practice*. Her current research focuses on street sex work. An active volunteer, Susan has served on the PEERS

(Victoria) board of directors for many years and with the Canadian National Coalition of Experiential Women.

### **Andrew Weaver**

Dr. Andrew Weaver is a professor and Canada Research Chair in the University of Victoria's School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. He was a lead author in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2nd, 3rd and 4th and ongoing 5th scientific assessments. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and the American Meteorological Society. He is a past recipient of the NSERC Steacie, Killam and Guggenheim Fellowships as well as a CIAR Young Explorers Award, CMOS President's Prize, Royal Society of Canada Miroslaw Romanowski Medal and Huntsman Award for Excellence in Marine Science. He was appointed to the Order of British Columbia in 2008.

### **David Zimmerman**

David Zimmerman is the professor of Military History at the University of Victoria and has been a member of faculty since 1988. David was educated at the University of Victoria, the University of Toronto and the University of New Brunswick.. He has published over twenty scholarly articles and book chapters including, *The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa*, *Top Secret Exchange*, and *Britain's Shield: Radar and the Defeat of the Luftwaffe*. David is an expert on the history of anti-submarine warfare, radar, the Royal Canadian Navy, science and technology in war, and the rescue of academic refugees from Germany in the 1930s.

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## **The Rotary Community Leadership Award**

### **Christopher Causton**

Born in England and educated at Marlborough and the Scottish Hotel School, Christopher Causton has resided in Canada since 1970 after having first worked in Denmark, Switzerland and the United States. He introduced Jason's Restaurant as the first bistro in Victoria in 1972, and followed that success with Rattenbury's Restaurant in 1979. Christopher was elected as an Oak Bay councilor in 1987 and held the position of mayor from 1996 to 2011 when he stepped down. As chair of the CRD board from 1999 to 2002 he was instrumental in initiating the popular Park's Levy. Christopher is also chair of the Regional Parks Board and has been the driving force behind the E&N Rail Trail. Christopher is married to Elizabeth and they have two grown children.

### **Roger Girouard, RAdm (Ret'd) OMM, CD, MA**

A Montreal native, Roger Girouard served in the navy for 35 years which included three ship commands, Maritime Operations Group Four, and Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific. His missions included the Gulf War, the SWISSAIR 111 recovery operation off Peggy's Cove, Canada's peacemaking contribution to East Timor, and Command of a naval Task Force in the Arabian Gulf in 2003. He retired in September 2007 as a commander in the Maritime Forces Pacific. He serves as an associate professor at Royal Roads University and has several volunteer lives, including the Salvation Army, the Coalition to End Homelessness, St. John Ambulance and the TELUS Victoria Community Board.

### **Sherri Hohert**

Sherri Hohert was born in Northern Ontario and contracted polio at age 6. In her own words, "Yikes, how things changed. I had to figure out how to live without letting physical disabilities defeat my spirit or hold me back, but also not be too visible." Sherri has a very demanding and fulfilling career as a clinical social worker, has seen the world as a traveler and a volunteer. She is a grandmother and loves this role the best. Being a friend, mother, a social activist and inspiring others in a quiet way is part of the fabric of her being.

### **Tony Joe**

Born and raised in Victoria, Tony Joe has been a professional Real Estate Agent in the region since 1991. He served three terms as a director on the Victoria Real Estate Board and was president of the organization in 2008, introducing Home Energy Labelling as one of his initiatives. Currently, he represents Victoria on the BC Real Estate Association Government Relations Committee and is a provincial instructor. Tony is an active rotarian & knight of columbus and is the vice-chair of the Victoria Dragonboat Festival Society as well as past co-chair of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.

### **Leslie Lee**

Leslie Lee was appointed principal of George Jay Elementary School in July 2009. Prior, she was vice-principal of Gordon Head Middle School for three years and vice-principal of Dunsmuir Middle School in the Sooke School District for two years. She began her educational career in the Saanich School District where she taught for 25 years. Mrs. Lee holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of British Columbia and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Victoria. When she is not at work, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, walking her dog Bubba, reading, travelling to exotic locations and going to the gym.

## **Bruce Williams**

Bruce Williams epitomizes the term “community leadership.” Every year, he volunteers hundreds of hours to support charities in Victoria and throughout Vancouver Island. His leadership includes being a member of the Campaign Cabinet for both the Greater Victoria and Central/North Island United Way, chair of the Vancouver Island University Foundation’s capital campaign, fundraising chair for Jeneece Place, director for C-FAX Santas Anonymous and emcee for hundreds of charitable events. He is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and the recipient of the Chair’s Award of Excellence by the United Way of Canada. Bruce is the Community and Client Relations Manager for CTV Vancouver Island.

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## **The Vancity Youth Leadership Award**

### **Laura Bulk**

Laura Bulk is a devoted volunteer dedicated to assisting people of all ages and incomes move towards self-reliance by working with them to gain skills and knowledge. As a visually impaired student Laura is a mentor to other disabled students with the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability and those in her class in the School of Social Work where she is part of the Equity Working Group. Her volunteer community commitments are numerous. As a live-in companion to a 96 year old woman Laura believes above all to lead by example.

### **Taylor Conroy**

Taylor Conroy’s leadership is clearly seen in Victoria, and in countries all over the world. He pioneered the green real estate industry in Victoria by becoming the first carbon neutral group of it’s kind, and has always used the company as a vehicle to give back by supporting countless local causes with a large percentage of their profits. Away from home, Taylor is a sought after fundraising consultant and the creator of a crowd-source fundraising platform that has raised over \$150,000 to build 15 schoolhouses in four developing countries. His passion for social change can also be seen in the program he created called the Early Entrepreneurs Experiment that teaches local kids how to start small businesses with all profits going to charity. It has since launched in three states, multiple cities in Canada, and three countries internationally.

## **Joty Dhaliwal**

Joty Dhaliwal's interest in sustainability comes together with her passion for creativity through innovative design. She sees architecture, city planning and new business models and strategies as elements that facilitate societal relationships necessary for a sustainable future. She has represented Canada in collaborative forums such as the 2011 World Student Environmental Summit and the 2011 Oikos Winter School. These forums inspired and empowered her to pursue the work she does today. Apart from her work with goBeyond, a provincial-wide climate change network and Synergy Enterprises, Joty is interested in researching collaborative education models that can be adopted by the University of Victoria and other local universities.

## **Ruth Fernandes**

Ruth Fernandes is a third year pre-med student at the University of Victoria and an exemplary role model. Embodying the true community spirit, she is passionate about helping people locally and globally. Ruth is committed to community activism and social justice, and has devoted over 1000 volunteer hours in hospitals, senior homes, preschools, housing projects in Rwanda, and teaching children in India. She is also co-founder of UVic Hope and has been instrumental in fundraising. Ruth serves society with integrity, compassion and commitment. Her dream of becoming a doctor will allow her to further impact society and make a difference in the world.

## **Leanna Hill**

Leanna Hill serves as Volunteer Victoria's youth program coordinator. She has worked with hundreds of youth in Victoria and Vancouver to help them fulfill their leadership potential and develop essential skills. She is passionate about community building and works to leverage the talents of youth to build a vibrant community. Leanna holds a Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads University with a major project on youth engagement with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO). She co-authored UNESCO's *Youth Engagement in National Commissions Toolkit* which has been used in Canada and around the world as a model of promising youth engagement practices. Leanna is the co-provincial coordinator for CCUNESCO's Youth Advisory Group, and is an active community leader promoting sustainability education, social and environmental engagement, and local food security initiatives.

## **Ashley Roulston**

Ashley Roulston is recognized as an up and coming executive and leader in the BC technology sector. Since graduating from the Gustavson School of Business with a specialization in entrepreneurship in 2010, Ashley and her brother have started a successful company, Reef Safe Fish Inc. The company is actively developing technology for the BC aquaculture industry involving waste recycling and food production to reduce negative environmental impact. Ashley recognizes the need to shift the aquaculture industry to a more environmentally and economically sustainable model that supports a growing population while preserving our vital oceans.

## **Nicole Sorochan**

Nicole Sorochan is a 29 year old serial entrepreneur. She owns and operates two digital companies: One Net Marketing, a creative online marketing agency for socially responsible and ethical businesses with clients from around the world; and EnviroSpeak Media a company that creates web tools for social change. She doubles as a guerilla documentarian and has traveled the world covering everything from an insurgency in Southern Thailand, to a revolutionary recycling facility in the midst of “garbage city” in Cairo. She creates meaningful interactive video installations around town, sits on the board of MediaNet, and volunteers her time internationally to various organizations.

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## **The Leadership Victoria Alumni Award**

### **Jeannette Hughes**

Jeanette Hughes exemplifies all that community leadership can be. Taking on the role as a city councilor; bringing music to her community; and organizing meals for the unfortunate demonstrates her work as an engaged and active leader in Sidney and the CRD community. As a graduate of Leadership Victoria she has touched peoples’ lives in many diverse ways. She has rallied resources to tackle diverse issues in housing, the rights of the disabled, and supported those with MS in her community. Jeanette also continually improves peoples’ lives through her vocation- nursing. We say at Leadership Victoria that a true leader “models the way”. Jeanette has truly done that with compassion and a deliberate focus and bias on action. She is a role model for all Leadership Victoria graduates and all of us who call the CRD home.

### **Sara Wegwitz**

Sara Wegwitz is the nurse educator at the University of Victoria Student Health Services where she is responsible for leading and delivering various health and wellness initiatives throughout the UVic community. Sara possesses and demonstrates a deep seated desire to serve, contribute, and add value to various community groups and events. She is an inspiring and highly sought-after guest presenter/speaker for various groups in Victoria including the TEDxYouth@Victoria in November 2011. Sara completed the Leadership Victoria Program in June 2009 and continues to strengthen the organization by actively participating on the program committee and the alumni committee. In her professional and volunteer roles throughout Greater Victoria Sara has raised the visibility and reputation of Leadership Victoria graduates.

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## **The United Way of Greater Victoria Award for Collaboration and Partnership**

### **Doreen M. Gee**

Doreen Gee is a community leader and mentor. In her roles at B.C. Schizophrenia Society Victoria, she is a peer support worker, a group leader for youth in recovery and a community speaker. As a journalist and award-winning writer, she gives a voice to people who have none. Doreen enriches and improves the quality of life in Victoria. She works hard to support the expansion of opportunities for people with mental illnesses and to promote tolerance and understanding towards them. Doreen continues to inspire and motivate young people who are exploring leadership roles. Her compassionate work deserves our recognition.

### **Carolyn Fast**

Carolyn Fast served as the executive director at the Victoria Women's Transition House for over 16 years. Through multiple collaborations Carolyn became the outstanding leader she is today. Carolyn's accomplishments are numerous and her reputation in the community is as an innovator who is responsive to community needs. She works collaboratively with diverse community partners and does not put the interests of her own agency first. Carolyn is a mentor to many. She serves on multiple special interest committees, and puts the needs of people we serve into new models that broaden services in our community.

### **Gareth Shearman**

Gareth Shearman is an educator and community network practitioner with over 30 years experience in local, national and international arenas. He was instrumental in establishing the Victoria Free-Net Association – Canada's first Free-Net – which fostered a sense of electronic community and introduced people to the internet. Gareth is sounding president of Pacific Community Networks Association, and current president of Telecommunities Canada. He is the recipient of an Industry Canada Information Highway Leadership Recognition Award. His current projects include community network wireless development and establishment of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system for community networks and not-for-profits.

### **Kathy Stinson**

Kathy Stinson has been providing leadership in the not-for-profit and public sectors since 1989. As executive director of Victoria Cool Aid Society from 2005, Kathy's work has helped to build ! the capacity of Greater Victoria to identify and confront some of

the key challenges we face. Whether leading initiatives like the creation of the Access Health Centre or working collaboratively with community groups like the Downtown Service Providers or the Coalition to End Homelessness, Kathy has a talent and passion for bringing people together and making good things happen, helping create a better future for our community.

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## **The Royal Roads University Leadership Excellence through Coaching & Mentoring Award**

### **Wendy-Sue Andrew**

Wendy-Sue Andrew is currently executive director of Lifetime Networks and was president of Community Living Victoria for 12 years. She works creatively to build good lives in welcoming communities for people with disabilities and was instrumental in developing the Being A Citizen Post-Secondary Program for people with disabilities. She has contributed countless volunteer hours to the community through involvement with the Canadian Red Cross, the Royal Life Saving Society, her church, community sports teams and various local and provincial organizations. She inspires those around her to be their best and do their best, and leads by example having run four marathons and 27 ultra-marathons. Wendy-Sue and her husband have raised three children, one who has a developmental disability. Both the other children have chosen careers in the disability field.

### **Sherry LeBlanc**

Sherry LeBlanc is a confidante, coach and mentor to individuals, groups and teams across the country. She has two decades of entrepreneurial and senior level experience. Sherry's vast expertise in dealing with personal, professional and business change using out of the box creative solutions enables her to provide unique and unparalleled coaching to a diverse range of industry professionals. With her strong professional background and sharp intuition, Sherry's business acumen is complimented with a Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching (2001) from Royal Roads University and has been awarded the Master Certified Coach designation from the International Coach Federation, one of only 600 people in the world who hold this title. Sherry is strongly committed to the ongoing growth of the coaching profession, actively participating in educational initiatives that increase public awareness of the goals and benefits of professional coaching.

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**The 2012 Victoria Leadership Awards Ceremony will be held  
February 21, 2012 from 4pm to 6pm at the Fairmont Empress Hotel**