

Tom Chang

Tom first joined as a Britannia volunteer with his work at the Kickstand Community Bike program. He then expanded his volunteering activities by joining the Volunteer Committee and the Finance Committee. Since 2017, Tom has participated in Britannia's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program; he, along with others, completed tax returns for modest income residents of the Grandview-Woodlands and wider Vancouver areas. He has also volunteered as an instructor, offering beginner computer sessions at the 55+ Centre, and has helped with other special events such as Bicycle Rides, Canada Day, the Grandview Woodland Food Connection potato donation distribution, and has assisted with the annual volunteer appreciation barbecues and dinners.

Susanne Dahlin

Susanne Dahlin has been a resident of Grandview Woodlands for the past 51 years. She raised two boys in the neighborhood and was involved in many community-based activities with her sons including soccer, hockey and baseball. She was active in Family Place, chair of her local Parent Advisory committee, active on the Inner-City Schools Advisory committee and former Chair of the local Traffic Planning Committee.

Susanne joined the Britannia Board of Management after her retirement. This is the sixth time that Susanne is running for the Board. In her terms on the Board, Susanne has been committed to enhancing community engagement and outreach and ensuring that reconciliation informs a core approach of the philosophy and services at Britannia. Susanne is the Chair of the Planning and Development committee, a position she shares with Annie Danilko. In that capacity she has worked tirelessly with community partners and the community to ensure the future redevelopment of Britannia responds to the current and future needs of residents, while building on the visions of the founders.

Pamela Dudas

Pamela was born and raised in Vancouver and has lived in the Grandview Woodlands Neighbourhood for over 40 years. She has served on the Britannia Community Centre Services Board for the past 6 years and has been the Vice-President for the past 3 years. She is chair of the Board Development, Pool & Fitness, and Volunteer Committees and also sits on the Finance, Planning & Development, and various board working groups.

Pamela's passions besides BCCSS are physical fitness and triathlon. She is the current World Champion for her age group in Long Distance Triathlon (Ibiza, Spain) held May 2023. Employed as an Accountant, she has worked in many not for profit societies as well government and private organizations throughout her career.

Ariela Friedmann

I believe in volunteering, and social and ethical justice—and I walk the talk. Though I work full-time in non-profit, I have always been actively engaged in community service, especially in the Grandview Woodland area where I've resided gratefully on these unceded lands since 1999. I have served my first two-year term as a Britannia Board member, and would like to continue. There is such a huge learning curve and so much more I want to learn, do, and give back. In addition to being on the Board, I am an active committee volunteer on the Anti-racism & Anti-Oppression Committee, Pool & Fitness Committee, Arts & Culture Committee, and have just joined in the Reconciliation in Action Committee.

Beyond Britannia, I am also an active volunteer with The Cultch and York Theatres, and Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, which stages at the Rio. I am a regular patron of the Britannia Centre and partake in various programs and services. Living just a few blocks away, Britannia is part of my community and network—and what happens at Britannia is really a reflection of this amazing, diverse neighbourhood. I currently lead the Communications and Marketing function at MOSAIC. Previously, I led Communications and Marketing at the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. I have a combined degree, Bachelor of Journalism and English, from Carleton University and have purposefully chosen to remain in non-profit communications as a way to give back to community. Civic and social engagement are our responsibility, and I would be proud to continue serving on the Britannia Board.

Vera Jones

I want to acknowledge my Creator and the ancestors of this land—the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh)—for allowing me on their territory to do the good work required of me. I am a board member for the Britannia Community Centre and an Indigenous Nisga'a Elder. I enjoy my work; as part of the reconciliation process I work closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members wherever I am required. I have sat on the board for Vancouver Native Housing Society for years. I keep my ties with the Nisga'a organization here in Vancouver. I am also an Indian Residential School Survivor of 14 years. I am committed to my self-healing as I choose to be a good example for Indigenous community members and especially to my immediate family. I work with the Indian Residential School Survivor Society as a support worker and work closely with survivors and their families. I remain involved with activities such as Indigenous Days; the Nisga'a Hoobiyee (New Year) Celebration; powwows; and community activities, workshops and meetings.

My immediate concern is for the Indigenous Elders and seniors within the East Vancouver area. I am happy that seniors have a go-to place at Britannia's 55+ Centre. Through my involvement with the 55+ Centre, I have gained a very keen interest in what's at stake for Elders and the seniors. I have gotten to meet other community members my age by attending SEA meetings and I feel that we share a common bond. Thank you for your time. Thank you Creator. All my relations.

Nicki Simpson

I grew up in East Van; I moved around a lot, but came back to the neighbourhood in 2019 with the plan to stay and start a family here. Me, my husband, and our big scruffy dog live on the Drive and enjoy sunny afternoons in Grandview Park. I wanted to get involved and community centres are a perfect place to meet everyone in your neighbourhood.

I learned how to swim and share toys in a community centre, and I know how important it is to have a space that serves everyone—so I joined the Board of the Trout Lake Community Centre as a Director in 2019. I became a Vice-President in 2020, then left when I moved closer to Britannia. I learned a lot about the community centre and about being on a board, and I'm grateful to the other volunteers who taught me how it all works. I also have professional experience supporting the board of a non-profit, and I currently do policy work for the government. I hope to be able to use this experience to support the work of the community centre, organize events, and help create a space that the community can use and enjoy.

Terumi Squibb

I've lived a couple of blocks from Britannia since 2005. I've been working in housing since 2006, independently. I also have been involved in assisted care off and on for about 10 years for folks who live with cerebral palsy. I once was a visual artist and have kept up a practice through my photography. I was born in so-called Vancouver and am of the Asian diaspora but move in diverse circles personally and professionally. I am passionate about equity, inclusion and accessibility. I try to apply these values in as many facets of my life and work with an intersectional and disability justice lens. I find ways to do this by uplifting, assisting and amplifying those who have been historically under-represented or are currently.

Since last autumn, I've been sitting on two committees at Britannia; the Arts & Culture and the Anti-oppression Committees. My presence has been consistent with both and has led to some connections that I feel so grateful to now have. I hope to bring a nuanced, culturally informed perspective to the Board and I am eager to learn how I can be a more active member at Britannia if I am elected to sit on the Board of Directors. I hope to be of valuable service to our community centre and staff through my commitment and time here. Thanks so much for hearing and considering me.