



VANCOUVER MAGAZINE
December, 2012

POWER 50

—2012— *How do we measure power? By looking at who signs the deal or who drafts it in the first place? Who gets calls returned or who can block them at will? We reward all these players, and pay special attention to the innovators, those with the ability to thrive in uncertain times*

Gregor Robertson *Mayor* POSITION LAST YEAR: 3. AGE 48

01

After four years, Robertson is unmistakably putting his spin on this city that's equal parts lumber baron, condo huckster, Hong Kong technocrat, and Lululemonista. With a second decisive election behind him, he's steaming steadily through his Vancouver Reset playbook. Homelessness? The city is done tussling: a full complement of the shelter and transition beds requested from the province is coming this winter. Bike lanes? Going in everywhere, including possibly the middle of the Granville Bridge. Affordable housing? A bold experimental policy already has applicants lining up (and a few neighbourhoods shell-shocked). Public space? Robson Square is closed to cars, pending development? Robertson is travelling the world—Shanghai, Paris, London, S

couver as the hot city for tech/digital/green business. At times, our slow-tal seemed overshadowed by his powerful posse. Now he's out front, while his him. Even detractors acknowledge that, whatever the faults of the man they Greenest City Ever, Robertson says what he's going to change and he does it

BY FRANCES BULA, JOHN BURNS, DAVE EBNER, MICHAEL HARRIS, K REBECCA PHILPS, ANICKA QUIN, LIANE SALO, JENNIFER VAN EY

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“Whatever his faults, the Dear Leader of the Greenest City Ever says what he’s going to change and he does it”



02 CHRISTY CLARK
PREMIER
PREVIOUSLY #7. AGE 46

The premier has experienced bad timing since day one, when she inherited the steaming pile of an HST referendum she knew the Libs must lose. Two years later—scarred by a nomination battle, unable to call a snap election to secure a clear mandate, now into her third chief of staff—Clark finds herself abandoned by caucus and in battle with just about everyone: Alberta premier Alison Redford, a newly revitalized NDP, an unforgiving world economy (B.C. deficit—a Lib no-go—at \$1.14 billion and counting), and a stubbornly unwoable electorate. She's had wins along the way, of course, defusing a range of public service strikes and managing a morass of badly performing Crown corporations. Her fate after May remains uncertain, but until the election she remains invested with the hopes, dreams, and power of a province.



03 JIM PATTISON
CHAIR & CEO,
JIM PATTISON GROUP
PREVIOUSLY #1. AGE 84

He's still firmly in control of Canada's third-largest privately held company, and his diverse holdings (grocery stores to auto dealerships, radio and TV to Ripley's Believe It or Not!, all of which employ around 34,000 people)—bring in over \$7 billion a year. But it's during tough economic times that his legendary assiduity, along with a relentless drive to continue investing and innovating, seems particularly prescient. To wit, the Overwaitea Food Group was recently recognized by Greenpeace as Canada's top grocer for sourcing and selling sustainable seafood. The next beach head: South Granville, where he bought Linda Meinhardt's boutique grocery in September.

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support for the anti-abortion Motion 312 and, most significantly, in a year when he and fellow golden boy Jason Kenney are rumoured to be in line for promotions, he broke ranks with the Tories over Northern Gateway, criticizing Enbridge's past corporate behaviour.



27 CAROLE JAMES
MLA
PREVIOUSLY #30 (2005). AGE 54

Despite being forced out as NDP leader in 2010, James remains a beloved figure in the provincial party. Observers expect her to be named deputy premier and given a top cabinet position if the NDP wins. Adrian Dix owes her: James's willingness to set aside her bruised ego, work beside the rebels who undermined her, and then seek re-election this spring has been essential to unifying the once fractured caucus. She couldn't bring the NDP victory as leader, but she's respected by the faithful for her toughness (including much scrutinized challenges with her family) and passion.



28 THOMAS FUNG
FOUNDER & CEO, FAIRCHILD GROUP
PREVIOUSLY #23. AGE 61

A diversified portfolio continues to bridge Fung's local business interests with increasing calls for joint ventures in China. This year sees his St. Germain café open in Shanghai and Chef Hung Taiwanese Beef Noodle set up in both Shanghai and Beijing (as well as on UBC's Point Grey campus). Locally, he'll debut the first of a string of cafés by local chocolatiers Dominique and Cindy Duby's Wild Sweets beneath his own offices at 16th and Cambie, as early as Valentine's Day. As with all his ventures, dealings with China are in

the cards; speaking of which, the TV division of his powerful Fairchild Media is in line to increase programming from two nationwide channels to six, just as his son (employed by a Chinese state broadcaster) negotiates with Canadian companies about licensing competing Chinese content. **Biggest looming challenge?** My new mainland China endeavours sometimes face unpredictable predicaments. **Who should be #1?** Backyard chickens—our mayor offers more rights to them than to taxpayers.



29 STEPHEN TOOPE & ANDREW PETTER
PRESIDENTS, UBC & SFU
TOOPE: PREVIOUSLY #40. AGE 54;
PETTER: NEW TO THE LIST. AGE 59

Together, they oversee the education of 90,000 students. Both are Cambridge-trained lawyers and both have worked with government. UBC's Toope consulted with Foreign Affairs and the UN Working Group on Disappeared People; Petter served two terms as an MLA, notably heading advanced education and the placement of SFU Surrey, which has grown in 10 years from 550 students to 8,000 (and with the promise of dramatic expansion in its future). Both face similar challenges: to deliver excellence in teaching and research, high student job placement, and strong return on capital investments like real estate. (The future of SFU Harbour Centre and UBC Robson Square should occupy any savvy city watcher.) Toope has worked to attract a global faculty with housing assistance and is now aggressively pitching UBC to international (especially Asian) students. Petter has overseen a historic two-year revisioning of SFU as the “engaged” university, with a mandate to connect the once-radical institution to its students and neighbourhoods. **Biggest surprise last year?** Toope:



Who should be #1? Backyard chickens. Our mayor offers more rights to them than to taxpayers.

THOMAS FUNG

The most senior official of the Central Operating Department of the Chinese government knew a lot about UBC, and was really willing to engage in a detailed and sometimes political discussion. **Biggest looming challenge?** Balancing our budget in light of stagnant government funding, a continuing cap on tuition increase, a small projected cut to our operating grant, inflation, and salary increases that must be funded out of existing revenue.



30 LARRY BERG
PRESIDENT AND CEO, VANCOUVER AIRPORT AUTHORITY
PREVIOUSLY #32. AGE 65

One in eight Canadians drove to an American airport for a cheaper flight in 2010; to re-engage them, YVR's Berg has embarked on a 10-year, \$1.8-billion expansion of services and amenities (yes, improvement fees rose \$5 this year.) Locals also skip local shopping in favour of discount outlets, so he's opening a 97-shop luxury mall on the Canada Line in the fall of 2014. *Canada's second busiest airport*