



POWER 50

Each year we debate the meaning of power in this city. How do activists measure up against real estate magnates? How does a restaurant designer (who's putting Vancouver's culinary set on the map) compare to B.C.'s commander-in-chief (whose real estate tax has the power to change a lot of our futures)? It's David versus Goliath, money versus ideas, and real estate above all. Let the debating begin.

by Jessica Barrett, Jenni Baynham, Frances Bula, Dominika Lirette, Matt O'Grady, Jacob Parry and Jim Sutherland

PEACE MAKER



33  
SANTA ONO  
PRESIDENT, UBC  
MOVEMENT ▲ (FIRST APPEARANCE)

For B.C.'s largest university, 2015 was, to borrow Queen Elizabeth's summation of 1992, an *annus horribilis*. From the perceived slow response to on-campus sexual assaults to how the administration handled issues of harassment, UBC was regularly in the crosshairs. Then, the much-heralded president, Arvind Gupta, resigned in July 2015 after just one year in office. Enter Santa Ono, the sensitive, bowtie-wearing, social media-savvy import from the University of Cincinnati, who, in just a few short months, has reinvigorated the Point Grey campus, soothed raw nerves and got people talking about UBC again—in a good way.

POWER 50



1  
MASTER PLAYER  
CHRISTY CLARK  
PREMIER, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MOVEMENT ▲ (#10, 2015)

Her nominal workplace is Victoria and her riding is in the Okanagan, but there's no questioning the impact Premier Christy Clark has had on Vancouver this year. She's turned the Lower Mainland real estate market upside down (exact results far from clear) with her surprise decision in July to impose a hefty foreign-investors tax on residential property sales. Her decision a few weeks later to put \$500 million into low-cost rental housing, half of which will likely go into the Lower Mainland, will have a significant impact. Her government's many snap decisions on education funding have had local school districts on a roller coaster for months. She's steaming ahead with a plan to build the enormous new Massey Bridge across the Fraser River, something that will alter the region's travel patterns forever. She also managed to work out a deal with the new Trudeau government and regional mayors on a first phase of infrastructure funding that will get rapid-transit-line projects started in Surrey and Vancouver. In spite of the rise of anti-governing-party populism in other places, no one is willing to bet that Clark, a master campaigner, will be defeated next May.

TOWERING DEVELOPER



14  
TERRY HUI  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, CONCORD PACIFIC GROUP  
MOVEMENT ▲ (#34, 2014)

Developer Terry Hui's Concord Pacific Group has been a name recognized by Vancouverites for more than 20 years. After turning the Expo Lands into Concord Pacific Place, Hui continues to transform the city with the development of Northeast False Creek, following city council's decision to remove the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts. Concord Pacific also made headlines this year for the \$185-million purchase of the Molson Coors brewery property at the foot of the Burrard Bridge, with reported plans to build a mixed-use residential area, even though the city still has the site zoned for industrial use. What the development will become remains a mystery.

IMMIGRANT ADVOCATE



42  
QUEENIE CHOO  
CEO, SUCCESS  
MOVEMENT ▲ (FIRST APPEARANCE)

Queenie Choo oversees an organization with a \$40-million annual budget that has expanded far beyond its original mission. Choo is a driving force in that expansion. SUCCESS, the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society, now helps Syrian refugees get settled, collects money for Fort McMurray fire victims and tackles issues like elder abuse. Choo, who immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong via the U.K. 36 years ago, arrived in Vancouver four years ago after years of work in Edmonton. She brings an approach geared to making SUCCESS an organization that serves a broad range of immigrants, not just those from China. Although Choo is not a big public voice in the city, she's backed by an energetic board and board chair, which makes it possible for SUCCESS to be a powerful force in the city.


CIVIC CRUSADER



2  
GREGOR ROBERTSON  
MAYOR, VANCOUVER  
MOVEMENT ■ (#2, 2015)

The affordability crisis had Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson in response mode much of the year. Between pleas to senior government for action, he moved to tax vacant homes and restrict Airbnb rentals, and he brought in a new city planner from San Francisco. Meanwhile, his budding bromance with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was easily chided, but it turned out to be worth more than a photo op. A federal contribution of \$157 million was a breakthrough for Robertson's efforts to bring a rapid-transit line to the Broadway corridor. Still, ongoing community opposition on issues like development, density and bike lanes meant the mayor kept his status as a decidedly divisive figure.

THE MAGNATE



26  
THOMAS FUNG  
FOUNDER AND CEO, FAIRCHILD GROUP  
MOVEMENT ▼ (#22, 2015)

He's the leading force in Chinese-language media in Canada, sitting at the helm of Fairchild Media's two national TV networks and five radio stations. Thomas Fung also holds prime Lower Mainland real estate, including Richmond's Aberdeen Centre. But in 2016, perhaps the most intriguing move for Fung's Fairchild Group (worth an estimated \$400 million) was its move abroad—into Hong Kong's lucrative and highly competitive education market. In a move spearheaded by son Joseph, Fairchild launched its first private preschool in January, with plans for three more—along with two or three kindergartens, a couple of elementary schools and a high school.