

11th Annual
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25
UNDER 25

April 22, 2021
5:30 - 6:30pm

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HOSTED BY





DOUG TENNANT
Surrey Board of Trade
Chair, 2019-2021

Good evening and welcome to the Surrey Board of Trade's 11th Annual Surrey's Top 25 Under 25 Awards.

Through these awards, the Surrey Board of Trade recognizes business and community minded individuals under the age of 25, either working in Surrey or working on a business or community related project in or for Surrey.

Our ongoing philosophy is to create entrepreneurship pathways including creating a holistic roadmap and focus on youth entrepreneurship and leadership. It isn't only about building a career; it is about creating innovative skill sets and building the jobs of tomorrow.

Nearly 40% of Surrey's population is under the age of 30. This puts our city in a unique position to harness the innovation that these youth bring to the table. Through specialized programs starting in grade 4, we're engaging youth with our business community. These are our future business owners and business leaders.

The Surrey Board of Trade has 3,000 business members, representing 6,000 business contacts and over 60,000 employees. We support business, attract business and improve economic efficiencies for business through a diversified service portfolio. The Surrey Board of Trade is the go-to place for business resources and information. We believe that transportation and education are the two economic foundations of building a city.

I congratulate all the winners today. You are truly leading the way in Surrey. You are important role models for your peers, and for the business community. Well done!

AGENDA

Welcome: Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade

Master of Ceremonies: Dan Burritt, CBC Vancouver

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Co-Presenting Sponsor - Varsha Mannar

SFU Beedie School of Business, Co-Presenting Sponsor - Peter Tingling

Congratulatory Remarks: Councillor Laurie Guerra, City of Surrey

Awards Presentations

Health and Safety Award Introduction: Chris Back, WorkSafeBC

Health and Safety Award Presentation: Al Dickens, Murray Latta Progressive Machine

Closing Remarks

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2021 WINNERS

Name: Natasha Burgert

Organization: Solar Electric Vehicle: A Sustainable Transport

Age: 19

Natasha is the brain behind Solar Electric Vehicle: A Sustainable Transport. Her project first gained recognition through achievements at the 2018 South Fraser Regional Science Fair. Natasha received the BC Hydro Power Pioneers Award, the BC Innovation Council Young Innovator Scholarship, the Michael Crooks Physics Prize, the People's Choice Award, where she received a Gold Medal. She advanced onto the Canada Wide Science Fair, where the project earned a Bronze Medal in Environmental Engineering. In 2019, Natasha represented Canada at the 2019 Taiwan International Science Fair. Here, the Solar EV won third place in Environmental Engineering and represented Surrey, BC, and Canada as international innovation leaders. In the same year, Solar EV received the Ted Rogers Innovation Award at the BC Tech Summit. Currently, Natasha is pursuing a Bachelor of Science (Honours) with a specialization in Earth system science at Queen's University.

Name: Adrija Chakrabarti

Organization: Mentoring the Stars Foundation & Hearts of BC Foundation

Age: 21

Adrija is Co-Founder of Mentoring the Stars Foundation and Hearts of B.C. Foundation. These registered non-profit organizations diligently serve Surrey and the rest of British Columbia. They are committed to providing universal no-cost tutoring and improving patient outcomes of sudden cardiac arrest in B.C. Adrija has demonstrated incredible commitment to community education and healthcare innovation through a vast arsenal of leadership experiences. With her leadership, they collaborated with Carillon Music Academy, Tapestry Living Wesbrook, Strong Healthy Kids, UBC Jumpstart Orientations, UBC Neuroscience Club, UBC Circle K International, Kiwanis Club of Vancouver, and the UBC Let's Talk Science. Adrija is currently a fourth-year Behavioural Neuroscience student at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Govind Deol

Organization: Camp Next & Surrey Centre Youth Council

Age: 18

Govind is a community leader who makes a difference each day in the lives of the people he works with in the community. As a student at LA Matheson Secondary, and more recently as a student with the University of British Columbia-Okanagan, he strives to help underserved constituents find their footing and flourish as empowered community residents. Govind is one of the 2020 recipients of the Loran Scholars Foundation. He is working towards a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in biochemistry. He plans to attend the UBC Faculty of Medicine to pursue a career either as an anaesthesiologist, paediatrician, or orthopaedic surgeon.

Name: Karanvir Dhillon

Organization: Humanitarian Society of Vancouver

Age: 20

Karanvir is the Founder and President of the Humanitarian Society of Vancouver. This non-profit organization aims to create volunteer opportunities within the Lower Mainland and addresses social issues relevant to the community. With a team of 25+ volunteers, he has organized large-scale events including the COVID-19 Mask Drive, Crescent Beach Clean-up, Feed the Need event supporting Whalley's homeless and Toys for Joy drive dedicated to donating toys to the BC Children's Hospital. They have initiated a conversation on disability, mental well-being, homelessness, education, health, and our environment through awareness campaigns and our social media platforms. Presently, Karanvir is pursuing a bachelor's degree in integrated sciences at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Sukhraj Dhunna

Organization: Leaders Inspiring Neighbouring Communities (LINC) Organization

Age: 18

Community activist, humanitarian, and philanthropist are what defines Sukhraj. He has grown up and attended an inner-city school and flourished as a school and community leader. His drive led him to co-found two business enterprises by the age of 17 and founded a global non-profit organization – the Leaders Inspiring Neighbouring Communities Organization that reaches youth locally and internationally to give youth the leadership skills and resources to fight for social issues. Developing a passion for aiding his community, Sukhraj plans to attend KPU and BCIT to study architecture and open a firm to build housing for low-income families and individuals in Surrey.

Name: Michael Hong

Organization: Unitiate

Age: 22

Michael is a charismatic individual with a highly positive attitude, a heart for others, and the ability to approach problems from an engineering and business perspective. Equipped with these traits, he founded Unitiate, a platform accessible to high school students to receive free mentorship for streamlining and alleviating fears around university transitions. Michael leads the organization and is always willing to step back to allow others to shine. He also displays a strong sense of obligation to those less fortunate as he wants others to receive the support they need to find their success. Michael is currently in his 5th year at Simon Fraser University, majoring in business administration with a concentration in accounting and entrepreneurship.

Name: Sally Jiao
Organization: UBC Hope
Age: 19

Sally serves as a mentor recruiter and organizer at UBC Hope. Driven by an innate curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, Sally is an organized and passionate self-starter who strives for constant improvement in every subject. She persists in the face of adversity, and she is not afraid to challenge the status quo in pursuit of personal development. When Sally moved to Canada in grade 6, she spoke no English and her teachers expressed concern over the language barriers that she would have to overcome. Instead of conceding, she saw the challenge as fuel and became a twice-published poet. She finished secondary core courses two years early to work as a part-time tutor for senior students at Math4Me. Sally's unique combination of grit and determination has tremendously contributed to her continuous success in her academic and leadership endeavours. Sally is now in her 2nd year at UBC Sauder School of Business.

Name: Anchal Kataria
Organization: Spread a Smile BC
Age: 21

Anchal is the Co-Founder and current President of Spread a Smile BC. Under Anchal's leadership, Spread a Smile has helped hundreds of Surrey individuals acquire access to free dental services and resources. She has already proven to be a positive force in Surrey, but her plans to provide free dental care for all less fortunate individuals in Surrey is what truly makes her outstanding. Currently, Anchal is in her fourth year of her Bachelor of Science Degree at UBC, pursuing a combined major in chemistry, earth science and life science.

Name: Yashmeet Kaur
Organization: Students Overcoming Opioid Use Disorder and Addictions
Age: 24

Yashmeet is Co-Founder and Co-Director of the student-led organization called Students Overcoming Opioid Disorder and Addictions. She reaches out to South Asian women of various age groups and educates them in a culturally appropriate way. She captivates their attention while training them on how to respond to an overdose. As a woman, she understands other women's sentiments and provides them emotional support. Although Yashmeet has to face many challenges, her resilience and passion for serving communities in harsh times led her to surpass all hurdles and spread the message. Yashmeet attends Kwantlen Polytechnic University, completing her Associate Degree in General Science and is currently pursuing her undergraduate studies in biology with aspirations to become a pharmacist.

Name: Tavleen Kaur Ramgarhia
Organization: Sikh Health Foundation
Age: 22

Tavleen is a Volunteer Coordinator for the Sikh Health Foundation's COVID-19 Sikh Gurdwara Initiative, which focuses on public health education in the South Asian community. The COVID-19 Sikh Gurdwara Initiative concentrates on three main aspects of public health protocols: hand hygiene, physical distancing and wearing a mask. Tavleen's leadership and communication skills from her various volunteer positions and her three years of experience in managing volunteers with the Canadian Cancer Society allowed her to excel in her current role. Her experiences with recruitment, engagement and leading a large number of volunteers were evident as she performed her duties on-site with the community and volunteers. Tavleen graduated with her Bachelor of Science, Degree majoring in biology, from the UBC. Currently, she is taking a physical chemistry and biochemistry courses as prerequisites for graduate programs in the future.

Name: Tavisha Kochhar
Organization: Tavisha's Helping Hand
Age: 15

At age 15, Tavisha's deep concern for others and passion for taking on leadership roles, both in her local and global communities, has led her to establish Tavisha's Helping Hand in 2017. Her mission is to save the environment and raise funds for charities. When COVID-19 hit, she donated hand-made masks and raised over \$6,000 for the Surrey Hospitals Foundation, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundations, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, BC Children's Hospital Foundation, BC Cancer Foundation, and the Canadian Mental Health Association. She has also donated funds to the Canadian Red Cross for the Australian Wildfire in 2020 and regularly supported the Make A Wish Foundation by making beautiful art pieces out of recyclables. Tavisha, also a competitive swimmer, is currently a grade 10 student at Sullivan Heights Secondary School.

Name: Carissa Konesky
Organization: I Am Tenacious & Girl Guides of Canada
Age: 25

Carissa has held community leadership roles in the Lower Mainland for over 10 years. Over these past years, she balanced work, school, and many volunteer commitments, including being a dedicated member of the Girl Guides of Canada. During the pandemic, Carissa used the knowledge from her community involvement to create mental health resources for youth, which turned into the I Am Tenacious program's founding. The program has reached almost 350 youth in six months in Surrey, the Fraser Valley, and all of Canada. Youth programming has helped her with her own mental health and self-confidence, and she is always striving to develop similar opportunities for other youth. Carissa completed the Global Stewardship Program from Capilano University and completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in gender studies and psychology at SFU. Recently, she earned an Associate Certificate in non-profit management from BCIT.

Name: Graydon Lawson
Organization: ReduceWasteNow
Age: 21


Graydon Lawson is a passionate environmental activist who founded ReduceWasteNow, a social enterprise to help people live more sustainably, and an online store that offers sustainable alternatives to everyday products. Since its inception in 2018, ReduceWasteNow has amassed over 325,000 followers on social media. Graydon has spoken at Marvell Semiconductor's Annual Go Green Expo, worked with the United Nations World Food Programme and Imperfect Foods, and co-wrote a children's book about sustainability. He is also a member of the League of Innovators, a Canadian national charity that recognizes and empowers young innovators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers who tackle the world's most significant problems. He is currently in his second year at the University of Victoria, studying economics.

Name: Harpo Mander
Organization: Brown Girl Guilt
Age: 24

Harpo's vulnerability as the Founder and Host of Brown Girl Guilt, a podcast, blog and online community, is what makes her most unique. She is not afraid to reveal her deepest insecurities and uses her own life experiences as a starting point for striking conversations and telling stories. She's willing to have challenging discussions, but instead of starting outward, she's beginning inward. Harpo puts her journey through self-love on full display for her community to inspire others to start with themselves first. Harpo has a joint major degree - a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and gender, sexuality and women's studies from SFU, as well as a Certificate of Social Justice. Most recently, Harpo completed a Master of Arts Degree in education and society, gender and women's studies from McGill University.

Name: Tilyna Pawer
Organization: SFU-LYFE
Age: 22

Tilyna is a Co-Founder and current President of SFU LYFE, a non-profit entrepreneurial venture that integrates both personal and professional development on the same platform. From a solely SFU Surrey-based organization, their community presence has now grown to encompass members and executives from all over the Lower Mainland. Among her numerous recognitions and awards, she is a recipient of the 2020 and 2021 Rocky Mountaineer Award for Entrepreneurship and the 2020 Scotiabank Social Innovation Awardee. She is also a national elite figure skater. Currently, Tilyna is completing her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree at Simon Fraser University.



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Name: Jerry Pol (also the recipient of the Health & Safety Award)

Organization: Caliber Projects Ltd.

Age: 24

Jerry is the Business Development Manager of Caliber Projects Ltd. He started his career as a labourer on residential townhome sites in Surrey and Langley. From 3 employees, Jerry helped grow the company to over 43 employees working on mixed-use, multi-family, and commercial projects primarily in Surrey and Langley and across the Fraser Valley. He has been active in the community by volunteering and raising money for Nightshift Street Ministries, Youth Unlimited, Wagner Hills, Stepping Stones Bible Camp and the Surrey Christmas Bureau. Jerry leads the Young People's Church group called LYFE Project and leads a church conference with 180 members. He serves on the board and committees for the Homebuilders Association of Vancouver (HAVAN), the Urban Development Institute, Stepping Stones, Advocate, and Nightshift Street Ministries. He has taken the lead on the fundraising and physical construction of an outdoor classroom for Willoughby Elementary School in Langley. Jerry received his Diploma of Business Administration at the University of Fraser Valley and Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management from BCIT.

Name: Gunreet Sethi

Organization: Voices of Hope Foundation

Age: 21

Gunreet is the Director of the Voices for Hope Foundation. The organization aims to challenge the stigma surrounding mental health by hosting educational initiatives and advocacy. It also provides a safe space and platform for those with mental health and addiction struggles, those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour and LGBTQ+ to share their experiences and empower and equip them with the resources and tools for healthy healing. Gunreet is a recipient of several awards and recognitions, including the Louie Entrance Awards from Simon Fraser University, Surrey District Dogwood Award, the PAC Kanata Award, and the Surrey Firefighters Award, an honour of her dedication to altruism. She is now in the third year of her arts and social sciences degree at the SFU.

Name: Stuti Sharma

Organization: The Learning Bridge

Age: 16

Stuti is a community-minded individual who has embarked on several projects and participated in many volunteer opportunities to help others. Her passion for helping students who struggled with online learning during the school shutdown in early 2020 led her to create The Learning Bridge. This platform is a free online tutoring service, with students helping other students, for elementary-aged girls who might need encouragement to go into STEM fields. She planned and executed STEMposium workshops and led a team of forty members to curate care packages for her community. Stuti is currently pursuing her IB Diploma at Semiahmoo Secondary, with a full course load of 6 university-level courses. Being an academically gifted student, she will be graduating high school two years early, this June at 16 years old.



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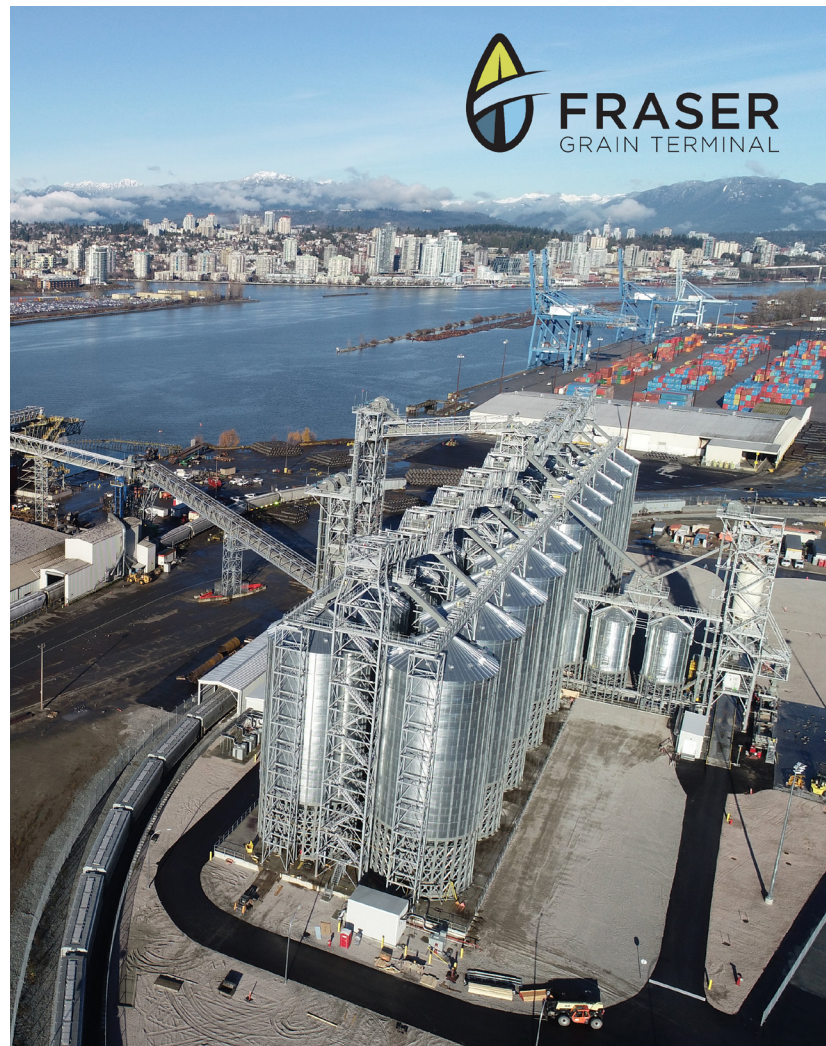
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Name: Darshpreet Singh Badyal
Organization: Unitate
Age: 20

Darshpreet is the President and Co-Founder of Unitate, a non-profit organization established during the pandemic to provide high school students with a mentorship program that allows them to be confident with the program they will pursue in post-secondary. Unitate operates as an online platform enabling students from across the Lower Mainland to participate and benefit from mentorship, crash courses, workshops, and volunteering opportunities. Apart from Unitate, Darshpreet is the Vice-President of Investment Club, an organization that offers financial literacy in investments such as stocks, bonds, ETFs, and real estate. Additionally, he is the appointed Director of Youth in the Electoral Riding Association of Fleetwood-Port Kells. Currently, he is a third-year student of Beedie School of Business at SFU, concentrating in accounting and management information systems.

Name: Tajdeep Singh Sandhu
Organization: Students Overcoming Opioid Use Disorder and Addictions
Age: 219

Tajdeep is the Co-Director of Students Overcoming Opioid Use Disorder & Addictions. This organization is an initiative of the South Asian Mental Health Alliance whose mission is to spread awareness about the opioid crisis in BC and provide information on opioid overdose response and prevention. Aside from being a student leader, Tajdeep has a stellar academic track record. He is a recipient of the UBC Trek Excellence Scholarship, UBC Tuum Est Experiential Award, and scholarships from Alexandra Foundation, the Indo-Canadian Business Association of BC, Surrey Pre-Trial Services, BC Achievement Scholarship and the BC District/Authority Scholarship. Presently, he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Gabriel Soares
Organization: Moment Energy & Team Phantom
Age: 24

Gabriel is a Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Moment Energy, a Surrey start-up whose mission is to provide worldwide access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity. As the Chief Technology Officer, he provides direction from both a technical and non-technical viewpoint to successfully navigate the company. Gabriel graduated from Simon Fraser University in the Mechatronic Systems Engineering program with first class distinction. He was selected as one of 20 Canadian students to be a part of the Huawei Seeds for the Future Program in 2017. He landed a prestigious co-op placement at Intel and Tesla. He learned electrical design and took his knowledge to Moment Energy and Team Phantom, where he mentored students to increase their chances of being hired and understanding the cleantech space.

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Name: Vivian Tan
Organization: YOUth of BC
Age: 17

Vivian is an outstanding social entrepreneur and public speaker with a solid drive to improve herself and assist others with their self-development journeys despite financial, race, gender and mental health barriers. She founded Youth of BC, a non-profit organization to foster self-development in today's youth through tailored opportunities and post-secondary preparation. Currently, she is a grade 11 student in RC Palmer Secondary.

Name: Prabhvir Tiwana
Organization: KidsPlay Youth Foundation
Age: 24

Prabhvir is the Chief Operating Officer of KidsPlay Youth Foundation, a non-profit organization working towards keeping kids away from the lifestyle of drugs, gangs, and violence. Through KidsPlay, he has learned valuable skills and moral lessons that have shown him the harsh realities of the world and how he could extend help to young people. He has held multiple events in the community ranging from sports, education, mentorship and environment. He has overseen forums on anti-racism, bullying prevention, drug and gang prevention and women empowerment to spread awareness of the ongoing issues that affect the community, helping to determine avenues to resolve these deep-seated problems. Prabhvir is currently studying at Kwantlen Polytechnic University with the focus of becoming a police officer.

Name: Vedanshi Vala
Organization: BOLT Safety Society
Age: 19

Vedanshi is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of BOLT Safety Society, a federally registered not-for-profit in Canada, with significant work in the Surrey community. The society works with local community experts, organizations, and businesses to create a supportive community for intimate partner violence survivors and to flip the victim-blaming narrative. BOLT also provides free access to safety and self-defence tips and tutorials, information on critical support services, and guidelines on responding to specific scenarios on their mobile platform on the WIX mobile app. In recognition of her community-focused work, she was recently awarded the Leadership Champion for the Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital Foundation's Outstanding Young Ambassadors Award. She is also a recipient of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, presented by the Lieutenant Governor of BC, one of Canada's most prestigious youth awards. Vedanshi is currently a second-year student in the Bachelor of Science Degree program at the University of British Columbia, pursuing a major in integrated sciences.

Name: Esther Zhang
Organization: The Learning Bridge
Age: 17

In 2020, amidst the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, Esther co-founded The Learning Bridge, a non-profit organization that provides free, one-on-one tutoring to all students from kindergarten to grade 12. The Learning Bridge offers free tutoring and provides volunteer hours for eager teens to learn, grow, and strive. With her excellent team and 400 volunteers, they have impacted close to 1,000 lives and tutored over 500 students. The Learning Bridge is an example of what the youth can accomplish by standing in solidarity. Esther is also a Director at Large for the British Columbia Young Liberals and serves as Vice Chair on the South Surrey White Rock Young Liberals' communications team. She is a Senior Journalist at the Pontem News and the Head of Articles, where she leads a group of 20 passionate youth who write editorials, articles and coverage on current events. Esther is currently pursuing law at Durham University.



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