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A Langley man who has been fighting a disturbing trade in human body parts has been honoured.

A Langley man who has fought for the rights of people with albinism was honoured with a provincial award last week.

Peter Ash is the founder of Under the Same Sun, which is dedicated to improving the lives of albinos living in Tanzania.

Ash was one of 36 British Columbians given the BC Community Achievement Awards by Lieutenant Governor Steven Point last week.

“These thirty-six individuals have helped shape our province into what it is today,” said deputy premier Kevin Falcon. “They have a passion for the people and places where they live and a strong commitment to making a difference. They inspire us all.”

Albinism is a genetic condition that causes the absence of pigment in the skin, hair, and eyes. People with albinism are very pale, and often have poor eyesight and can be badly burned by the sun.
In Tanzania, local superstitions believe that albinos are in some way lucky or magical, and in a number of cases, people with albinism have been attacked and killed or mutilated so that “medicine” can be made out of their body parts.

Ash is living with albinism himself, and began Under the Same Sun in 2008 when he first heard of the atrocities in Tanzania.

More information can be found at www.underthesamesun.com.

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