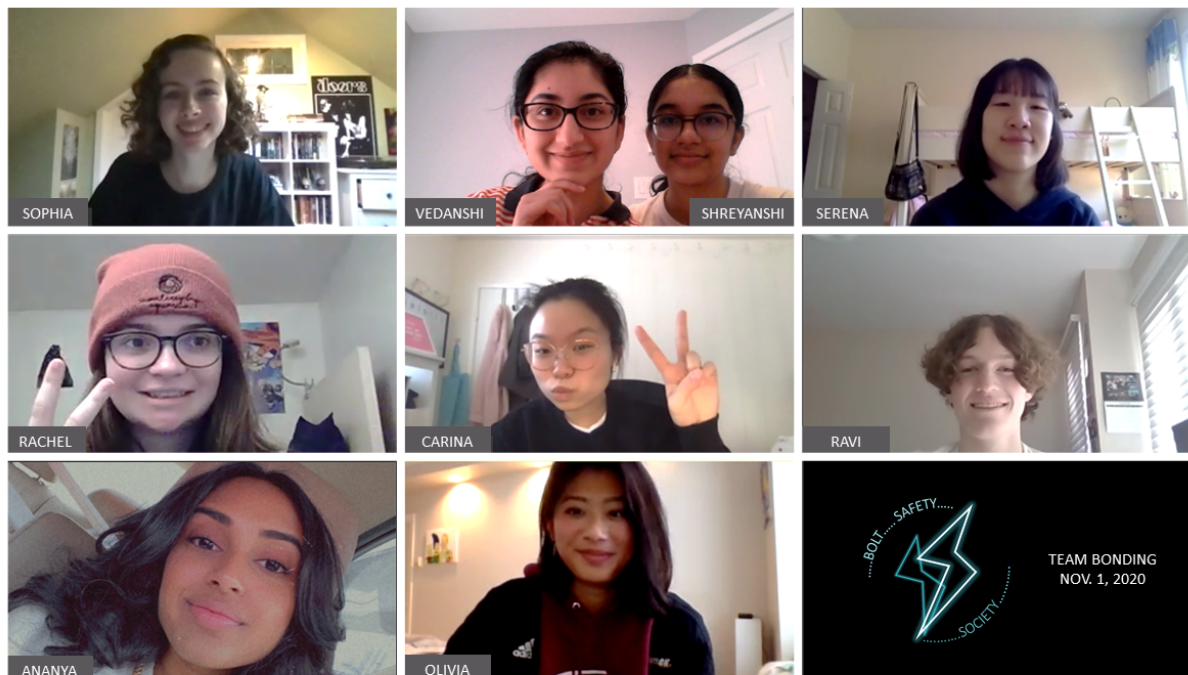




ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
**BOLT SAFETY SOCIETY**  
2020 - 2021 FISCAL YEAR

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*Pictured above: team members at our virtual bonding event*

## GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

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 in the context of violence and abuse prevention. The team undertakes various projects and initiatives through collaborative work with external stakeholders.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear community,

Since co-founding BOLT Safety Society over four years ago (though back then, we were known as HP-TIE), this is the first time that we are producing an annual report, and as such, this is the first time I am writing such a letter. You will have to forgive my amateurish writing- I hope in time, I will get better at these things. Even though this document focuses on the work our organization has done in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, I think it would be amiss to go without a mention of the journey we took to get to where we are today.



Our story starts when a group of young, bright (if I may say so myself), and ambitious students decided they were up for the challenge of entering the Anu and Naveen Jain Women's Safety XPRIZE. These students formed a team called HP-TIE, standing for 'Harnessing the Power of Technology through Innovation and Engineering'. You have no idea how long we spent in my basement coming up with that name. Our main floor. My city technically doesn't have basements because of flooding risks. Anyhow, we didn't make it past the first round, being beaten out by the professionals. Looking back, wow- our team made our debut at a high-stakes (there was a \$1M prize purse), international competition. Perhaps that speaks to our ambition. Perhaps a bit of youthful foolishness. Regardless, it got us started.

Despite not winning the XPRIZE, our team reflected on why we entered it in the first place: to hopefully make the world safer for women, of which 1 in 3 are reported by UN Women to have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes. We realized that there were other ways of tackling this larger societal problem, and so we focused on advocacy for some time. We then spent some more time thinking and researching, before which we created the BOLT Safety platform on the WIX mobile app- which has grown tremendously over the past year since its launch on campus at the University of British Columbia in December of 2019 (and then for the public on New Year's Day, 2020). We incorporated officially on July 7th, 2021 as a federally registered not-for-profit, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has been part of our journey- most especially my fellow co-founders, Faaiz, Sophia, Ravi, Brina, and Shreyanshi. In this past fiscal year, which we spent simultaneously navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, BOLT Safety Society has taken bold steps towards our vision of safer and equitable communities, but I'll let you read through the rest of this report to see that for yourself. It has been a true honour to grow alongside this incredible team, and work, learn, and collaborate with various stakeholders in our community to bring our vision to life, one step at a time.

Onwards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vedanshi'.

**Vedanshi Vala**

Co-Founder, Chairperson, and Executive Director  
BOLT Safety Society

# Operational Overview

## LETTER FROM THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

To the people who made the past year possible,

It has been a pleasure to witness our team grow over the past years, from six co-founders to a team of more than twenty members.

As our team grows, so does our vision. Just over the past year, we have launched five new projects, had various online campaigns, participated in multiple media interviews, doubled our audience, and saw our work's impact in the community. During this time, we've realized that BOLT Safety has expanded to become an organization that not only focuses on safety, but also on personal wellbeing, empowerment, and growth.

Dear team, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

You inspire and motivate me to work better. May our team stand together as proof of how we, as a community, can and will work towards a better future. The work we do is important, and even though it may take time to see a drastic change in our world, we shouldn't stop working and caring and instead strive towards our common goal of safer and equitable communities. I hope that in this upcoming year our team can reach a larger audience and have a greater impact. I hope that our projects continue to expand and develop as we work together and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

I'm happy to know that we're able to share our passion with like minded individuals in our community and am truly grateful for the support we have received. Though a certain person may have an idea, it takes friends, peers, family, and a community to make it a reality. BOLT Safety's vision is no different. All of our projects have to some extent been done through a collaboration with and by the support of you, the BOLT Safety community, which is why I'd like to end by thanking you all. Your time, passion, and interest motivates our team to continue doing what we do.

Sincerely,



**Shreyanshi Vala**

Co-Founder and Operations Director  
BOLT Safety Society



## OPERATIONS REPORT

**1 YEAR**  
**30+ VOLUNTEERS**  
**1,500 HOURS VOLUNTEERED**  
**\$1,500+ IN COMMUNITY IMPACT**

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, BOLT Safety provided volunteer opportunities to over 30 volunteers. Together, we volunteered close to 1,500 hours, and made 1,500 dollars in community impact. That is nearly a dollar per hour volunteered going towards the community or towards strengthening our projects and operations. There were 2,725 visits to our website, drawing 1,860 unique visitors.

## TEAM EVENTS

Over the past year, we've had many team events outside of our regular meetings. These included seasonal fun nights, with planning and facilitation being overseen by our HR Manager, Ravi Nichols.



*Pictured above: team end of year meeting 2020*



*Pictured above: attendees at our first Annual General Meeting on July 7th, 2021*

Presenters at our AGM were Brina Li, Ravi Nichols, Vedanshi Vala, and Shreyanshi Vala from both the Board of Directors and Executive Office. We had a presentation on our work over the past year and had the Directors officially voted in to their Board positions.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
JULY 7, 2021

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Vedanshi Vala  
*Chairperson*



Brina Li  
*Secretary*



Ravi Nichols  
*Treasurer*



**ELECTED DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD**  
2021 – 2023 TERM



## PRESENTATIONS, COLLABORATIONS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

We value opportunities to reach new audiences, and have worked with several organizations in the past fiscal year to achieve shared goals. Here is some of our selected work:

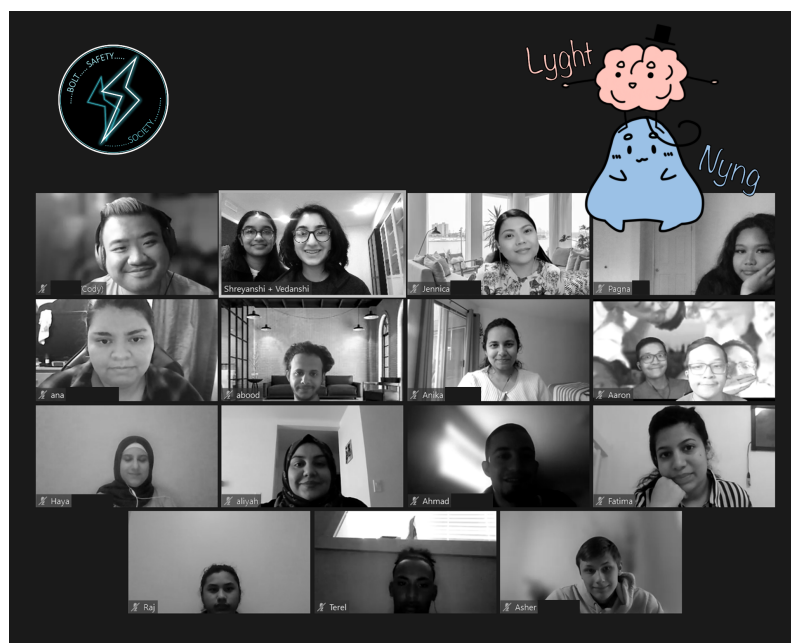


### Youth Volunteer Fair | Charity Brighthouse | April 17, 2021

Our team presented at the Youth Volunteer Fair hosted by Charity Brighthouse, a federally registered non-profit organization that advocates for youth by creating opportunities for engagement in the community. Our representatives, Vedanshi Vala and Shreyanshi Vala, discussed our work and opportunities to get involved with the team. The event featured many other amazing organizations, and we were happy to have this opportunity to share, learn, and connect.

### Workshop and Presentation | YWCA Metro Vancouver | May 26, 2021

BOLT Safety presenters Shreyanshi Vala and Vedanshi Vala organized and facilitated a workshop for participants in YWCA Metro Vancouver's ACCELERATE Program for Youth. The workshop focused on tips and resources related to workplace safety and self-defense.



**Workshop Lead, Presentation, and Co-Facilitator** | Shreyanshi Vala  
**Partnership Liaison, Presentation, and Co-Facilitator** | Vedanshi Vala  
**Graphic Design and Presentation** | Jazzy Wan, Serena Lu, Umair Nafee





### Campaign and discussion event | For The Menstruator (FTM) | February 2021

For The Menstruator (FTM) is a youth-led initiative with established chapters in several countries globally, aiming to create a world of menstrual equity. FTM and BOLT Safety jointly ran a two-week-long campaign on menstrual equity and fighting gender-based violence.

The campaign culminated in a global discussion event featuring local and international attendees, with the discussion being enriched with distinguished guest panelists.

We were grateful to be joined by our two panelists, Dr. Annalijn Conklin and Iman Musani, both of whom brought their personal experiences and professional backgrounds to the conversation.





**Panelist | Iman Musani**

Iman Musani is completing her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the University of Toronto. She is passionate about using both advocacy and research to promote positive mental health, especially among communities that have been historically neglected by services and outreach. She spent last summer working at the Public Health Agency of Canada researching the mental health of Canadians who are experiencing the effects of the opioid crisis. Iman's current role is at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, where she is studying unmet mental health service needs among 2SLGBTQ+ youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Panelist | Dr. Annalijn Conklin**

Dr. Annalijn Conklin is an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia and a Scientist at Providence Health / St. Paul's Hospital, and leads a gender-focused program of social epidemiology and metabolic outcomes research. Dr. Conklin's career goal is to improve the health and well-being of women and girls in Canada. Dr. Conklin holds degrees from Toronto (Hon. B.Sc.), Edinburgh (M.Sc., Res), Columbia in New York (M.P.H.), Cambridge (ph.D.), and Los Angeles (Post Doctorate). Separately, Dr. Conklin holds instructor certificates in Filipino Martial Arts (2005), Jun Fan (Bruce Lee), Jeet Kune Do (2005), Madjapahit Silat (2019), and Tae Kwon Do (1996); and has a passion for teaching women's self-defense.

Several team members from BOLT Safety played a role in planning, preparing for, and executing the campaign and panelist discussion event.

**Event Planning and Coordination**

Faaiz Walji, Vedanshi Vala

**Research, Graphic Design, and Marketing Team |** Brina Li, Jade Weinstein, Serena Lu, Jazzy Wan, Umair Nafee, Ravi Nichols, Katrina Von Salzen, Emily Huang, Rachel Stein

**Event Moderator |** Jasmine Arora

**Event Host, FTM and BOLT Safety Liaison |** Faaiz Walji

**Remarks |** Vedanshi Vala

**Social Media Live Takeover |** Rachel Stein

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Our organization and team has been extremely fortunate to receive several notable awards in this fiscal year. Read on to learn about the projects and individuals who were recognized by the community for their work done with and beyond BOLT Safety Society.

### GRANTS

#### **RisingYouth Grant of \$1,500 | Safe Hubs**

*Won by: Vedanshi Vala*

The Safe Hubs pilot project in the summer-fall of 2020 was funded by a RisingYouth Grant, made possible through the generous contributions of TakingITGlobal the Government of Canada, and Canada Service Corps.



#### **RisingYouth Grant of \$1,500 | Safe Buddies**

*Won by: Ravi Nichols*

The Safe Buddies program was awarded a RisingYouth grant in the summer of 2021, made possible by TakingITGlobal and the Government of Canada, to use towards improving community safety and anti-racism efforts.

### AWARDS

#### **Steps Together Foundation, Monetary Award of \$500 | BOLT Safety Society Youth Leadership Society of BC, Outstanding Impact Award | Vedanshi Vala**

We were incredibly grateful to have received a contribution from the Steps Together Foundation to use towards our organizational operations, from a competitive pool of over 40 applicants.

Vedanshi Vala was awarded the Youth Leadership Society of BC's 'Outstanding Impact Award' for leading our Safe Hubs pilot project last summer in the ceremony.

Executive Director and Chairperson Vedanshi Vala was also recognized with the following awards for her leadership with BOLT Safety Society and other community-focused work:

**VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation, Outstanding Young Ambassadors Award, Leadership Champion | Vedanshi Vala**



From the award: *The Outstanding Leadership Award recognizes youth who have made outstanding contributions to their academic institutions or to the greater community.*

**Canadian Immigrant Magazine, Heroes on the frontlines of the pandemic: 2021 Immigrant Women of Inspiration | Vedanshi Vala**



*Pictured: Dr. Theresa Tam, Jennifer Chen, Claudette Lennard and Vedanshi Vala*



## Surrey Board of Trade, Top 25 Under 25 | Vedanshi Vala

**Name:** Vedanshi Vala

**Organization:** BOLT Safety Society

**Age:** 19

Vedanshi is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of BOLT Safety Society, a federally registered not-for-profit in Canada, with significant work in the Surrey community. The society works with local community experts, organizations, and businesses to create a supportive community for intimate partner violence survivors and to flip the victim-blaming narrative. BOLT also provides free access to safety and self-defence tips and tutorials, information on critical support services, and guidelines on responding to specific scenarios on their mobile platform on the WIX mobile app. In recognition of her community-focused work, she was recently awarded the Leadership Champion for the Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital Foundation's Outstanding Young Ambassadors Award. She is also a recipient of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, presented by the Lieutenant Governor of BC, one of Canada's most prestigious youth awards. Vedanshi is currently a second-year student in the Bachelor of Science Degree program at the University of British Columbia, pursuing a major in integrated sciences.

CO-PRESENTING SPONSORS



School of Business



**BEEDIE**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

HOSTED BY



## NOMINATIONS

### BOLT Safety Society has been nominated in the following categories:

Click on the banners to find out why they deserve your vote in each category.



Our organization was nominated in three award categories in the prestigious Small Business BC Awards. Though we did not win, these nominations have made us even more motivated to strive for excellence as an organization going forward.

## Financial Committee

**Financial Director** | Ravi Nichols

### OVERVIEW

As a not-for-profit organization, our community impact is made possible due to the generous support of donations and grants. Every single cent of funding received goes towards our programs, initiatives, and operations, as we are operated fully by volunteers. Funding is immensely helpful in improving the quality and quantity of our content, as well as our operations.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, BOLT Safety Society's work was funded by donations, grants, and awards. We share highlights of where this funding came from, and what it was used towards:

### DONATIONS | Est. \$250 CAD

We held movie and discussion night virtual events to engage with our community, and increase conversation on stigmatized topics. Planned by Ravi Nichols, these events doubled as fundraisers, and we are immensely grateful to the community members who donated to support our work as part of these fundraisers and on other separate occasions.

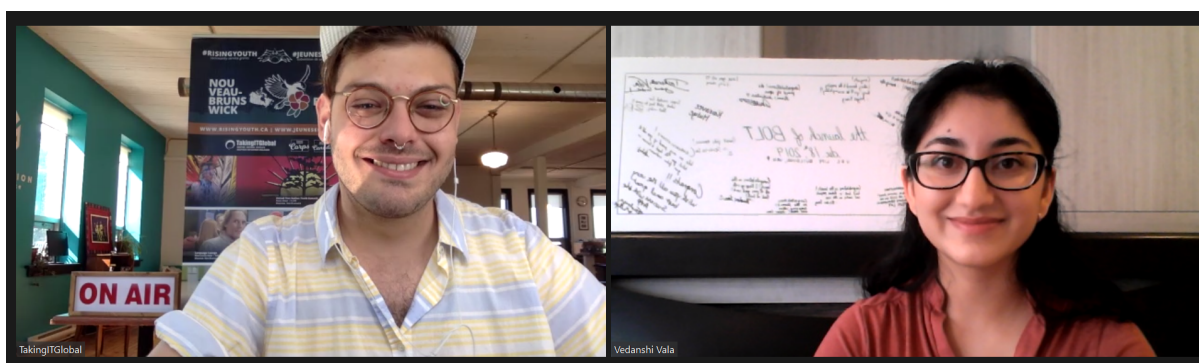
Moreover, we provided a by-donation workshop to YWCA Metro Vancouver on the topic of workplace safety. This workshop, planned by Shreyanshi Vala, serves as yet another example on how our team endeavours to provide meaningful educational opportunities to our community in an effort to foster allyship and safety.



*Pictured above: a poster designed to promote one of our movie and discussion nights*

**GRANTS** | Est. \$3,000 CAD

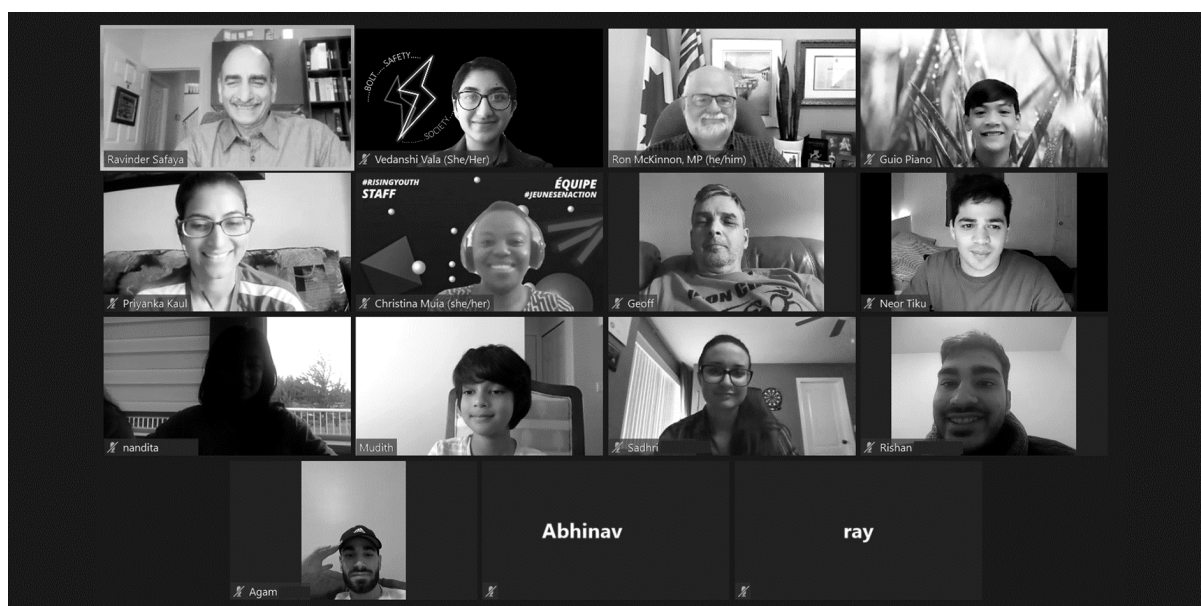
Launching the Safe Hubs initiative required more financial backing given the scale of the project- we entered into partnerships with nine business locations to be part of our network of safe spaces, and donated essential supplies to two local women's shelters. This pilot project was made possible by a grant from RisingYouth, powered by TakingItGlobal, the Government of Canada, and the Canada Service Corps. While this grant was received prior to the start of this fiscal year, we included it in our report as the funding was used during this fiscal year. There is a requirement of accountability with using these funds towards its intended purpose, and our team submitted a project completion report with the appropriate documentation to our grant providers. Close to the end of this fiscal year, we were awarded with another grant from the same organization towards our Safe Buddies initiative, which pairs volunteers with individuals feeling unsafe to help them get home safely.



*Pictured above: Vedanshi Vala in an interview with our Safe Hubs grant providers.*

**AWARDS** | Est. \$500 CAD

The Steps Together Foundation provided a monetary contribution to be used towards our organizational operations in an award ceremony where Vedanshi Vala was recognized with an Outstanding Impact Award for leading the Safe Hubs pilot project. Here's a photo from the ceremony, which was attended by distinguished guests from various sectors:





# Marketing Committee

## OUR TEAM

**Marketing Director** | Brina Li

**Media and Marketing Manager** | Emily Huang

**Social Media Manager** | Sarah Stuttaford, Jade Weinstein

### Creative Team

Jazzy Wan, Serena Lu, Umair Nafee

### Ambassadors

Ananya Pampana, Aashritha Royyuru, Carina Koo, Faaiz Walji, Mudrika Jhala, Rachel Stein, Sophia Bucior



## OVERVIEW

Our Marketing Committee is centrally focused with the promotion of our various activities and initiatives. For instance, this committee promoted the campaign and global discussion event on menstrual equity and ending gender-based violence, which was held in collaboration with our partners at For The Menstruator. Our committee has been behind the promotion of various events and programs across social media platforms and media, such as the announcement of our newly introduced Internship Program, which will provide even more volunteer opportunities to interested youth in our community.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, BOLT Safety Society had the incredible honour of being featured on different news outlets. Our organization is extremely grateful for all the opportunities that we were provided with to amplify the impact of our initiatives. The following showcases selected highlights of our media presence, community outreach, and advocacy.

Discussing the launch of our Safe Hubs pilot project, Vedanshi Vala was an invited guest on the Drishti Media Group's Young Bosses Podcast. Vala was also interviewed in The Ubysey, which is the University of British Columbia's student news publication, as well as profiled in the Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute's 'People of SBQMI' series. Vala jointly appeared with Ravi Nichols on both The Quiet Warrior Show and The Harpreet Singh Show to advocate for increased support for survivors of domestic abuse with the Safe Hubs project.

The launch of our Safe Buddies program was covered extensively by local media, aiding us in our advocacy of anti-racism in the conversation on safety. Upon the announcement of the Safe Buddies program, Vala represented our organization on different media outlets, such as Global News BC, CBC, CTV News, and more. To help our messaging reach the Cantonese-speaking community, Jazzy Wan represented BOLT Safety in an interview on OMNI Television to talk about the Safe Buddies Program. Moreover, Brina Li was interviewed by Ming Pao Daily to discuss the launch of our Safe Buddies program in a Mandarin-language interview.

## SELECTED MEDIA FEATURE EXCERPTS

Youth volunteers launch safe walking program after recent stalking, racist incidents **(CBC NEWS)**

Seniors aged 60 and over, women and non-binary people can request a safe buddy through the organization's website up to two hours before they need a volunteer.



Vala said all volunteers have been trained and will meet the individual at the requested time to either walk them to their final destination in Metro Vancouver, or be on the phone with them.

"If they know they get off work at 6 o'clock ... around 4 p.m. they would go to our website and fill in the form to request a safe buddy," Vala said.

Richmondite launches 'safe buddies' program **(RICHMOND NEWS)**



According to an email release from BOLT, this new initiative is in direct response to the recent spa shootings in Atlanta, as well as the increased number of attacks on elderly Asians and women who have been stalked in Vancouver.

"The goal of [Safe Buddies] is to foster compassion and keep our community safe," said the email.

Program launched to address Metro Vancouver safety concerns **(GLOBAL NEWS)**

Vedanshi Vala, Co-Founder and Executive Director of BOLT Safety Society, shares details of their 'Safe Buddies' program that will see volunteers escorting women and seniors home.





Recent racist, stalking incidents inspire 'buddy' system for people who don't feel safe walking alone **(CTV News)**

The Bolt Safety Society is offering a "Safe Buddies" program, which matches volunteers with seniors, women and anyone else who doesn't feel safe walking home alone.

The program is in response to recent anti-Asian hate crimes, which have spiked dramatically since the start of the pandemic.

Second-year student Vedanshi Vala fights domestic violence, one Safe Hub at a time **(THE UBYSSSEY)**

Safe Hubs is a network of local business owners providing safe places for people who have experienced domestic violence. Vala and her team launched a complementary mobile platform to share information about the locations of safe spaces and other featured content, such as self-defense tutorials, safety tips, crisis lines, survivor support and mental health counselling services.

Vala's idea of creating Safe Hubs dates back to 2017, when she and her team learned of the number of women who had experienced sexual violence. The United Nations estimates that 35 per cent of women globally have experienced sexual or physical violence by either intimate partners or non-partners.



## SUMMARY AND GOALS

Our Marketing Committee yielded creative prowess and strategic insight towards the community outreach of the BOLT Safety Society.

We envision continued efforts to raise awareness on stigmatized topics pertaining to personal safety and well-being in our—hopefully—growing community.



# Programs Committee

## OUR TEAM

**Programs Committee Co-Directed by** Shreyanshi Vala and Vedanshi Vala

**The HUB Manager** | Jasmine Arora

**Safe Hubs Manager** | Olivia Lin

**Backyards with Bolt** | Vedanshi Vala, Brina Li

**Safe Buddies Manager** | Faaiz Walji

### Professional Staff:

Carina Bi, Catherina Tseng, Erin Ng, Janset An, Japneet Singh, Serena Lu, Jazzy Wan, Umair Nafee, Katrina von Salzen, Rachel Stein



*Pictured: BOLT Safety team members in a meeting*

## OVERVIEW

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the programs committee, consisting of the Safe Hubs, Safe Buddies, the HUB, and Backyards with Bolt teams, worked to deliver several initiatives to foster safer and equitable communities. Each team on the committee has a unique goal through which they contributed to our organization's greater vision. Whether that be launching a new program, producing a web series, or publishing an educational article, our team strived provide the best service and content to our community. The following sections highlight the work of our Programs Committee.

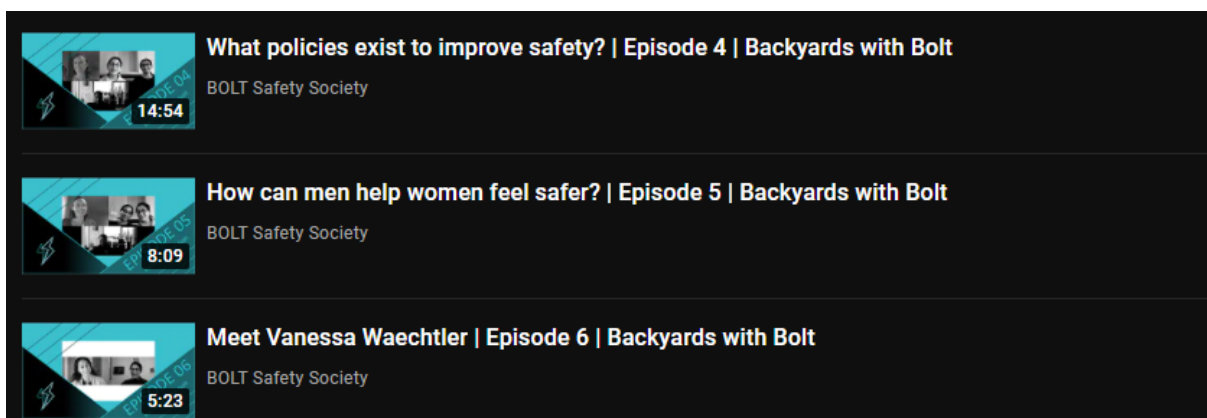
## BACKYARDS WITH BOLT

[boltsafety.org/backyardswithbolt](https://boltsafety.org/backyardswithbolt)



Backyards with Bolt was a series launched in October of 2020, where the BOLT Safety team sat down and had open conversations with members of our community on topics related to personal safety and well-being. The topics ranged from how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the domestic abuse crisis, to what therapy looks like in real life, to how men can help women feel safer, and more. The first season featured three guests with diverse professional backgrounds, being: Dr. Annalijn Conklin from the University of British Columbia, Inspector Colleen Yee from the Vancouver Police Department, and Vanessa Waechtler from CHIMO Community Services. The first season concluded in February 2021, having eight episodes in total. The season was hosted by Vedanshi Vala and Shreyanshi Vala. Vedanshi was also primarily responsible for leading the production process of the first season.

Under the direction of a new creative and leadership team, led by Manager Brina Li, Backyards with Bolt will return for a second season, and we look forward to sharing more details in the next fiscal year.



## SAFE HUBS

[boltsafety.org/safehubs](https://boltsafety.org/safehubs)



A network of safe spaces in partnership with local businesses. That was envisioned and brought to life during the pilot project in the summer of 2020, and generously supported through a RisingYouth grant by TakingITGlobal, Canada Service Corps, and the Government of Canada. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of domestic violence had significantly escalated. BOLT Safety Society partnered with businesses to be listed as safe and supportive spaces for survivors, called 'Safe Hubs'. We were grateful to acquire partnerships with the Sabzi Mandi Supermarket Franchise, and Apple Farm Market, to begin our initiative with nine locations listed as Safe Hubs.

Our team also expanded the available information and survivor-centric resources listed on the BOLT Safety mobile platform, hosted on the WIX mobile app. Additionally, our team also donated care products essential supplies to local women's shelters during the pilot project: both CHIMO Community Services' Nova Transition House, and the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.



Funded by the  
Government of Canada







The pilot project also brought to life a collaboration with HEARTWORK, a youth-led initiative to use art to support community initiatives. The 'Strength' card was designed, and provided to the shelters we worked with. The card contained an empowering message for survivors from our team, and information on accessing our platform, should they require our resources. The Safe Hubs pilot project team consisted of several individuals who pooled their efforts together over the summer and into the fall of 2020 to get the project off the ground.

**Project Lead** | Vedanshi Vala

**Project Team** | Brina Li, Catherina Tseng, Faaiz Walji, Jade Weinstein, Ravi Nichols, Serena Lu, Shreyanshi Vala

Our Safe Hubs project was also featured in several media outlets, including the Richmond News, South Asian Entertainment Magazine, The Ubyyssey, and Drishti Media Group's Young Bosses Podcast (featuring Vedanshi Vala). BOLT Safety representatives Ravi Nichols and Vedanshi Vala were also interviewed live on The Harpreet Singh Show, where they spoke passionately about Safe Hubs and the importance of this work in the face of the shadow pandemic.

THE UBYSSEY News Culture Opinion Features Sports Blog Science Video Magazine Guide

## Second-year student Vedanshi Vala fights domestic violence, one Safe Hub at a time

Written by Jingyu Hu Sept 12, 2020

This article contains mention of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Second-year science student Vedanshi Vala created her domestic violence non-profit after finding inspiration on public transit.

Passengers often use their phones during their commutes — and Vala decided to use that to establish the [Safe Hubs](#) non-profit initiative.

"There are less people that don't have their phone in their hands, and most people are holding their phone all the time," she said.

"To make it affordable and accessible for most people, something on smartphones would be our best way forward."

Safe Hubs is a network of local business owners providing safe places for people who have experienced domestic violence. Vala and her team launched a complementary [mobile platform](#) to share information about the locations of safe spaces and other featured content, such as self-defense tutorials, safety tips, crisis lines, survivor support and mental health counselling services.



Second-year science student Vedanshi Vala established the Safe Hubs network. Courtesy Vedanshi Vala



Our team has continued to work on improving and expanding this program, and look forward to sharing the work we do in the upcoming year. Our project team also transitioned leadership of the program to the operations team:

**Safe Hubs Manager** | Olivia Lin

**Safe Hubs Partnerships Lead** | Carina Bi

## SAFE BUDDIES

[boltsafety.org/safebuddies](https://boltsafety.org/safebuddies)

'Safe Buddies' are volunteers who help individuals feeling unsafe get to their destination safely. This includes seniors, non-binary people, and women. The past year saw a surge of anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stop AAPI Hate reported nearly 38,000 anti-Asian incidents in the past year, of which physical assault was the third-largest category. In light of the recent Atlanta shootings and the rise of violence against Asian American seniors, as well as a recent incident in Vancouver where a woman was stalked, BOLT Safety Society launched this Safe Buddies program to help people get home safe. Our Safe Buddies Launch Team consisted of the following individuals, with additional support from various other team members:

**Lead** | Vedanshi Vala

**Team Members** | Faaiz Walji, Emily Huang, Brina Li, Ravi Nichols, Katrina von Salzen, Carina Koo, Rachel Stein

After the launch, Faaiz Walji stepped into the role of Safe Buddies Manager, leading new developments and program operations.



As of July 1, 2021, we started officially working in partnership with the Strathcona Community Policing Centre (SCPC) to bring Safe Buddies to the Strathcona neighbourhood in Vancouver. The SCPC delivers crime prevention and safety programs plus a wide range of services to the residents, businesses and agencies throughout Strathcona. These

programs and services are delivered through the efforts of trained volunteers and supported by SCPC staff. The SCPC provides ongoing volunteer training opportunities in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department and other service providers.

## THE HUB

[boltsafety.org/platform](https://boltsafety.org/platform)

This fiscal year, the HUB team focused on releasing new content that matched the themes of our platform's content pillars. With multiple categories on our platform to cover, these articles were put out in the hopes of destigmatizing topics related to personal health and safety while raising awareness about available resources and help. There are many people that contribute to a single article, whether that be the creative team, writers, researchers, editors, or the liaison with the Marketing or Financial Committees—it's truly a team effort.

## SUMMARY AND GOALS

All in all, our committee has worked to produce a lot of meaningful output over the past year. Our goal for the next fiscal year is to expand our programs and reach a larger audience, while providing more content that our community needs and finds of value.



## Moving forward

**In the past year, we've set the foundation for our work.**

In the upcoming year, we plan on taking it to new heights.

Connect with our team to support our journey! 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.

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## Contact information

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**WEBSITE** | [boltsafety.org](http://boltsafety.org)

**INSTAGRAM** | [instagram.com/boltsafety](https://www.instagram.com/boltsafety)

**FACEBOOK** | [facebook.com/boltsafety](https://www.facebook.com/boltsafety)

**LINKEDIN** | [linkedin.com/company/boltsafety](https://www.linkedin.com/company/boltsafety)

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**be brave.  
be bold.  
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