rosemary BROWN



rosemary BROWN

Rosemary Brown arrived in Canada in 1951 from Kingston, Jamaica. After studying at McGill University, she attended the University of British Columbia, earning her Master of Social Work.

In 1956, she helped found the British Columbia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, which advocated for housing, employment, and human rights.

Building on her work as a feminist and social justice advocate, Brown was elected to the British Columbia Legislature in 1972, first serving the Vancouver-Burrard riding and later Burnaby-Edmonds. During her time as an MLA, Brown created a committee to eradicate sexism from education material used in the British Columbia school curriculum.

Of politics, Brown said, "women should enter politics to bring about change. It's a tough arena, and an unpleasant one. The sacrifices called for can only be justified on the grounds that we are indeed making the world, or our community, a better place than it is."



STRATHCONA

PROPERTY OWNERS & TENANTS ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

4. SPOTA Reports 本會各項報告 a) Traswrer-Silve 的財政:李翰(b) hinter Park-Pistement 的公園連見。

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1. Opening Remunks -T. Maic 開會詞 (講書美報)

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STRATHCONA PROPERTY OWNERS & TENANTS ASSOCIATION

While they did not work alone, the Strathcona Property Owners & Tenants Assocation was instrumental in preventing the erasure of Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood to accommodate the construction of a freeway.

A multi-generational and racially diverse advocacy group, SPOTA successfully lobbied federal, provincial, and municipal politicians to halt the razing of the neighbourhood.

Instead, a rehabilitation project saw the improvement of existing infrastructure, along with the construction of a new community centre and parks.





VIVIAN JUNG

vivian JUNG

In 1945, Vivian Jung was a young teacher in-training who needed a swimming lifesaving certificate to become a licenced teacher. She was denied access to Crystal Pool, the only pool that continued to exclude people of colour.

Her instructor and classmates insisted they would not enter the pool unless Vivian was allowed to come in.

In challenging the status quo, Jung and her fellow students helped dismantle racially discriminatory bylaws that had restricted and excluded people of colour from public spaces in British Columbia for decades.

Jung eventually became the first Chinese Canadian teacher hired by the Vancouver School Board to teach in the public school system. She taught at Tecumseh Elementary School for 35 years.

TILLY JEAN ROLSTON



City of Vancouver Archives

TILLY JEAN ROLSTON

Tilly Rolston was first elected to British Columbia's Legislative Assembly in 1941, serving the riding of Vancouver-Point Grey.

Upon her third re-election in 1952, Rolston was appointed Minister of Education, becoming the first female cabinet minister in Canada to be given a portfolio.

Rolston was responsible for introducing the "Rolston Formula", a new school funding structure that transferred some of the financial burden from the municipal to the provincial government. She was also responsible for introducing the first iteration of a sex-education into the British Columbia school curriculum.

Rolston died in 1953 and was the first woman in British Columbia to be honoured with a state funeral.



larry GRANT



Courtesy of Larry Grant

GRANT

Elder Larry Grant was raised in Musqueam traditional territory speaking **həndəminəm** with his family.

After four decades of working as a longshoreman, Grant enrolled in the First Nations Languages Program at the University of British Columbia to become reacquainted with the language he once spoke at home.

Reconnecting with the value of language in relation to self, cultural, and spiritual identities and decolonization led Grant to serve as Elder-in-Residence at the UBC First Nations House of Learning.

Grant is an adjunct professor with the UBC Musqueam Language and Culture Program, where he teaches the first-year **həńġəmińəm** course. He also works with the Musqueam Language and Culture Department.



MAISIE HURLEY



HURLEY

Originally from Wales, Maisie Hurley grew up near Merritt in British Columbia's southern interior, immersed in the First Nations culture of the area.

After a number of nomadic years, Maisie eventually settled down in Vancouver with Tom Hurley, a progressive lawyer who focused on pro bono work for Indigenous clients. Maisie became his legal secretary, lobbying for the rights of Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

In 1946, Hurley helped to launch *The Native Voice,* Canada's first Indigenous-focused newspaper. The nationwide paper featured both Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers advocating for Indigenous rights, including suffrage, land claims, and treaty rights. It ran until 1967, three years after Hurley's death.



EMERY BARNES



EMERY BARNES

Emery Barnes, a gifted American athlete, arrived in Vancouver in 1962 to play with the BC Lions. Barnes played three seasons with the football team, including its 1964 championship season, before pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of British Columbia.

After working as a social worker for a number of years, Barnes was elected to British Columbia Legislature in 1972 as a representative of the Vancouver Centre riding. He served as an MLA until 1996, serving also as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1994-1996, the first Black Canadian to do so in any province.

Barnes was a fierce representative for his constituents living in the Downtown Eastside, advocating for expanded social services and speaking out against racism.



HELENA



HELENA GUTTERIDGE

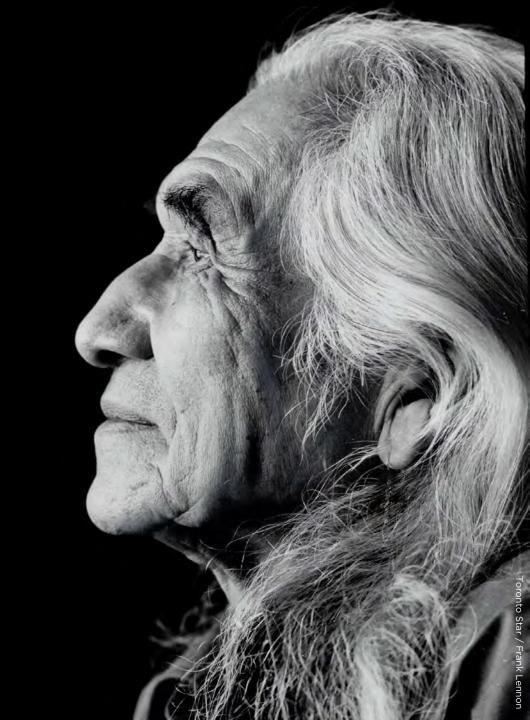
A close associate of British suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, Helena Gutteridge arrived in Vancouver in 1911. She found work as a tailor and quickly became active in Vancouver's labour and women's suffrage movements.

She navigated the male dominated trade and labour unions, promoting women's issues while also advocating for women's right to vote.

She was the first woman on the council of the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council as well as the first woman elected to City Council, where she won a seat in 1936. With her guidance, disparate groups campaigned together for a federally funded program of low-rental housing, a movement that played a vital role in shaping post-war Vancouver.



CHIEF DAN GEORGE



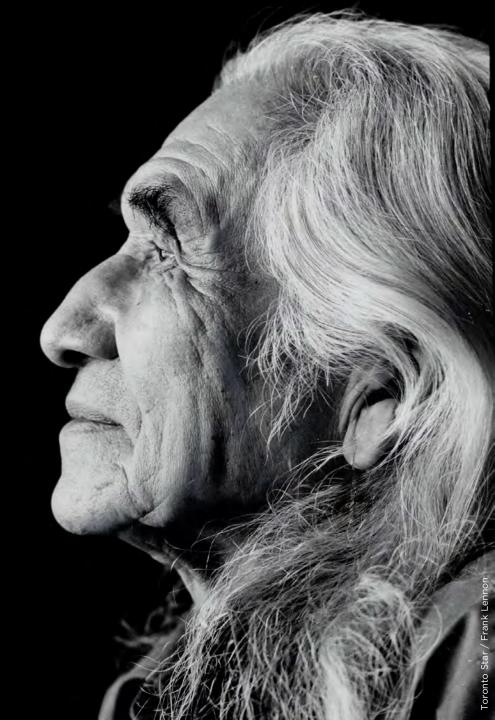
CHIEF DAN

Born Geswanouth Slahoot in 1899, Chief Dan George was a survivor of St. Paul's residential school. It was there that his name was changed to Dan George.

Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation from 1951 to 1963, George also worked as a longshoreman, construction worker, and logger before, remarkably, shifting to acting at age 60.

The first Indigenous actor nominated for an Academy Award, George used his fame to draw attention to the dire consequences of colonization, famously performing *Lament for Confederation* at the City of Vancouver's Canadian centennial celebration in 1967.

In it, he said, "Oh Canada, how can I celebrate you with this centenary, this hundred years? Shall I thank you for the reserves that are left to me of my beautiful forests? For the canned fish of my rivers... No!"





DR. PETER JEPSON-YOUNG

Dr. Peter Jepson-Young was diagnosed with AIDS in 1986. At a time when the disease was surrounded by fear and stigma, Dr. Peter bravely used his own experience to bring awareness to the epidemic through *The Dr. Peter Diaries*.

Produced by CBC-TV and aired weekly, 111 episodes of the series chronicled the debilitating effects of HIV/AIDS and challenged the myths surrounding it.

Before his death in 1992, Dr. Peter and his life partner Andrew Hiscox met with friends and family to begin work on a place where those living with HIV/AIDS could receive compassionate care.

Opened in 1997, the Dr. Peter Centre now provides health programs, a licenced care residence, a supportive housing program, and serves 73,500 meals every year.

GREENPEACE

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GREENPEACE

Now a global organization headquartered in Amsterdam, Greenpeace was born in a Vancouver living room in 1969. It started life as the Don't Make a Wave Committee, which was opposed to American nuclear arms tests off the coast of Alaska.

As its mission expanded, the committee became Greenpeace. Vancouver's natural setting and universities made it the perfect incubator for eco-warriors like the nature-lovers, scientists, and activists who founded the organization.

In 1970, the Georgia Straight wrote, "the Don't Make a Wave Committee... formalized plans to send a ship they'll rename the Greenpeace into the Amchitka area before the next [nuclear] test. Greenpeace is an ambitious and maybe impossible project, but so is anything that tries to promote a sane approach to the world we live in."



TSUTAE & HANAKO



TSUTAE & HANAKO

Hanako Sato arrived in Vancouver 1921 at the age of 20 to teach at the Vancouver Japanese Language School. Part of the contract was an arranged marriage to Tsutae Sato, the school's principal.

Adored by their students, the Satos taught at the VJLS until the school was forced to close as a result of racial discrimination during World War II. During internment, the Satos were forcibly relocated to a farm in Lacombe, Alberta.

In 1947, they traveled to Vancouver to negotiate for the return of the VJLS to the Japanese Canadian community. In 1953, the school reopened; it was the only Japanese Canadian property confiscated by the Canadian government during WWII to be returned.



CARLEEN THOMAS



CARLEEN

A member of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, Carleen Thomas is a leading voice in the fight against the Trans Mountain pipeline and increased tanker traffic in Burrard Inlet.

Thomas was previously an elected council member for her nation, a position she held for sixteen years. In her current role as Treaty Lands and Resources Special Projects Manager, Thomas speaks to all who will listen of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's connections and obligations to its unceded, traditional territory surrounding the Inlet.

Her background as both an educator and grandmother to five grandchildren comes through in the passionate and patient way she advocates for the stewardship and respect of that which sustains us all.

MILITANT MOTHERS OF RAYMUR

MILITANT MOTHERS OF

On 6 January, 1971, a group of women blockaded the railway tracks that run through Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood. For months, they had petitioned the City and the companies that used the tracks to provide a safe crossing for their children. When that proved ineffective, they took to the tracks.

Train officials eventually agreed to stop running trains at times when the children were crossing to go to school and City officials eventually agreed to build a pedestrian overpass. To keep both to their word, the Militant Mothers of Raymur continued to intermittently blockade the tracks until the overpass was built in September of 1971.

The women's grassroots activism led to the eventual creation of Ray-Cam Community Cooperative Centre, which, to this day, provides critical community care for residents of the Downtown Eastside.

dr. durai pal



dr. durai pal **PANDIA**

Originally from Madras, Dr. Durai Pal Pandia studied law in London, England. In 1939, he travelled to British Columbia on a lecture tour.

After hearing him deliver a lecture on Mahatma Gandhi, Kartar Singh and Kapoor Singh Siddoo asked him to remain in British Columbia to assist the South Asian community in their fight for immigration and voting rights.

Much like other Asian immigrant communities, South Asians faced harsh immigration restrictions, resulting in family separations. Dr. Pandia became a leading voice in the abolition of these restrictions. The South Asian community, aided by Dr. Pandia's advocacy, won the franchise in 1947.

Dr. Pandia opened a private practice in Vancouver in 1950 and continued to assist members of the South Asian community with matters of immigration.





JOSEPH SERAPHIM FORTES



JOESEPH SERAPHIM FORTES

Conflicting sources state that Joseph Seraphim "Joe" Fortes was born in either Trinidad or Barbados. Regardless of his birthplace, Vancouver became his home. He arrived in the city in 1885, one year before its incorporation.

Fortes made his home at English Bay. He worked odd jobs, patrolling the beach and teaching children to swim in his spare time. In 1900, the City appointed him its first official lifeguard. Fortes is officially credited with saving 29 lives, though the actual number may be higher.

In 1910, the City honoured Fortes for his years of service to the public, presenting him with a cheque and a gold watch. A record-breaking funeral service was held for the beloved lifeguard when he died in 1922.



SA7PLEK JOSEPH CAPILANO

SA7PLEK JOSEPH CAPILANO

In 1895, when Sa7plek (Joseph Capilano) became a chief of the Squamish First Nation, the effects of colonization were felt deeply across his community. As a result, Sa7plek advocated strongly for Indigenous rights.

In 1906, with a delegation of Indigenous chiefs, he traveled to England to petition King Edward II. Before departing, Sa7plek was given the name Kiyapalanexw, a hereditary title that indicated he was fit to meet a king.

In their petition, the delegation asked, "we have our families to keep the same as the white man, and we know how to work as well as the white man; then why should we not have the same privileges as the white man?"

Though the king was unresponsive to his party's argument for Indigenous land claims and hunting and fishing rights, Sa7plek continued his advocacy work until his death in 1910. His collaborative efforts inspired the formation of many First Nations coalitions across the province.

CHRIS MORRISSEY



Chris Morrissey is the co-founder of Rainbow Refugee, a non-profit society that supports people seeking refugee protection in Canada because of persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV/AIDS status.

Along with lawyer Rob Hughes, Morrissey founded the society in 2000 after facing great difficulty in sponsoring her life partner's immigration to Canada. Rainbow Refugee has since partnered with the Federal government to direct a national, blended sponsorship program called the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership.

Since 2011, the assistance partnership has helped groups in 25 cities across Canada to become active sponsors. In British Columbia alone, there are 20 active community sponsorship groups, which the society calls Circles of Hope.



GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY

Though not as intersectional as the 2SLGBTQ+ advocacy groups we see today, Gay Alliance Toward Equality was the main gay rights activist group in Vancouver from 1971 to 1980.

GATE advocated for civil rights for gays and lesbians through lobbying, litigation, and public pickets and demonstrations. It was especially active in speaking out against police harassment and violence, as well as censorship.

When the *Vancouver Sun* refused to publish a GATE advertisement, it filed a human rights complaint, leading to a fight that went to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Though the Court ultimately sided with the *Sun*, GATE's courage and willingness to speak to the injustices faced by the gay community laid the groundwork for future organizations.

gertrude GUERIN



GERTRUDE

Born into the Squamish First Nation on her mother's side, Gertrude Guerin married into the Musqueam First Nation when she wed Victor Guerin in 1936.

It was within this community that Gertrude became active in advocating for the rights of Indigenous people. This led to her election as Musqueam chief in 1959; she was the first woman to serve as an elected chief in Canada.

Keenly aware of the challenges faced by Vancouver's urban Indigenous population, Guerin was a founding member of the Vancouver Police and Native Liaison Society, founded what is now the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, and helped to establish what is now the Native Education College.

Guerin was also an appellant in the 1984 Supreme Court of Canada case *R. v. Guerin,* the ruling of which established the Federal government's fiduciary duty to First Nations.



ARJAN SINGH BRAR

ARJAN SINGH BRAR

Arjan Singh Brar arrived in Canada in 1926 and quickly became involved with the Khalsa Diwan Society at Vancouver's first *Gurdwara* (Sikh temple). Brar, the Khalsa Diwan Society, and the Gurdwara were all at the heart of Vancouver's early South Asian community.

In his diary, Brar kept a detailed history of the South Asian community in Vancouver, beginning with 1904 (before his arrival) and ending in 1947.

Most significantly, this diary includes an account of the Komagata Maru incident from a South Asian perspective, as well as correspondence between the lawyer for the passengers on the ship and Khalsa Diwan Society.



FRANCES DALRYMPLE BYRON

FRANCES DALRYMPLE BYRON

Frances Dalrymple Byron, often referred to as Sister Frances, arrived in Vancouver in 1887. At the time, there were only a few physicians in the city and Sister Frances worked between them, administering care to maternity patients and patients with infectious diseases and other illnesses.

In 1888, Sister Frances, helped to open St. Luke's Home, located next to St. James' Anglican Church. Soon Sister Frances, along with local doctors, was providing lectures and practical training.

In addition to serving as both a hospital and nurse's school, St. Luke's was also a site of social activism, with Sister Frances and those around her providing nourishment and respite for the poor and displaced.

Sister Frances was recognized by the City for her service in 1929. Frances Street, which runs between Vernon Drive and Victoria Drive, was dedicated in her honour.



DAVID SUZUKI

DAVID SUZUKI

A genetics professor at the University of British Columbia for nearly 40 years, David Suzuki is best known to Vancouverites – and Canadians – as the host of *The Nature of Things* on CBC Television. The series premiered in 1979 and still airs today.

Through his work on television, as well as advocacy work for environmental consciousness and climate change awareness, Suzuki has engaged generations of Canadians with the natural world and our connectedness to it.

Suzuki is recognized worldwide as a leader in sustainable ecology. In Canada, he has been honoured with eight names and formal adoption by two First Nations, as well as named a Companion of the Order of Canada.