

## ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

May  
2023

### Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

It is such a pleasure to finally be getting some warm sunny days and to see the return of the spring blossoms. I hope you are getting a chance to enjoy this lovely time of year. My family loves to spend a lot of time outside, so the weather has certainly improved our mood and decreased the amount of soggy wet jackets we have drying in our condo!

In terms of local and regional government and community events, it has felt like a busy time, yet this newsletter is a bit shorter than some. I hope that you will still find some interesting nuggets in the following pages.

This week, I and about 250 other locally elected representatives (mayors and councillors) are gathered in Harrison Hot Springs for the annual Lower Mainland Local Government Association Conference. It is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the region (as far north as Whistler and as far east as Hope) on issues of common interest.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns that I may be able to assist with. While I am not very active on social media, I would welcome the opportunity to meet in person. With the warmer weather, I particularly enjoy connecting for a walk in your neighbourhood or mine.

All the best,

*Jen McCutcheon*

*Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Director for  
Electoral Area A ([www.areaajen.ca](http://www.areaajen.ca) or  
[areaajen@gmail.com](mailto:areaajen@gmail.com))*



*Jen at this week's Lower Mainland Local  
Government Association annual conference (in  
Harrison Hot Springs)*



UEL Governance Study Findings

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



The Province recently released the final report on the *University Endowment Lands Services, Structure and Governance Study*. The study was initiated in 2020 in response to growing interest to determine the best way of governing the University Endowment Lands in the face of pressures such as development, changing demographics, growing infrastructure and local service needs, bylaw enforcement, and local political representation.

The study presents a high-level review of four governance scenarios:

1. Provincial scenario (status quo)
2. Regional district scenario (local services provided by Metro Vancouver)
3. Inclusion scenario (amalgamation with the City of Vancouver)
4. Incorporation scenario (become a new municipality).

While the study does not recommend any particular structure, it does state that neither the provincial status quo nor the regional district scenario would be a best-fit and long-term sustainable governance model for the future of the University Endowment Lands, suggesting that either inclusion or incorporation would be better choices than the status quo.

Given that all residents within both UEL and UBC (including the UNA) have limited local government representation, the study findings may be of interest to residents within UEL, UBC and UNA neighbourhoods.

You can read the full report [here](#).



The four governance options explored in the UEL Governance Study.





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### Stage 1 Water Restrictions Now in Effect



Lawn Watering

Restrictions

Seasonal lawn watering regulations are in effect May 1 until October 15. During this time, lawn watering is limited to once a week. Reducing lawn watering remains the most effective way to ensure we are using our drinking water wisely.

Specifically, residents and businesses will be permitted to water lawns one morning per week during Stage 1 of

the *Drinking Water Conservation Plan*, with designated days determined by property address and type. Trees, shrubs, and flowers may be watered in the morning when using a sprinkler, or any time when hand watered or using drip irrigation. Edible plants are exempt from the regulations. Lawn watering regulations will be in place May 1 until October 15.

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/welovewater/waterwise-lawns/>

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/media-room/media-releases/water/791/stage-1-lawn-watering-regulations-in-effect-may-1>

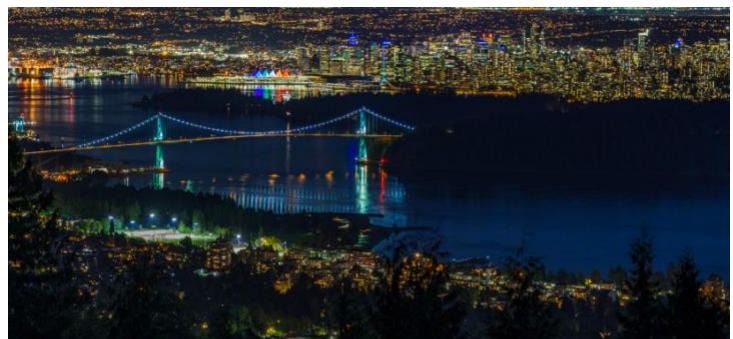
### Metro Vancouver Board Approves Two Excellent Climate Roadmaps

In order to provide concrete actions to help our region reach our Climate 2050 goals, Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with a broad range of organizations, and including public input, is in the process of developing a series of Roadmaps for climate action in this region.

Each Roadmap addresses a key area for climate action in this region. Together, the Roadmaps describe the trajectory toward a resilient, low carbon region, and outline regional (led by organizations other than Metro Vancouver) and corporate (led by Metro Vancouver) actions.

As a member of the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee, I have had the opportunity to follow the development process of these

Roadmaps, and am excited to let you know that the latest two, one for Energy, and one for Nature and Ecosystems, have recently been approved by the Metro Vancouver Board. I find these documents to be highly informative, and also a source of hope as they provide concrete, data driven actions that will decrease greenhouse gas emissions.



CLIMATE 2050 Roadmap

## Energy

A pathway to clean, renewable, and resilient energy in Metro Vancouver

April 2023



You can find out more about the Roadmaps in general [here](#). In addition, I've provided a direct link to each of the four approved Roadmaps below (click on each blue box). For anyone (including youth) interested in climate action, I recommend taking a look at these documents

[Energy Roadmap](#)

[Nature and  
Ecosystems  
Roadmap](#)

[Buildings  
Roadmap](#)

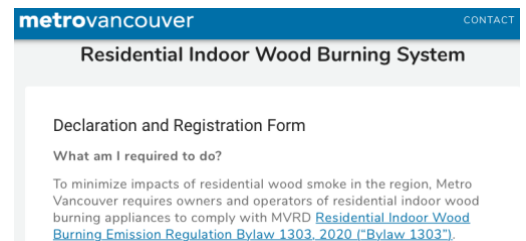
[Transportation  
Roadmap](#)

The four Roadmaps mentioned above have undergone extensive feedback processes and have now been approved by the Metro Vancouver Board. In addition, Metro Vancouver is currently working on two additional Roadmaps: Agriculture, and Industry and Business. If you would like to review the drafts and provide feedback, you can do so [here](#). You are welcome to contact the project team any time at [climate2050@metrovanancouver.org](mailto:climate2050@metrovanancouver.org)

## Residential Indoor Wood Burning Prohibition in Effect Starting on May 15th

Metro Vancouver's annual seasonal prohibition on the use of residential indoor wood burning appliances, such as wood stoves and fireplaces, is in place May 15 to September 15 to protect residents from the health effects of wood smoke.

You can find out more and read about some exceptions here. <https://service.metrovanancouver.org/RIWB/>



## Climate Literacy Self-Directed Learning Program and Climate Action Dialogues



Explore local climate information at your own pace and discover examples of what Metro Vancouver and our residents are doing, and can do, to reduce emissions and prepare our communities for change.

You can find out more [here](#).

This month, you can attend the **Climate Action Dialogues** in Surrey on May 29 and in Vancouver on May 30. Metro Vancouver has also now endorsed the Climate 2050 Energy and Nature and Ecosystems roadmaps, that will help outline a pathway towards a carbon neutral and resilient region. Find out more [here](#).





## Province Supports Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Projects

Metro Vancouver is responsible for treatment of our wastewater (sewage). This is done at one of five wastewater treatment plants situated around the region. Wastewater from UBC and the UEL (as well as Vancouver and Burnaby) is processed at the Iona Wastewater treatment plant. This plant is nearing the end of its life, and plans are well underway for its replacement. This will be a massive and very expensive project. You can read more about the project [here](#), and below is my short summary.

The Province is providing Metro Vancouver with \$250 million in funding to upgrade the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Richmond, ensuring it can meet the demands of the growing population, while protecting the health of people and the environment. The upgrades are expansive, and will include improvements to seismic and climate resiliency and include 20 ecological enhancement projects. Metro Vancouver is engaging with local First Nations through the project planning phase and is working closely with the Musqueam Indian Band.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023MUNI0015-000259>

The design concept for the Iona upgrade includes tertiary treatment and a range of ecological restoration projects. Metro Vancouver wants to ensure the wastewater treatment plant makes a positive contribution to the health and well-being of people and the environment.

The upgraded plant and related ecological projects will be designed to:

- Improve the level of treatment from primary to tertiary to protect water quality and the marine environment
- Withstand an earthquake and sea level rise
- Integrate with Iona Beach Regional Park and the surrounding environment
- Restore fish habitat, protect bird habitat and enhance terrestrial ecosystems
- Minimize odour
- Recover sustainable energy and resources from wastewater





## Continued Community Input Related to UBC's Campus Vision 2050

As you may well know by now, UBC is in the process of finalizing their *Campus Vision 2050* plan for development of the UBC Vancouver campus. You can read more about the process and review the draft plan [here](#).



This process as resulted in substantial interest and involvement by formal and informal resident groups. For example, the elected Board of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) has written a formal letter to the UBC Board of Governors (BoG), which you can read [here](#). In addition, a grass roots group of UBC community members (student, faculty, staff, residents, and any others who engage with UBC), known as the UBC Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) has drafted an [open letter](#) to the UBC BoG to urge them to ensure this development is done in an environmentally and socially sustainable way that prioritizes affordable housing for students, faculty and staff and ensures formal representation of UNA/UBC residents in decision making processes.

To date, almost 500 members of the UBC community have signed the letter. Signatures will continue to be compiled and the letter will be sent to the BoG on May 8<sup>th</sup> so if you wish to add your signature, please do so before that date.

## Community Bike Jam! May 9<sup>th</sup> at Jim Taylor Park

The UNA is hosting a free Community Bike Jam on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

All ages and abilities are welcome to participate in these fun-filled afternoons of cycling. This will include a leisurely ride through the neighborhood, after which participants can gather for a picnic in the park to share a meal in good company. Pizza will be provided to registrants for free.



Sign up [here](#), and then meet at the Jim Taylor Park near the Old Barn Community Centre.





May  
2023

## UHill Elementary School's Annual Earth Day BBQ



*Families at the Uhill Earth Day BBQ enjoying listening to the wise words of Morgan Guerin from Musqueam Indian Band*

On April 20, UHill Elementary welcomed students, parents, and community partners to its annual Earth Day BBQ celebration. While the rain moved this year's BBQ into the gym, it didn't dampen the students' excitement of learning how they can do their part to help the environment.



*Metro Parks rangers showing students forest treasures at the Uhill Earth Day BBQ*

Metro Vancouver, as the local and regional government for Electoral Area A, coordinated participation from:

- [Metro Vancouver Regional Parks](#)
- [Grow Green](#)
- [UBC Botanical Garden](#)
- [City Farmer](#)
- [Ocean Ambassadors Canada](#)

## 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