

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

July
2022

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

I trust that your summer is off to a good start. I am glad that the warm sun has finally returned and am also glad for our forests that we had a bit of a wet spring.

After a tough last few months, I am feeling quite rejuvenated after a wonderful week of kayaking with my husband and kids. There is nothing like a week unplugged, with family, and out enjoying beautiful BC to remind you of what is important in life.

This month's newsletter is a little longer than some, as I was not able to produce one last month. As always, I hope you'll skim through the publication, stopping to read in detail any sections that catch your eye. Some sections that I think you may be particularly interested in, include an update on the cannabis store application, TransLink's approval of the next 10 Year Vision, which includes the SkyTrain Extension to UBC, and Metro Vancouver Board approval of funds totalling \$435,101 for projects within the UNA/UBC area.

One of the real highlights of my job is getting to meet and get to know residents of Electoral Area A. Whether you have just moved here, or have been in the area for years, I always appreciate the chance to connect with

residents. I'm not very good on social media, but if you send me an email and want to arrange an in person visit or even a phone call, I'd love to connect. Getting to know you and your interests and concerns helps me do my job better.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that I may be able to assist with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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 kayaking in the Octopus Islands



*Sunset on BC's Octopus Islands
Image Credit: Jen McCutcheon*



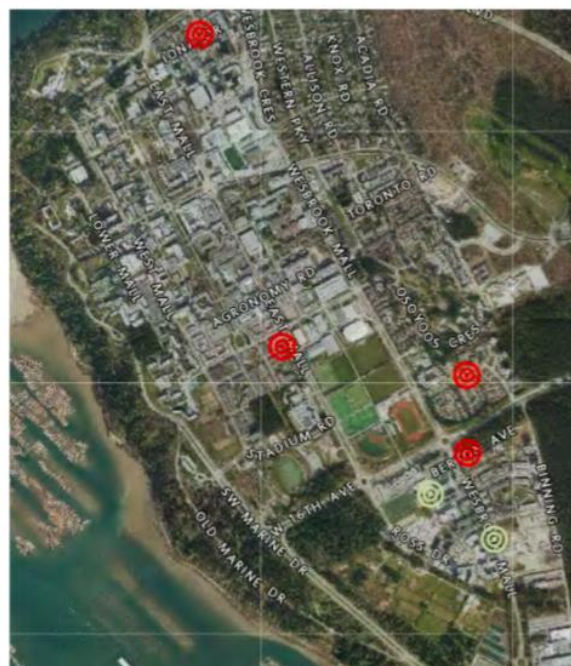
Metro Vancouver Approves Funding for Three Projects within UNA/UBC

In 2021, Metro Vancouver staff and I met with UNA and UBC community representatives to discuss potential projects to recommend for funding from the Electoral Area A Community Works Fund. The Community Works Fund is delivered to all local governments in British Columbia through a direct annual allocation to support local eligible priorities, and is distributed within Electoral Area A based on community population.

After discussing a number of projects, the UNA Board, with support from UBC, endorsed the three projects below in May 2022, which were approved for funding by the MVRD Board in June 2022:

1. Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations within UNA neighbourhoods (\$195,824)
2. Solid waste (recycling) receptacle replacement (\$139,277)
3. Acadia neighbourhood active transportation improvements between Acadia Rd and Osoyoos Cr (\$100,000)

As I biked through the Acadia neighbourhood the other day, I was pleased to see that work on this active transportation route is already underway. [Click here](#) for the staff report that contains a more detailed description of the projects.



Proposed EV charging stations (in red) as well as existing charging stations (in green).

Image source: UNA Staff

Through this same Community Works Fund, money is available for use by the University Endowment Lands. We are currently awaiting suggestions from the UEL area on how they would like to use the money. There is no deadline on spending the money, and the funds will continue to accumulate until spent.

Community Yard Sale, Hosted by the UNA

The UNA Community Yard Sale is back! Join the UNA and your community members on Saturday, August 20 from 10am-1pm at Wesbrook Community Centre. Shop for gently used items and learn more about UNA Sustainability initiatives. Coffee will be available by donation.

If you are interested in having a table at the Yard Sale, please [register through your UNA Account](#). Contact Robyn Chan, Sustainability Specialist, at robyn.chan@myuna.ca for more information.

Table price:

UNA Members: \$17

Non-UNA Members: \$20



TransLink Updates

I'm pleased to share that Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities was approved by the Mayors' Council and our Board of Directors earlier today. The approval of this plan puts us on a path to delivering the first decade of investments outlined in [Transport 2050](#). You can read the full 10-Year Priorities report [here](#) and the Executive Summary [here](#).

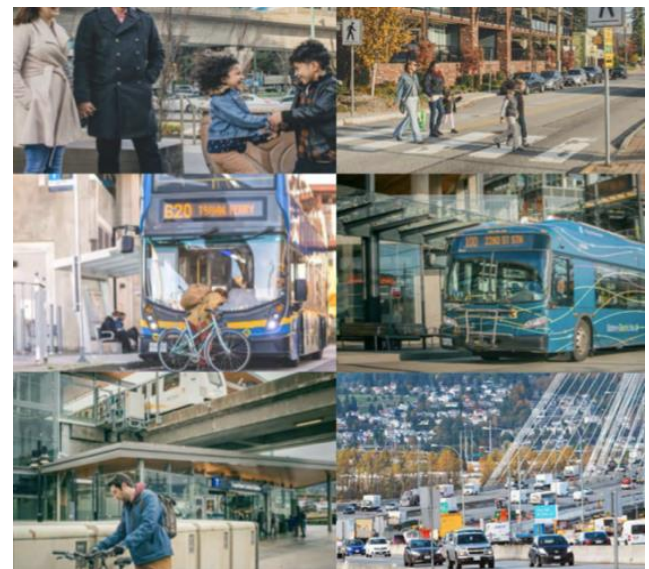
It's been a busy year for TransLink with the adoption of Transport 2050, the Climate Action Strategy, the Customer Experience Action Plan, the 2022 Investment Plan, and now, 10-Year Priorities. We're moving fast because this is what's required to address pressing issues like the climate emergency, worsening traffic congestion, and the affordability crisis.

10-Year Priorities is ambitious because it needs to match the scale of the challenges facing our region. The investments outlined in this plan include:

- Up to nine new traffic-separated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines
- More than doubling bus service over 2022 levels
- **Extending the Millennium Line from Arbutus to the University of British Columbia**
- Building the Burnaby Mountain Gondola to Simon Fraser University
- Increasing HandyDART service by 60 per cent and providing 24-hour service
- Immediately advancing a business case to determine the best rapid transit technology on the Metrotown to Park Royal corridor, while delivering better bus service in the short term
- Exploring other potential SkyTrain extensions, including to Newton in Surrey and to Port Coquitlam
- Building 450 kilometres of new traffic-separated cycling paths including bike networks in every Metro Vancouver Urban Centre
- Introducing 200 new bike lockers and six new bike parkades
- Increasing SeaBus service start and end times to match SkyTrain's service hours

This plan is estimated to cost \$21 billion over 10 years and will need significant new revenue sources and investments from all levels of government to deliver. The plan will be delivered in phases and funded through a series of future investment plans.

Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities is TransLink's new mandate and it's going to take everyone, in partnership with the public, all levels of government, and community partners, to make this plan a reality.



Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities for TransLink

Submitted for Approval on June 30, 2022





Walking Tour with Ministers Eby (local MLA) and Cullen (Municipal Affairs)



In late June, Claire Huxtable (UEL Resident and ADP representative), Minister Eby (our MLA) and I had the chance to take the UEL's "mayor" and BC's Minister of Municipal Affairs, Nathan Cullen on a walking tour of the UEL. Some of the points we were aiming to highlight are summarized in the excerpt from a follow up letter that I sent to Minister Cullen following the visit. I appreciate both Ministers taking the time to meet, as well as the efforts of Ms Huxtable and Minister Eby's Constituency Assistant, Dulcy Anderson in making this meeting happen.

Walking tour of the UEL with Ministers Eby and Cullen, as well as UEL resident and ADP member, Claire Huxtable. Photo credit: Dulcy Anderson

Concern	Description	Proposed Solution
Tree removal	Unlike most jurisdictions in Metro Vancouver, the UEL does not have a bylaw to limit tree removal from private property.	Tree removal should be restricted by age/size or health, require a permit, and homeowners should be penalized if trees are removed without a permit.
"Iceberg" homes	Current development permitting within the UEL only includes above ground living space. As a result, additional floor space is sometimes added below ground to increase total living space. Huge underground living spaces create additional disturbance during excavation, and has significant impact on subsurface drainage and potentially on the stability of the nearby cliffs	Revise development and building permit process and fees to include all livable floor space (both above and below ground)
Excessive noise	There is currently no way to enforce the noise by-law. Given the proximity of the UEL to UBC, and the larger size of many of the homes, some homes become "party houses" with excessive noise disturbing neighbours at all hours of the night. There is currently no recourse for such action.	Ability to enforce noise by-laws through ticketing and by-law officers
Unightly and/or abandoned properties	There are a number of unkept or abandoned properties within the UEL. These sites are unsightly for neighbours, and more importantly, have become a site for squatters, arms storage, excessive noise and graffiti. This poses a potential <u>fire</u> and safety risk to neighbours	Verify and enforce that homeowners pay vacant home tax; enable ticketing for nuisance call outs (e.g., graffiti, noise, squatters) to recover administrative costs and incentivize better care of uninhabited properties



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Burb Cannabis Store approved by Metro Board, Despite Vocal Opposition

At the June Metro Vancouver Board meeting, the Board of directors heard from a number of residents opposing the application, as well as a number of people who reside outside our community but were in favour of the application. UBC has stated that they will not consider any cannabis stores on their lands but given that this application was 100 metres beyond the boundary of UBC (and on UEL) lands, the university did not have jurisdictional control over the decision. In contrast, the AMS, UBC's undergraduate student society came out in support of the application. According to [this CBC article](#), this store will be the first cannabis store on a major university campus *in the world*.



While I do not have a strong personal opinion about the cannabis store, I did hear loudly and clearly from UEL residents that they were strongly opposed to the store. I personally received over 400 emails in opposition to the store, and less than 20 in support of it. For this reason, I spoke out against the application, and asked my fellow board members to respect my voice, as well as that of our local MLA, Minister Eby, who also spoke out against the application for the same reason. From my perspective, this is a compelling example of our lack of local governance on the peninsula (in both the UEL and UBC neighbourhoods). Unlike in any other part of Metro Vancouver, the decision was not made by locally elected officials, but rather, by a number of individuals who have no democratic accountability to the residents of electoral area A. It is frustrating to hold a position in which my job is to represent residents of an area where decisions about that local area are made by individuals who neither live in nor represent the area. Equally, as a resident of this area, it is frustrating to live in an area that lacks the local governance structure that residents of the rest of Metro Vancouver enjoy.

Regional Parks Annual Report

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks provides residents with places to be safe outdoors and enjoy the health benefits of nature, despite challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic and extreme weather events in 2021.

Regional parks saw almost 16.3 million visitors connect with important protected natural areas — a 37—per-cent increase from 2019. Visitation records were set at nine regional parks and greenways. **Pacific Spirit Regional Park remained the most**

3.8 million visits to Pacific Spirit Regional Park last year – the most of any regional park in Metro Vancouver!

visited park overall, with over 3.8 million visits.

Parks programs were delivered in innovative ways, and 23,670

people took part in 822 programs, events, and outreach activities. Close to 3,800 volunteers and park partners contributed 11,606 hours to stewardship, education, and interpretive programs.

As part of Metro Vancouver's mandate to protect natural areas, nearly 76 hectares of parkland were added to the system in 2021. [Read more in the 2021 Regional Parks Annual Report.](#)





Love Food Hate Waste Three Year Report



On June 27, the National Zero Waste Council released a new report has released a new report called [Making Every Bite Count](#), which provides a snapshot of the [Love Food Hate Waste](#) initiative's successes during its first three years in Canada.

Launched nationwide in July 2018 by the [National Zero Waste Council](#) in collaboration with local governments and major retailers, Love Food Hate Waste has reached millions of Canadians with its inspiring and empowering food waste prevention messages. The initiative delivers simple, actionable tips and strategies to change people's behaviour to prevent food waste at home.

Household food waste is a major issue in Canada — about 63 per cent is avoidable, meaning it could have been eaten at some point. For the average household, this amounts to nearly \$1,300 worth of wasted food, or 140 kilograms, annually. For Canada as a whole, it adds up to 2.3 million tonnes or \$21 billion worth of edible food waste that contributes 6.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

Love Food Hate Waste is also expanding its reach, thanks to [new partnerships](#) in Alberta with the Recycling Council of Alberta, Strathcona County, and the City of Lethbridge.

Metro Vancouver is Prepared for the 2022 Wildfire Season

Metro Vancouver's [watershed protection staff](#) are trained up, fully equipped, and standing by for this year's wildfire season.

The protection program provides wildfire response for the Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam water supply areas, Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, and Electoral Area A, and assists with fires within regional parks as needed. Fires in our water supply areas are primarily caused by lightning strikes, and most fires are extinguished quickly due to rapid discovery and response.

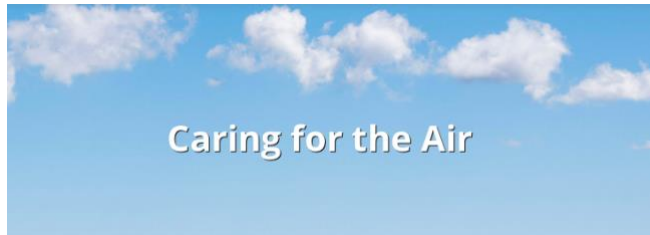
Cooperation with provincial and municipal partners is key to the program. Last fall Metro Vancouver created a Watershed Wildfire Strategic Partners Working Group, which meets monthly to share initiatives; support planning, preparation, and cross training for wildfire responses; and build strong relationships between the District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, City of Coquitlam, and BC Wildfire Service. Metro Vancouver also has a unique arrangement to provide back up support to the BC Wildfire Service.

In 2021, Metro Vancouver crews were deployed to the province's Haig Fire Base in Hope to provide support for 58 days. You can learn more about Metro Vancouver's Protection Program [here](#).





Caring for the Air 2022



Metro Vancouver's latest edition of [Caring for the Air](#) showcases innovative solutions to the region's air quality and climate challenges.

Caring for the Air is published annually, and previous editions have focused on the development of climate and air quality plans such as the [Climate 2050](#)

[Roadmaps](#) and [Clean Air Plan](#). The 2022 edition looks at how Metro Vancouver will implement actions outlined in those plans and covers topics that include:

- How climate change can influence extreme weather events that can lead to degraded air quality, such as the heat dome in 2021
- Guidance on how to follow residential indoor wood burning requirements in Metro Vancouver
- Results from Metro Vancouver's first [consumption-based emissions inventory](#), which includes "embodied" emissions that occur outside of the region but are associated with goods and services used in the region
- A summary of air quality data for 2021 and trends in key air contaminant levels since 2010

Use Less Soap to Help Protect the Ocean

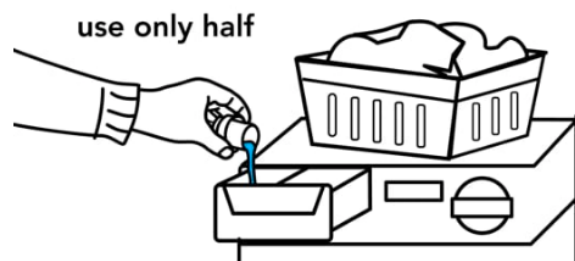
When cleaning, we need less soap than you may think. Soaps, detergents, and personal care products contain cleaning agents called "surfactants" that can be difficult to remove at wastewater treatment plants. Once in the environment, they can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

You can reduce the impacts of surfactants on our aquatic environment by simply using less of these products. Soaps and detergents are designed for hard water and work particularly well in our region's soft water, which means you can use less and still get things just as clean.

There are many ways you can reduce the amount of surfactants you use, such as:

- Using half the manufacturer's recommended amount of detergent
- Replacing fabric softener by adding a half cup of vinegar to the laundry rinse cycle
- Running a full dishwasher load with less detergent instead of handwashing your dishes

[Find more tips for reducing your use of surfactants.](#)





UEL Governance Study Engagement Results

I received the following update from Dan Huang, the Project Lead for the UEL Governance Study and wanted to make sure that UEL residents were aware.



Thanks to those who participated in the Virtual Open House and

Community Engagement that took place this past Spring. The results of the engagement have now been uploaded to the Project Website, which you can find at <https://uelgovernance.ca>.

The UEL Governance Study team are continuing to finalize their analysis and undertake project reporting, which should be available this summer. Please let them know if you have any questions, and please register on the project website if you'd like to be notified of future updates. uelgovernance@urbansystems.ca

"Forest Harmonies" event in Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Join Metro Vancouver Regional Park staff on Thursday, July 21 from 6:30pm-8 for a Stroll along the trail through rainforest at dusk while listening to local musicians. Explore interpretation stations to learn more about how nature and music have been connected since the beginning of time. This event is free and open to people of all ages. Start at the park centre on 16th Ave, 400 m west of Blanca St. For more information, call 604-224-5739



Photo credit: Metro Vancouver Parks

UNA Sustainability Sessions Continue this Fall

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

In **September** join the UNA and UBC's Climate Hub as we discuss climate anxiety and how to leverage our own abilities and networks to create solutions and pathways to climate wellbeing. Then, in **October**, we'll be joined by UBC experts and community activists to discuss how they've rallied their neighbourhoods to take collective climate action.

Dates TBD. Check out <https://www.myuna.ca/events/> or email Robyn Chan, Sustainability Specialist, at robyn.chan@myuna.ca for more information.



UBCM Emergency Preparedness Grant Application for Electoral Area A (UBC)

MVRD Board endorsed the grant application totalling \$25,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities to enhance emergency preparedness capacity in Electoral Area A. This grant will be used by UBC for emergency preparedness on the UBC Peninsula

More info: http://www.metrovanancouver.org/boards/GVRD/RD_2022-Jun-24_AGE.pdf#page=679

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
- 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.metrovanancouver.org

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

www.translink.ca