Retired Canadian diplomat and successful business leader John Bell is continuing his father’s legacy of advancing Aboriginal education through a planned gift to the First Nations House of Learning.
Retired Canadian diplomat and Corporate Director, John P. Bell, a graduate of UBC Commerce class of 1962, recently provided for a gift in his will to support the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, which is housed in the First Nations Longhouse. His father, businessman and philanthropist Jack Bell, was the lead donor for the Longhouse project which was completed nearly 30 years ago.

“The Longhouse has become a home base for students often from isolated communities and a catalyst for education around Indigenous issues,” says John. “My father’s gift was really quite timely and it has had an impact on many people. In 1989 then UBC president, David Strangway noted there was only one First Nations student registered at UBC. Today there are around 1600 and the number is growing. The Longhouse and the First Nations House of Learning are great catalysts in this process”.

The First Nations House of Learning coordinates UBC’s efforts to increase educational opportunities for Aboriginal people and to meaningfully address issues of importance to Indigenous communities, from language preservation to clean drinking water, through teaching, research and community engagement.

John hopes his planned gift will not only increase the number of Indigenous graduates, but will also support the First Nations House of Learning’s work to ensure that an understanding of Indigenous history—a full and accurate understanding of Canadian history—is part of the education of all UBC students, whatever their field of study.

John’s own passion for supporting Aboriginal communities began when he was 14 and 15 years old working during the summers at the fish cannery at Namu on the BC Central Coast close to Bella Bella, home of the Heiltsuk First Nation. When he became a Director at various resource firms, he maintained a strong interest in how the companies he worked with were engaging Indigenous communities in which they were operating. His interest in advancing Indigenous rights also shaped his 35-year career as a federal diplomat.

In addition to his planned gift, John is supporting the annual John P. Bell Lecture in Global Indigenous Rights at UBC. The inaugural speaker in 2016 was Dr. Wilton Littlechild, a commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

THE FIRST NATIONS LONGHOUSE

The Longhouse opened in 1993 and is a prize-winning building that reflects the architectural traditions of the Northwest Coast peoples and operates as a venue for public programming, student and program meetings, and many other functions.
Gifts by Will: Planning for the Inevitable

THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES:

1. CHARITY (GIFT)

2. PEOPLE

3. GOVERNMENT (TAXES)

Q. After your loved ones are taken care of, what to do next?

A. Creating a charitable gift in your estate plan is a wonderful way to contribute to the future at UBC without having to provide the funds today.

BENEFITS OF LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL:

• A bequest costs nothing now, yet allows you to support something you care about

• You may change your will at any time if your circumstances change

• You retain control and use of your assets during your lifetime, and

• Your estate receives a donation receipt for use against 100% of your net income in the year of passing and in the preceding year. With recent tax changes, your estate may now also claim tax credits in subsequent years after your passing.

To learn more about gifts by will, please contact us at (604) 822-5373

Send the enclosed reply card (pictured)

The Gift and Estate Planning Team is here to help you plan a gift for the future.
UBC Professor Gives a Gift for the Future

“There are so many things that can be done using computers,” says Dr. Charlotte Froese Fischer, an affiliate professor in the Department of Computer Science at UBC. “Computers have the ability of extending the human mind.”

Charlotte has been connected to UBC since the 1950s, when she studied math and chemistry as an undergraduate student, then as a graduate student and professor in the Department of Mathematics. After completing her PhD in computer science at the University of Cambridge, she returned to help UBC establish its computer science department.

Today, Charlotte is focusing on her true passion: her research. She continues to work in the area of open source software development for the study of atomic properties. Charlotte believes strongly in the potential for international research and study partnerships to create positive change in the world. For over 25 years, she has been involved with the US Department of Energy in support of the ITER Project, a collaboration of scientists in 35 nations to conquer one of the greatest frontiers in science—reproducing the energy that fuels the Sun and the stars.

Besides being globally recognized for her contributions to her field, Charlotte is a generous supporter of the university and recently created a gift in her will for the Department of Computer Science and the Institute of Applied Mathematics.

“I decided my legacy should be at UBC,” says Charlotte. “UBC did a lot for me. I felt the support of the university, and I wanted to support someone else.”

Charlotte has seen firsthand the effect early career support can have for a bright researcher. Growing up on a farm in the Fraser Valley, she was the first in her family to attend university. At UBC, she explains, she felt encouraged to achieve her ambitions within the male dominated field of science.

Charlotte was the first woman to receive the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, which helped support her research early in her career. Looking to the future, she hopes that her gift will do the same for promising UBC scientists.

“I hope [my gift] will enhance the status of science at UBC. I want to support somebody who has a good idea and good potential”.

— Dr. Charlotte Froese Fischer
We invite you to join a proud tradition of those creating excellence at UBC

Planned gifts are an important tradition at UBC and an essential source of future support to enhance standards of excellence in higher education and research.

If you have included UBC in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank you for your vision and generosity. By providing further details such as the amount, purpose, and structure of the gift, you assist UBC’s long-term planning efforts. Sharing your planned gift with the university does not make your gift binding or irrevocable. You still have the ability to revise your will if your circumstances or priorities change.

As a planned gift donor, you can choose to become a member of the Heritage Circle. Members are invited to special activities that highlight the vibrant intellectual and cultural life on our campuses in Vancouver and Kelowna.

To let us know you are leaving a planned gift to UBC, please complete the response card included with this newsletter and mail in the postage paid envelope. For further information, please contact us at (604) 822-5373

GIFTING YOUR RRSPS & RRIFs TO CHARITY

Many do not realize that upon passing, the total value of your registered retirement accounts must be reported as income. This income is fully taxable, unless the funds can be rolled over to a surviving spouse or dependent child. For singles and surviving spouses, planning your estate to avoid a large tax bill is challenging when you have significant retirement plan assets. By naming The University of British Columbia as a direct beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF, you can offset some of the taxes owed by your estate. This means more of your estate goes to something or someone important to you.

To learn more about gifting RRSPs and RRIFs, please contact us at (604) 822-5373

GIVING SECURITIES IS EASY — AND TAX EFFECTIVE

A gift of securities is one of the most cost effective ways to support UBC.

When publicly-listed securities (such as stocks, bonds, shares, warrants, mutual funds and segregated fund units) are directly donated to UBC, the tax on their associated capital gains is eliminated. UBC’s experienced team of gift & estate planners work with you and your advisors to ensure a smooth transfer and the prompt delivery of a donation receipt for the full value of your gift. UBC will sell the securities and direct the proceeds to your specified area of interest on campus.

When you consider the benefits of a gift of securities (a tax receipt for the full value of the donated securities, the elimination of any capital gains taxes and the ability to support an area of your choosing on campus), a gift of securities is definitely an easy and tax effective vehicle for charitable giving.

To learn more about gifts of securities, please contact us at (604) 822-5373
Executor Decision: A Sense of Duty

Whether you are thinking about who to choose as your executor or deciding if you want to be an executor, you should know what the job entails. Here is a sense of the duties an executor is typically expected to carry out.

- **IMMEDIATE ACTION** | Make funeral arrangements, respecting wishes of deceased. Take care of family’s immediate needs. Protect vacant property. Redirect mail.

- **SECURE THE ESTATE** | Find and review the most recent will. Notify beneficiaries, and discuss their entitlement. Review financial affairs. Ensure safe custody of personal valuables and important documents. Get insurance on estate assets, properties, etc. Cancel health insurance coverage, driver’s license, cable, telephone, club memberships, credit cards, subscriptions, etc.

- **GATHER AND VALUE ESTATE** | Contact financial institutions, brokers, insurance companies, business partners, employer. Determine assets and liabilities (don’t forget to access and list contents of safe deposit box). Obtain title documents for property, mortgages, stocks, bonds, GICs, etc. Arrange valuation of real estate, securities, and personal property. Apply for and receive probate, if necessary.

- **TAX ISSUES** | Determine capital gains at the date of death. Prepare and file all outstanding tax returns including terminal income tax return and trust tax return. Determine tax implications if funds are held outside the country (e.g. U.S. assets). Request clearance certificates from tax authorities.

- **ADMINISTER THE ESTATE** | Close bank accounts, brokerage accounts, safety deposit boxes. Collect insurance proceeds. Re-register assets in estate’s name. Arrange rollover or transfer of RRSP/RRIF proceeds. Invest money prudently.

- **DISTRIBUTE THE ESTATE** | Set up testamentary trusts and act as trustee where instructed to do so. Pay creditors of the estate and legatees. Deliver household and personal effects bequeathed to beneficiaries. Distribute remaining funds, or deliver assets to heirs once tax clearances are received. Prepare and distribute a final report to beneficiaries for their approval.

Estate Gift Expands MOA Collection

This year, the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) received an extraordinary gift of jewelry and art from the Estate of Dr. Margaret “Marmie” Perkins Hess.

Dr. Hess was a great supporter of, and advocate for Inuit and First Nations art and artists, and shared her extensive knowledge with students and scholars alike.

Throughout her lifetime, Dr. Hess gave selflessly of her time and expertise. She supported students across Canada by donating to scholarship and endowment funds and inspired many through her love of learning and by sharing important pieces of her collections with the community.

Dr. Hess was recognized for her contributions through numerous honorary degrees, awards and accolades, including being named an Officer of the Order of Canada and receiving a Certificate of Merit from the World Who’s Who of Women. She was also gifted with the honorary Inuit name, Angauka Nu Natsiut.

MOA is renowned for its outstanding collections, innovative exhibitions, research, teaching and educational programming. The addition of this gift furthers MOA’s reputation as a place of world arts and cultures with a special emphasis on the First Nations peoples and other cultural communities of British Columbia, Canada.

With Appreciation and Thanks to our Generous Donors

UBC is honoured to acknowledge the generosity and kindness of the following people who, in the past year, left a bequest to the university upon their passing:

Jann Bailey
Anne Brewster BSc’59
Dr Donald Brown BA’47
Dr Arthur Burgess PhD’72
Laurenda Daniells MLS’76
Dr John Dennison MPE’60
Horace Excell
George Greer LLB’61
Dr Margaret (Marmie) Hess
Dr James Heyworth MD’68
Frances Hodgkinson BSc’80
Joan Lloyd
Lubomyra-Melitta Kandler
Vernon Logan
Dr Annie Lukasevich PhD’76
Kenneth Lynes BCom’56
Dr Margaret Mair
Russell Munn BA’30
Dr Hawa Patel
Dr Peter Peto
Margaret Rai-Choudhury
Gladys Sankey
Wilma Sepp
Morrison Smeltzer
Evelyn Teichman
Gail Tesch
Dr Joy Coghill LLD’95
Raymond Tresidder BSc’50
Joy Upton
Dr Derek Vallis MD’59
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The Estate Planning Review profiles planned gift issues and considerations. It is prepared for the benefit of alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University of British Columbia. Statements made are general in nature and are not intended as legal or tax advice. We encourage potential donors to consult with their legal and/or tax advisors before finalizing gifts to UBC.