

## **BACKGROUNDER: 2007 ORDER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA RECIPIENTS**

### **Michael Audain – West Vancouver**

Mr. Michael Audain is a philanthropist and businessman who is a generous supporter of visual arts and culture in British Columbia and throughout Canada.

Mr. Audain is past-president of the Vancouver Art Gallery, and chair of the Vancouver Art Gallery Foundation, through which he has provided financial assistance to aid in the promotion of art in BC. His dedicated efforts and commitment to the arts has helped to ensure the success of numerous major exhibitions and programs at art galleries in Vancouver and Victoria.

An avid art collector, Mr. Audain has assisted many local artists by purchasing and promoting their work. He is dedicated to raising awareness of Canada's artists, and his efforts to promote and sustain the cultural heritage of BC artists is well-known. Mr. Audain is a benefactor to the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, the Evergreen Cultural Centre, and the Belkin Art Gallery. He also supports the Artists for Kids Trust, which provides art enrichment to thousands of children annually in the Vancouver School District.

Mr. Audain is a Governor of the Business Council of BC, and past-president of the Urban Development Institute.

### **Sudarshan Bakshi - Richmond**

Sudarshan Bakshi is widely known throughout British Columbia's South Asian community for his leadership and volunteer service. As the father of five daughters, Mr. Bakshi decided to help young women in Canada and India. He sent money to Indian charities to help young women who were considered 'throwaways' and he assisted poor families struggling to deal with the dowry system.

By the 1990s, Mr. Bakshi took his charitable efforts to the lumber mill where he worked, organizing a charity lunch that raised funds for BC's Children's Hospital. Success led him to found the Janta Sewal Society, dedicated to assisting under-funded charities. Through this mechanism, he has raised more than \$400,000 to assist charities in British Columbia and India.

Mr. Bakshi has worked to increase understanding and tolerance between cultural groups including courageous efforts to heal wounds between Sikhs and Hindus. He is a founding member of the South Asian Human Rights Organization which builds bridges between factions, religions and countries.

## **Iain Baxter&, O.C. – Vancouver \ Windsor, Ont.**

Iain Baxter& has created an immense artistic legacy from photo conceptualism, a form of art that emphasizes ideas over images. It was the first global art movement of the postwar era. He has gained international recognition and paved the way for an entire generation of photo-conceptual artists, known as the Vancouver School, whose works reside in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

His works are currently part of the immense Sixties exhibition in the National Gallery of Canada. Many of his works are in the permanent collections of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Belkin Gallery at UBC. His work also hangs in such prestigious collections as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague.

Mr. Baxter& studied in the US and Japan before becoming an assistant professor at the University of BC in 1964. A year later he moved to Simon Fraser University when it opened, designed its logo and set up the Centre for Communications and the Arts. Then began almost two decades of travel and visiting lectureships from his base in Vancouver to London, England, Venice, Toronto, the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, and the Alberta College of Art. He is now retired from academia but remains actively involved in his artistic career.

## **Larry Bell - Vancouver**

Larry Bell has made an extraordinary contribution to British Columbia. He has advised and participated in the creation of public policy and the reshaping of government, he has provided strong leadership to service organizations and to critical public institutions.

Mr. Bell has served several times as a deputy minister in British Columbia's government, and has provided outstanding leadership as chair and CEO of B.C. Hydro. As board chair, he continues to lead that corporation with the same energy as when he joined the corporation nearly 20 years ago.

He has served on the boards of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Board of Trade, International Forest Products, Miramar Mining Corporation, Wheaton River Minerals, and the Conference Board of Canada. He has been chair and president of the Westar Group and CEO of Vancouver City Savings Credit Union.

He has also served with distinction in a variety of volunteer positions, including the board of governors of the University of British Columbia and the boards of Vancouver Hospital Foundation and the B.C. Transplant Society Board of Trustees, and acted as general campaign chair for the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

He is a passionate, energetic and rigorous agent of change and transformation, always motivated by the broader interests of Canada and British Columbia.

### **The Honourable William Richards Bennett, P.C. - Kelowna**

Mr. William (Bill) Bennett served as Premier of British Columbia from 1975 to 1986, leading our province through challenging economic times and leaving office with the province stronger. Accomplishments during his years as Premier included Expo 86, Skytrain, the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, the Coquihalla Highway, the development of Whistler Resort, and the Alex Fraser Bridge.

Born and raised in Kelowna, Mr. Bennett operated several local businesses and was active in community and charitable organizations. Upon his father's resignation from politics, Mr. Bennett won a seat in the British Columbia Legislative Assembly in 1973 and, in 1975, was elected Premier. He was re-elected Premier in 1979 and 1983.

Mr. Bennett is a builder, an optimist and a pragmatist who brought a clear vision for British Columbia to his role as Premier. He has a natural knack of generating enthusiasm in others and broadening thinking to make dreams come true.

The new Okanagan Lake Bridge has been named William R. Bennett Bridge, recognizing Mr. Bennett's service to the province.

### **Dr. John Blatherwick, C.M. – New Westminster**

A catalyst and innovator for positive public health change in British Columbia, Dr. John Blatherwick has served as a medical health officer – and a strong voice for improved health – in B.C. for 36 years.

Dr. Blatherwick is known for his strong stands on tobacco use in the workplace, harm reduction programs for injection drug users, safe sex, and AIDS care, among many others. He has always put people first, leading improvements to drinking water treatment in the Vancouver area, introducing new immunization programs, and introducing school health initiatives that have improved the health of all school children.

His involvement extends into many areas of health, including taking the lead for Vancouver Coastal Health in Olympic medical planning. He served for 39 years in the Canadian Forces Reserves and represented Canada for six years at NATO as the head of the Canadian Forces Reserve Medical Group.

Dr. Blatherwick has been uniquely skilled at turning complex medical information into straightforward messages that he has delivered with skill to the public, making effective use of the news media.

Dr. Blatherwick has been involved in numerous community boards such as the CKNW Orphan's Fund and the BC Lung Association and in coaching hockey and lacrosse.

### **Max S. Cynader - Vancouver**

Dr. Max Cynader is a world leader in the field of brain research, a scientific entrepreneur, and a generous contributor to his community and society.

Dr. Cynader has made important contributions to our understanding of the functioning of the brain and the visual system. He is Director of Research within the Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. He is also a professor in the departments of Physiology, Psychology and Ophthalmology.

Dr. Cynader has completed influential research on brain development and has applied his scientific talents and discoveries in the 'real world' by founding and nurturing several innovative B.C. companies that develop medical treatments and have generated employment, training and wealth in British Columbia.

As the founding Director of the Brain Research Centre, he has built a multidisciplinary team to create one of the world's top neuroscience centres. This centre has attracted more than 30 new faculty members in its ten years under Dr. Cynader's leadership, and now has 24 Canada Research Chairs among its faculty.

### **Gordon Robert Diamond - Vancouver**

A highly successful business leader, Gordon Diamond has used his success to benefit numerous deserving organizations in his community, his province and his country.

Born and raised in British Columbia, Mr. Diamond transformed his family's business into a modern success story. As chair and chief executive officer of West Coast Reduction Ltd., Mr. Diamond has taken a broad, community-minded view, which is demonstrated by that company's position on the cutting edge of technology and its significant investments to protect the environment around its plants.

Mr. Diamond and his wife established the Diamond Foundation, through which they have made many generous donations to their community. These include the donation of a building worth \$4 million to the B.C. Cancer Foundation, \$20 million to the Vancouver Hospital Foundation, financing of the entire cost of building the King David High School in Vancouver, and the endowment of a chair in Jewish Law and Ethics at the University of British Columbia.

Between 1984 and 2006, the foundation donated more than \$10 million to several B.C.-based charities. Mr. Diamond has supported many projects at Simon Fraser University, including the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, reflecting his understanding the value of dialogue as a way of building better communities.

## **B. Brett Finlay, O.C. - Vancouver**

Dr. Brett Finlay is an international leader in the field of microbial pathogenesis and has pioneered new approaches to food and water-borne diseases caused by bacteria. As a professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories at the University of British Columbia, he has combined animal cell biology and microbiology to establish the new field of cellular microbiology and take major strides forward in infectious disease research.

Dr. Finlay has translated research into useful products that protect public health. His research is highly creative, interdisciplinary, hugely productive, and full of significance to the general public.

He initiated the Canadian Coalition for Safe Food and Water to foster research on improved food and water safety, dealing with issues such as antimicrobial resistance and bioterrorism. Following the devastating outbreak of SARS worldwide, Dr. Finlay led an effort to develop a human vaccine. Rather than the usual ten-year vaccine development cycle, he pushed research forward to develop three prototype SARS vaccines within six months and a new vaccine to be selected within a year.

Dr. Finlay has an exceptional record of training graduate students and building goodwill internationally. He is a gifted leader who in times of crisis can inspire and coordinate the activities of scientists and policy makers to respond effectively to emerging infectious disease.

## **Gloria M. Gutman - Vancouver**

Dr. Gloria M. Gutman is an internationally known and respected educator, author, consultant and advocate, who has devoted her career to improving the quality of life for the elderly. Dr. Gutman pioneered the field of gerontology in British Columbia, developing the Gerontology Research Centre, and the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University, serving as director of both for over 20 years.

Dr. Gutman's research interests include seniors' housing, long-term care, health promotion, dementia care, and environmental design. She has served as a consultant to the B.C. Government and Health Canada. She has also served on several federal-provincial initiatives, and is currently on the executive committee of the BC Network for Aging Research.

Dr. Gutman is active with national and international scholarly and community organizations. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, founding president of the Gerontology Association of BC, past-president of the Canadian Association on Gerontology and the International Association of Gerontology. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the UN International Institute on Aging, and the World Health Organization's Expert Advisory Panel in Aging and Health.

### **Josephine Mary Mills – Mill Bay**

Josephine Mary Mills is a staunch advocate and passionate supporter of children and families living with Down syndrome. She has devoted her career to improving the quality of medical care, education and opportunities in the community for the Down syndrome population. Over the past three decades, she has been instrumental in founding several organizations, and has influenced many individuals to become involved with her plans to help children with Down syndrome maximize their potential.

Ms. Mills' vision and determination has led to the establishment of Down Syndrome International, the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, the Down Syndrome Research Foundation, and several parental support groups throughout Canada. Under her leadership and guidance, the Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF) has become recognized as a leading centre for excellence, benefiting thousands of families and children annually through its programs and services.

Ms. Mills has worked tirelessly to forge relationships with university researchers, medical specialists, corporations, and other organizations that provide service to the Down syndrome and developmental disability community. Due to her efforts, the 9th Annual World Down Syndrome Congress was held in Vancouver in 2006, the first time the conference has been held in Canada.

### **Daphne Odjig, C.M. - Penticton**

Ms. Daphne Odjig is one of Canada's most celebrated and distinctive painters. Her work is in every major collection in Canada, the United States, and throughout Europe. She is a self-taught artist who began her artistic career in her youth. Her vivid paintings reflect historical times from the viewpoint of her own heritage. Through her many successes, she continues to serve as an inspiration and role model for young First Nations people.

In the 1970s in Winnipeg she co-founded the Professional Native Indian Artists Association and the Warehouse Gallery, a huge venture that provided support for emerging Native artists. In 2005, the Kamloops Art Gallery organized an exhibition of her art called Daphne Odjig: Four Decades of Prints, which was also photographed for publication.

Ms. Odjig has been recognized nationally with the Order of Canada, the Aboriginal Achievement Award, and four honorary doctorate degrees from Canadian universities. She is an enchanting and inspired messenger of Aboriginal and modern traditions.

### **Patricia Mathilda Proudfoot - Vancouver**

Judge Patricia Mathilda Proudfoot is a retired Justice of the BC Court of Appeal, who served with distinction as a judge on all levels of court in BC. During her groundbreaking career, she was the first female Judge appointed to the Criminal Division of the Provincial Court, the County Court of BC, and the BC Supreme Court.

Judge Proudfoot served her community in many capacities, including as Commissioner to the Royal Commission into the Incarceration of Female Offenders, a member of the Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth and the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. She was an honorary director of Big Sisters of BC, providing unwavering support of the important role of mentorship between women and young girls.

In addition, Judge Proudfoot has generously volunteered in support of the development and reform of family law in BC by contributing to the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, and through her involvement in the Family Law subsection of the Canadian Bar Association. Throughout her career she has served as a mentor for many women and men in the legal profession. The best evidence of her ability to lead by example has been the increasing numbers of women who have followed Judge Proudfoot onto the bench.

### **James Spencer – Vernon**

Under the leadership and administration of James “Jimmie” Spencer, the Canada West Ski Areas Association has played a significant role in the development of winter sports in BC’s tourism industry. The organization now stretches from British Columbia to Manitoba.

Due largely to Mr. Spencer’s knowledge and experience in the ski world, ski areas have been organized to work together and the industry has developed in a sustainable manner. Mr. Spencer was instrumental in the development of leadership and management programs, and national safety and operational standards. He also introduced annual economic surveys, standardization of signage in ski areas for safety purposes and an Alpine Responsibility Code.

Mr. Spencer has worked closely with governments as the industry’s spokesman in negotiations for Crown lands acquired under BC’s Commercial Alpine Ski Policy. He has also been closely involved with coordinating safety standards with governments. He played a critical role in the support of Selkirk College’s Ski Resort Operations and Management Programs, and was involved with the development of the HeliCat Canada group of heli-skiing and cat-skiing operators.