

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Feb
2022

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

I trust that your new year (Gregorian or lunar) is off to a good start. For me, the fall felt pretty dark, but some good family and outside time over the winter holidays did me a world of good. Having said that, I am sure I am not the only one feeling a bit of "weight of the world" right now. I hope we can each take some time to rejuvenate out in nature, and to create time with those whom you care for.



Quality family time during the snowy winter break

After a gentle start to 2022, local and regional issues have picked up a lot of steam. Here on the UBC Peninsula, we all have the chance to weigh in on UBC's vision for the campus for the next 30 years. Within the UEL, the cannabis store application remains front and centre for residents, though no decision has been made yet. Across the region, I am excited to let you know that TransLink's Board, chaired by UNA resident Lorraine Cunningham, and the Mayor's Council for Regional Transportation (of which I am a member) recently approved TransLink's ambitious Transport 2050 Plan. You can read more about these and a number of other topics in the pages below.

In addition, I wanted to let you know about an upcoming Engagement session that I am currently planning. This session will focus on **Plastics Recycling: What Goes Where, and Does it Even Get Recycled in the End? Please save the date for Wednesday February 23rd at 7-8pm.**

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)



Community Connections: Sad news of the Passing of John Tompkins, UNA Campus Resident Editor

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).

This month, I wanted to take a few minutes to remember the life of a really great member of our community. As you may have heard, John Tompkins, the long-time editor (and reporter and writer and designer) for the UNA local newspaper, The Campus Resident, recently passed away.



While John was no longer a resident of Electoral Area A when publishing The Campus Resident, he continued to be a strong presence here, and someone whose work impacted many of us. He took his role of The Campus Resident reporter and editor seriously, and if there was an event of interest happening in our community, you could count on John being there, rain or shine. I always admired his dedication and commitment to journalism, while always maintaining a kind and respectful approach.

I have asked Bill Holmes, a resident of one of the UBC neighbourhoods, to write a few words about John, and he kindly provided the following.

I was deeply saddened to learn of John's passing on January 29th. John had been a friend for many years. I came to know him by being a frequent contributor to The Campus Resident.

John was an experienced journalist. He learned the craft as a reporter for the Edmonton Journal. In 2003, when John lived at Hampton Place (a UBC neighbourhood), he saw a need for a local newspaper and so, being entrepreneurial, started a business of publishing a community newspaper for UBC residents. There were several iterations of the paper, starting with The V6T Community News, followed by

The late John Tompkins, editor and business manager of The Campus Resident newspaper. I will remember John for his dedication and commitment to journalism, while always maintaining a kind and respectful approach.

Photo credit: The Tompkins family

The Hampton Journal and The Wesbrook Journal, and finally The Campus Resident, which John launched in May 2010.



The Campus Resident stated John's role as "editor and business manager". That was an understatement. John was responsible for all aspects of the paper, including not only writing, soliciting, and editing articles, but also the design, printing, and distribution of the paper.

John provided an invaluable service to the UBC neighbourhoods. His newspaper informed us of local issues and events, thereby helping to create a greater sense of community and making us feel more connected. It also provided a forum for residents to express views and debate issues, a role for the paper that particularly pleased John. Even though the paper was funded by the UNA, John was a stickler for maintaining its independence. UBC residents' appreciation for The Campus Resident was evident by the outcry when, a few years ago, the UNA decided to stop funding it. That decision was soon reversed.

John was diligent in carrying out his role as reporter. He faithfully attended UNA Board meetings, UNA Annual General Meetings, and community events such as Lunar New Year. He would sit quietly, observing the proceedings and watching out for stories.

Several years after I got to know John, we discovered that our paths had crossed more than 50 years ago. In my last year of high school, he was a new teacher at the school (he stayed only one year). Among the courses he taught was Physics 12. While I took that course, I was in a different section, so just missed having him as a teacher. When I discovered this connection, I was able to put John back in touch with another teacher who had been his fishing buddy.

When John was taken to the VGH on January 3rd, there was an expectation that he would be released in a few days. However, one medical issue turned into another and then another, with the shocking end. Even while in the hospital, John was determined to renew his contract with the UNA to continue publishing The Campus Resident. He has been taken from us far too soon and will be sorely missed.

- Bill Holmes, UNA Resident

Update on the UEL Cannabis Application Process

As you may remember from my May 2021 [newsletter](#), there is currently an application for a cannabis store on University Boulevard within the UEL. There has been some confusion around the application process, so I wanted to provide some clarification.

Cannabis retail applications within the UEL undergo a two-part process, with the first being a rezoning application to the UEL. The UEL is responsible for local land use planning within its jurisdiction, which includes zoning, building permits and business licences. This is why the application is first being considered by the UEL through the rezoning application. The provincial Minister responsible for

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 LCRB.

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:

Photo from May, 2021 of information in University Village about the proposed UEL Cannabis Store Application



the UEL (Minister Osborne) is the decision maker for rezoning applications in the UEL. I met with Minister Osborne in December and conveyed the strong feedback that I have received from residents about this issue.

Please note that if an applicant wanted to open a store on the UBC lands (including within the UNA), UBC would be responsible for this first level of decision making, and at present, they are not considering such applications.

If the Minister were to deny the rezoning, then the application does not move ahead to the second step. If the Minister were to approve the rezoning application, the next step would be for the Minister's decision and any supporting documentation to be forwarded to Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD), since Metro Vancouver is the local government for the purposes of providing comments on liquor and retail cannabis licences in Electoral Area A (including UEL and UBC) to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB), which is the final decision-making body for such applications.

In the event that the Minister renders a positive decision, supporting documentation (including residents' comments) would be forwarded to Metro Vancouver staff to review and formulate a recommendation to bring to the Electoral Area Committee (which I Chair) and then to the MVRD Board. The MVRD Board would consider the application and pass a resolution recommending that the LCRB either approve or refuse the application. If the MVRD Board were to recommend refusal, the LCRB would not issue the licence. If the MVRD were to recommend approval, then the LCRB may issue a retail cannabis licence.

Public consultation is an important part of this process, and numerous pieces of correspondence as well as petitions were received during the spring 2021 comment period. All public input will be considered at both levels of decision making. For my part, I can assure residents that I will be carefully reading all the feedback and supporting documentation and at both the MVRD Committee and Board level, I will represent UEL residents to the best of my ability, taking into account all the feedback received from the community.

As the application is still at the initial UEL rezoning stage, Heather Shay with UEL Administration, is best suited to answer any questions related to the current status. She can be reached at Heather.Shay@gov.bc.ca. Having said that, I always welcome correspondence from Electoral Area A residents, so feel free to reach out if there is anything I can assist with.



Engagement Session on Plastics Recycling: Wednesday February 23rd at 7pm

WHERE DOES OUR PLASTIC GO?

Join us as we sort through what plastics get recycled where, and then follow where various plastics (and other waste) end up.

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd at 7-8pm

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

*Presented by Electoral Area Director Jen McCutcheon
(areaajen@gmail.com or www.areaajen.ca)*



Do you ever find yourself looking at a piece of plastic in your kitchen, wondering if it can be recycled, and if so, where and how? Do you wonder if all the effort that we as individuals put into sorting and properly disposing of our waste even results in items being recycled? Join me for a conversation that will help us better understand what can be recycled where, and what happens to items that are recycled in our region. Guest speakers include UNA Sustainability Specialist, Julia Gellman who runs our local Green Depot, as well as Metro Vancouver's General Manager for Solid Waste, Paul Henderson. The session will occur via Zoom on Wednesday, February 23rd from 7-8pm. Zoom link for all my engagement sessions: <https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/6044516562>

If you missed my last engagement session on the Circular Economy, you can listen to an audio recording [here](#).

Campus Vision 2050

UBC recently launched their Campus Vision 2050 strategy. This is a 2.5 year process that will help shape how the UBC Vancouver campus – including its university neighbourhoods – changes and grows over the next 30 years. I wanted to share a [link](#) to register for a number of events UBC has planned, including a virtual open house scheduled on Feb. 10th from 5:30-6:30PM as well as workshops on Feb. 8 (online), Feb. 15 (in person), and Feb. 16 (in person). The open house will include a presentation, an overview of our [online engagement platform](#), and lots of time for Q&A, while the workshops are an opportunity to explore and discuss ideas about the future of the campus with others from the UBC community through visioning and small group discussions:

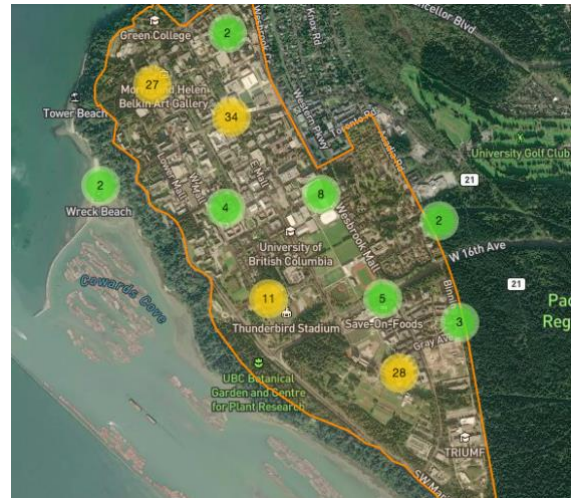
1. [Drop a pin on the Campus Map.](#)
2. [Fill out the Survey.](#)
3. [Post on the Ideas Boards.](#)
4. [Ask a question on the Q&A board.](#)



I particularly like the interactive “Drop a pin on the Campus Map” feature where we can comment on real examples of what is and is not working on the current campus, as a way to inform future growth and development. Check it out [here](#)

The UNA is actively working with UBC to ensure that the needs of the community are represented in UBC’s Campus Vision 2050 plan. The [Land Use Advisory Committee](#) was established to help support the UNA Board with land use and development on the UBC Campus and help facilitate discussions on land use planning and development with residents. They have set up a website to share ideas with residents. You can find it [here](#).

I urge you to get involved in this planning process. This is our chance to help shape our neighbourhoods develop with respect to aspects such as affordability, livability, climate action and environmental sustainability, and density.





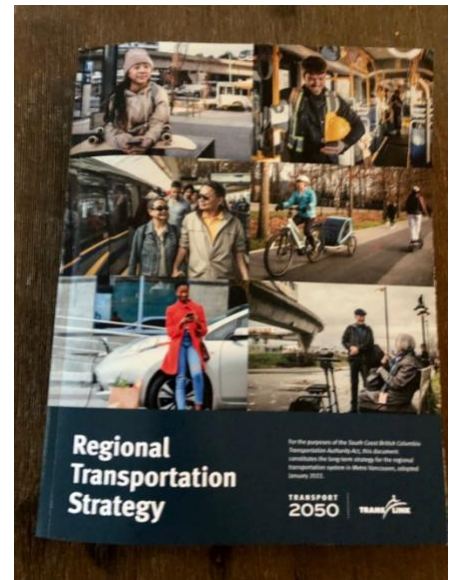
TransLink Updates

Transport 2050 is adopted!

I am excited to let you know that we recently adopted TransLink's 30-year vision for transportation development! After one of Metro Vancouver's largest-ever public engagement efforts, TransLink is moving forward towards tangible region-wide action to improve public transit. These actions include:

- ✓ Quadrupling the rapid transit network
- ✓ Adding 850km of protected bikeways
- ✓ Dedicated more streets to walking, biking, rolling, and transit
- ✓ Promoting electric and shared vehicles: bikes, scooters, and cars

The goals of T2050 are to make public transit more convenient, reliable, affordable, safe, comfortable, and carbon-free. TransLink will begin working with partners to confirm key regional transportation priorities to begin making this vision a reality. You can find more details on T2050 [here](#). If you would prefer to browse through a hard copy, I have one, and am happy to lend it out – just send me an email (areaajen@gmail.com).



TransLink's Climate Action Strategy

On January 20th, TransLink released its new Climate Action Strategy which maps out TransLink's commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. These goals encompass all of TransLink's operational companies and work to achieve the following:

- ✓ Net zero Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) by 2050
- ✓ Zero emissions from TransLink's bus fleet by 2040
- ✓ 45 percent reduction of GHGs by 2030 (over 2010 levels)
- ✓ To create a more resilient system that can withstand extreme weather events that also keeps customers safe and comfortable

Later this year, TransLink will release a more detailed plan that will complement Transport 2050, TransLink's regional growth vision. [Find more details about TransLink's Climate Action Strategy here.](#)



Braille Signage installation begins at bus stops

TransLink has begun installing braille signage at all bus stops and tactile walking surface indicators at all property it owns or leases. The signage at the stops will have bus stop ID numbers, bus routes serving that bus stop, bay or bus stop indicators, and customer information phone numbers. For customers seeking assistance or more information, they can call 604-953-3333.



UNA Sustainability Team Launches a Virtual Lunch and Learn Series

UNA's Sustainability Team is pleased to introduce Sustainability Sessions: a monthly series of virtual Lunch & Learns on various sustainability topics. We welcome participants to connect over their lunch hour and learn from exciting guest experts. This series aims to connect, share resources, and support networking with sustainability champions in our neighbourhood communities.

The first session in the series will be on February 16th, from 12:30-1:30, on the topic of Energy & Climate Action. You can register (for free!) and find more details [here](#). Stay tuned for more sessions in this series.

UNA UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION

Sustainability

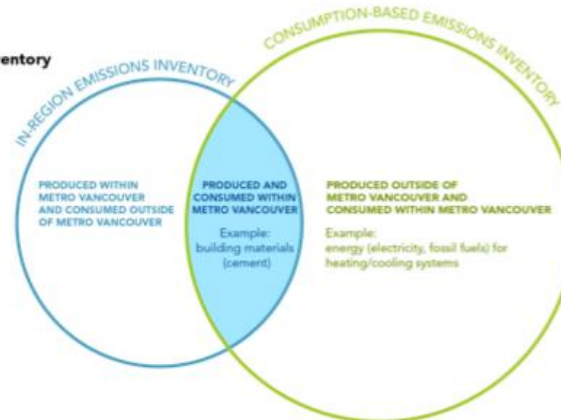
The UNA is committed to providing leadership, education and support services to promote a sustainable community life.

Metro Vancouver Regional Consumption-Based Emissions Inventory

Metro Vancouver has developed a consumption-based emissions inventory (CBEI) to provide a more comprehensive understanding of greenhouse gas emissions, as a complement to the in-region emissions inventory conducted in 2015. A CBEI extends takes into account **embodied emissions** that occur outside the region's geographical boundary, but are associated with goods and services that are consumed within the region.

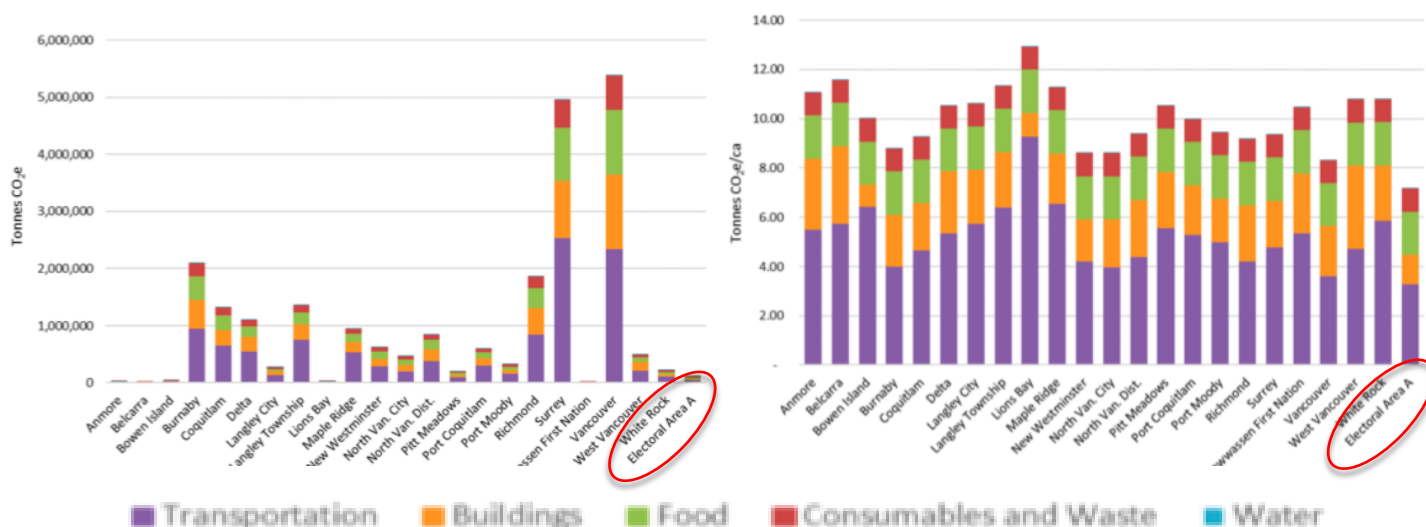
The CBEI is intended to inform the development of policies and implementation of actions in both the *Clean Air Plan* and the longer-term *Climate 2050* roadmaps, and it helps complete the picture of how in-region economic activity and consumption habits influence greenhouse gas emissions globally.

GHG emissions included in an in-region emissions inventory vs. a consumption-based emissions inventory
Example: GHG emissions from goods and services for a building

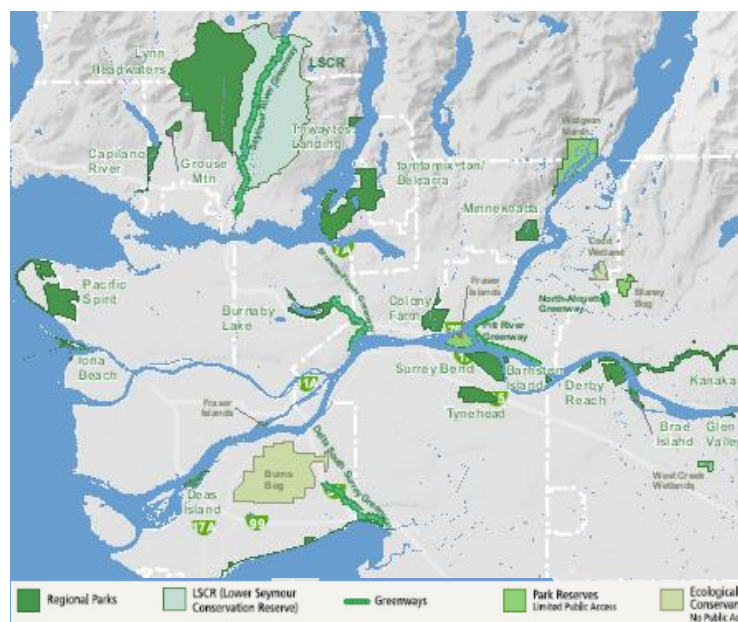


In-Region (Territorial) versus Consumption-Based Approach in the Emissions Inventory

The CBEI estimates the region's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions were 23.3 million tonnes of GHG equivalent in 2015, which is 58% higher than the 14.7 million tonnes of in-region emissions. The consumption-based emissions inventory shows that transportation (49%) and buildings (22%) are the top two sources of emissions associated with consumption, which is similar to the proportional contribution of transportation and buildings in the in-region emissions. Consumption-based (or embodied) emissions vary greatly across the region, as illustrated below.



Regional Parks Plan Engagement Starts on February 14th



Metro Vancouver Regional Parks (in green)

Metro Vancouver is updating its *Regional Parks Plan*, which provides strategic direction to guide the work of Regional Parks and progress towards the vision of a regional parks system that is “protected and resilient, connecting people to nature, with benefits for all.”

The updated plan identifies how key challenges will be met and opportunities leveraged, and provides an action plan to address priorities over the next decade. At the January 28 meeting, the Metro Vancouver Board approved initiating engagement with member jurisdictions, First Nations, agencies, stakeholders, and the public to help further refine the draft plan. Engagement will begin on February 14, with details to be posted on Metro Vancouver’s [website](#). Completion of the final plan is anticipated by July 2022.



Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Task Force



Electoral Area A's Barnston Island, located in Metro Vancouver between Surrey (to the South/bottom of the image) and Pitt Meadows (to the north/top). This low-lying island has been identified as being at risk of flooding.

Image credit: Upland Agricultural Consulting

In response to the extreme flooding that impacted Metro Vancouver and many parts of the province during the winter of 2021, Metro Vancouver Chair Sav Dhaliwal has established a *Flood Resiliency Task Force* to provide advice and recommendations to the Metro Vancouver Board and to the Board members appointed to the Leadership Committee of the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS) on issues related to flood resiliency.

The task force will review and consider Metro Vancouver's regional priorities and issues for the LMFMS and will also consider options for Metro Vancouver to coordinate and collaborate with member jurisdictions, First Nations, Fraser Valley Regional District, and the provincial and federal governments, on plans, priorities and funding to enhance flood resiliency. I have been asked to serve on this new task force to support all impacted communities across the region, and especially those on Electoral Area A's Barnston Island.

Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2022

I am happy to report that I have been reappointed to almost all of the boards and committees that I was on in 2021. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to learn more. My current Committee and Board appointments:

- 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 (my term expires this year)
- 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
- Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Task Force

Links & Connections

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

www.areaajen.ca

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

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

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

www.metrovancouver.org

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

www.translink