



Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

This month's newsletter is rather brief, as it's been a tough month for me. I recently lost my father, Rob Capell, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. There are so many wonderful things about him, but most of all, I remember him for his incredible kindness and genuine care for others. He served as a high school teacher and vice principal during his professional career, and I have been overwhelmed by the number of messages from former students about what a kind and fair man he was. As I reflect on my dad's life against the backdrop of all the challenges our world is facing, I can't help but feel an incredible sense of pride – to be remembered for kindness above all else is an incredible legacy, and an inspiration.

As for community news, one of the most anticipated developments is the UEL cannabis store application. The provincial government has signed off on the bylaw changes required to move this application forward to Metro Vancouver, and the application will come to the Electoral Area Committee (which I Chair) on June 7. I am working to make sure that the rest of the Electoral Area Committee, as well as the Metro Vancouver Board (who will make the final decision) understand the concerns raised by the UEL community. You can read more about the process on page 2.

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 with her parents,
Rob and Rosemary Capell, in 2016.*



UEL Cannabis Store Application – Next Steps

In April 2022, the Minister responsible for the University Endowment Lands (UEL) approved zoning bylaw changes to allow Burb Cannabis Corporation to operate a non-medical cannabis retail store at 5784 University Boulevard.

The next step in the process is for Metro Vancouver to consider whether or not to recommend that the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) issue a non-medical cannabis retail store licence to Burb Cannabis Corporation at this site. The Electoral Area Committee will be considering this matter at its upcoming meeting on June 9, 2022. Information, including an application summary and public feedback received to date, can be viewed [here](#).

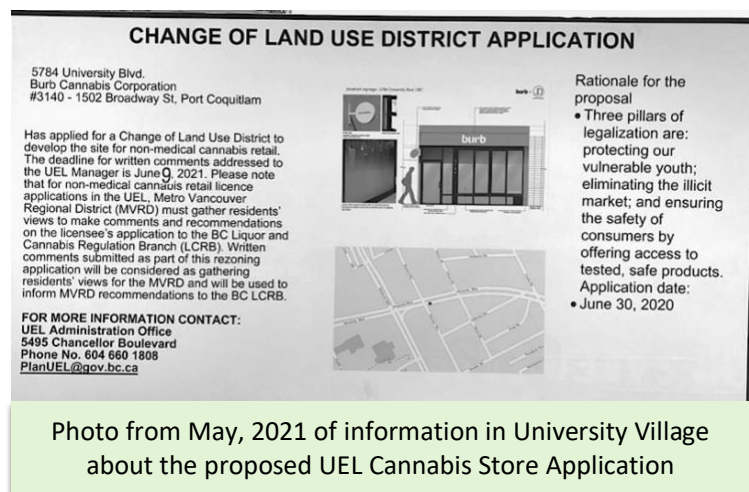
If you have already submitted comments either as part of the UEL rezoning application or by sending them to Metro Vancouver, your comments will be part of the package of materials that will be considered by the Electoral Area Committee on June 9. If you have not

submitted comments or would like to submit additional comments, you can do so by sending them to Marcin.Pachcinski@metrovanancouver.org and copying me (areaajen@gmail.com). The deadline to have comments included as part of the package of materials that will be considered by the Electoral Area Committee at its June 9, 2022 meeting is 4:00pm Monday, May 30, 2022.

If you are interested in speaking in relation to this application to the Electoral Area Committee at its June 9, 2022 meeting, [click here](#).

After the June 9 Electoral Area Committee, this matter will be considered by the MVRD Board at its June 24, 2022 meeting. If the Board recommends that the LCRB issue the licence, then the LCRB will be able to issue the non-medical cannabis retail store licence. If the Board does not recommend that the LCRB issue the licence, then they will not be able to issue one.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage all residents to submit comments on this application. The vast majority of residents within the UEL that I have spoken or emailed with have been in strong opposition of this store in their small community. I will do my best to ensure that your message is conveyed to the rest of the Electoral Area Committee and Metro Vancouver Board.



ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

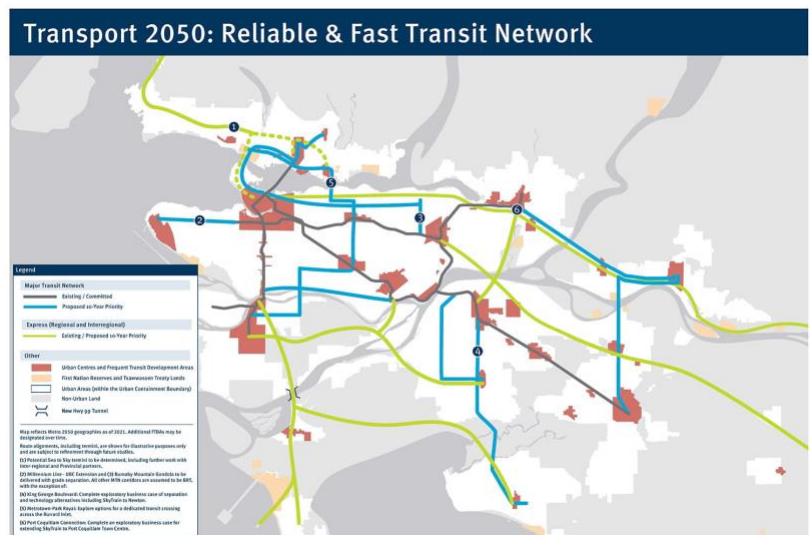
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TransLink Updates

TransLink Unveils First 10 years of Transport 2050 Priorities

The recently released *Transport 2050 Strategy* concluded that there is an urgent and widespread need to address climate change, housing affordability, and traffic congestion by increasing and improving transit service as quickly and cost-effectively as possible.

Earlier this month, TransLink released the set of priorities for the first ten years of *Transport 2050* in a document called *Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities*. In this document, TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation (which I am part of) have released details about priority investments to meet the increasing demand for transit and support the transportation needs of Metro Vancouver's growing population. This is the next step to implement the ambitious goals and targets set out in *Transport 2050*.



Proposed investments detailed for the next decade include: doubling regional bus service levels, up to 170 kilometres of new rapid transit on up to 11 corridors (including the Millennium Line SkyTrain extension from Arbutus to UBC), and building 450 kilometres of new traffic-separated cycling paths. One of the biggest advances in this plan are the introduction of high-capacity Bus Rapid Transit. This new zero-emissions bus-based rapid transit could be deployed along high-demand corridors throughout Metro Vancouver at a fraction of the cost and time compared to rail-based technology.

[Learn more about the 10-Year Priorities here](#)

Earth Day 2022 – Taking Transit for the Planet

On Earth Day, April 22, TransLink launched #Transit4ThePlanet, encouraging Metro Vancouverites to leave their cars at home and take transit, knowing individual choices have the power to make a difference. Nearly 320,000 people took transit for the planet on Earth Day 2022. Had all these people driven gasoline cars instead, 1,365 metric tonnes of CO₂ would have been emitted – the equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions of 294 gasoline cars being driven or a year. Better yet, nearly one-third of all transit journeys on Earth Day used only near-zero-emission modes such as SkyTrain and electric trolley buses. These modes reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 99% compared to driving a gasoline car.



Metro 2050: Regional Growth Strategy Update

The Metro Vancouver Board is moving forward toward adopting a new regional growth strategy before the end of the municipal government term in October. Metro 2050 is the regional federation's vision for accommodating anticipated future growth in the region with considerations for diverse and affordable housing, transit and mobility, resilient employment, protected ecological and agricultural lands, the impacts of climate change, and more. An interactive version of *Metro 2050* available here: [Metro 2050 \(metrovanancouver.org\)](https://metrovanancouver.org)

At the Board meeting on March 25, 2022, the bylaw to adopt *Metro 2050* received first and second readings, and a public hearing on the was held on April 20, 2022. At the April 29, 2022 meeting, the Board referred the bylaw to member jurisdictions for approval. Per the *Local Government Act*, member jurisdictions have 60 days from the date of receipt to consider *Metro 2050*. It is expected that the Board will consider third reading and final adoption of the bylaw at its July 29, 2022 meeting.

I am generally in support of the new strategy, as it provides better direction for where and how the region grows, in light of climate emergency. I do not feel that the strategy is strong enough on climate



policy, but I am aware that the Board is made up of a very diverse set of individuals, some of whom feel that the policy direction in the current draft provides too much restriction on growth. I am hopeful that we can pass this strategy and immediately start working towards strengthening the climate policies, which can be done through the amendment process. To this end, and through the work of the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee, staff have been directed to undertake work and engagement with an aim to proposing an early amendment to *Metro 2050* post-adoption to further strengthen climate action language and policy including the intent to improve integration of climate action into other *Metro 2050* priorities.

Payment of Fire Services in Rural Parts of Electoral Area A

As members of Metro Vancouver Regional District, a portion of our taxes go to the regional district to help pay for services such as our sewer, regional parks, and electoral area services. Metro Vancouver does not provide a fire service to Electoral Area A communities, and here on the UBC peninsula, we have a fire service agreement with the City of Vancouver and pay the city for the service that is provided by the Vancouver Fire Department. Unfortunately, such fire service agreements are not in place in other, more rural parts of the Electoral Area, which means that when there is a fire in a place like Barnston Island or the small communities between West Vancouver and Lions Bay, there is no mechanism in place for neighbouring fire departments to be paid for fighting a fire. This is a longstanding and complicated issue, which you can read more about [here](#).



Fire services on the UBC Peninsula are provided by Vancouver Fire Department (VFD) Photo credit: VFD

Last fall, there was a fire on Barnston Island, and thankfully, Surrey Fire Department responded. Despite my objection, the Electoral Area Committee and then the Board voted to have the fees for this service come out of the Electoral Area A budget. Given that the UBC and UEL make up more than 98% of the Electoral Area, our taxes fund the vast majority of the Electoral Area including its reserve fund. This is the case for all electoral services, but this fee seemed unfair to me given that we already pay not only 98% of the taxes to the regional district, but also the fire service charge to the City of Vancouver. I am definitely in support of rural residents receiving fire services and have been working to try to establish fire service areas in these more rural areas. My objections to this payment solution are for two reasons. First, from a fairness perspective, we are in a unique situation here on the UBC Peninsula where we both pay for our own fire service AND are now being asked to pay for fire services in another area of the region. To my knowledge, there is nowhere else in the province where this is the case. The second reason I was not in support of this policy is the potential disincentive that this solution provides for more sustainable fire service areas. Again, it is a complicated issue with no easy solution. I am happy to discuss it further with anyone who is interested.

The solution proposed for payment (\$25,000) of the Barnston Island fire is a temporary solution, and the funds will not come from a tax requisition but rather from excess operating funds or reserve funds collected in the past decades. In the coming months, Metro Vancouver is working on a Mutual Aid agreement for the whole region. This agreement will enable neighbouring jurisdictions across the region to attend emergencies (at the request of the host jurisdiction) and to be reimbursed for this service. This means that if, for example, there was a large-scale emergency on the UBC peninsula, we could call in not only the City of Vancouver emergency services, but also other neighbours such as Richmond. The same would hold true for more remote areas of the Electoral Area.

More Climate 2050 Draft Roadmaps Released

During the past few months, three additional draft *Climate 2050* roadmaps were released for public input. These roadmaps are designed to help the region reach our climate targets for 2030 and 2050. Each roadmap focuses on a different area necessary for decreasing our carbon emissions. The latest three roadmaps focus on energy, nature and ecosystems, and industry and business. These are detailed reports and are very interesting. I've summarized the key strategies from each report below, which are [available in full here](http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/air-quality/climate-action/climate2050/regional-priorities/discussion-papers/).

(<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/air-quality/climate-action/climate2050/regional-priorities/discussion-papers/>)



Draft Climate 2050 Energy Roadmap Key Strategies:

1. Plan for the transition to clean, renewable, and resilient energy
2. Accelerate electrification
3. Increase sustainable production of low carbon biofuels and hydrogen
4. Limit expansion of fossil fuel production
5. Protect existing energy systems from current and future climate impacts
6. Build new energy systems that are climate resilient

Draft Climate 2050 Nature and Ecosystems Roadmap Key Strategies:

1. Protect, restore, and enhance the region's ecosystems
2. Connect green infrastructure
3. Integrate natural assets into conventional asset management and decision-making processes
4. Support a resilient, robust, and healthy urban forest
5. Advance nature-based solutions to climate change

Draft Climate 2050 Industry and Business Roadmap Key Strategies:

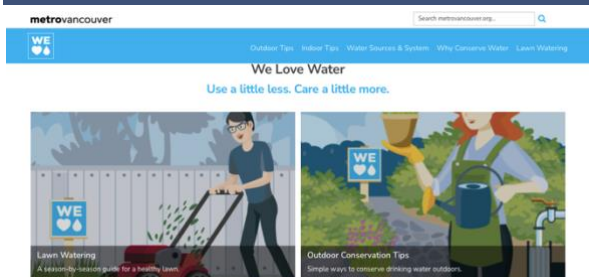
1. Accelerate emissions reduction from industrial facilities
2. Reduce non-road emissions and support early adoption of zero emission non-road equipment
3. Explore opportunities for technological carbon capture
4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through procurement and other business practices
5. Assess climate vulnerabilities for businesses in the region
6. Support industry and business resilience to flooding through better information and planning
7. Improve business resilience to extreme heat and air quality events
8. Support water conservation to increase resilience to shifting precipitation patterns

Featured Story: Urban Trees

Climate change is affecting the long-term survival of our urban forest. Metro Vancouver is developing guidelines and education materials to help landscapers choose trees that can adapt to our region's urban environment and weather conditions.



New Water Restrictions in Effect



I mentioned this last month but wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that as of May 1, residents of Metro Vancouver (including UBC, UNA and the UEL) are only allowed to water their lawns once a week. You can read more about the watering restrictions, as well as other tips for conserving water [here](http://www.metrovancover.org/welovewater/Pages/default.aspx): <http://www.metrovancover.org/welovewater/Pages/default.aspx>



Upcoming UNA Sustainability Sessions

Join UNA's Sustainability Team for our monthly Sustainability Sessions, a series of virtual Lunch & Learn sessions 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.

May 18 – 11:30am-12:30pm

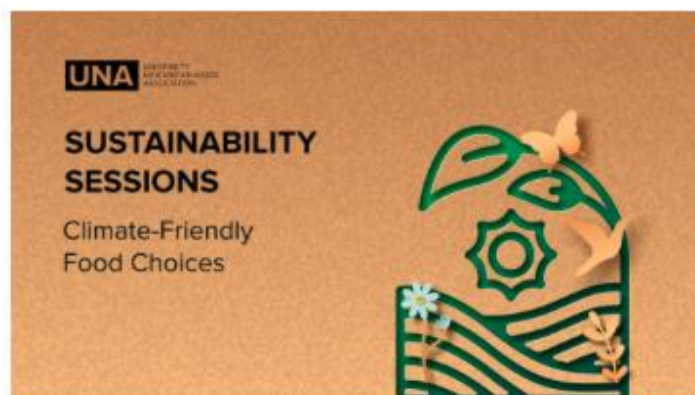
Climate Friendly Food Choices

[Sustainability Session 4: Climate Friendly Food Choices \(perfectmind.com\)](https://perfectmind.com)

June 14 – 11:30am-12:30pm

Eco-Friendly Home and Personal Care Products

[Sustainability Session 5: Eco-Friendly Home and Personal Care Products \(perfectmind.com\)](https://perfectmind.com)



Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2022

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 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
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association Third Vice President (newly elected!)

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