

BACKGROUND

Honours and Awards Secretariat
Province of British Columbia

2011 Order of British Columbia recipients

Luigi Aquilini, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Luigi Aquilini is a quintessential B.C. success story. Having come to Canada from Italy in the mid-1950s, he started his own construction company, working in East Vancouver in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1980s he bought and sold older buildings in Vancouver, Ontario and Quebec and then he started to buy land and build new condo towers. Mr. Aquilini has been honoured by the President of the Republic of Italy with the title “Commendatore”. He currently serves as vice president of the “Comitato Degli Italiani All’Estero”.

Through business skill, careful stewardship and strategic moves, Mr. Aquilini built one of Canada’s most successful businesses, Aquilini Investment Group, owning commercial and residential buildings, hotels, farming operations, golf courses, restaurants, a global renewable energy enterprise, and the Vancouver Canucks hockey team.

Amidst this success, Mr. Aquilini has been among British Columbia’s most generous philanthropists. He and his wife Elisa, married 59 years, have contributed to the building of the Italian Gardens at Hastings Park and created the Aquilini Land Conservancy, a 100-hectare nature preserve in the Fraser Valley. He along with his three children and 14 grandchildren, have supported causes related to children such as BC Children’s Hospital, juvenile diabetes research and the Canucks for Kids Fund, and his family formed the Canucks Autism Network.

Peter Baird, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Peter Baird has played an extraordinary role in the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, bringing people together through exhibitions, art, culture, film, policy, international exchanges and politics.

He was at the forefront of treaty negotiations in British Columbia and was an integral member of the federal team that negotiated, finalized and ratified the Nisga'a and Tsawwassen treaties. Mr. Baird has tirelessly promoted respect for Aboriginal aspirations and achievements by supporting and organizing youth development programs, education initiatives, arts exchanges and festivals.

He has also promoted organ transplant campaigns for children, assisted youth to attend summer camps by raising money for a wilderness program in Haida Gwaii, was a founding director of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, an early proponent of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and a long time supporter and contributor to the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Mr. Baird also helped guide the development of Canada's leading Aboriginal finance institution.

He is praised for his international savvy and his compassion in helping young Aboriginal people overcome prejudice and aspire to great goals.

Mr. Baird also championed aboriginal representation at the 2006 Winter Olympics and brokered visits with foreign dignitaries for the Squamish First Nation in advance of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Gordon M. Campbell, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Gordon Campbell has been an exemplary British Columbian in education, business and public service.

From his early days as a teacher in Nigeria to work as a businessman, volunteer, city councillor, president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and mayor of Vancouver, Mr. Campbell has exemplified public service. As M.L.A., Leader of the Opposition and then Premier, he gave selflessly to the betterment of the province, instilling in all of us the importance of public service, pride in where we live and our ability to meet our challenges and grasp our opportunities when we work together.

As Vancouver's mayor, Gordon Campbell helped build the foundations of the city's highly acclaimed liveability. He led the North Shore of False Creek and Burrard Inlet waterfront redevelopments that established the living edge of the city. He presided over the creation of The Hasting Institute, the regional district's Council of Councils, city caucuses, and the regional Creating our Future program.

Working to establish a strong internationally competitive economic foundation for B.C., Mr. Campbell launched a nation-building Pacific Gateway program, investing in world class ports, highways, railways and airports to capture growing Asia Pacific Trade. He led the largest expansion of B.C. Health care and Education services in B.C. history, including the creation of seven new universities.

Under his visionary leadership, British Columbia became a North American leader in tackling climate change and took historic steps to build a New Relationship with First Nations both in British Columbia and across Canada.

Mr. Campbell was instrumental in bringing the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to our province and worked tirelessly to assure the Games belonged to Canadians. The 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver established British Columbia, Canada on the world stage.

Ken Dobell, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Ken Dobell had a lengthy career in public service, deeply involved in projects shaping British Columbia today and for the future.

Mr. Dobell worked with the City of Vancouver on projects such as Expo '86, the redevelopment of False Creek and Lower Mainland emergency planning upgrades. He served as city manager before becoming Translink's chief executive officer, implementing its first strategic transportation plan and initiating planning for the Canada Line.

In 2001, Mr. Dobell became deputy minister to the Premier, managing 30,000 provincial government employees and working on infrastructure projects such as the Canada Line, Pacific Gateway Project, Vancouver Convention Centre, Prince Rupert port development, and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. He took a personal interest in resolving conflicts over the Great Bear Rainforest and in the softwood lumber dispute.

After leaving the public service, Mr. Dobell helped create the Street to Home Foundation and has advised organizations ranging from the BC Lumber Trade Council and Vancouver Airport Authority to Port Metro Vancouver and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

Crystal Dunahee, O.B.C. – Victoria

Crystal Dunahee has lived through personal tragedy and become a community leader and advocate for services to families whose children go missing.

Mrs. Dunahee's son, Michael, disappeared in 1991 when he was four years old. This triggered one of Canada's largest-ever police investigations, generated thousands of tips and remains one of the highest-profile missing children cases.

From this adversity, Mrs. Dunahee emerged as an advocate for missing children's issues, becoming president of Child Find BC. Simply put, she is working to ensure such a tragedy never happens again.

Every year, Mrs. Dunahee and her family organize the Michael Dunahee Keep Hope Alive Drive to raise money for Child Find. Large numbers of people turn out every April to run and walk through the streets of Esquimalt. In 2002, Mrs. Dunahee gave her support to introduce the AMBER Alert system in B.C., which has since been implemented in every province, providing the public with up-to-date information about child abduction using widespread media broadcasts.

Mrs. Dunahee also serves on the board of Child Find Canada.

The Honourable David Emerson, P.C., O.B.C. – Vancouver

David Emerson has contributed greatly to British Columbia's economic success over many years of leadership in both the private and public sectors, serving his province and country with distinction.

Mr. Emerson was the first president and CEO of the Vancouver Airport Authority, overseeing a huge increase in passenger traffic while more than doubling terminal and airside facilities to meet B.C.'s needs for expanded air services. He served as chair and CEO of Canadian Western Bank and president and CEO of Canfor. He was a key player in the resolution of the softwood lumber negotiations. He has served on many boards and advisory committees including those of Telus, Terasen Gas, Finning and BC Ferries.

Mr. Emerson's public sector accomplishments include serving as deputy minister of Finance and deputy minister to the Premier provincially and as Foreign Affairs Minister and International Trade Minister and Industry Minister federally. He was Minister responsible for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and served as chair of the Premier's Economic Advisory Committee.

Yuri Fulmer, O.B.C. – West Vancouver

In just 13 years, Yuri Fulmer built his business from a single A&W franchise to a B.C. company with annual revenues of \$55 million. As president and CEO of one of Canada's largest privately-held food and beverage businesses, Mr. Fulmer is a dynamic and skilled leader.

But it is Mr. Fulmer's remarkable volunteer service and community leadership that sets him apart. He sold his primary operating business in 2010 so he could – at the age of 37 – focus full-time on community endeavours. These include community outreach (United Way, Vancouver Foundation, Surrey Food Bank Society), education (Kwantlen Polytechnic University), women's (Minerva Foundation), children's (Boys & Girls Clubs), and arts (Vancouver Opera) organizations.

Mr. Fulmer leads by example. In five years chairing various organizations and initiatives, Mr. Fulmer has been responsible for raising more than \$100 million. In 2010, his own donations surpassed a cumulative total of \$2 million.

Mr. Fulmer champions philanthropy to a whole new generation, personally delivering that message to secondary and post-secondary students.

Tim Jones, O.B.C. – North Vancouver

Tim Jones epitomizes the dedication and passion of the more than 2500 search and volunteers that serve our Province. Nicknamed "Knuckles" he is seen by his peers as one of the godfathers of the venerable North Shore Rescue (NSR) Team. The work is gruelling, dangerous and unpaid.

Over two decades, Mr. Jones has worked with fellow team members to build NSR into one of North America's premier search and rescue teams, one of the first to use helicopter-based long line rescue, which he co-founded, and to establish protocols to treat hypothermia. Tim's recent accomplishments are the initiation of a kayak team and an area-wide communication system that is also used by other search and rescue teams. He has also helped raise well over \$1 million to fund the team's work.

He has participated in more than 1,400 search and rescue tasks as a search manager, rescue leader and advanced life support paramedic. The team has located more than 1,000 people and saved countless lives. Mr. Jones has and continues to participate and provide his search and rescue leadership and medical skills to incidents in B.C. and northern Washington.

A 50-hour volunteer week is not uncommon for Mr. Jones, only tolerated by an extremely supportive wife Lindsay, daughter Taylor and son Curtis, a fellow NSR team member.

Dr. Phil Muir, O.B.C. – Hazelton

Dr. Phil Muir has served a rural, underserved, largely First Nation community through more than 40 years of encouraging health and wellness.

Dr. Muir has been the anchor of medical practice in Hazelton, helping to attract and retain other physicians, and to develop a new hospital. He has been hospital administrator, clinic administrator, chief of staff and head of clinic, often doubling up on these jobs.

The Hazelton medical group was one of the first B.C. clinics to train family practice residents in a rural area, leading to the development of the Northern Medical Program at University of Northern BC.

Dr. Muir spearheaded an addictions and rehabilitation program, was instrumental in the development of an assisted living facility, and heads up the maintenance of a community garden on the hospital grounds. He provided leadership in advocating for and the operating of a children's rehabilitation home where discharged patients received follow-up, and helped create Skeena Bakery, a sheltered employment bakery.

He served on the board of the local ice arena, and with his church invited a Vietnamese refugee family to settle in Hazelton. Now retired, Dr. Muir continues to serve the Hazelton community.

James O'Rourke, O.B.C. – West Vancouver

For 35 years, James O'Rourke has been one of B.C.'s leaders in mine evaluation, financing development, marketing and mining operations in British Columbia. The many projects he has been connected with have created thousands of jobs.

Mr. O'Rourke was born in Prince George and is a graduate of UBC. He is president and CEO of Copper Mountain Mining Corp., which has recently placed the \$440-million open pit copper mine in production near Princeton.

Mr. O'Rourke worked at many of B.C.'s premier mining projects, including the Endako mine near Fraser Lake, the Gibraltar mine near Williams Lake, the Huckleberry and Equity Silver mines near Houston, Quinsam Coal on Vancouver Island and Similco Copper mine near Princeton.

Through connections with Japanese mining interests, he has fostered relations with Pacific Rim partners.

Mr. O'Rourke led initiatives to improve public facilities in these communities, such as swimming pools, curling rinks and arenas. He was a leader in projects such as Mining for Miracles, which raises funds for the BC Children's Hospital, and Fishing for Kids, which raised money for children's charities.

Karen O'Shannacery, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Karen O'Shannacery has worked for more than four decades seeking solutions and providing comfort to the homeless and disenfranchised of Vancouver's downtown eastside.

Ms. O'Shannacery's compassion for those less fortunate has led to the establishment of quality resources and housing. She has a thorough understanding of the issues, is a tireless advocate for homeless people, a respected, well-spoken leader and a team player who works across boundaries to achieve change.

Among her many successes, Ms. O'Shannacery's has created 17 housing projects, including three multi-use buildings, renovation of two single-room occupancy buildings and the opening of Antoinette Lodge, subsidized housing in Vancouver's downtown eastside. She co-founded a provincial shelter network and was instrumental in the purchase and renovation of New Westminister's former College Place night club, which now serves as a homeless shelter and transitional housing.

Ms. O'Shannacery has served on committees, boards and organizations involved with homelessness, including the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy committee, the Urban Core Workers Community Association and municipal task forces on homelessness in Burnaby, New Westminister and North Vancouver, and she is the original long-standing member of the Metro Vancouver's Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness.

Jim Robson, O.B.C. – Vancouver

Mr. Jim Robson, for many British Columbians, will always be the voice of hockey. One of the most respected people in the sports media field, his work has touched thousands who grew up listening to his voice.

Mr. Robson has had a 47 year broadcasting career, describing baseball, football, basketball, lacrosse, track and field, golf and – of course – hockey. He broadcast more than 2,000 National Hockey League games, connecting B.C. residents with their beloved NHL team.

Mr. Robson broadcast four Stanley Cup finals and five NHL all-star games, but is best remembered for his 24 years of covering the Vancouver Canucks on radio across B.C. During his entire career, he never missed a game due to illness.

Respected equally by his peers, players, coaches, management and, of course, hockey fans, Mr. Robson may be even more popular and beloved than the players and teams he covered. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the game and his opinions are still sought out today by the Canucks and the news media, more than a decade after his retirement.

Baljit Sethi, O.B.C. – Prince George

Mrs. Baljit Sethi has dedicated her life to helping immigrants to Canada and pursuing equality and justice for all Canadians.

She was born in Lahore, India. She immigrated to Canada in 1972. Before coming to Canada, she was a senior instructor counsellor in a reputed community college in India.

In 1974, she began working with the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia as a family counsellor and then as a settlement counsellor, assisting newcomers to Canada with settlement services. In 1976 she founded the Immigrants Services Society of Prince George, now known as the Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society (IMSS).

