

# BOLT SAFETY SOCIETY

*2021 - 22 fiscal year-end report*



# Fighting to end violence, harassment, and abuse.

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The BOLT Safety Society was federally incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act on 07-07-2020. The organization was founded by youth, and is today operated fully by volunteers, aiming to create safer and equitable communities.



## **Board of Directors**

**Vedanshi, Chairperson**

**Brina, Secretary**

**Ravi, Treasurer**

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## Letter from the Chairperson and Executive Director

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Another one for the books, and what a page-turner of an adventure it has been! Our report will speak for itself, so I'd like to focus this message on the main characters of our story: the team, the mentors, and the community.

To the team: thank you for your dedication and tireless commitment to service. To the mentors: thank you for guiding us, and for imparting your knowledge so that we may together benefit those in need. To the community: thank you for your humbling and empowering support.

It continues to be my greatest honour to learn and grow alongside all of us.

Onwards,

**Vedanshi**  
*Co-Founder*



## **Advisory Committee**

**Dr. Annalijn Conklin**

*University of British Columbia*

**Jewell Gillies**

*Okanagan College*

**Mr. Joey Yip**

*St. John Ambulance*

**Kavita Bassi**

*University of Windsor*

**Mr. Ravinder Safaya**

*Youth Leadership Society of BC*

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## **Executive Office**

**Vedanshi**, Executive Director

**Shreyanshi**, Operations Director

**Brina**, Marketing Director

**Victor**, Financial Director

*Ravi, Former Financial Director*

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# Letter from the Operations Director

What an incredible year to witness.

Our team strove towards the BOLT Safety vision, that of a safer and equitable world, through taking tangible action, increasing access to educational programming + resources, and building meaningful partnerships within the community.

This fiscal year, we successfully executed numerous presentations and projects, and saw our work reach a larger audience.

However, this would all be impossible without the support of the communities we work in.

To the team, I am inspired every day by your tireless efforts and genuine passion of working towards our shared vision.

Onwards,

**Shreyanshi**  
*Co-Founder*





## To date...

**3** grant-funded projects executed

**6** donations to women's shelters

**15** safe hubs

**50+** volunteers

**35+** media appearances

**200+** safe buddies clients

**1700** people reached with event safe buddies

**3500+** hours volunteered

**7**



## Awards

**L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth:** Vedanshi named 1 of 10 honourees Canada-wide, and BOLT Safety Society received a \$10,000 CAD charitable grant.

**YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards:** Vedanshi a finalist in the Young Woman of Distinction category.

**Google Ad Grant** awarded to BOLT Safety Society, entailing up to \$10,000 USD of Google ads monthly, and up to \$120,000 USD annually. For life.

L'ORÉAL  
PARIS  
WOMEN  
*of* WORTH  
— Canadian Edition —

VEDANSHI VALA  
BOLT Safety Society  
2022 WOMEN OF WORTH HONOUREE

## Presentations and Partnerships

*Included:*

**Princess Diya Kumari Foundation:** workshops delivered in Jaipur, India to 68 women and girls from rural communities.

**Parliament of Canada:** by working with MP Bonita Zarrillo, our statement was delivered in the House of Commons on the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling pertaining to self-induced intoxication in violent crimes. Our advocacy contributed to Parliament tabling Bill C-28.

**City of Richmond Community Safety Committee Meeting:** presentation by the BOLT Safety delegation (Vedanshi and Shreyanshi) to City Councillors. A motion was passed to explore further avenues for partnership.

**Richmond Chamber of Commerce:** as new members, our team has been attending events and connecting with Richmond's business and non-profit leaders.

**Surrey Board of Trade:** Vedanshi represents BOLT Safety on their Youth (Entrepreneurship) Team, contributing to key strategic decisions pertaining to youth involvement in the Surrey community and beyond.

**Butterfly Effect Campaign with HEARTWORK:** we raised awareness on domestic abuse, shared empowering messages for survivors, raised funds with the sale of handmade bracelets, and donated 'Wellness Kits' to local women's shelters.



# Human Resources Team

**Olivia**, Human Resources Manager

*Ravi*, Former Human Resources Manager

Team year-end meeting



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**Financial Committee**

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**Victor, Financial Director**  
**Wendy, Financial Assistant**

*Ravi, Former Financial Director*



Financial Committee

**OVER \$10K  
IN FUNDING  
ACQUIRED.**

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## Financial Committee

The Financial Committee at BOLT Safety Society endeavors to fundraise and financially support our many programs, initiatives and operations. As a federally registered not-for-profit in Canada, grants, awards, donations, and partnerships pave the way for us to work towards a safer community for all. BOLT Safety Society endeavors to end harassment, violence, and abuse through a variety of community-focused programming. Many of our programs could not operate without funding, and as such, it is the responsibility of the Financial Committee at BOLT Safety Society to ensure that all our programming receives the funding they require, while also ensuring that the spending of funds maximizes our positive impact within our community and society as a whole.

In the 2021/22 fiscal year, Chairperson and Executive Director Vedanshi Vala was named 1 of 10 honourees Canada-wide by L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth. As a result, BOLT Safety Society notably received a \$10,000 CAD charitable grant courtesy of L'Oréal Paris to support our work. Other notable grants, awards, and donations include funds from our Butterfly Effect Campaign with HEARTWORK, a donation courtesy of the Drishti Media Group, and a TakingItGlobal Alumni Blog Feature Honorarium. In our effort to increase our outreach and bring our resources to a larger community, Google has generously provided us with up to \$120k USD of annual advertisement funding. Additionally, in support of Safe Buddies, Evo Car Share has kindly partnered with us to cover the cost of travel to and from clients.

As always, BOLT Safety Society is eternally grateful for the grants, awards, and donations that make our work possible.

## Marketing Committee

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**Brina**, Marketing Director

**Janice**, Social Media Manager

**Licy**, 小红书 (Red) Coordinator

**Rachel**, Twitter Coordinator

**Serena**, Lead Graphic Designer

**Umair**, Graphic Designer

**Sophia**, Ambassador

**Carina**, Ambassador

**Sokmien**, Ambassador

*Emily, Former Media and Marketing Manager*

*Jazzy, Former Photographer, Graphic Designer*

*Mudrika, Former Ambassador*

*Sarah, Former Social Media Manager*

Marketing Committee

**FUNDED BY  
GOOGLE.  
FOR LIFE.**



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# Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee aims to promote BOLT Safety's activities and initiatives on social media, traditional media platforms, and through supporting in-person outreach events.

Our team is central to publicly advocating for change, such as by publishing statements on behalf of BOLT Safety. A notable example is releasing our statement on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision pertaining to self-induced intoxication. These efforts of advocacy eventually contributed to Parliament tabling Bill C-28.

Our organization is extremely honoured for opportunities to reach out to our community and amplify the impact of our initiatives through media presence. This year, we were featured on L'Oréal Paris Canada's website, in the Richmond News, the Richmond Sentinel, VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation's website, Fashion Network, and Drishti Magazine.

With the support of a Google Ad Grant fueling our future marketing efforts, BOLT Safety's resources of safety and well-being will be able to reach a larger digital community.

## Programs Committee

**Shreyanshi**, Programs Co-Director

**Vedanshi**, Programs Co-Director

**Brina**, Backyards with Bolt Manager

**Emily**, Safe Hubs Manager

**Faaiz**, Safe Buddies Manager

**Sarah**, 'The Hub' Manager

**Vedanshi**, Digital Platform Manager

**Ananya**, Host

**Bhavna**, Workshop Advisor

**Carina**, Research Assistant

**Dhatri**, Workshop Facilitator

**Erin**, Writer

**Hrishitha**, Project Development Assistant

**Japneet**, Video Editor

**Rachel**, Writer

**Safe Buddies Team**, Anonymous

**Viral**, Workshop Advisor

**Yukta**, Workshop Facilitator

***Carina**, Former Safe Hubs Manager*

***Janset**, Former Researcher*

***Katrina**, Former Writer*

***Olivia**, Former Safe Hubs Manager*

***Shreyanshi**, Former 'The Hub' Manager*

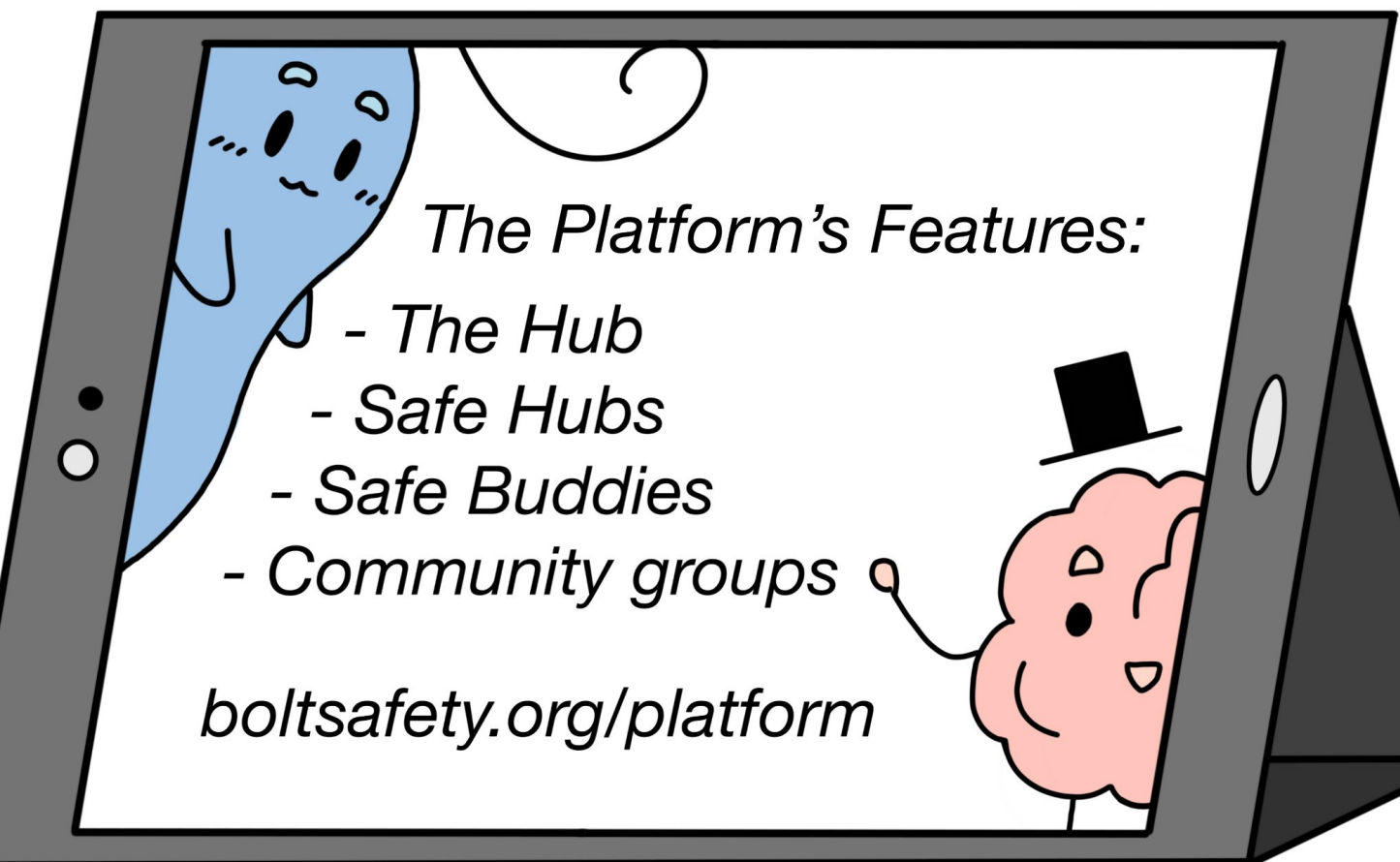
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# Digital Platform

The BOLT Platform provides resources for safety and well-being, at your fingertips.

This fiscal year, we designed and launched an updated version of our platform that enables users to access resources on any digital device, without requiring a membership.

Our team also added a resources page on our website to centrally direct those in distress to tools that would be most beneficial to them, such as a database of crisis support information on The Hub, our network of Safe Hubs, and our Safe Buddies service.



# The Hub

The Hub is an educational platform that aims to create survivor-centric content. It has a compilation of a variety of resources, self-defense tips, and numerous articles that aim to flip the victim-blaming narrative and address the stigma embedded deep within our societies.

Furthermore, The Hub centralizes all of BOLT Safety's programs; users are able to access resources from the Safe Hubs program as well as request Safe Buddies. Moreover, The Hub is a platform to start conversations pertaining to personal safety and well-being.

Over the past fiscal year, The Hub Team released nine articles that focused on unique aspects of safety as well as current events. As BOLT Safety Society aspires to grow and reach more people, so does The Hub team aim to reach a larger audience and expand its network of resources.



*Graphic from our 'Women and the Worst of War' feature*

# Safe Hubs

The Safe Hubs Program is a digitally-based network of safe spaces in partnership with local businesses. Designated Safe Hubs are marked with a window sticker and/or poster containing resources such as crisis lines and women's shelters.

In addition to providing a growing network of safe spaces, the Safe Hubs team also endeavours to support women's shelters. We started the fiscal year by donating Wellness Kits to both the Downtown Eastside Women's Shelter and the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter with funds raised through our partnership with HEARTWORK during the ButterflyEffect campaign.

This year, we are enthused to begin partnering with For The Menstruator to bring Safe Hubs and Wellness Kits to even more locations. Together, we donated Wellness Kits to two Atira Women's Resource Centre shelters. Shimai Transition House supports women escaping violent relationships who use drugs or alcohol, while Ama Transition House supports women aged 55 and above.

Our mobile outreach team spoke to businesses in Strathcona, Chinatown, Downtown, and Steveston Harbour, efforts which lead to us gaining new Safe Hubs partners. As of today, our partners are Apple Farm Market, the AMS Food Bank at UBC, Union Farm Market, Larry's Market, Sabzi Mandi Supermarket, Main Prescriptions, Vancity Corner Store, and INS Market #9153. We now have 15 Safe Hubs partners spanning between Nanaimo and Abbotsford.

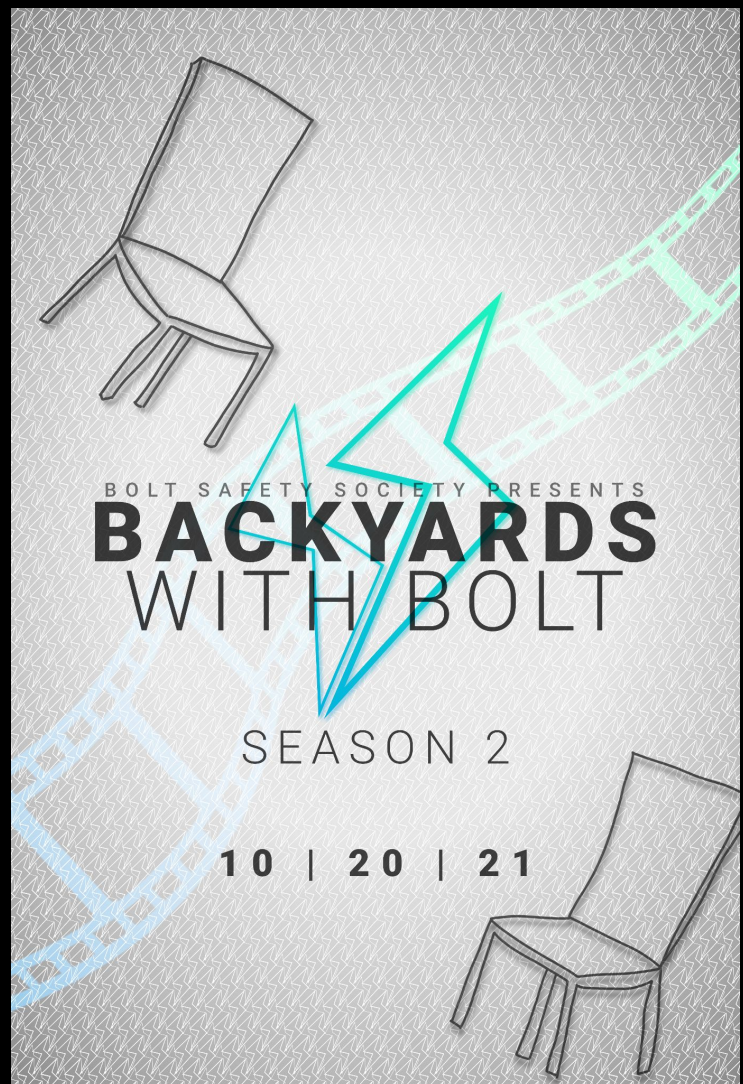
## 15 Safe Hubs in our network.

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# Backyards with Bolt

Backyards with BOLT is a series that first premiered on YouTube in October of 2020. It provides a platform for the BOLT Safety team to have open conversations with members of our community discussing topics such as personal safety and well-being.

In our second season, we sat down with Dr. Annalijn Conklin (Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia), Ziyaan Virji (Founder of For The Menstruator) and Patty Blount (Award-Winning Author) to discuss topics including gender stereotypes, sexism and victim-blaming. The second season began its production in July of 2021 and first aired in October the same year. The final episode of Backyards with BOLT S2 was published on July 12, 2022.



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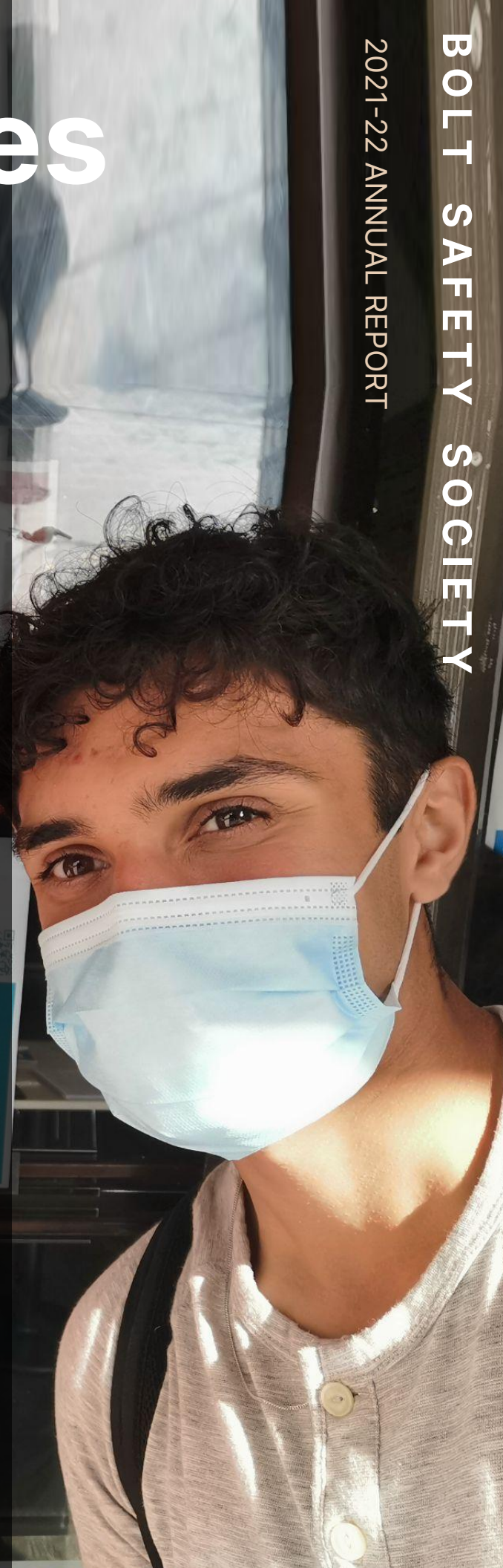
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# Safe Buddies

Launched in response to concerns of street violence, Safe Buddies pairs clients worried about their safety with volunteers, either in-person or over the phone, to provide accompaniment to their destination. A Safe Buddy can be requested through our online request form or via our hotline. The Safe Buddies model is also applicable to community events where organizers may wish to make Safe Buddies' services available to attendees in order to assure their safety throughout the duration of the event. We intend to collaborate with other local organizations in order to make use of existing networks to expand our outreach and ensure that our services are being tailored to the needs of specific communities in which we operate. Lastly, we hope to provide volunteering opportunities to people of all backgrounds and demographics and inspire people to become community leaders by helping make their communities safer for everyone.

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, Safe Buddies served a number of individual clients and offered services at the 2021 Drishti Gala awards, its first major event, and subsequently at ACF (end of semester event) in partnership with UBC Fraternities and Sororities. Moreover, Safe Buddies engaged in a number of community outreach initiatives. In August 2021, we spent 3 days, each in a different region of Metro Vancouver (Steveston village, Strathcona/ Science World and Chinatown), speaking to members of the community about Safe Buddies and local issues pertaining to safety. We also rented a booth at the AMS Nest on UBC campus and used the opportunity to engage with university students. Additionally, Safe Buddies participated in the Celebrate Strathcona event, which welcomed a number of local organizations to interact with residents through organized family-friendly activities in Strathcona Park. As we look to the upcoming fiscal year, Safe Buddies hopes to continue to build new partnerships with local organizations and bring on more volunteers to aid with the expansion of services currently offered.

**200+ clients served.**



# Let's stay in touch.

We look forward to working hand-in-hand with community leaders, thinkers, and advocates alike as we strive towards a better world for all. Thank you to all who have helped us grow and learn. We'll continue fighting for a safer and equitable future.

**[boltsafety.org](https://boltsafety.org) | [@boltsafety](https://twitter.com/boltsafety)**

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