

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

March
2023

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

I trust that you are enjoying the re-emergence of spring after our recent snowfalls. I love seeing the resilience of the crocuses and snow drops, despite being buried in snow last week. Their resilience reminds me of Ukrainians here in Canada, in Ukraine, and around the world. As we move into the second year of Russia's invasion, my thoughts are with Ukrainians defending their country at home, and those trying to start a new life abroad.

Here at home in our community, I hope you will join us for an engagement session this Wednesday evening for a community conversation about UBC's proposed land use plan, Campus Vision 2050. I am co-hosting this event with the UNA's Land Use Advisory Committee. We will be joined by a panel of experts who are UBC faculty and community members, to hear their thoughts on key issues such as housing affordability, sustainability and urban planning. We will also have plenty of time for community conversation, so please bring your questions and comments. The event will be on March 8th from 7-8:30 at Wesbrook Community Centre. Please see page 2 for more information, and to sign up for babysitting services if needed.



Jen and her family enjoying a sunny winter walk down at Wreck Beach.

At the regional level, I am very happy to share that the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors recently approved Metro 2050, a comprehensive land use plan for the region. You can read more about this and other regionally and locally important updates in the pages below.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that I may be able to assist with. I also really enjoy connecting with residents even if you don't have specific questions or concerns – feel free to email me just to introduce yourself and let me know more about your connection to our corner of the world.

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon

Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A (www.areaajen.ca or areaajen@gmail.com)



Community Conversation on UBC's Land Use Plan: March 8th at 7pm in the Wesbrook Community Centre

After months of consultation, UBC has shared a draft of their plan for how what they think good growth and development will look like both within the university neighbourhoods and on the academic campus. You can read the full draft of the plan, Campus Vision 2050, [here](#).

On Wednesday, March 8th at 7pm at the Wesbrook community centre, the UNA's Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and I are hosting a community conversation about Campus Vision 2050. We have a panel of experts (who are on faculty at UBA and also live in our neighbourhoods) and will ensure that there is plenty of time for questions and discussion among residents.



Community Conversation on UBC's Land Use Plan

March 8 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Join us for a conversation about the future of development in our Neighbourhoods. How much should our neighbourhoods grow? How can UBC best balance development with its commitments to ecology, environmental sustainability, and reductions in climate-altering carbon emissions? How can UBC help address our local and regional affordability crisis, without making things worse?

Please join us for a lively conversation on UBC's Land Use Plan, with independent experts on housing, sustainability and urban planning. Ask questions; share your views; get involved! UBC's Land Use Plan will shape our neighbourhood development for decades to come. Let's ensure that community voices get heard.

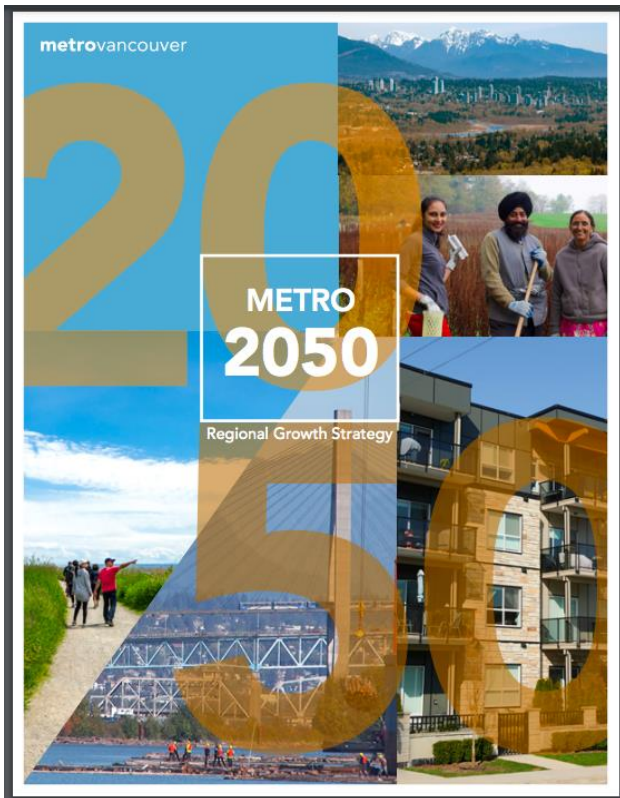
This event takes place in-person at the Wesbrook Community Centre. Childminding will be provided, RSVP by emailing communications@myuna.ca. If you can't attend the in-person event, you can [register to watch via Zoom](#).

I am grateful to Eagle Glassheim, chair of the UNA LUAC for all his work in pulling this event together, and I very much hope that you will join us.

<https://www.myuna.ca/event/community-conversation-on-ubcs-land-use-plan/>



Region



I am happy to report that at our February Metro Vancouver board meeting, we unanimously approved a new regional growth strategy for the region – Metro 2050. While the new strategy is stronger than its predecessor (Metro 2040) on issues such as housing, resilience, and climate action, Metro Vancouver staff, from the direction of our Climate Action Committee are already looking into early amendments that will strengthen the strategy on key climate policy areas.

Metro 2050 has been under development since April of 2019 when the MVRD Board directed staff to undertake a comprehensive policy review and engagement process to update Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040), the previous regional growth strategy. Metro 2050 was scoped to align closely with Transport 2050, TransLink's new regional transportation strategy, and Climate 2050, the region's new climate action plan, both of which were also under development during similar time periods.

You can review the plan [here](#).

Night Quest at Pacific Spirit Regional Park – March 17th and 18th

Have you and your family ever been to Night Quest? If not, I highly recommend it (especially for families with elementary -aged children). This year, Night Quest returns to Pacific Spirit Regional Park this March with all its usual magic – and a couple of changes.

Night Quest will take place on two nights: Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Also this year, you'll need to register for an entry time in advance (more details below).

The highlight of the night is the 1.25-km lantern-lit trail where you'll encounter animal light sculptures and theatrical vignettes where forest characters share tales of the park's gifts of well-being.



Night Quest is a fun, family friendly event in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Photo credit: Metro Vancouver



As well, you can visit the festival area and check out interactive displays by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Musqueam Nation, OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society), BC Wildlife Federation, West Point Grey District Girl Guides, Scouts Canada, Stanley Park Ecological Society and BC Community Bat Programs.

There will also be a chance to try your hand at drumming, and roast a marshmallow at a cozy campfire.

It's all FREE, but you need to register for either Friday or Saturday evening. You can do so here:

[Register for Fri, Mar 17](#)

[Register for Sat, Mar 18](#)

Other things to consider:

- Allow 1 hour to complete.
- Bring a flashlight or lantern.
- Bring your own mug (for hot drinks at the cash-only Girl Guide concession).
- Please leave pets at home.
- Street parking is limited. Take transit or bike from campus

TransLink Updates

TransLink begins battery-electric bus fleet expansion

- TransLink has awarded a contract to Nova Bus to bring 15 more battery-electric buses to our fleet. This order will more than quadruple our current battery-electric bus fleet, increasing our fleet total from 4 to 19.
- The 15 new battery-electric buses are expected to arrive and begin rolling into service on Route 100 in 2022. The \$16 million contract is funded through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, with funding allotted through the Metro Vancouver Gas Tax Fund.
- This expansion is a critical step towards achieving climate targets outlined in [TransLink's Climate Action Strategy](#) and [Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities](#). Some of these targets include adding more than 400 new battery-electric buses by 2030, transitioning to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040, and having net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in all operations by 2050.



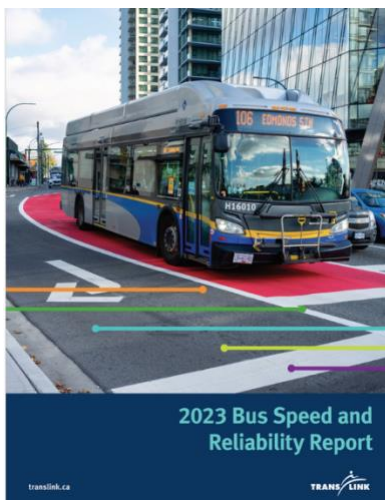
Scrap your car for sixteen months of transit - TransLink introduces new rebate incentive offers flexible transit pass option

- As part of SCRAP-IT's vehicle scrappage program, individuals who scrap their vehicles can now choose to receive a Stored Value Compass Card worth \$50 monthly for sixteen months.
- SCRAP-IT is a not-for-profit society focused on clean transportation alternatives. The vehicle scrappage program is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower exhaust pollutants across the province by offering multi-modal rebates to those who scrap their vehicle, including transit, carshare, e-bike rebates, and more.



- Customers redeeming the Stored Value incentive reward can use their Compass Card on any TransLink service, including buses, SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express. The new rebate option has been added to existing incentive options of an 8-Month 1-Zone Adult Monthly Pass or a 14-Month 3-Zone Concession Pass.
- Click [here](#) for the full list of SCRAP-IT incentive rewards.

TransLink releases updated Bus Speed and Reliability Report



- TransLink's latest Bus Speed and Reliability Report shows bus delays due to traffic congestion have returned to pre-pandemic levels, underscoring the need for bus infrastructure investments as laid out in TransLink's 10-Year Priorities.
- The report found that bus delays cost Coast Mountain Bus Company \$80 million per year, equating to around 15 per cent of the company's operating costs. However, the report suggests that these are solvable problems, with investment in expansion the key to improving bus performance in the region.
- This edition of the Bus Speed and Reliability report highlights bus delays and the reasons why they occur. A second section of the report detailing "Bus Priority Infrastructure" focusing on reducing delays will be released later this year, followed by a third section identifying areas of opportunity for bus priority measures.
- To learn more, visit TransLink's [Bus Speed and Reliability](#) page.

Potential Changes to our Federal Electoral Boundaries – chance to provide feedback

I received the following update from the Minister Joyce Murray, our federal Member of Parliament, and Canada's Minister for Fisheries and Oceans. I thought that some of you may be interested in learning more, and possibly providing your feedback. Please note that feedback is due by the end of the day on March 7th, 2023 (very soon!).

As you may be aware, the Constitution of Canada requires that federal electoral districts be reviewed every ten years to reflect changes and movements in Canada's population. It is led by [independent commissions](#) working separately in each province to establish electoral boundaries.

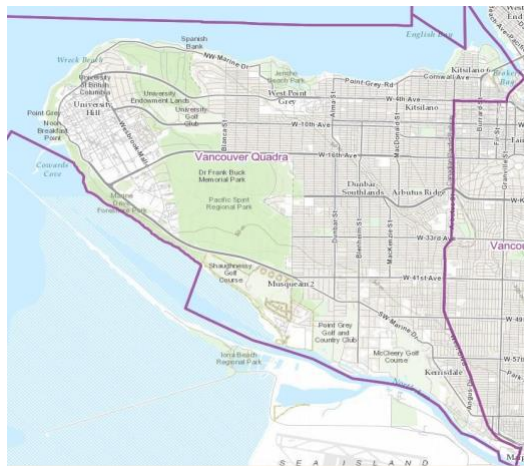
Currently, [Vancouver Quadra's](#) eastern (north/south) boundary runs along Arbutus street and the constituency extends west to encompass the peninsula bounded by the University of British Columbia, English Bay and the Fraser River.



Map of the current Vancouver Quadra boundaries



March
2023



Map of the June 2022 Proposal for
Vancouver Quadra

In June 2022, the [Commission for British Columbia](#) put forward a [proposal](#) (below) which saw Vancouver Quadra expand eastward to include Kitsilano Point and a small portion of Granville Island. Minister Murray was satisfied with the proposal as it did not drastically change the riding, but provided an opportunity to engage with the Kitsilano community in a more integrated way.

However, on February 8th, 2023 the Commission released the [new federal electoral map](#) for British Columbia, which was tabled in the House of Commons. The new changes to Vancouver Quadra are radically different from what was proposed in June 2022 and proposes that Vancouver Quadra become "Vancouver West Broadway".

The [new boundaries](#) would encompass UBC's residential neighbourhoods, run west to east along the Broadway corridor to Ontario Street, and include Granville Island and the Olympic Village. The proposed new riding would no longer include many of Vancouver Quadra's former core neighbourhoods, such as Arbutus Ridge, Mackenzie Heights, Kerrisdale, and Southlands, and most of Dunbar, nor would it represent residents of the Musqueam community hub and reserve lands where many Musqueam Indian Band members live, located south of Marine Drive near the mouth of the Fraser River. This important portion of the more extensive traditional Musqueam territory is shown as 'Musqueam 2' on the map below.



Members of Parliament have until **March 10th** to file an objection to any proposals contained in the Report with the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. For anyone who is currently a constituent of Vancouver Quadra, Minister Murray is very interested in your feedback and ideas concerning this proposed major change to your present federal constituency, as outlined in the proposal maps and the Report.

Please submit any feedback to joyce.murray@parl.gc.ca by March 7th, 2023



Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2023

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
- Chair of the Electoral Area Committee, MVRD
- Climate Action Committee, MVRD
- Mayors' Committee, MVRD
- Flood Resiliency Taskforce, MVRD
- Caucus of Committee Chairs, 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

**New appointment since my last newsletter*

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