



Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

It is quite shocking to reflect back on the amount of damage and devastation that our province has experienced since I sat down to write the opening greeting for last month's newsletter. My heart is with communities and individuals around BC who have been impacted by flooding and landslides. On behalf of our residents, I have reached out to my colleagues in leadership positions in Abbotsford, Hope, and beyond. If you would like to make a donation to support our fellow British Columbians, this link provides information and links to organizations accepting donations: [BC Floods & Severe Weather - How You Can Help | EmergencyInfoBC \(gov.bc.ca\)](#).

This month's newsletter includes information on an upcoming engagement session that I will be hosting on Zoom on Monday December 13 as a chance for UNA, UBC, and UEL residents (and anyone else who would like to join) to learn more about the Circular Economy, and to engage with others in our community through small group discussions. The newsletter also provides information on the impact of the recent weather events on Pacific Spirit Regional Park, as well as on our region, and a number of other updates that I thought you may be interested in. I hope you'll browse on.

In personal news, I am absolutely delighted that my children are finally eligible to be vaccinated. I know that there are new concerns emerging with the omicron variant, which will mean that we need to remain highly vigilant in our COVID prevention strategies, but I certainly breathed a big sigh of relief when my children could get their first dose of the vaccine.

I hope that you and those close to you have a wonderful holiday season. It has been a challenging year, and I am sure we could all use some quality down time with loved ones.

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)



My kids are very excited kids finally get their chance to be vaccinated against COVID19. I am delighted and relieved, as well!



Upcoming Engagement Session – Please Join Me!

I am excited to announce my next engagement session! These sessions are offered via Zoom on a topic that I feel is interesting and important for residents of UBC, UNA and the UEL. This month's session is on the topic of the circular economy.

As residents of British Columbia we are highly aware of the devastating impacts of climate change – first the heat dome and wildfires in the summer and more recently the atmospheric rivers and resulting landslides and flooding. Discussions about how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions tend to focus on the need to switch to clean, renewable sources of energy. However, there are climate implications from the materials and products, including food, that we use every day as well as the infrastructure that we rely on. For these reasons, a transition to a circular economy is essential if we are to create a more resilient, carbon-neutral future.

What is the circular economy? Who is involved in this transition? And can you be involved? Ann Rowan and Shellee Ritzman from Metro Vancouver will address these questions and engage us in small group discussions as part of the Circular Economy Engagement Session on December 13, 2021, from 7:00 pm until 8:15pm.

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

<p>Join us for the next EAA Engagement Session</p> <p>Monday, Dec 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/6044516562</p> <p>TOPIC: A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS</p>	 <p>Image source: Cambridge Judge Business School</p>
<p>There are significant climate and environmental implications from the materials and products that we use every day, as well as the infrastructure on which we rely.</p> <p>Learn why a transition to a circular economy is essential if we are to create a more resilient, carbon-neutral future, and how we can accelerate the transition.</p>	<p>Presentations by Ann Rowan, Division Manager for Collaboration & Engagement and Shellee Ritzman, Campaign Lead, Corporate Communications, Metro Vancouver</p> <p>Hosted by Electoral Area Director Jen McCutcheon for UNA, UBC, and UEL residents.</p> <p><i>(but anyone is welcome to attend)</i></p> <p>www.areaajen.ca</p>



How have the Recent Storms Impacted our Pacific Spirit Regional Park?

Pacific Spirit Regional Park has been feeling the impacts of recent severe weather, and I am grateful to all the Metro Vancouver Parks staff as well as many others from neighbouring jurisdictions for their work to clean up after the storms, and to keep our park safe.

Park staff are still cleaning up the damage from a tornado that hit portions of the park on Sat. Nov. 6. The ultra-rare storm brought rain, lightning, hail and winds of up to 110 km/h to the area that day, toppling hundreds of trees. Although visitors were in the park when the storm hit, fortunately no injuries were reported. Park staff set to work immediately, closing trails where the tornado passed through the park and damage was worst. Initially, nine trails were closed in the park.

Park staff then began assessing and creating an inventory of damage to trails and other park infrastructure (such as fences, buildings, signs) as well as damage to roads, power lines or infrastructure maintained by other agencies. Some trails sustained more damage than others. For example, on one short section of Salish Trail near University Boulevard, more than 75 trees were blown over by the tornadic winds. The damage was so extensive that staff from four other regional parks were brought in to assist with clearing branches and downed trees from trails. Extra equipment such as wood chippers was also brought in.



More than 75 trees were blown down by a tornado on a short section of Salish Trail in Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Some trees that came down were large or threatened to topple more trees. In those instances, specialists were brought in to assist. Other contractors were also brought in to assist with trail repairs where large tree roots had torn out sections of trail.

On Lily of the Valley Trail, a Douglas fir measuring more than one metre in diameter came down, exposing a large root mass. The trail will be re-routed around the area and the fallen giant and root mass will be transformed into an interpretive display.



Less than two weeks after the tornado, Pacific Spirit Regional Park also suffered impacts from the atmospheric river that inundated southern BC the weekend of Nov. 13 to 15. Trees weakened or damaged by the earlier winds fell, and some of the rain-saturated slopes adjacent to Foreshore Trail along the beach slid, taking more trees and vegetation with them.



*Metro Vancouver's parks staff assessing damage after the recent storms.
Image source: Metro Vancouver*

Foreshore Trail down at Wreck Beach has been closed between Trail 3 and Trail 6 while geotechnical assessments are underway.

Winter will undoubtedly bring more storms. We can only hope that further damage to the park will be minimal. Regional Parks staff are working hard to ensure that parks visitors are safe and ask that people respect temporary trail closures until trails are safe to re-open.

For the latest updates on conditions in the park as well as which trails are open or closed, visit the Pacific Spirit Regional Park website at <http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/pacific-spirit-regional-park>

Metro Vancouver Board Approves Climate 2050 Roadmaps for Buildings and Transportation

As part of Metro Vancouver's effort to achieve the ambitious targets in our *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*, staff are producing a series of 10 detailed "roadmaps" that outline specific policies and actions that will be required in each of the big GHG emission areas (such as transportation, buildings, industry). Each roadmap is first drafted, then presented to the public for feedback, then revised and finally approved by the Board. At the most recent Board meeting, we approved the roadmap for the two biggest emissions sectors, transportation and buildings.

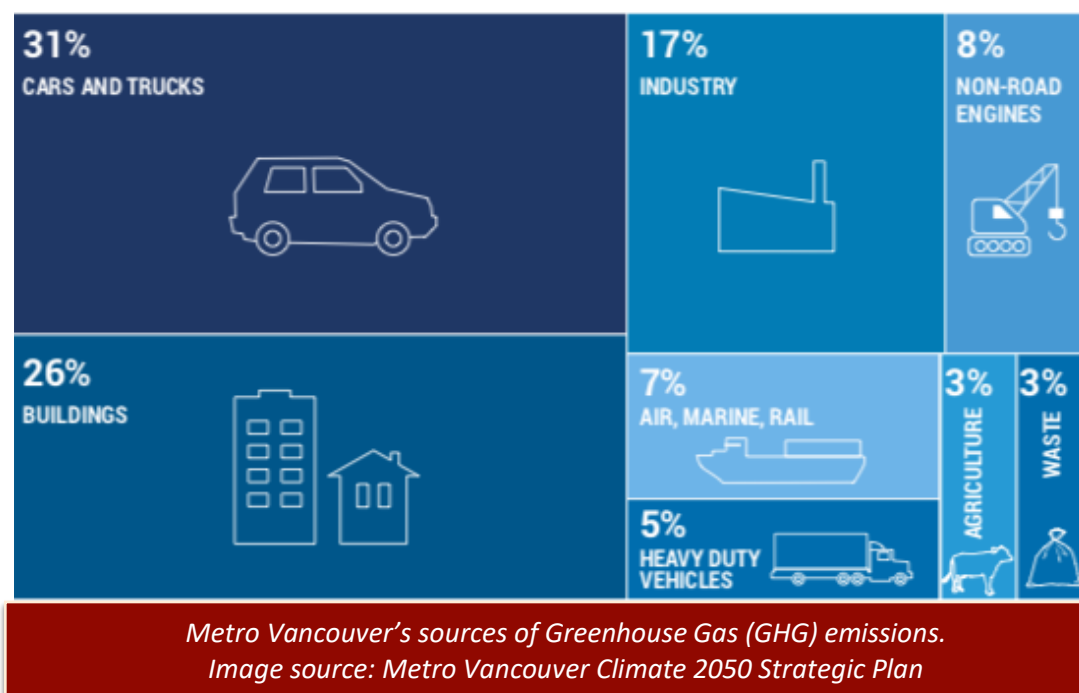
Transportation is the largest source of regional greenhouse gas emissions, currently contributing over 40 per cent of the region's overall GHGs. The *Transportation Roadmap* complements the recently adopted *Clean Air Plan* and the transportation-related actions contained therein to meet the region's 2030 greenhouse gas and air quality targets.



The roadmap identifies 13 big moves, six strategies, and 52 actions to significantly accelerate the reduction of emissions and ensure that the regional transportation system is resilient to a changing climate by 2050. A draft *Climate 2050* Transportation Roadmap was presented to the Climate Action Committee and Board in April 2021. Staff have since completed engagement and have included feedback in finalizing the *Climate 2050 Transportation Roadmap*.

The *Buildings Roadmap* presents a robust pathway to have a resilient and sustainably powered regional building stock by 2050. Buildings in Metro Vancouver currently contribute about 25 per cent of the region's overall greenhouse gas emissions. The *Buildings Roadmap* complements the recently adopted *Clean Air Plan* and the buildings-related actions contained therein to meet the region's 2030 greenhouse gas and air quality targets. The roadmap identifies 12 big moves, seven strategies, and 38 actions to reduce emissions, and ensures the region's building stock will be resilient to a changing climate.

In addition to the two completed roadmaps for the building and transportation sectors, the Board also authorized staff to proceed with engagement on the draft *Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap*. The draft *Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap* lays out strategies and actions that will



accelerate the transition to a net-zero agriculture sector by 2050 and that support agriculture becoming resilient to the ever-changing effects of climate change that have a direct impact on the health and longevity of farming in this region. Action items in the *Agriculture Roadmap*, include protecting agricultural land and expanding the use of ecosystem services and regenerative agriculture within farming, to support creating an overall adaptive and resilient food system.

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Oct
2021

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).

Like many of us, Jennifer was saddened by the devastation that took place in BC in mid-November. In the few days following the flooding, she thought a lot about how she personally could help those in need, particularly pets and livestock.

Jennifer and her dog, Pickles, are residents of our electoral area community and she works at UBC as a Senior Manager, Business Development within the Faculty of Applied Science. Beyond her typical nine-to-five job, she is also a pet photographer, snapping the licks and wags of our furry friends. She decided to set up a fundraiser for the BC SPCA, offering to shoot pet portraits in exchange for a donation to the BC SPCA, which you can learn more about [here](#). All donations go directly to the SPCA, and tax receipts can be issued.

Jennifer initially planned for the photography sessions to happen just on one weekend since the weather was cooperative, but there has been a great deal of support from the community, and she has ended up extending the opportunity for a few more weeks. In 2022, she will be donating \$50 of each Session Fee to charity.

Jennifer loved the creative arts as a kid but ended up doing a degree in Economics and an MBA in Finance. She says that going back to her creative roots and using her right brain has been such a joy!

I asked Jennifer how she became interested in pet photography and here is what she had to say:

"As COVID ramped up, I was working a lot in my full-time job. It was challenging and interesting, but also extremely exhausting. I'd been snapping photos of animals for years, but as COVID unfolded I decided to go all in (as did my credit card). I just needed something that wasn't so intense. I purchased a professional grade mirrorless camera and four lenses, enrolled in an academy, and self-taught myself the professional Adobe software. I chose animals because they are such wonderful companions in our lives, and in their own way have a story to tell. I want to capture that story for their humans. When I told my close friends and family that I wanted to fundraise, they honestly weren't surprised - they know how much I love animals and want to help out."



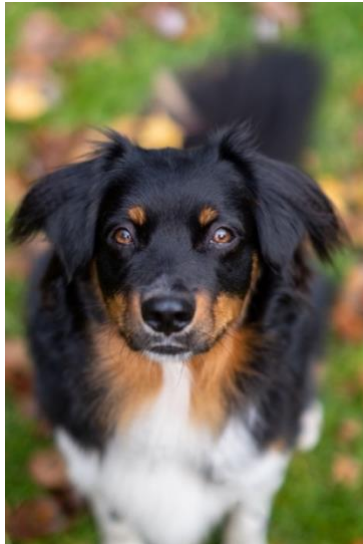
Jennifer and her dog Pickles



ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Oct
2021



Some of the highlights of the fundraiser so far have been getting to know her neighbours so much more than just crossing paths in the garage or on the street. In addition, Jennifer gets a kick out of how quickly she can go from the boardroom to barking like a dog to get the perfect shot. She never would have put those two scenarios together, but she loves it!

If you are interested in setting up a photo shoot with your furry friend, sessions are generally outside and last about 30 minutes and you will receive a minimum five enhanced digital images. The suggested donation amount for the session is \$50 (session valued at \$250!), though any amount helps. Donations can be made here: <https://champions.sPCA.bc.ca/fundraiser/raincitypetphotography/> and Jennifer can be contacted via her website at www.raincitypetphotography.com.

This is Rio, one of the subjects in Jennifer's pet portraits SPCA fundraiser. Photo credit: Jennifer Syrnok

TransLink Updates

New Mark V SkyTrains Revealed

To meet the ever-growing needs of transit in Metro Vancouver, the SkyTrain fleet is expanding. We're improving our existing fleet to include longer trains that can carry more passengers with even more amenities than ever before. Say hello to the Mark V SkyTrain!

while the interior mock-up of the Mark V has been created to assist with the design process, it is a representation of what our future SkyTrain car might look like, rather than a replica of the final product. The new Mark V cars will provide customers with a safe and comfortable experience on transit. You told us you like the design of Mark III cars, so the Mark V cars will look very similar. They will include additional features, such as more flex space for bike racks and leaning pads. Primarily forward-facing seating with some perimeter seating incorporated and improved on-train displays.



Mock-Up of the New Mark V SkyTrain



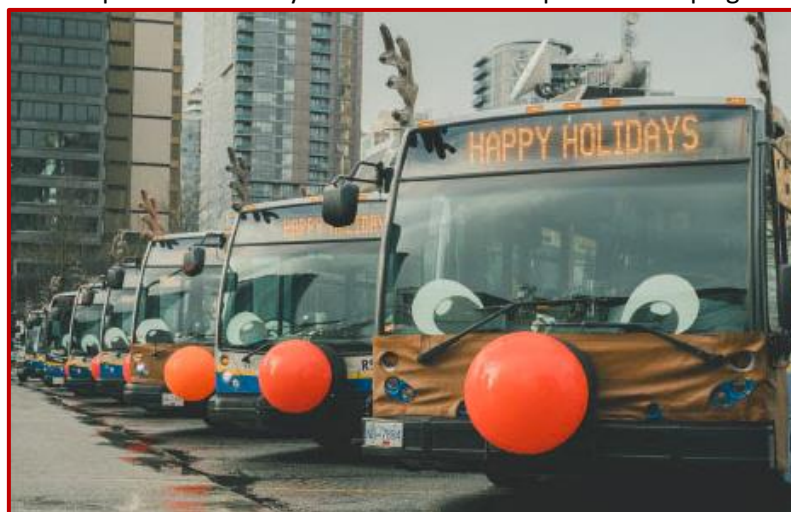
The Reindeer buses are back

Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen! And Comet, and Cupid, and Donner and Blitzen! The whole gang is joining TransLink's bus fleet this holiday season with nine Rudolph-themed Reindeer Buses sleighing into service on November 25th. In addition to spreading cheer and making spirits bright, the red-nosed Reindeer Buses will deliver donated toys to the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau where they will be distributed to Metro Vancouver families in need.

The Reindeer Bus is part of a 36-year initiative known as Toys for Tots. Each year, staff at TransLink, Coast Mountain Bus Company, SkyTrain, Transit Police, and West Coast Express donate toys and cash to this important campaign.

Reindeer facts:

- Over the years, 86,912 toys and over \$50,500 have been donated
- Each Reindeer Bus is named after a different reindeer guiding Santa's sleigh
- The routes the Reindeer Buses will travel on will vary each day based on scheduling by elves in each bus depot
- The buses have been decorated by Santa's elves at each bus depot, meaning customers in every region will be able to ride a Reindeer Bus



TransLink's Reindeer buses are back.

Customers who would like to donate can bring unwrapped toys to the Compass Customer Service Centre outside of Stadium-Chinatown Station, or to SeaBus staff at the Waterfront or Lonsdale Quay terminals. Customers have until December 14 to donate before the toys are delivered to the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau by Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Reindeer Bus.

Another Step Forward for the New Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves Vancouver, the UBC Endowment Lands and parts of Burnaby and Richmond, is being upgraded. Metro Vancouver wants to ensure the wastewater treatment plant makes a positive contribution to the health and well-being of people and the environment.

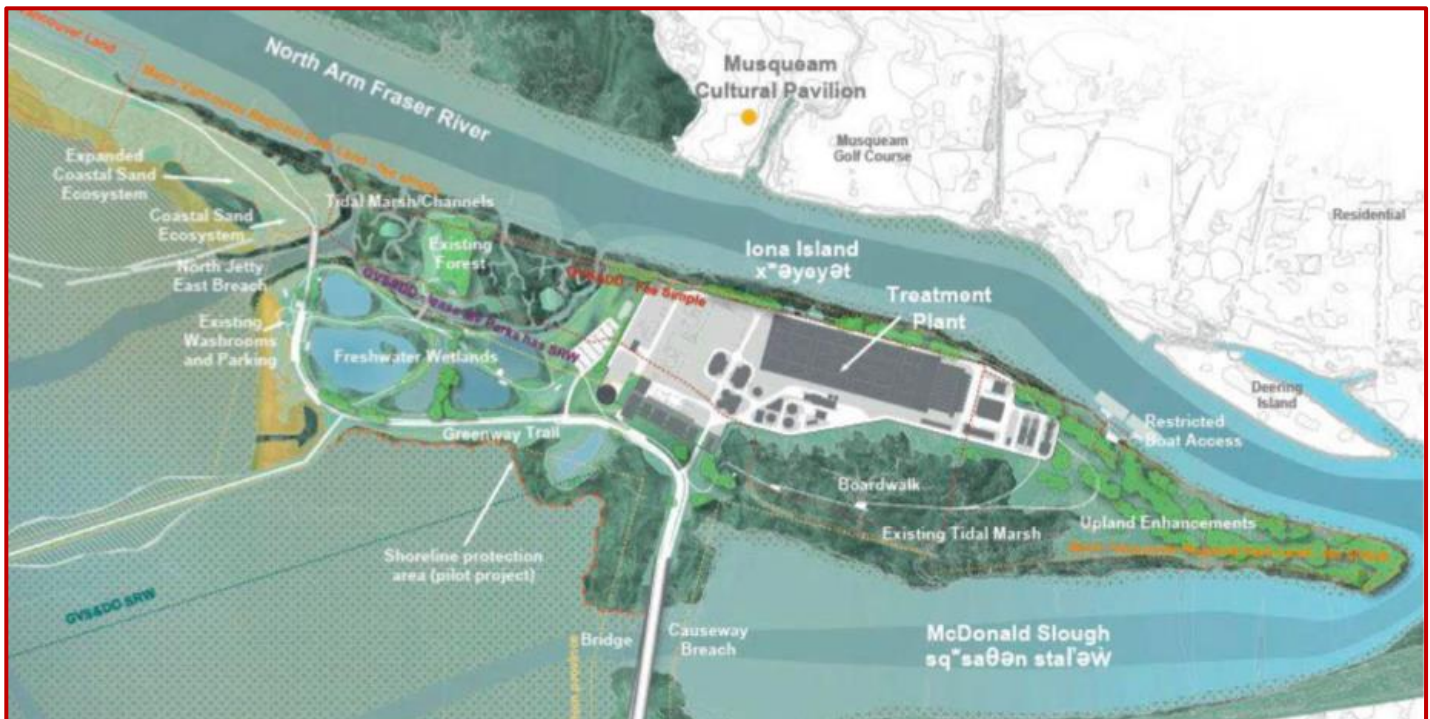
The upgraded plant will provide tertiary liquid waste treatment to protect water quality and the marine environment, increase resilience to an earthquake and sea level rise, integrate with Iona Beach Regional Park and the surrounding environment, restore and protect fish and bird habitats, reduce odours and recover sustainable energy and resources from wastewater.



At our November 26, 2021 meeting, the Metro Vancouver Board endorsed a revised design concept for the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects that incorporates input from an external expert panel and engagement with member jurisdictions, key stakeholders, the public and First Nations.

The revised design concept includes a different secondary treatment technology that requires a smaller physical footprint and provides potential capital cost savings relative to the earlier design concept. It also allows flexibility in selecting a preferred secondary treatment technology, which will be determined during the preliminary design phase. The ecological restoration projects, resource recovery opportunities and Iona Beach Regional Park enhancements remain unchanged from the previous concept.

Ahead of receiving the final Project Definition Report in early 2022, the Board will host a special meeting including a workshop-style joint discussion with Finance and Intergovernment, Liquid Waste, Regional Parks, and Mayors committees, with others participating as observers, related to the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Revised Design Concept.



Proposed Design for the new Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant, including numerous ecological improvements

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Oct
2021

How have the Recent Storms Impacted our Region?

I can't stop thinking about our neighbouring Fraser Valley, Thompson-Nicola, and Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Districts who have faced the worst impacts of the recent flooding. The heavy rains have had smaller impacts on our region, and I thought that you may be interested in reading more about how our infrastructure and other aspects of our local region are holding up with the extreme weather.



*Flooding in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.
Photo credit: Metro Vancouver Regional Parks*

Liquid Waste Services: During the recent storms, Metro Vancouver's liquid waste system experienced the highest inflows ever recorded. There were a number of flows and breaks in the system that required containment and repair, but despite this, all treatment plants managed to continue operations. Pre-emptive sandbagging and low-leveling at pump stations and wastewater treatment plants ahead of anticipated storms also helped reduce impacts.

Regional Parks: All parks experienced impacts including localized flooding, wind damage and other hazards. Assessment and monitoring of park trails, infrastructure and facilities is ongoing, and some trails, bridges, boardwalks and facilities remain closed. Nine parks closed

during storms; however all regional parks are now open with exception of Grouse Mountain and Delta Nature Reserve (at the time of writing). The situation in each park is evolving, so be sure to check the [website](#) for updates before embarking.

Water Services: Despite very high river flows on both the Capilano and Seymour rivers, water treatment and distribution operated as normal during storms and there were no impacts on drinking water quality. Staff kept in close contact with the District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, First Nations (Squamish, TWN), EMBC, NSEM, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Seymour River Hatchery and provincial dam safety branch of high flows on Seymour River as per emergency response protocols.

Solid Waste Services: In order to assist the neighbouring Fraser Valley Regional District, Metro Vancouver is temporarily accepting waste from outside the region, and material ban relaxations are now in place for organics and recyclables (the hazardous material disposal bans remain in place, however). Garbage volumes up more than 20% since the initial storm of Nov 14-15. In addition, services were briefly disrupted at Coquitlam and Langley Recycling and Waste Centres as a result of the flooding but returned to full operational levels within a day.



Invest Vancouver Highlights the Need to Maintain Metro Vancouver's Leadership in Clean Transportation

At our most recent Metro Vancouver Board meeting, the Board approved a report on the region's clean transportation sector, produced by Invest Vancouver, which is the Metro Vancouver region's economic development leadership service.

The report asserts that our region is well positioned to lead the next global wave of clean transportation innovation and industry development, but risks losing key industry players if barriers to investment and future industry growth are not urgently addressed, according to a new report from Invest Vancouver. It identifies 13 recommendations, informed by input from leaders in clean transportation, and includes three key priorities around modernizing and streamlining the permitting process, improving access to highly-limited "heavy" industrial space, and supporting a hydrogen hub to accelerate industry growth.

"By having government, industry, academia, and researchers work together, the Metro Vancouver region can take advantage of its strategic advantages in clean transportation, especially in the hydrogen sector, to assume a place as a global leader in the research, development, production, and export of new mobility solutions to climate change," said Sav Dhaliwal, Chair of the Invest Vancouver Management Board and the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors. "Invest Vancouver's *Clean Transportation: Actions to Strengthen the Sector in the Metro Vancouver Region* offers valuable findings, analysis, and actionable recommendations to support this vital industry sector in B.C."

Metro Vancouver has a burgeoning clean transportation sector, including business clusters and industrial specializations in low- and zero-emission vehicles and components, low-carbon fuels and charging infrastructure, plus an advanced and growing hydrogen cluster. Firms overwhelmingly attribute access to a deep talent pool and experienced workforce as a major appeal of the region. Within the last five years, the 60 export-oriented firms identified in the report attracted more than \$2.6 billion in capital investment to the region.

The report outlines three priority areas for improvement:

Permit Process Streamlining: A clear, timely, and technology-based municipal permitting process is a top priority for sector growth within the region. Permit delays are a significant barrier to success for clean transportation firms and hamper future investments in this sector.

Physical Space Requirements: Suitable physical spaces are necessary, especially for businesses engaged in hydrogen fuel cell and low-pressure storage development. However, the region's industrial vacancy rate has fallen below one per cent. The report recommends investing in spaces to be leased to firms at below-market





rates, and subsidizing energy upgrades to existing warehouses to meet the higher power demands of clean transportation research and development.

Cluster Development Opportunities: A cluster of hydrogen-focused businesses has developed over the last three decades in the region, however the global market has since caught up and incentives are required to support further growth in this sector. Invest Vancouver recommends several actions to strengthen the region's productive advantages, such as launching a hydrogen hub supported by government and industry, creating a long-term electric power rate for hydrogen production, and funding a large-scale hydrogen-powered heavy-duty vehicle demonstration project.

Worldwide, interest and investment in clean transportation is gaining momentum. At this year's UN Climate Change Conference, the Hydrogen Council CEO Coalition noted that hydrogen has a central role in helping the world reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5°C, and that within the next decade, global demand for renewable and low-carbon hydrogen could grow by 50 per cent. Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicts that by 2050, clean hydrogen will make up as much as 25 per cent of our net-zero energy mix, generating a \$20-trillion infrastructure investment opportunity.

The full report is available [here](#), or on the Invest Vancouver website: investvancouver.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 (MVRD) Board of Directors*
- TransLink Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation
- 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
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association Director at Large

**MVRD committee appointments will be made in the coming weeks. I hope to continue to serve on the committees that I was appointed to in 2021 and will let you know once I find out. My 2021 MRVD committees were: Finance and Intergovernmental, Climate Action, Mayors', and Electoral Area (Chair)*

Links & Connections

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

www.areaajen.ca

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

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

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

www.metrovancouver.org

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

www.translink.ca