



## Director's Report

Hi UNA, UBC, and UEL residents,

At my recent Inclusive Communities engagement session, Councillor Mandewo eloquently spoke of the concept of *Ubuntu*, a Zulu phrase that translates to “a person is a person through other persons” or, “my humanity is inextricably caught up and bound with yours.”<sup>1</sup> In the words of author Nompumelelo Mungqi Nqomane, “the

### UBUNTU

My humanity, is inextricably caught up and bound with yours

Umntu ngumntu ngabantu  
I am because of you!

fundamental meaning of the proverb is that everything we learn and experience in the world is through our relationships with other people. We are therefore called to examine our actions and thoughts, not just for what they will achieve for us, but how they impact on others with whom we are in contact”.<sup>2</sup>

I’ve been thinking a great deal about this concept and how it relates to many different

aspects of our lives. Of course, during the pandemic, we continue to see how connected we are, and that our actions have direct impacts on those around us – indeed, we feel this in the sacrifices we have all made to keep one other safe. In the coming months, as more and more of us get fully vaccinated, we will see more clearly the impact of vaccine inequality around the world. Lower-income countries, which have fewer resources and less negotiating power with drug companies, will continue to face greater challenges – and given the interconnectedness of the global economy – those impacts will reverberate around the globe.

Closer to home and leaving the pandemic for a moment (wouldn’t it be nice to have just one day where we didn’t think or talk about COVID?!), the concept of *Ubuntu*, and the words of our speakers at the inclusion engagement session, rang true for me with respect to how we treat each other in our communities. As someone born with white skin, I am realizing more and more, the importance of actively looking for and speaking out against inequalities and racism – even if it is just a small comment or gesture – and creating safe spaces for others to be listened to.

Hang in there, everyone, and take a moment to think about one way your actions could have a positive impact on someone else in our community today.

All the best,

*Jen McCutcheon*



Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A ([www.areaajen.ca](http://www.areaajen.ca) or [areaajen@gmail.com](mailto:areaajen@gmail.com))

1. Taken from Councillor Mandewo’s presentation slides, April 28, 2021
2. From *Everyday Ubuntu* by Nompumelelo Mungqi Nqomane



## Resources from my Recent Engagement Sessions

Since my last newsletter, I've hosted two Engagement sessions. The first was an important conversation on creating inclusive communities. We heard from two excellent speakers and listened to neighbours share their experiences. The second session featured presentations by, and a Q&A session with, TransLink on their Transport 2050 Plan and the potential SkyTrain extension to UBC. I usually try to space these sessions out, but this second engagement session was added to fall within TransLink's current public engagement period, which ends on May 14. If you would like to give your feedback to TransLink, please visit their website at:

<https://www.translink.ca/plans-and-projects/projects/rapid-transit-projects/millennium-line-ubc-extension>

I have added a number of resources related to these two sessions on the "Resources" page of my website. These include audio recordings of the sessions, the invited speakers' presentations, and a resource list for the Creating Inclusive Communities session.

### Creating Inclusive Communities STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Wednesday,  
April 28, 2021  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Join experts **Councillor Trish Mandewo** and **Dr. Beth Hirsh** to learn more about how our seemingly innocent choices may contribute to racial bias or hinder inclusion within our communities and workplaces. We will discuss strategies that each of us can use to actively promote racial equity and inclusion here at UBC, UNA, and the UEL.



**Trish Mandewo** is a Diversity & Inclusion Strategist, Coquitlam City Councillor and co-Founder and CEO of Synergy on Boards Consulting Group, an Indigenous, Black and Visible Minorities Executive and Board search firm. Trish has won numerous awards including 2017 RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrants and is a recipient of Canada 150 Sesquicentennial pin for leadership and community service.



**Beth Hirsh** is an Associate Professor in Sociology and Canada Research Chair in Law and Inequality at UBC. Her research and teaching focus on race and gender employment discrimination and how to promote equity and inclusion in organizational settings.

"Inclusion is not a strategy to help people fit into the systems and structures which exist in our societies; it is about transforming those systems and structures to make it better for everyone. Inclusion is about creating a better world for everyone."  
— Diane Richler, Past President, Inclusion International

Hosted by Electoral Area Director Jen McCutcheon

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021  
AT 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM**  
<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/6044516562>

### UBC SkyTrain Consultation



With the extension of the Millennium SkyTrain line to Arbutus due to open in 2025, TransLink is studying a potential Millennium Line UBC Extension.

In 2019, people from across the region made 150,000 trips to and from the campus every day, and TransLink expects the demand for transit to grow as jobs, housing, and educational opportunities increase along the Broadway corridor.

Hear from TransLink about what they've studied so far, potential next steps for this project, and how you can share your views from now through May 14.

Find out more and take the survey on TransLink's website at [TransLink.ca/UBCExtension](https://www.translink.ca/UBCExtension)



Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
7-8:30pm on Zoom:

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/6044516562>

Hosted by Electoral Area Director Jen McCutcheon ([www.areasen.ca](http://www.areasen.ca))

## Rezoning Application for Non-medical Cannabis Retail Store in UEL's University Village

If you have been to University Village recently (the shopping area near University Boulevard and Wesbrook Mall), you may have noticed signs about a rezoning application to allow for the conditional use of a non-medical cannabis retail store at 5784 University Boulevard (in the current Copy Smart location in UEL's University Village). Written comments are being accepted now until 4:00 pm on June 9th, 2021.

For information on the application and how to submit comments, please [click here](#).

For further information regarding this rezoning application, or to submit your comments in support or in opposition, please contact Heather Shay, Planning Officer, at [planUEL@gov.bc.ca](mailto:planUEL@gov.bc.ca).

### CHANGE OF LAND USE DISTRICT APPLICATION

5784 University Blvd.  
Burb Cannabis Corporation  
#3140 - 1502 Broadway St. Port Coquitlam

Has applied for a Change of Land Use District to develop the site for non-medical cannabis retail. The deadline for written comments addressed to the UEL Manager is June 9, 2021. Please note that for non-medical cannabis retail licence applications in the UEL, Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) must gather residents' views to make comments and recommendations on the licensee's application to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB). Written comments submitted as part of this rezoning application will be considered as gathering residents' views for the MVRD and will be used to inform MVRD recommendations to the BC LCRB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
UEL Administration Office  
5495 Chancellor Boulevard  
Phone No. 604 660 1808  
[PlanUEL@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PlanUEL@gov.bc.ca)



Rationale for the proposal

- Three pillars of legalization are: protecting our vulnerable youth; eliminating the illicit market; and ensuring the safety of consumers by offering access to tested, safe products.

Application date:  
• June 30, 2020

Photo of information in University Village about the proposed UEL Change of Land Use District Application





## Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan: seeking your input

At Metro Vancouver's March 3, 2021 Climate Action Committee meeting, staff presented the draft Clean Air Plan, and received Board authorization to begin engagement. I very much appreciated reading this plan, and I think that some of you will also enjoy learning more about it.



Metro Vancouver's draft Clean Air Plan identifies actions for managing air quality and greenhouse gases in our region over the next 10 years. The plan is available for comment through to June 15, 2021: <https://lnkd.in/gAxERHf>

In addition to the video and information in the link above, you are invited to attend the online public forum on May 20 at 2:00 pm, where you can learn more about the plan, ask questions and provide feedback directly to the Clean Air Plan project team. Register [online today](#):

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/events/calendar/metro-vancouver/1799/clean-air-plan---free-public-forum>

## Upcoming Community Events

Join coaches from UBC's School of Kinesiology for weekly movement missions that combine fitness and fun! This FREE program can be completed at home or outside and is only open to children age 7-12 years old living in Acadia Park and the UNA.

Safe program delivery is the priority, and this year's Kid Fit five-week challenge will be delivered entirely online.

Each week will feature a Movement Mission in the form of a themed instructional video and self-guided activities that can be completed on the family's schedule.



There are also fantastic prizes for participating!

Note: we are only offering 50 spots in this program, and registration is on first-come-first-serve until May 17 or until spots are filled.

For full program details and to register: <http://kin.ubc.ca/kidsfit>



## ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

May  
2021

### Community Connections

*This section highlights awesome community members or initiatives. Please send me your ideas about people who are going out of their way to make our neighbourhoods even better, or if you have something to contribute to the newsletter, as Rhysa did this month, please send it my way! I know there are lots of examples and I'd love to hear from you about some of them (email me at [areaajen@gmail.com](mailto:areaajen@gmail.com)).*

For this month's Community Connections, I have a guest entry from one of our younger neighbours, Rhysa. Her story brings us back to the concept of *Ubuntu*, and how each of us and our actions are interconnected. Rhysa, thank you for sharing your story with us.



Rhysa's pet hamster, Cookie

"Hi my name is Rhysa. I am 8 years old and I live in Acadia park. About 2 weeks ago my guinea pig cookie was bit by a dog and died. He was in our backyard just doing what he loved, eating grass and sitting in the sun. This would not have happened if the dog was on a leash. There are signs around Acadia park that say dogs must be leashed. Me and my family are really sad. All I want right now is for him to come back, but he can't. So please, help keep little pets safe by putting your dogs on leash where there may be kids and small pets."

The topic of dogs on leashes was brought up by a resident at the March UNA Board meeting, and in follow up, signs are now in place in areas such as playgrounds and other highly used common spaces.



New UNA signs to keep dogs on leashes in playground and open public areas

### Regional Parks lead the pack in dealing with dog poop

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks marks a milestone this year as it rolls into the tenth year of making it easier for park visitors to responsibly manage their pets' waste.

Regional parks receive more than 16 million visits annually, and it's estimated that 24 percent of park visitors are accompanied by at least one dog. With dogs, comes dog poop. The problem is that dog poop can harbour bacteria, viruses and parasites – including harmful pathogens such as E. coli, giardia and salmonella.

In late 2011, large amounts of dog waste and concerns about health effects on people and wildlife prompted Regional Parks to install designated dog waste bins in two regional parks (Boundary Bay and Tynehead). A contractor then collected the bags deposited by dog owners, separated out the poop, and delivered it to a wastewater treatment plant. Follow the success of this pilot, the dog waste program has expanded and is now in effect at nearly all regional parks and greenways. The amount of poop collected increased from 21 tonnes in 2014 to 79.5 tonnes in 2020. The program has been so successful that member municipalities such as Vancouver, West





Vancouver, North Vancouver City, District of North Vancouver, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Township of Langley and Burnaby have adopted similar programs.

Metro Vancouver continues to explore new options and technologies to manage dog poop in regional parks.

### Register with BC's Online Vaccine Registration Program – Regardless of Your Age

Did you know that you can now register with BC's Online Vaccination registration system, regardless of your age? The process takes just a few minutes, and once you are in the system, you will be automatically notified when it is your turn to book a vaccination appointment. Click [here](#) to register ([www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated)). According to the BC Government, all BC adults will have been offered a vaccine by end of June. Children age 12 and up are now also approved to be vaccinated in BC, which is also terrific news!



Please do your part in protecting all of us by getting vaccinated when it is your turn... *Ubuntu*, right?!

### Take BC's New COVID Survey

BC is launching a second of their COVID surveys. The first of these "SPEAK" surveys was launched last spring and was completed by over 400,000 residents. This new survey will help the provincial health office examine one year into the pandemic how British Columbians have been affected and how their experiences may inform recovery and re-opening. You can take the survey [here](http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/news-releases/2021/speak-2-us-again). (<http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/news-releases/2021/speak-2-us-again>)

### Think Thrice About Your Clothes

Metro Vancouver has launched the annual Think Thrice About Your Clothes campaign that aims to reduce textile waste and encourage reusing and repurposing fashion. Collectively, Metro Vancouver residents throw out an average of 20,000 kilograms of textiles each year, equating to the weight of 44 t-shirts per person.

However, there are ways to reduce clothing waste, like choosing higher quality clothing that will last longer than "fast fashion" items that are cheaper and less durable. Buying second-hand, caring for and repairing clothing items, and putting used clothing in the donation or recycle stream also benefit the community and the environment by reducing overall waste.

Public opinion research conducted by Metro Vancouver suggests people are likely to donate clothing they no longer need, but 40% of respondents were unclear what can or can't be donated.





Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted some clothing donation or recycling services in the region, so be sure to call ahead to business receiving clothing donations prior to making a drop-off to make sure it can be received.

Find more tips and information on reducing clothing waste at [www.clothesarentgarbage.ca](http://www.clothesarentgarbage.ca).

### Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2021

Below are the boards and committees that I serve on. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to learn more.

- Metro Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors
- TransLink Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation
- Climate Action Committee, MVRD
- Finance and Intergovernmental Committee, MVRD
- Chair of the Electoral Area A Committee, MVRD
- Mayors' Committee, MVRD
- E-Comm Board of Directors
- Human Resources Committee, E-Comm
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board of Directors
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association  
Director at Large
- Joint Regional Planning Committee for TransLink
- Ocean Watch Action Committee

### Links & Connections

#### [Jen McCutcheon's Website](http://www.areaajen.ca)

[www.areaajen.ca](http://www.areaajen.ca)

#### [Jen McCutcheon's Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AreaAJen)

[www.facebook.com/AreaAJen](https://www.facebook.com/AreaAJen)

#### [Metro Vancouver](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

[www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

#### [Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](http://www.translink.ca)

[www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca)