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Better Environmentally Sound Transportation e-News March 2014

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Donations are tax deductible.



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vancouver
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United Way
of the Lower Mainland

Hello friends of BEST!

My how the time flies! With the Ides of March around the corner, and that bout of unannounced winter white stuff a fast fading memory, we here at BEST continue gearing up for our busy spring and summer seasons!

Here is our latest news:

Gaining Momentum: The 2014 BC Commuter Challenge

Did you know that in 2012, BC placed 3rd in Canada for overall rate of participation in the National Commuter Challenge? Or that in 2013 we moved up to 2nd place? Well, now that you're aware, we'd like to formally announce that this year we are **aiming to rank 1st nation-wide!** The 2014 BC Commuter Challenge takes place **June 1st – 7th** in conjunction with Canada's National Environment Week, and this year it's going to be BIG. This corporate event is free to join, ALL participants are eligible to win great prizes!



After a doing a fabulous job running the BC Commuter Challenge last year, Stephanie Williams has passed the torch to Sinead Stinson, who is preparing to make this year's Challenge its most successful yet! Initial outreach to past and newly-sourced participants has been successful, resulting in numerous early bird registrations!

In addition to traditional outreach methods, this year's campaign features an emphasis on our social media presence. Increasing the event's exposure through its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts allows participants to connect directly with BEST and participating event sponsors, as well as with other participants Province-wide.

Community Partner



<https://www.myhealthmycommunity.org/survey.asp>



A **BIG** thank you is in order to our new sponsor for 2014: **Vancouver Coastal Health!**



<https://www.myhealthmycommunity.org/survey.aspx>

We are excited to partner with them this year and suggest you all head over to [their survey](#) to sound off on issues relating to your community's health!

If you are interested in the BC Commuter Challenge or getting involved in the Challenge yourself, check out the [Website](#), the [Facebook](#) page, or follow us on [Twitter!](#)

Kicking Off: The Bicycle Valet Season 2014

Spring is here! Which can only mean one thing of course: **it's time to start parking bikes!**



We have a few tricks up our sleeves this year, which we'll be rolling out in the next coming months, just to keep the suspense going of course!

March marks the start of the Vancouver Whitecaps season, and once again, find us at Gate F at BC Place one hour before every home game. Ridership increased 40% last year, so look out for a lot of bikes this year!

This year The Bicycle Valet is thrilled to welcome back our presenting sponsor [TravelSmart!](#) We are very excited to continue building our partnership this year, and together encourage sustainable transportation! Have you made the pledge yet to take one less car trip per week?

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our newest Silver Sponsor this year: **YVR Vancouver Airport Authority.**



Vancouver Airport Authority is committed to the vision of a sustainable future for British Columbia and is dedicated to supporting the community. We look forward to having them as partners for 2014!

Finally, we've done some number crunching and realized we have now **safely returned over 81,000 bicycles** since 2006! Which means...this could be the year we hit 100,000! Keep track of our progress by checking The [Bicycle Valet website](#) as whoever brings us the 100 000th bicycle is in for a big surprise!

Our Heartfelt Thanks: Jason Smith, Exiting Board Director

We want to say a **HUGE** thank you to Jason Smith for his 5 years as a Director at BEST, including a long stint as Chair. He took the organization through its most difficult transition period, and supported the development of The Bicycle Valet, and deeper community work in sustainable transportation through Living Streets. Jason, your steady hand and positive outlook was greatly appreciated; thank you for all your hard work. We wish you all the best, you will be sorely missed.

BEST Board Members



Jason Smith, 3rd from Right

Introducing: 'Keep Moving!' A Handbook for Aging Drivers

Over the past several months the STAR team at BEST has been working to develop a brand new resource for aging drivers and their supporting agencies, friends and family members.

The result of these efforts culminated mid-February 2014 with the launch of [Keep Moving!](#), a resource manual providing users with the tools they need in order to assess their current and future relationship with driving.

The *Keep Moving!* handbook is available now for download on the STAR Canada [website](#), where users can find other extensive resources including a current [directory of ride programs](#) available to seniors throughout the region.

[Keep Moving!](#) was developed by STAR to provide aging members of our population with a resource addressing this delicate subject in a helpful way. Please feel free to [download](#) it and share it with anyone you think could benefit from its insights.



BEST AGM Coming up in May

Don't forget to mark your calendars! This year the BEST Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 7, 2014**, from 6:00-8:30 pm at the YWCA Hotel, Royal Bank/Canfor Room, 733 Beatty Street.

Our Annual General Meeting is a great way for members, supporters and friends of BEST to gain valuable insight and information about our organization's programming, financing, and mandate.

Attendees can expect a presentation from Board Member Emily Willobee who will be speaking about the upcoming Transit Referendum.

The AGM will also provide attendees with a chance to meet and speak with BEST Board members and staff, who are looking forward to receiving your feedback and input!

If you would like to join BEST, or renew your membership, please visit the [BEST website!](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in BEST!

Our Mission: To advance the transformation to sustainable transportation
Our Vision: Vibrant, healthy communities built around sustainable modes of transportation

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