

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Jan/Feb
2023

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

It has been a while since my last update. The reason for this is that regional level (Metro Vancouver and TransLink) committee and board work takes a little while to get up and running after an election. I am happy to report that we are now full steam ahead with meetings, which is busy and great! We have elected a new Chair and Vice-chair for both the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board, and for the TransLink's Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, and subsequently, committee structures and membership have also been approved. You can read more on page 6 about the committees that I have been appointed to.

In terms of news and events within the UBC and UEL areas, I very much enjoyed attending the UNA's wonderful Lunar New Year Celebration this past weekend. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and to meet



Premier Eby and Jen enjoying the very popular
UNA Lunar New Year Festival

more neighbours. Within the UEL, I am looking forward to getting to know and work with the new Community Advisory Council (CAC). Finally, UBC has recently released a draft of their Campus Vision 2050 which outlines details about how the campus neighbourhoods will grow and develop over the coming decades. I strongly encourage you to take a look and provide your input. On March 8, the UNA Land Use Advisory Committee and I will be co-hosting an engagement session for residents to learn more and to discuss the impacts and trade-offs of the proposed plan. You can find out more about ways to give your feedback on the plan 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)



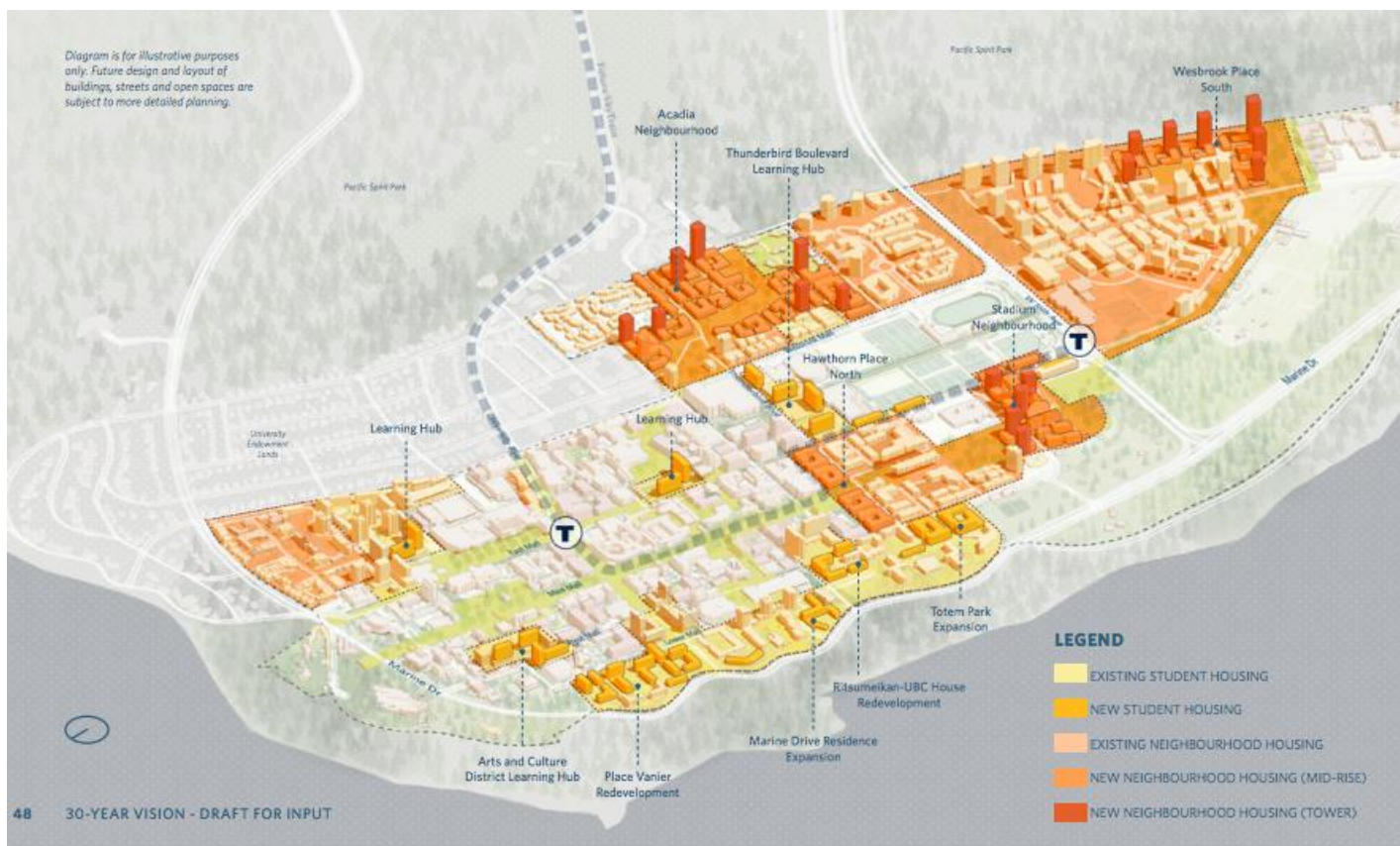
Jen with UNA Directors at the UNA Lunar New Year Festival

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UBC Releases Draft Campus Plan (Campus Vision 2050)



Draft Campus Vision 2050 Plan outlining where new mid- and high-rise student and neighbourhood housing is planned.

Over the past year UBC and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band) have explored what's important for the future of the campus and how smart land use planning can help us get there. The result is a draft 30-Year Vision that outlines how the campus will change and grow. It includes planning for the future of academic spaces, housing, transit, amenities and services, open spaces, and ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and practices, among other aspects.

You can read the draft plan [here](#). UBC is also planning a number of engagement sessions, which are summarized below. I encourage you to look at their [website](#) for more information.

In addition to UBC's engagement events listed below, the UNA Land Use Advisory Committee and I will be co-hosting an event on March 8 at Westbrook Community Centre from 7:00-8:30 pm with a focus on better understanding the trade-offs presented in UBC's draft Campus Vision 2050 Plan, and the impacts of these trade-



offs on our neighbourhoods. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details (including potential options for on-line participation and possible babysitting during the event).

CAMPUS VISION 2050 EVENTS: Jan. 17 – Feb. 7, 2023

Workshops

Saturday February 4 from 12:00-2:30PM (Wesbrook Community Centre) – with childcare and lunch

Monday February 6 from 2:00-4:00PM (Virtual)

Tuesday February 7 from 11:00AM – 2:30PM (Jack Poole Hall) – with lunch

Open Houses

February 4 from 10:30AM – 12:00PM (Wesbrook Community Centre foyer)

Save the date! UNA Land Use Advisory Committee and I will be co-hosting an event on March 8 at Wesbrook Community Centre from 7:00-8:30 pm with a focus on better understanding the trade-offs presented in UBC's draft Campus Vision 2050 Plan, and the impacts of these trade-offs on our neighbourhoods.

TransLink Updates

Moving Forward on Ambitious Regional Transit Plans

As your Electoral Area Director, I have a seat at the Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation, a regional body made up of the Mayors of each of our region's 21 municipalities, as well as the Chief of Tsawwassen First Nation and myself. As this term gets underway (following the October municipal elections), I am encouraged by the spirit of collaboration related to public transportation across the region. At our January meeting, we unanimously voted to endorse the Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities 2023 Work Program and asked staff to prepare an Investment Plan workplan that will begin to deliver on the Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities (10YP).

10YP proposes historic increases in bus service into every corner of the region, new RapidBus lines, nine new bus rapid transit lines, the Burnaby Mountain Gondola, the Millennium Line extension to UBC, new regional and inter-regional Express lines, improved transit passenger facilities, a rapid build out of the walking and bikeway networks, safer roads and streets, investments in technology and resilience to seismic risks and climate change.

This document represents regional consensus on the next ambitious transportation investment priorities for Metro Vancouver to deliver on our affordability, congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions targets. Work is already underway to advance these investments, including developing business cases for a number of major projects, and identifying sustainable funding sources with the Province.



By way of background, in January 2022, the Mayors' Council and Board approved Transport 2050, agreeing to deliver on the ambitious vision of Transport 2050 and make real progress on the pressing challenges of our time – the climate emergency, an affordability crisis, increasing traffic congestion, and meaningfully advancing reconciliation and social equity. Then, prior to the end of our last term (in June 2022) Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities for TransLink (10YP) was approved, as a bridge between the 30-year regional strategy and fully funded TransLink Investment Plans be implemented, the 10-Year Priorities investments need to be phased, funded and approved through a series of several investment plans.

Regional Transportation Strategy		
Region	30-Year Strategy (must update every 5 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes goals, policies, and priorities for the regional transportation system. Must consider regional and provincial objectives. Approved by Mayors' Council and TransLink Board.
	10-Year Priorities (not legislatively required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes which investments in the 30-year strategy will be delivered over the first decade, through future investment plans. Approved by Mayors' Council and TransLink Board.
TransLink	Investment Plan (must update every 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocates new and existing funding to projects and programs. Fully funded, over ten years, by identified secure revenue sources. Must be guided by 30-year transportation strategy. Approved by Mayors' Council and TransLink Board.
	Annual budgets (must update every year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes actual operational and capital spending. Must be consistent with 10-year investment plan. Approved by TransLink Board.

TransLink's Strategic Planning Process, and the relationship between the current 30-Year Strategy (Transit 2050), our 10-Year Priorities, and the Investment Planning that are now underway to fund the start of the 10 Year Priorities

Did you know that you can now pay with Interac (instead of a Compass card) on TransLink?

Interac and Translink have [announced](#) an exciting new payment option that will now allow customers to tap their debit card on every bus and at every fare gate throughout Metro Vancouver. This makes TransLink the first transit agency in Canada to fully integrate contactless *Interac* Debit payments systemwide. The upgrade permits customers to board transit by using *Interac* Debit with physical cards or through smartphone digital wallets, allowing easy transit boarding without pre-purchasing a Compass Card or using an in-station Compass Vending Machine.



Indigenous Signage and Art at Seabus Terminals (image from Translink)

Indigenous Signage and Art at Seabus Terminals

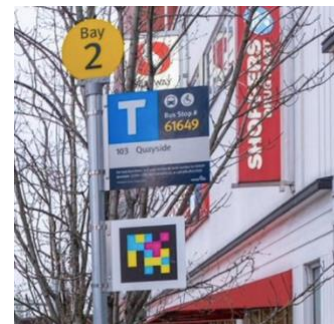
Indigenous art and accompanying signage can now be seen at TransLink's SeaBus terminals at Waterfront Station and Lonsdale Quay. The installation samples the artwork aboard the Burrard Chinook SeaBus, which launched in July 2021. The new signage supports Indigenous language revitalization and preservation. The languages create awareness of the deep connections to the land and waters by the ancestors and current Indigenous community members of the shared and unceded territories of x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). Read more [here](#).



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Testing app-based accessibility tool for individuals with sight loss

TransLink is looking to further improve the accessibility and usability of the network for people with sight loss. TransLink is set to test the new use of NaviLens, a smartphone app-based tool, for providing passengers with navigational audio and sensory cues to identify their bus stop and the exact point of pick-up. As well, the app provides real-time bus arrival times and service alerts and identifies relevant facilities at a location, such as elevators. NaviLens is a proven accessibility tool used on other public transit systems in various capacities, such as in New York City, Liverpool, and Madrid. You can read more [here](#).



Example of NaviLens signs at TransLink bus stops (image from Translink)

Winter Service Changes (have been in effect since Jan 2)

TransLink implements service changes every January, April, June, and September to ensure service is provided where it's needed most based on seasonal patterns and recent trends. Starting January 2, 2023, TransLink adjusted bus service levels around the region to respond to changing customer demand. TransLink will be increasing bus service on 24 routes across the region to address current and/or anticipated overcrowding and to better serve our customers. Small service adjustments are being made to 14 routes to provide more service during periods of high demand and to reduce overcrowding. Small adjustments are also being made on seven routes when demand is lower to provide more service where it's needed most.

You can read all about all the changes [here](#). The most relevant service changes for Electoral Area A residents are:

- 25 Brentwood Station/UBC - Say hello to more service on the 25, shortening wait times on Saturdays by two to three minutes.
- 49 Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop/UBC – Service is being adjusted to provide more space at times when it's needed most, including more service on Saturday, Sunday and holiday nights. To make this possible, service will be slightly less frequent on Sunday and holiday mornings.
- 9 Boundary/Commercial-Broadway/Granville/Alma/UBC - Reduced weekday service on the 9 Boundary / Commercial-Broadway/Granville/Alma/UBC when demand is lower to provide service where it's needed most.
- 99 Commercial-Broadway/UBC (B-Line) - Reduced service on the 99 Commercial-Broadway / UBC (B-Line) when demand is lower to provide service where it's needed most.

Family Day Campfire in Pacific Spirit Regional Park



Join neighbours and Metro Vancouver Parks staff for a cozy campfire and enjoy stories, songs and surprises about local plants and animals. Bring your own marshmallows to roast – staff will provide the roasting sticks. Meet at park centre on 16th Ave, 400 m west of Blanca St. This event is free and open to all ages (but please leave pets at home). The event will be on Family Day weekend, February 20, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

Drop by anytime between 10:30am and 3:00pm. You can find more information [here](#).

Image source: <https://www.pexels.com/search/campfire/>



Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2023

As I mentioned in my opening letter, new elections and appointments have recently been made for Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) and TransLink internal committees, as well as for external appointments. Below is a list of the boards and committees that I serve on, and a short description of the external boards. I am happy to discuss my role on any of these boards or committees if you have questions or suggestions. 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
- Chair of the Electoral Area Committee, MVRD
- Climate Action Committee, MVRD
- Mayors' Committee, MVRD
- Flood Resiliency Taskforce, MVRD
- TransLink Planning & Priorities Committee
- TransLink Indigenous Relations Working Group
- TransLink Small Communities Committee
- Board Member for Metro Vancouver Zero Emission Innovation Centre (ZEIC)
- ZEIC Governance Committee
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board of Directors
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Third-Vice President
- Municipal Finance Authority of BC Alternate Director

Zero Emission Innovation Centre Board of Directors

The Zero Emission Innovation Centre plays an important role in the collaborative effort to develop, implement and scale up new tools and programs that address local barriers and commercialize/scale GHG emission reduction opportunities, in support of Metro Vancouver's goal of becoming a carbon-neutral and climate resilient region by 2050.

The board is composed of seven to nine members, including representatives appointed by Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver. I have served on this Board since its inception in 2021 and very much appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve in this role for the next two years. You can read more about ZEIC's work here: <https://www.zeic.ca>



Energy efficiency
in buildings



Urban
renewable energy



Transportation
solutions

Lower Mainland Local Government Association

The Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Executive Board represents member jurisdictions from Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, and Squamish-Lillooet regional districts and considers services provided by Local Government.



The LMLGA Executive Board comprises 11 elected local government officials. The Executive Board meets on a monthly basis and is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting held in May. For the past two years, I have been elected to the executive board, and currently serve as the third vice president.



Fraser Valley Regional Library Board

Metro Vancouver is a member of the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) system on behalf of Electoral Area A, as one of the 15 member municipalities and regional districts on the Board of Management for the library system.

Under the Library Act, where there is only one electoral area, as is the case with the MVRD, the representative to the Fraser Valley Library Board (FVLB) is by default the Electoral Areas Director and Alternate Director.

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

The Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) operates as the central borrowing agency for the financing of capital requirements of regional districts and their member municipalities.

The Members of the MFA are elected officials appointed by the 28 regional districts in BC. Based on population, Metro Vancouver has ten representatives (Directors) holding a total of 50 votes. The Members meet twice a year in Victoria. I serve as an alternate director for Mayor Patrick Johnstone (Mayor of New Westminster)

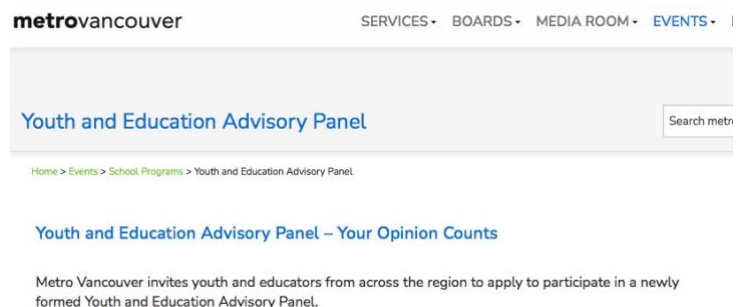
Youth and Education Advisory Panel

Metro Vancouver is recruiting for its Youth and Education Advisory Panel to empower young people while learning their valuable insights as we plan for the region's future. Apply before the Friday, February 3 deadline.

I'm very happy to chat more with any youth or educators who are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/events/school-programs/youth-advisory/>

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/media-room/media-releases/board-information/780/applications-open-for-metro-vancouver-youth-and-education-advisory-panel>





Online Questionnaire on Electrification of Lawn and Garden Equipment

Small gasoline and diesel non-road engines used in lawn and garden equipment emit harmful air contaminants and greenhouse gases. Metro Vancouver is considering actions to reduce air emissions from around 430,000 pieces of small gasoline and diesel equipment used for landscaping across the region, such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, and chainsaws.

Metro Vancouver is currently collecting information from equipment users to understand key challenges that specific sectors and groups might face in transitioning to zero-emission alternatives. The online questionnaire is targeting Metro Vancouver residents, particularly homeowners and owners of lawn and garden equipment, landscaping contractors, and municipal and regional parks and facilities operators. Information about the questionnaire has been distributed via social media posts and by mailing out rack cards to city halls, community centres, and other public venues.

From October 2022 to January 2023, the online questionnaire received over 650 responses, with the majority of respondents (74%) self-identified as homeowners or residential users. About 11% of respondents identified themselves as community members or neighbours. Commercial groups (contractors and business owners) and municipal groups (facility staff and park operators) each contributed about 5% of responses. The feedback form will be available to the public until July 31, 2023. The questionnaire results will inform development of and engagement on proposed approaches to reduce emissions from lawn and garden equipment in the region.

From October 2022 to January 2023, the online questionnaire received over 670 responses, with the majority of respondents (74%) self-identified as homeowners or residential users. About 11% of respondents identified themselves as community members or neighbours. Commercial groups (contractors and business owners) and municipal groups (facility staff and park operators) each contributed about 5% of responses. The feedback form will be available to the public until April 30, 2023. The questionnaire results will inform development of and engagement on proposed approaches to reduce emissions from lawn and garden equipment in the region.

You can fill out the form at [this link](https://metrovanancouver.civilspace.io/en/projects/electrification-of-small-non-road-engines/engagements/feedback-on-electrification-of-small-non-road-engines/sections/1). <https://metrovanancouver.civilspace.io/en/projects/electrification-of-small-non-road-engines/engagements/feedback-on-electrification-of-small-non-road-engines/sections/1>

Interesting video on the Minnekhada Regional Park fire

Though not related to Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver has produced a video outlining the multi-jurisdictional response to the wildfire that broke out on high terrain at Minnekhada Regional Park in October 2022. The response involved BC Wildfire Service, Metro Vancouver, and the Coquitlam Fire Department and serves as an excellent example of emergency response and cooperation within the region.

<https://vimeo.com/764334605>

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Food Scraps Campaign

Composting food scraps is an easy way to make a big impact in our region. By using their green bins, Metro Vancouverites saved 420,000 tonnes of food scraps from the garbage last year.



I know that within our strata garbage disposal fees are up significantly. Composting (and recycling) properly is not only good for the environment, but also good for your pocketbook.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/foodscraps>

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.ca)

www.translink.ca