13th Annual Surrey's Top 25 Under 25 Award Winners

The Surrey Board of Trade recognizes business and community-minded youth under the age of 25, working in Surrey or working on a business or community project in/for Surrey.

Co-Presenting Sponsors: KPU Melville School of Business and SFU Beedie School of Business
Silver Sponsor: WorkSafeBC
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Name: Amadea de Wit
Organization: Alivio Technologies and SFU Mechatronics System Engineering
Age: 21
Amadea is the Founder and Chief Technical Officer of Alivio Technologies, a start-up company developing a novel, compact, and effective wearable device that addresses foot pain from dystonia and other foot ailments. She is a 4th year Mechatronic Systems Engineering student at Simon Fraser University and most recently, she received the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Undergraduate Student Research Award. Outside of university, Amadea works as an Engineering Design Project Lead for Lab 915, a health technology start-up made possible through the SFU Venture Connection incubator program.

Name: Anmol Sandhu
Organization: The Red Badge Foundation
Age: 20
Anmol is the Co-founder and Co-president of the Red Badge Foundation, a not-for-profit organization striving to advocate for menstrual health by providing access and knowledge to dignified and secure hygiene products. As a third-year life sciences student at McMaster University, Anmol has been recognized for her academic excellence and remains on the Dean's honour roll list. Her active and consistent volunteerism in the City of Surrey led her to receive the Outstanding City of Surrey Volunteer Award.

Name: Armaan Dhillon
Organization: Kwantlen Student Association
Age: 21
Armaan is President of the Kwantlen Student Association, a student-led organization representing more than 20,000 students, providing them various services including volunteer programs, dental insurance, multipass services, shuttle services, and events to enhance the student experience. Under his leadership, the KSA has significantly advocated for federal, provincial, municipal, and local student rights and welfare. His recent achievement includes being awarded membership in the BC Youth Parliament due to his outstanding leadership qualities. Currently, Armaan is pursuing an Associate Degree of Arts in Criminology.

Name: Colton Sandberg
Organization: Cove-Healthy Living Service Hub/Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART)
Age: 25
Colton serves as the Program Coordinator for the Cove-Healthy Living Service Hub, a City-funded initiative operated by Surrey Urban Mission Society that delivers crucial support to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Colton also participates in the Surrey Mobilization & Resiliency Table (SMART). This collaborative, risk-driven, inter-agency initiative brings together multiple organizations and agencies to address the needs of marginalized and vulnerable community members experiencing situations of Acutely Elevated Risk. In his personal life, he remains active in other community events and initiatives, including the Canucks Autism Network and coaching minor hockey. Colton graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Physiology.

Name: Ekam Panesar
Organization: DishPal Restaurant Services Corp.
Age: 21
Ekam has already founded two successful start-ups, DishPal Restaurant Services Corp. and Vivvion Marketing & Advertisement Ltd. By leveraging technology, DishPal streamlines the entire food delivery process allowing customers and restaurant partners a fast and efficient experience and reliable solutions for hassle-free food delivery service, while Vivvion provides an innovative and cost-effective alternative to traditional marketing methods. Ekam grew his team to over 200 drivers, a customer base of over 15,000 people served, and total revenue of more than $150,000 in the first two years. While busy managing his two businesses, Ekam is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Finance at SFU's Beedie School of Business.

Name: Finn Liu
Organization: Fraser Heights Secondary School
Age: 16
Finn is an 11th grade student at Fraser Heights Secondary School and an active member of the school's debate club. With him at the helm, Fraser Heights Secondary has managed to break into the national debate after a 5-year drought. He was featured at the recent TEDx talk and qualified to represent BC in the Canada Games for fencing. Having competed in multiple forms of public speaking, Finn has established himself as an accomplished debater, speaker and active member of his community.

Name: Glisha Nadine Dela Cruz
Organization: Singer/Songwriter, Global Peace Alliance BC
Age: 22
Glisha is a Filipino-Canadian singer/songwriter who produces her music. Gaining significant popularity primarily on Spotify and Amazon Music with teens and young adults in North America and Asia, Glisha's music has garnered over 1.5 million streams on different streaming platforms. Her latest single, Why We Can't Be Friends, was named one of the top songs of 2022 by Permanent Rain Press, a collective of writers and photographers in the BC music industry. Glisha is a Music Technology graduate with high distinction, graduating from Douglas College in 2021, and currently works as a music coach in voice, song writing, piano, ukulele, and music production.

Name: Gurleena Sukhija
Organization: Anti-Prejudice Project
Age: 17
Gurleena is the President and Founder of the Anti-Prejudice Project. This student-led initiative strives to analyze local matters within the community and enforce change through a fundraising campaign and direct interactions with those that need help. These projects include support to combat the water crisis in the Ojibwe community of Neskantaga First Nation and Open Mic for Youth to express experiences of discrimination. Gurleena is a grade 12 International Baccalaureate Diploma student at Semiahmoo Secondary. She has received several writing distinctions, including national recognition from the League of Canadian Poets for the Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize in 2022 and placing third in the Surrey Libraries' Youth Writing Contest the same year.

Name: Helen Sofia Pahou
Organization: Simon Fraser Student Society
Age: 25
Helen serves as President of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). This student association aims to provide critical services to over 26,000 undergraduate students, including administering health and dental insurance and providing financial grants for student-led clubs. As a student advocate and President, she advanced the Student Housing Rights initiative, allocated $10,000 to retrofit ablution spaces and accommodate students' prayer space accessibility needs, and curated and published the 2022 SFSS BC Public Post-Secondary Education Funding Review Report, which lobbied BC's provincial government to enhance policies regarding affordable student housing, and to establish a 2% tuition cap for international students. In 2021, she was awarded the Gunraj Gill Memorial Award for Political Science.

Name: Huzaifa Wahla
Organization: Coolares
Age: 23
Huzaifa established Coolares, a start-up company to help local farmers combat the effects of climate change by leveraging automation and machine learning to save crops, labour and water. His mechanical engineering background from the University of British Columbia has enabled him to develop a product that responds to the unpredictable weather patterns associated with climate change. Outside Coolares, Huzaifa works as a Management Consultant with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, co-owns Lahori Restaurant in the Payal Center, and serves as a mentor to young Muslims, providing them with a trusted confidant to address their questions and concerns.

Name: Ishaan Kohli
Organization: SkyAcres Agrotechnologies Inc.
Age: 24
Ishaan is the Founder and CEO of SkyAcres, an agritech company that aims to increase nutrition and food security in rural and First Nations communities. SkyAcres is the only Surrey-based company to receive this year's prestigious BC Fast Pilot Award valued at $125,000 from the National Research Council of Canada and InnovateBC. Ishaan has won numerous national and international awards for his work, including the Impact Innovation Challenge by the League of Innovators and People's Choice at the International MEDA Food Systems competition. SkyAcres was named Vancouver's top 5 climate impact start-ups for 2022 by the Vancouver Economic Commission and Spring Activator.

Name: Ishant Goyal
Organization: Freshslice Pizza and Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Age: 22
Ishant works as a Corporate Manager at Freshslice Pizza. He leads company projects such as Freshslice Cares and promotes the Freshlice mission of Helping Kids Be Kids. His exceptional contribution to the brand, customers and community while embracing the Freshslice mission, values and vision have won him the Team Member of the Year award for three consecutive years. Outside work, Ishant volunteers his time as a peer tutor in KPU's learning centre, as a student ambassador in the Future Student Office, as Student Representative on Board of Governors and Board Governance Committee at KPU, and as a Guard.me Cares Ambassador, where he extends support to the international student population on campuses across Canada. He is currently a 3rd year student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University completing his Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship Leadership.

Name: Jasmeen Kaur Sran
Organization: BC's Childhood Cancer Society
Age: 18
Jasmeen is President and Founder of BC's Childhood Cancer Society, a non-profit organization that helps children with cancer by raising funds, spreading awareness, and getting the community involved. Established in 2021, her organization has donated to West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation and Starlight Children's Foundation. At the onset of COVID-19, Jasmeen started an initiative called Dreams of Hope, where she donated about 50 care kits to the homeless shelters in Surrey. Her community leadership has earned her various recognitions and scholarships, such as the District Authority Scholarship, the Youth Volunteer Award from the Canadian Federation of Fijo Organizations, and a Youth Champion of Diversity Award nominee. Jasmeen is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program at Simon Fraser University.

Name: Jasmine Broeder
Organization: Surrey Pride Society
Age: 24
Jasmine is an exceptional young leader who wears many hats. She is the HR Manager for a Canadian Tire store, Treasurer of Surrey Pride Society, a founding member of Youth 4 A Change and the Sullivan Heights' Gay Straight Alliance. She was part of the intergenerational team that provided the first educational materials on LGBT Elder Abuse in Canada. Jasmine was also part of the intergenerational creative team that staged the Call and Response theatrical performance in Surrey, Vancouver, and New Westminster. She is one of the authors of Basically Queer: An intergenerational introduction to LGBTQ2SIA+ Lives, released in 2017. Jasmine also holds a third degree black belt in tae kwon do. She is described as an outstanding advocate for the Rainbow community in Surrey and beyond.

Name: Joban Sran
Organization: A Second Chance - Harm Reduction Society
Age: 24

The ongoing opioid crisis led Joban to establish the not-for-profit organization A Second Chance - Harm Reduction Society. He educates community members on reducing the stigma around substance use by providing emotional support, training, and resources. Joban is a trained naloxone-use instructor, obtaining his certification from Fraser Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority. He was twice awarded as athlete of the year and as a provincial gold medallist as a captain of his soccer team. Joban has recently graduated with distinction from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in science in chemistry, Earth and ocean science and life sciences.

Name: Madison Fleischer
Organization: Slava Sweatshirts Inc.
Age: 23

When war was launched on Ukraine, Madison, with mixed Indigenous and Ukrainian heritage, knew that something had to be done. She turned Slava Sweatshirts Inc. from a passion project to a social media fashion campaign for Ukraine, gaining the attention of American and Canadian political communities, media outlets and global communities. Proceeds went to Ukraine National Bank and Red Cross' humanitarian efforts. In the past, she has fundraised for Atira Woman's Resource Society, Indian Residential School Survivors Society and Run for the Cure, where she was in the top 7 fundraisers in the country. Currently, Madison is pursuing a Juris Doctor of Law degree at Bond University in Australia. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government with a minor in Media and Communications. She plans to open her own Indigenous law firm when she returns to Canada later this year.

Name: Monika Jandu
Organization: Young Minds Exploring Science
Age: 22

Monika is the Co-founder of Young Minds Exploring Science. This science outreach organization is committed to providing all students with the opportunity to engage in enriching science opportunities without any financial barriers. The program received grants from sponsors, including the Government of Canada, the University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University. Monika chairs the 2023 University of British Columbia Student Leadership Conference, served as Co-Chair of Minerva BC's Youth Advisory Council in 2021 and 2022 and launched Mindful Moments, a Spotify podcast to amplify youth voices. Monika is in her 5th year at the University of British Columbia, studying genetics, physiology and public health.

Name: Prab Mangat
Organization: Generate Agent Leads
Age: 23

Prab is CEO of Generate Agent Leads, a business consultancy focused on providing educational programs to help real estate professionals and online entrepreneurs grow and market their businesses. Prab scaled up his online business into a $3M annual run rate within 18 months without any venture capital or funding. Clickfunnels awarded him the comma club award for making 1 million dollars online using a single sales funnel. He was featured in The Ritz Herald, The Digital Journal and New York Weekly for his business success. Prab played collegiate athletics at the University of Fraser Valley before transitioning to UBC to study Psychology.

Name: Qudrat Aujla
Organization: BC Children's Hospital BioBank
Age: 25

Working as a full-time Research Assistant at the BC Children's Hospital BioBank, Qudrat leads the Patient-Family Advisory Committee, where patients and their parents work alongside research staff to develop strategies to move toward patient-centred care. She recently graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. While completing her degree, Qudrat received the Women of the Year award for her work done through SFU's Science Alive. She chaired Project Pulse Vancouver, a non-profit organization dedicated to familiarizing motivated students with the world of health sciences. She is a part of the Brown Women's Health as a Research Intern and volunteers for the Fraser Health Crisis Line, where she helps people going through a mental health crisis in Surrey.

Name: Ryan Stolys
Organization: One Iota Performance Inc.
Age: 24
Ryan is the Co-founder and Technical Lead of One Iota Performance Inc., a sports performance company focused on golf. He developed this web platform from scratch that high-level athletes had used for over two years before its public launch in February. Ryan and his team tied for first place in the idea stream in the 2022 Coast Capital Venture Prize Competition. Following this, One Iota Performance joined the Coast Capital Incubator. Ryan earned a placement in the SFU eCoop program supported by Venture Connection in the fall of 2022 and continued into the spring of 2023. He is on track to graduate with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Engineering with distinction in June 2023.

Name: Sarthak Tyagi
Organization: Smart Navigation Cane and Home Security System
Age: 19
Sarthak's entrepreneurial mindset, leadership skills and enthusiasm for STEM paved the way for him to develop projects that would positively impact his community. He developed a smart cane for visually impaired individuals to aid navigation while preventing fatal incidents. He created a self-driving robot capable of detecting and extinguishing fires. He also developed an advanced home security system to curb the increasing theft cases in his neighbourhood. As the captain of the Robotics team in high school, he provided guidance and taught STEM and problem-solving skills, leading them to win the Top Rookie Team Award and earn third place nationally in the 2020 "FIRST Robotics" Championships. Currently, Sarthak is in his first year studying general engineering at the University of British Columbia.

Name: Shawn Domingo
Organization: Domingo & Associates Real Estate Group, Balens Grooming Products and Snipes for Smiles
Age: 25
Shawn is a realtor with Domingo & Associates Real Estate Group and CEO of Balens Grooming Products. His Domingo & Associates team earned two consecutive years of the prestigious Medallion Club award, recognizing them among the top 10% of realtors in Fraser Valley. Balens Grooming Products has become a world-renowned health and beauty brand. Collaborating with Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia chemists, they have developed the world's first 2-in-1 hair clay and pomade product, eventually reaching North America and Europe. Balens Grooming has partnered with Vogue and GQ UK as an official GQ shop. Shawn also co-founded Snipes for Smiles Foundation - a ball hockey tournament organized in partnership with the City of Surrey that raises funds for Terry Fox Research Institute cancer research.

Name: Simrit Mangat
Organization: NailSight App
Age: 17
Numerous cardiovascular, liver, kidney, and lung diseases are undetectable in their early stages but have unnoticeable manifestations in the fingernails. Simrit developed a mobile application called Nailsight App to allow detection and diagnosis of these diseases through simple pictures of your fingernails. Using Convolutional Neural Networks, Nailsight can detect various diseases and conditions by visual diagnostics of fingernails. The CNN algorithms achieved an 85% accuracy rate proving its viability. Simrit was named a finalist in the Rise Scholarship Program for this innovation. She was a top 10 Global Winner in the Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior Competition, and a finalist in the Climate Science Olympiad. Simrit is a high school student at Semiahmoo Secondary.

Name: Sohat Sharma
Organization: Melius Mentorship Network
Age: 22
Sohat established Melius Mentorship Network to provide one-on-one mentorship to newcomers and Surrey youth about post-secondary school options and free academic tutoring and guidance. He and his team received over $12,000 in funding from the University of British Columbia's Centre of Community through the Chapman and Connect 2 Community grants. They hosted 10 STEAM-based workshops in partnership with the Surrey Schools Welcome Centre and Pacific Community Resources Society. Sohat is in his final year of the Integrated Sciences program at the University of British Columbia. Moreover, Sohat is an athlete who competed as a Powerlifter, where he won a bronze medal at the BC Powerlifting Association's Legend of the Three Lifts Powerlifting Meet.

Name: Zora Heer
Organization: LA Matheson Secondary School
Age: 17
Zora is a true leader who has made an enormous difference in the community through his role with the Surrey School District's Next 100-year Mentorship program, and the City of Surrey with the Youth Squad and Surrey Steps Up. He also represented youth voices with the RCMP's BC Youth Advisory Council and made a difference in aligning policies and initiatives. At Foundry Surrey, he has helped promote mental health resources for youth. His work with the Constituency Youth Council helped bring forward issues to the government. He is a well-rounded grade 12 student at LA Matheson Secondary School.