

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Oct
2021

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

Happy fall! I am not sure how we are halfway through October already, and I feel like I am still trying to get into my September rhythm. If September brings new changes in your household, I trust that you are finding your new groove, and finding moments to stop and admire beauty that fall brings to the UBC Peninsula and beyond.

With respect to Electoral Area news, August was quiet month, with most committees and boards taking a break. For this reason, there was little to report on in September and therefore, no Director's Update. However, planning, meeting, and decision making are now very much back in full swing around the Metro Vancouver, and I'm doing my best to keep up!

I hope that you will find some interesting nuggets in the following pages. If there is anything of interest to that community that you would like me to consider for a future newsletter, please let me know.

As the COVID 19 continues to impact our lives, I trust that you are feeling some reassurance of our high vaccination rates and reasonably good indoor mask wearing in and around campus. As a mother to two children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, and the daughter to a fairly frail father in local long term care facility, I greatly appreciate our collective efforts to keep everyone in our community safe through vaccines and vigilant following of the COVID precautions. We are in this together, and we will get through this together. Please continue to do your part to prevent the spread of COVID19, and in particular, the Delta variant.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that I may be able to assist with.

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon

Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A (www.areaajen.ca or areaajen@gmail.com)



*Jen and her family enjoying a beautiful fall day over Thanksgiving weekend.
Photo credit: Jean McCutcheon*

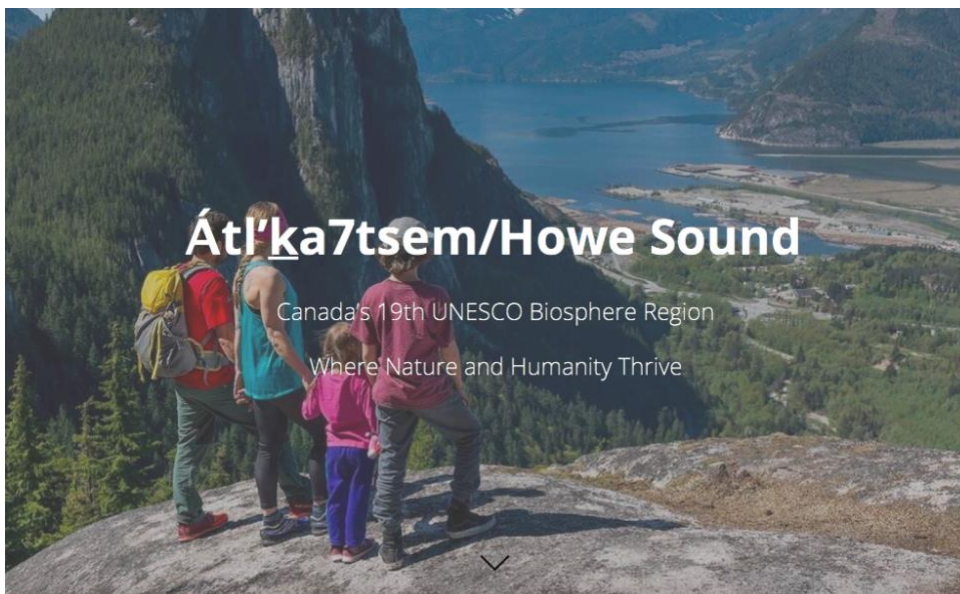


Aitl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region

I am very excited to share with you that on September 15, the United Nations International Coordinating Council for the Man and Biosphere Programme announced that Aitl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound became Canada's 19th Biosphere Region.

Biosphere regions are areas of terrestrial and coastal or marine ecosystems that are internationally recognized within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program. There are 702 biospheres worldwide, including now 19 total in Canada, three of which are in B.C. (Aitl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound and two on Vancouver Island).

Located in the north-western sector of Metro Vancouver, Aitl'ka7tsem (at-kat-sum), or Howe Sound, is a part of a network of fjords and islands that have been home to First Nations communities since time immemorial. After many decades of development, mining and industrial activity, environmental reforms and conservation efforts introduced since the 1980s have allowed for a significant ecological recovery including the return of marine species like orcas, salmon and dolphins. Today, the area is home to diverse ecosystems and many species of terrestrial, marine and avian wildlife.



The UNESCO biosphere region designation is the result of a multi-year community-led effort, under the expert leadership of Ruth Simons. The designation was endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board and member jurisdictions with lands in Howe Sound (Electoral Area A, Bowen Island, Village of Lions Bay, and the District of West Vancouver). The goals of the biosphere designation broadly align with Metro Vancouver's environmental, climate change, and reconciliation goals.

More information can be found at howesoundbri.org.



Oct
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Approval of Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan

I am also happy to report that at the September Metro Vancouver Board meeting, the Board approved the 2021 Clean Air Plan.



The *Clean Air Plan* is Metro Vancouver's management plan to reduce air contaminant emissions and impacts, including GHGs, in our region over the next 10 years. The Plan has a vision that "Metro Vancouver is a carbon neutral region where residents experience healthy, clean and clear air." The *Clean Air Plan* is strongly linked to *Climate 2050*, Metro Vancouver's 30-year strategic framework for climate action. Urgent action is needed to accelerate greenhouse gas reductions to meet ambitious, science-based climate targets, while continuing to implement policies and programs to improve regional air quality. The Plan is intended to provide deep reductions in regional GHG emissions and yield air quality health benefits estimated at up to \$1.6 billion. It includes 29 foundational Big Moves that need to be started as soon as possible. The Plan is strongly aligned with actions and initiatives of others, and reflects feedback from engagement with residents, businesses and others in 2021.

You can read more about the clean Air Plan and its ambitious bold moves [here](#).

New hours for the UNA Green Depot at Wesbrook

In response to public feedback, the UNA Green Depot in Wesbrook Community Centre has recently revised its hours. The following schedule came into effect on September 13, 2021. You can find more information here: <https://www.myuna.ca/depot/>

- Mondays: Closed
- Tuesdays: 3 – 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Fridays: Closed
- Saturdays: Closed
- Sundays: Closed
- Holidays: Closed

As a reminder, anyone is welcome to use the UNA Green Depot facility. It is free for UNA members, and \$5 for non-members.



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Community Connections

This section highlights community initiatives and people that we think would be of interest to neighbours. Please send me your ideas about people who are going out of their way to make our neighbourhoods even better. 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).

For this month's Community Connections, we have a very interesting and unique resident to feature. Their name is Kip, and they is one of about six resident coyotes who live in and around UBC/UEL. While I think that all of our coyotes are pretty neat, Kip is a bit of a legend out here, because they only had three functional legs. Now, of course Kip couldn't actually speak to me for the interview, so I went with the next best thing, an interview about Kip with leading UBC Coyote Researcher Dr. Kristen Walker. We decided that it would be fun to write the interview as if it was Kip speaking. I hope you enjoy it and learn something new about our coyotes as well – I know I did!

Jen: Hello, Kip, thanks for chatting with me today. To start, can you tell us a little about yourself?

Kip: I was born near UBC farm in the spring of 2020, along with my one sibling. Like other coyotes, our parents' mate for life, and have pups most years. After about a year with my parents, my sibling and I left their territory, but we both still live nearby (on and around campus). We do go home to visit our parents, and you'll sometimes hear us howling to each other across campus.

We like to eat small mammals such as mice, rats, voles, rabbits, squirrels. We also like eating fruit that has fallen from trees and other such produce.

I got the name "Kip" from the daughter of my human researcher friend, Kristen. Kristen's daughter does gymnastics and a kip is a gymnastics move on the uneven bars that she had just mastered when they met me. Now the name has stuck, and I kind of like it. In case you were wondering, I go by the pronouns they/them, mostly because the humans who know me best don't actually know if I am a male or female 😊

There are about six of us in the same area who all call UBC home. In addition, there are a number of transient coyotes who sometimes come out this way, and there are also other coyote families who live in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.



Kip, the three-legged coyote who lives on/near UBC campus (and the subject of this interview). Photo credit: Liam Brennan



Jen: Everyone wants to know, what happened to your leg?

Kip: Oh yeah, I'd forgotten about my leg. I was quite young when I injured it, so I don't know exactly what happened, but my friends think that I was likely hit by a car. My back leg is now damaged so I can't use it when I run, but it doesn't really bother me and I am still a pretty awesome hunter if I do say so myself. Because coyotes often coexist with humans and humans really seem to like cars, it is not uncommon for us coyotes to be injured or even killed by cars. In fact, just this past June a coyote (not one of my family members, thank goodness) was killed on 16th Avenue.

Jen: If humans like me see you or one of your relatives out here at UBC, what should I do?

Kip: Please just leave us alone!!! I don't mean to be rude, but really, don't approach us, don't feed us, don't take pictures of us, just leave us alone! As I mentioned, we co-exist well with humans, but in order for that relationship to be successful for both species, we need to be left alone. You can even try to scare us away by raising your arms in the air and yelling, but please don't throw anything at us.

Keep in mind that if you have a patio or yard, you could be inadvertently feeding us by leaving out garbage, or other objects that either attract us directly, or attract our prey, such as mice or rats.

Jen: I've seen some monitoring cameras attached to trees around campus. Do you know what those are about?



*Kip and their littermate. Image taken through Dr. Kristen Walker's monitoring cameras.
Photo credit: Kristen Walker*

Kip: Yes, there are two researchers out here who have monitoring cameras up. On UBC farm, Dr Matthew Mitchell has animal cameras set up to monitor biodiversity on the farm. On and around UBC campus, Dr Kristen Walker has cameras set up to monitor us coyotes. The cameras are set about a metre off the ground, so they don't usually capture human faces (in case you were concerned). Also, I know that Kristen makes the human faces blurry if she is ever using the images.

These animal cameras on/around campus are to study human-coyote interaction. She put the cameras up during COVID to see if we behaved differently with fewer humans around. Now she is comparing data from last year with this year to see where we are spending our time.

Dr. Walker also has similar cameras set up in Stanley Park, which I think has been very interesting.

Jen: Speaking of Stanley Park, do you know what is going on with your relatives who live in Stanley Park? It seems like humans and coyotes are not getting along so well down there. Do you know why that is?



Kip: Yeah, this is super frustrating and sad. Humans and coyotes have peacefully coexisted for decades in almost every large city in North America. There is still research going on to understand exactly what is happening in Stanley Park, but essentially, humans are not leaving coyotes alone and this is making the coyotes stressed and also leading them to expect humans to give them food. Humans in Stanley Park are known to be feeding coyotes, and there is a possibility that the coyotes are interacting with humans in other ways. There are also way more humans in the park at all hours of the night, which means that coyotes can't ever get a break from humans when they are most active. Oh, and humans are letting their dogs wander around the trails off leash – and this can cause those coyotes to become territorial. All of this activity is pushing the coyotes to the brink (literally, to the seawall) and they are coming in contact more in more with humans.

Jen: Have we seen many negative interactions between humans and coyotes up here on the UBC peninsula?
What should we do if we see an aggressive coyote?

Kip: It is actually very unlikely that you would have a negative encounter with a coyote out here. We are curious animals, and so sometimes we may seem like we are following you, but it is generally because we are curious or because we like to use the paths that you use (sidewalks, roads, trails). Dogs can be quite interesting to us, so if you don't want us near you or your dog, please keep your dog on a leash, especially the smaller ones as we may mistake them for a squirrel. Bigger dogs can seem like a threat to us or our pups and most often in the early Spring during pupping season.

Having said that, if you do encounter an aggressive coyote, DO NOT RUN. Instead make yourself look big, yell really loud, and if you have an umbrella handy (hey, this is Vancouver after all) then pop it open as that really scares us. If you are feeling threatened or if a coyote made physical contact, then you can call the RAPP line (1-877-952-7277).

If you see me or my family/friends on campus, you can always email Dr. Walker (ubcwildlifesightings@gmail.com) to let her know as she is tracking our movements.



Dr. Kristen Walker and her daughter, Emma. Dr. Walker studies human-coyote interactions at UBC. Emma came up with the name Kip for the three-legged coyote living on campus. Photo credit:

Jen: I think that it is pretty cool that humans and coyotes generally co-exist pretty well together. Do you have any tips for us humans on how we can make sure that we continue to co-exist together here on the UBC Peninsula?

Kip: I agree that it is nice that we can coexist together. We are native to this area, and have lived here for generations. I really can't stress enough that if we are to continue to coexist together, humans need to leave us alone. There are more and more people moving to campus, so please can you make sure you tell them not to approach us, and certainly not to feed us. In fact, it is illegal to feed coyotes and you could even be put in jail for



“So, next time you see me, please stay back, don’t try to take my picture or follow me as that makes me a bit nervous. And definitely DO NOT FEED me or any of my coyote friends. “

- Kip, the coyote

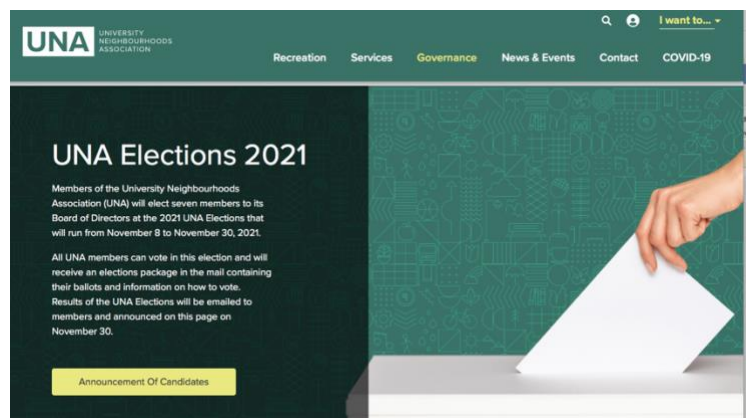
feeding us! Knowing that so many of my coyote friends have been hurt by cars around UBC, maybe you could also slow down if you are driving.

So, next time you see me, please stay back, don’t try to take my picture or follow me as that makes me a bit nervous. And definitely DO NOT FEED me or any of my coyote friends.

UNA Board Elections Happening this November

If you live within the UNA neighbourhoods, you have an election coming up next month. Seven candidates will be elected to the UNA Board. According to the UNA bylaws, a maximum of three candidates per UNA neighbourhood can be elected.

The elections will run from November 8 through November 30, 2021. All UNA members (age 18 and older) can vote in this election and will receive an elections package in the mail. This package will contain their ballots and information on how to vote. Results of the election will be posted on the UNA website (<https://www.myuna.ca/elections/>) and will be emailed to residents on November 30.



I encourage you to take the time to learn more about each candidate [here](#), and to drop off or mail in your ballot between November 8th and November 30th. Good luck candidates, and thank you for stepping up to serve our community.

TransLink Updates

Masks mandatory on transit

In August, the Province of BC updated its health mandate to make masks mandatory onboard transit again. A reminder that as you move around the region, you also need to wear your mask wherever you wait to board transit – so at the bus loop, on the SkyTrain platform or in the SeaBus waiting area. This is one step you can take to keep yourself and others as safe as possible when using transit.

[Read about how TransLink is helping the region reconnect safely at TransLink.ca/Covid19](https://www.translink.ca/covid19)



Room to Ride

With the return to in-person classes, TransLink is seeing busier buses and SkyTrains. To ensure customers are comfortable on board, they've partnered with *Transit* app to pilot capacity predictions. You can use the free app to check how likely you are to find a seat on the bus before you leave home, so that you can travel with confidence and comfort.

[Find out about capacity predictions at TransLink.ca/Capacity](https://translink.ca/capacity)

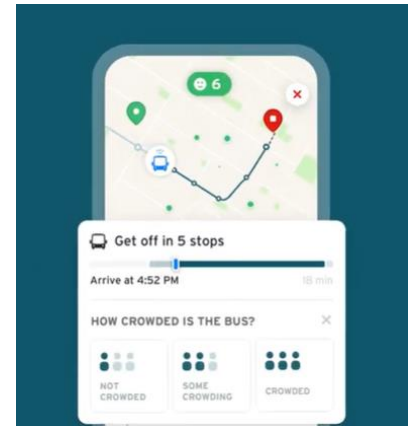
New Burrard Chinook SeaBus launches with Indigenous blessing ceremony

In July, TransLink introduced its newest SeaBus, the Burrard Chinook. Sailing on the shared unceded territories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (the Musqueam Indian



Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (the Squamish Nation), and səliłwətaɫ, (the Tsleil-Waututh Nation), the vessel's name was selected and designed as a tribute to the Chinook salmon, one of the most iconic species in Pacific waters. Artists from each of the three Nations designed artwork that wraps around the SeaBus, and the boat was introduced into service with a moving blessing ceremony by the Indigenous Nations.

[Hear from the artists about their work on TransLink's YouTube channel](#)



Electric Vehicle Charging in Condos, Apartments and Townhomes

Is your strata or work place considering installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations? Did you know that Metro Vancouver provides a great collection of EV charging resources for condominiums and apartments, and well as for workplaces?

Setting up electric vehicle charging in stratified buildings can be a complex process. This website walks EV owners, strata councils and property managers through typical steps in the process.

Metro Vancouver has pulled together a wide variety of resources to help you (and your strata). Topics include:

1. Electric vehicles
2. Residential vehicle charging
3. Capital and installation costs
4. Operating costs



5. EV charger rebates
6. Parking and building situation
7. Acts, bylaws, and rules

Here are a list of additional resources pulled from the Metro Vancouver website.

- [Emotive](#): General website about electric vehicles in BC.
- [Plug-in BC](#): A lot of resources on electric vehicles and charging, including government incentives.
- [List of EVITP Certified Installers](#): Reference list of certified EV charging equipment installers.
- [Plugging in at Work](#): How to Effectively Install, Share and Manage Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (2015): Excellent resource for workplace charging.

A message from the UBC Detachment of the RCMP

RCMP Staff Sergeant Lan of the UBC Detachment, asked me to remind residents that with schools back in full swing, school zones are in effect on Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. The speed limit in school zones is 30 km/h. The fines are \$196 to \$253. Members will be out enforcing school zone speed limits and pedestrian crosswalks around the schools to ensure public safety.

Slow down!!

Wash in Cold Water to Reduce Ocean Pollution from Microfibres

Did you know that we can decrease our plastic pollution by washing clothes in cold water? These two concepts (plastic pollution and washing in cold water) may seem disconnected but read on to find out how they are linked.

Many of our clothes contain microfibres, some of which shed when we wash our clothes. By washing in in cold water, we can decrease the amount of plastic microfibres that are shed, which results in fewer of these plastics ending up in our oceans. Learn more at [Switchtocold.ca](http://ow.ly/EcVI50G93u1)



<http://ow.ly/EcVI50G93u1>



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 (MVRD) Board of Directors
- TransLink Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation
- Climate Action Committee, MVRD
- Finance and Intergovernmental Committee, MVRD
- Chair of the Electoral Area Committee, MVRD
- Mayors' Committee, MVRD
- E-Comm Board of Directors
- Human Resources Committee, E-Comm
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board of Directors
- Joint Regional Planning Committee for TransLink
- Inaugural Board Member for Metro Vancouver Zero Emission Innovation Centre (ZEIC)
- Ocean Watch Action Committee

Links & Connections

[Jen McCutcheon's Website](#)

www.areaajen.ca

[Jen McCutcheon's Facebook](#)

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

[Metro Vancouver](#)

www.metrovancouver.org

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

www.translink.ca