



## Masterminds Annual Report 2025

### Overview of Masterminds 2025

Masterminds began in 2006, and with the exception of 2020 and the pandemic, it has held annual presentations each year. In previous years the sessions were held in April but in 2025 it was decided that they should be moved to May in order to increase access to on campus facilities and permit better access to on site parking.

In addition, in the past, it was a joint venture between the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) and UVRA. IALH took on a significant portion of setting up the sessions and ensuring they were recorded.

As planning began for the 2025 series, Patty Pitts took the lead for UVRA of connecting speakers and topics for the event. The Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health advised that they would be unable, due to staffing shortages, to provide any assistance if the sessions were held on site. As a result, to ensure that the community and the presenters would have access to live sessions, UVRA took on the task of Masterminds 2025 solo. UVic Media services was brought in to assist with setting up the presenters and the recordings.

### Mastermind Sessions

Four sessions were to be held in May 2025 on the UVic campus. Unfortunately the registration this year overall was not at a level to generate meaningful and engaging participation so a decision was made to cancel the final two sessions. The two sessions which were held and recorded were:

May 7 – **Should We Have Cancer Warnings on Alcoholic Drinks** – Dr Tim Stockwell, former Director of the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

May 14 – **Tooning Tragedy: Reimagining Death Among the Dunmuirs** – Don Lovell, former architect with UVic Campus Planning and cartooning fan

We want to thank Patty Pitts, UVic Media Services and two students who acted as greeters for their assistance in this series.

**Reported by:** Margaret Klatt