



# 2020 UVIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

February 4 | Michèle Pujol Room, Student Union Building

# WELCOME

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are always a highlight of Alumni Week. The accomplishments of each recipient instill pride in us as University of Victoria alumni and as members of the UVic community.

On behalf of the UVic Alumni Association, I congratulate this year's recipients on this well-earned recognition. I applaud your dedication to your work, to your communities and for the exemplary leadership you show to our current students—the next generation of alumni.

I also wish to thank the deans, faculty and staff of each of the university faculties and divisions—along with the UVic Libraries—for their valued contributions in helping to present these prestigious awards.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in attendance for helping us celebrate these inspirational alumni and for supporting our university.

Sincerely,

**Brian Cant, BA '03, Cert '08, MBA '18**  
**President, UVic Alumni Association**

## 2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENTS



### BUSINESS

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#### Sybil Verch, BCom '97

Sybil Verch started out as a co-op student in 1994, working her way to her current position as Executive Vice President, Head of Private Client Solutions for Raymond James Ltd., a leading independent wealth management firm in Canada. She oversees several departments that help financial advisors deliver exceptional experiences to clients, including asset-management solutions, research and trading, insurance, financial planning, trust services, tax and estate planning and cross-border solutions. She plays an integral part in mentoring women in finance and is dedicated to increasing the number of female advisors. Verch is both executive producer and host of, "The Wealthy Life," a national television talk show about finance that is sponsored by Raymond James. Verch is the author of *The Female Edge*, and is focused on changing the status quo regarding gender diversity in senior leadership roles.



### CONTINUING STUDIES

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#### Gerald Thompson, Cert '95

Gerald, "Gerry" Thompson started his career by running a shipyard and machine shop in the Parksville area. This business endeavour lasted from 1964 to 1979 and contributed many tugboats and fishing vessels to the BC coast. In 1980, Thompson returned to school to develop his knowledge of the investment field. He moved his family to Victoria in 1983 to start his new career. Thompson began as Investment Advisor and Branch Manager for Great Pacific Management. In 1985, he opened a full stock and bond brokerage office for Majendie Securities. He subsequently switched to PI Financial, where he has been their Victoria Branch Manager since 1999. Mid-career, he was offered the opportunity to partake in UVic's Certificate of Business Administration program, graduating in 1995. Thompson takes on every job or task wholeheartedly. He is an avid volunteer, devoting his time to the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society and the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.



## EDUCATION

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### Wendy-Sue Andrew, BEd '85

Wendy-Sue Andrew is the Executive Director of Lifetime Networks, an agency in Victoria that helps connect and support people with developmental disabilities and their families. After graduating from Oak Bay High, Andrew attended the University of Victoria, completing a Bachelor of Education with a major in Physical Education. She has a background in aquatics, teaching and coaching. After a 16-year career teaching and coaching in elementary schools, Andrew joined the social-services sector. In 2000, Andrew was hired by five families for a fledging agency called Lifetime Networks. At first, her position was only part-time and expanded from there. Over the past 19 years, Lifetime Networks has grown to support 400 individuals with developmental disabilities and now employs 142 people. Andrew lives with her husband and one of their three adult children, who has a developmental disability. This child was her coach and teacher as she led Lifetime Networks in the early years.



## ENGINEERING

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### Kirsten Peck, BEng '93

Kirsten Peck is Vice President, Engineering for BC Hydro and a registered professional engineer with the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC. For the past seven years, Peck has led BC Hydro's Engineering business unit. She is accountable for the delivery of over 350 complex refurbishment and growth-related capital projects on BC Hydro's electrical system. She leads a diverse team of 650 high performing technical staff of varying disciplines accountable for designing, estimating and delivering high quality, inherently safe, collaborative, complex engineering designs associated with the generation, transmission and distribution system and water retention structures. Peck held positions leading the Risk Management division of BC Hydro's trading subsidiary where she developed her keen sense of agility, governance and risk-oriented decision making. A level-headed and inspirational leader, she played an important role in the development of entry-level engineering talent and foreign-trained engineers. Peck also coaches women's soccer, sits on the board of the Fraser Valley Dirt Riders Association and provides weekend respite care for a delightful foster child.



## FINE ARTS

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### Richard Van Camp, BFA '97

Richard Van Camp is a proud member of the Tlicho Dene from Fort Smith, NWT. He is the author of 23 books in just about every genre. His novel, *The Lesser Blessed* (which he workshopped as a UVic student), is a feature film with First Generation Films. His graphic novel with Krystal Mateus on restorative justice, *Three Feathers*, is now a movie directed by Carla Ulrich. Produced by the South Slave Divisional Board of Education, *Three Feathers* is the only movie that is available in four languages: Bush Cree, Dene, South Slavey and English. Van Camp's comics and books for babies are translated into Bush Cree, Plains Cree, South Slavey, Dene, Spanish and French. His new collection of short stories, *Moccasin Square Gardens*, was released in 2019.



## HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Leah Hollins, BSN '89

Leah Hollins is the chair of the Island Health Board of Directors and was first appointed to this role in September 2017. Hollins brings vast experience in health-care policy, programs, strategy and service delivery to the role. She has acted as deputy minister of health for the British Columbia government, was chair of the Canadian Blood Services Board of Directors for eight years, chaired the board of directors of Maximus Inc. and was a member of the Departmental Audit Committee for Veterans Affairs Canada. Hollins received the Order of Canada for her work in organ and tissue donation and transplantation. She was also awarded a doctor of laws from the University of Manitoba for distinguished public service.



## HUMANITIES

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### Robert "Lucky" Budd, BA '00, MA '05

After earning an undergraduate degree in 2000, Robert "Lucky" Budd returned to the University of Victoria to earn a master's degree in History with a focus on oral history in 2005. Between 2000 and 2004, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Royal British Columbia Museum entrusted Budd with the preservation and restoration of the "Orchard Collection," one of the world's largest oral history collections. He has since worked with a number of private collections and high-profile clients including the Nisga'a First Nation, the Provincial Archives of British Columbia and the Grateful Dead's audiovisual archive. In addition to hosting a bi-monthly radio series on CBC Radio One, he has given talks on oral history across the country and has had 12 books published, nine of which are national bestsellers. His books have been nominated for 30 awards, including winning the second prize for the 2015 Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia's Historical Writing Award, three Moonbeam International Children's Book Awards and the 2014 British Columbia Genealogical Society Family History Book Award. He is the proprietor of Memories To Memoirs, an oral-history company that operates out of Victoria.



## LAW

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### Kasari Govender, LLB '04

Kasari Govender took office as BC's first independent Human Rights Commissioner on Sept. 3, 2019. Her role is to lead the promotion and protection of human rights in BC. Govender has devoted her life to promoting human rights, with a focus on the most marginalized and vulnerable. From 2008 until 2019, Govender held leadership positions at West Coast LEAF, including as Executive Director. Earlier work included pivotal roles in establishing the Rise Women's Legal Centre, a non-profit legal clinic in British Columbia.

Govender earned her law degree from the University of Victoria and her master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, UK. She has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia and as an instructor at Simon Fraser University. In 2019, her work was recognized by the Women Lawyers Forum with their Award of Excellence.



## LIBRARIES

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### Jason Dewinetz, BA '00

Jason Dewinetz is a writer, editor, typographer, printer, publisher and educator originally from, and now living once again, in the Okanagan Valley. His design and production for Greenboathouse Press has brought in more than a dozen national book design awards, and in 2008 he served on the jury of the Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada. Greenboathouse Press publications are included in private and institutional collections nationally and internationally. His printed works have been included in collaborative projects such as Gibraltar Edition's Harry Duncan portfolio *All Along the Fence*, and the recent CODEX Foundation's *Art of the Edge of the Abyss*. Dewinetz has an academic background in English Literature (BA: UVic; MA: U of Alberta), and is the author of *Clench* (Gaspereau Press), *Moving to the Clear* (NeWest Press), *The Gift of a Good Knife* (Outlaw Editions), *In Theory* (above/ground press), and co-author of *A Bibliography of the Black Sparrow Press Archive* (University of Alberta Press).



## SCIENCE

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### Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, PhD '89

### Dr. Prabha Ibrahim, PhD '89

Dr. Mohamed and Dr. Prabha Ibrahim grew up in Tamil Nadu, India, where they both completed a Master of Science in Chemistry. During this time, a meeting with Professor Sandy Kirk resulted in the couple being recommended to complete fellowship and doctorate studies at UVic. The pair moved to Victoria in 1985 with their two young daughters and built close ties to the university. The Chemistry department still holds warm memories for them, including having their daughters complete homework in the halls of the Elliott Building. The Ibrahims have made significant impacts on the field of medicinal chemistry, developing treatments for patients battling challenging conditions such as cancer, inflammation and metabolic diseases.

Mohamed, Chief Operating Officer at Dhuruvam Pharmaceutical Consulting, is deeply involved in pharmaceutical design and is working on promising new drugs to treat cancer and autoimmune disease.

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Prabha's work has focused on moving drugs from design to clinical usage. She is currently Chief Technology Officer at Blade Therapeutics and has been instrumental in the discovery and development of the melanoma drug Zelboraf and the Giant Cell Tumour treatment drug Turalio.

The couple is devoted to the service of others. The two approach life with the outlook that we are all connected—every village is their village and every person their kin.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LAW

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### Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer Power, BA '83, LLB '86

The Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer Power was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2010. Madam Justice Power received a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Economics) in 1983 as well as a Bachelor of Laws in 1986 from the University of Victoria. She received a Master of Laws from Darwin College, University of Cambridge, in 1990. After her call to the bar in 1987, Justice Power practised in the area of criminal defence and civil litigation, and then as counsel for the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program. She joined the Provincial Crown in 1990 and practised as a Crown Prosecutor for 20 years, handling serious and sensitive files. At the time of her judicial appointment, Justice Power was Regional Crown Counsel for Vancouver Island—the first woman in British Columbia to hold the position. In 2006, she was awarded the designation of Queen's Counsel. Justice Power is proud of her Métis heritage and is the first person of Métis heritage to be appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

# UVIC ALUMNI

## WEEK FEB 1-7

■ THINKERS ▶ CHANGERS ● DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

- DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
- VIKES FOR LIFE BASKETBALL NIGHT
- ART EXHIBITS & LECTURES
- FLASHBACK FOTO CONTEST & MORE!

[alumni.uvic.ca](http://alumni.uvic.ca)





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