

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**BC Achievement
Community Award**

**23rd ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED BY
BC ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION**

(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam),
Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał,
(Tsleil-Waututh) / Vancouver, B.C.) April
14, 2026:

Premier David Eby and Walter Pela,
Chair of the [BC Achievement
Foundation](#), today announced the
recipients of the 23rd annual
Community Award. The program
recognizes outstanding British
Columbians whose leadership,
generosity and dedication strengthen
communities across the province.



“Congratulations to the recipients of this year’s Community Award,” said Premier David Eby. “Whether leading grassroots initiatives or mentoring future changemakers, these individuals demonstrate the power of community and the impact of generosity. Their inspiring efforts are an example of what we can achieve together.”

“BC Achievement exists to honour excellence and inspire achievement throughout the province,” said Walter Pela, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. “This year’s recipients embody that mission. Their stories of leadership, service and resilience

remind us that meaningful change begins at the community level, and that every act of contribution helps build a more engaged and vibrant British Columbia.”

This year’s recipients, representing communities throughout British Columbia, are:

- **Damineh Akhavan** — West Vancouver
- **Kit Ashenhurst** — Kaslo
- **John Kehinde Atoyebi** — Vancouver
- **Anita Atwal, K.C.** — Surrey
- **Simon Baker** — Squamish Nation
- **Varun Banthia** — Vancouver
- **Mariel (c̓ín̓ c̓ʷán̓) Belanger** — Okanagan Indian Band / Syilx Nation
- **Don Blakely** — Armstrong
- **Andrea Castro** — Langley
- **Carl Cavanagh** — Victoria
- **Cecilia Ching Yee Leung** — Vancouver
- **Jacquelyn Cragg** — Vancouver
- **Dr. Ramneek Dosanjh** — Delta
- **Beatrice Frank** — Victoria
- **Rosaline Glynn** — Port Hardy
- **Kobe Li** — Vancouver
- **Shelley Magwood** — Cache Creek
- **Jacki McPherson** — Penticton Indian Band
- **Rochelle Prasad** — Surrey
- **Haley Regan, Syilxwa Spuʔus** — Okanagan Nation
- **Chief Willie Sellars** — Williams Lake First Nation
- **Chyanne Trenholm** — Campbell River
- **Crystal White** — Tumbler Ridge
- **Dan & Sandi Wiebe** — Nakusp

The **Mitchell Award of Distinction**, selected by the BC Achievement Foundation Board, recognizes an individual who elevates others through their work and volunteerism. The 2026 recipient is Jacquelyn Cragg, whose work in research, education, and outreach has expanded access to science and created supportive learning environments for youth across the province. Bridging research and community impact, she is also recognized for advancing mentorship initiatives that support youth affected by violence and adversity.

Recipients are selected by an independent jury panel, whose 2026 members include Mayor Spencer Coyne (Princeton), City Councillor and UBCM President Cori Ramsay (Prince George), and program alumni: Susan Scott Gabe (Duncan), Dr. Jane Jae Kyung Shin (Coquitlam), and Upkar Singh Tatlay (Surrey).

The 2026 Community Award recipients will be honoured at a formal presentation ceremony in Victoria, BC on May 6, in the presence of the Honourable Wendy Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. The ceremony will be livestreamed on BC Achievement's website beginning at 2:00 p.m. and will be broadcast on TELUS Optik TV Channel 707 following the event.

Each awardee will receive a medallion designed by Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, and will be celebrated through BC Achievement's #shinethelightbc campaign, sharing their stories of excellence and community impact across the province.

BC Achievement gratefully acknowledges its supporters, including Foundation Platform Partner RBC; Media Partners CFNR, Daily Hive, Miss604, and Stir Magazine; and Connor, Clark & Lunn Financial Group.

Interviews with BC Achievement representatives and award recipients are available upon request. Awardee bios and high-resolution images are available [here](#).

For more information, visit www.bcachievement.com

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About BC Achievement

BC Achievement is an independent foundation established in 2003 that recognizes, celebrates and stewards outstanding British Columbians while elevating their stories of excellence. Through its programs, the foundation inspires others to contribute to stronger, more engaged communities across the province.

BC Achievement Contact

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