

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From Jen McCutcheon, Director, Electoral Area A

Apr
2024

Director's Report

Hello UNA/UBC/UEL neighbours,

Happy spring!

In this month's newsletter, you will find information on our province's worryingly low snowpack. Water restrictions officially begin at the start of May, but I encourage all of us to look for ways to conserve water in our daily life. This could mean using the rain to "wash" your car, taking shorter showers, or planting more drought tolerant plants.

There are also updates on TransLink bus service to UBC, approval of the UEL's community works fund, and upcoming Camosun Bog celebrations in Pacific Spirit Regional Park

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 and her family enjoying a warm and sunny break this past March

Stage 1 Watering Restrictions Come Into Effect May 1, 2024

According to the most recent (April 1, 2024) snowpack monitoring, BC's snow pack is "extremely low, averaging 63% of normal across" the province. You can read the full report [here](#). Metro Vancouver's drinking water reservoirs are on target to be full by mid-May and the snowpack is currently at 56 per cent of the historical average. Since late winter, Metro Vancouver has taken proactive steps including starting seasonal dam and reservoir operations earlier than usual to maximize water storage ahead of the dry season.

Stage 1 watering restrictions will be in effect starting on May 1, 2024, during which lawn watering is only permitted one morning per week.

Metro Vancouver began sending notifications last week to remind stakeholders and member jurisdictions of the May 1, 2024 start of watering restrictions and to emphasize the importance for all of us to continue taking measures to conserve our water supply.



WATERING RESTRICTIONS UNDER STAGE 1

Residential:

Watering lawns: Even-numbered addresses on Saturdays and odd-numbered addresses on Sundays:

- Automatic watering — from 5:00am to 7:00 am.
- Manual watering — from 6:00 am to 9:00 am.

Watering of trees, shrubs, and flowers, excluding edible plants:

- Any day from 5:00 am to 9:00 am if using a sprinkler.
- Any day at any time if using a handheld hose, soaker hose, water container, or drip irrigation.

Non-Residential and Governments/Schools/Parks:

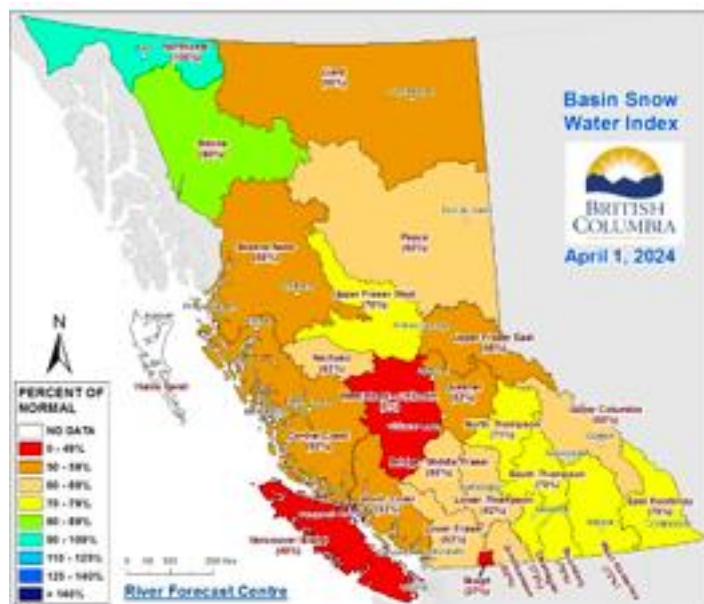
Watering lawns and grass boulevards:

Even-numbered addresses on Mondays and odd-numbered addresses on Tuesdays:

- Automatic watering — from 4:00 am to 6:00 am.
- Manual watering — from 6:00 am to 9:00 am.

Watering of trees, shrubs, and flowers, excluding edible plants:

- Any day from 4:00 am to 9:00 am if using a sprinkler.
- Any day at any time if using a handheld hose, soaker hose, water container, or drip irrigation.



– April 1st, 2024 (available here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/river-forecast/2024_apr1.pdf)

In cases of mixed zoning (where commercial or industrial uses are on the same property as residential) the property is designated as “Non-Residential”.

Watering Soil-based and Sand-based Playing Fields are Permitted as Follows:

- Overnight from 7:00 pm to 9:00 am, except if:
 - Watering newly over-seeded fields in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit.
 - Operating under a member jurisdiction’s approved water management plan.



Climate Action Dialogues: Transportation



Climate Action Dialogues: Transportation

How do we make it easier to move people and goods around in this region without relying on fossil fuel vehicles? Join us as we explore this conversation and learn about solutions that will work in this region at the upcoming Climate Action Dialogues on transportation. Attend in-person events on May 28 or 30 in Surrey and Vancouver, or join online on June 6.

About the event

Metro Vancouver's [Climate 2050 Transportation Roadmap](#) charts the course toward a carbon-neutral, resilient transportation system, with strategies to reduce emissions and protect the network from climate impacts. This Dialogue will explore ways to move people and goods, while relying less on individual cars. There are positive impacts of reduced driving: enhanced air quality, reduced congestion, and healthier, more active living.

Join the conversation, hear from an expert panel, and network with other sustainably-minded residents. Whether you're in the industry or simply curious about transportation in a climate-ready region, this dialogue is for you.

Featured speakers:

- Moderator: Uytay Lee, Founder, [About Here](#)
- Speakers (Vancouver and Webinar):
 - Eve Hou, RPP, MCIP, Senior Manager, Policy Development and Decision Analysis, TransLink
 - Erin Rennie, Senior Planner, Community Planning, City of Burnaby
 - Lon LaClaire, General Manager of Engineering Services, City of Vancouver
 - Peter Ladner, Board Chair, B.C. Cycling Coalition
 - Sandra Phillips, Mobility Architect, CEO and Founder, movmi Shared Transportation Services



Register now

Limited seating available for in-person events. Register early to avoid missing out. Doors open 30 minutes before and after the program for networking and refreshments.

Vancouver session

Thursday, May 30 | 7:30 am – 9:00 am (doors 7:00 am; networking session from 8:30 am to 9:00 am) at the SFU Wosk Centre for Dialogue

580 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1L6

[Register for the Vancouver session](#)

Webinar session

Thursday, June 6 | Noon – 1:00 pm

[Register for the webinar](#)

TransLink Updates

Starting April 15, TransLink is implementing seasonal changes to improve access to popular seasonal destinations. This includes additional service on 10 routes and the re-introduction of three summer-only routes. With the school year coming to an end, TransLink will reduce service on five routes serving post-secondary institutions until September.

TransLink is adjusting bus service levels around the region to respond to changing customer demand and to address overcrowding. Bus service is being reallocated to provide more service on 17 routes across the region. To provide service where it's needed most, TransLink is reducing bus service on 13 routes where there is excess capacity. On nine routes, they are reducing service at certain times of day to provide more service during periods of high demand.

Details of Service Changes in Electoral Area A:

TransLink will be implementing typical spring seasonal changes to increase access to popular seasonal destinations:

- 99 Commercial-Broadway / UBC (B-Line)

TransLink will be making seasonal adjustments (decreases) to routes serving UBC:

- 9 Boundary / Commercial-Broadway / Granville / Alma
- 44 UBC / Downtown

TransLink is adjusting service on the following routes to provide more space for customers at times when it's needed most:

- 14 Hastings / UBC
- 49 Metrotown Station / Dunbar Loop / UBC
- 84 UBC / VCC-Clark Station



TransLink is upgrading most trips on the 25 from 40-foot to 60-foot articulated buses, increasing capacity by up to 30 per cent on one of the busiest routes in Metro Vancouver. To accommodate these upgrades, we're making adjustments throughout the week.

Find the most up to date information about service changes [here](#).

Community Works Funds Approved for the UEL

The Community Works Fund is delivered to all local governments in British and is distributed within Electoral Area A based on population. Over the past ten years, Electoral Area A has received approximately \$130,000 per year on average. As of the end of 2023, the University Endowment Lands' (UEL) accumulated portion based on population stands at approximately \$160,000. In 2022 and 2023, the Electoral Area A Director and staff consulted with the UEL Community Advisory Council (CAC) and UEL Administration on potential projects that are eligible under the Community Works Fund.

In January 2024, the UEL CAC, with support from the UEL Administration, endorsed seeking funding for the Chancellor Blvd. Sidewalk Project with an estimated cost of \$157,000. The project entails replacement of the current substandard walkway with a two-metre wide finished concrete sidewalk. If the MVRD Board approves funding for this project, it would allow Metro Vancouver to enter into an agreement with UEL to reimburse them for eligible costs up to the maximum approved amount upon submission of required receipts and other documentation.



Images of the section of Chancellor Blvd where UEL's Community Works Funds will be used to improve the sidewalk (at the recommendation of the UEL and their Community Advisory Council)



The table below shows projects that the board has previously funded through the Electoral Area A Community Works Fund.

Year	Community	Amount	Project
2019	UBC/UNA	\$424,925	Pedestrian and cycling improvements to the Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard intersection
2019	UEL	\$138,575	Green infrastructure to mitigate storm water impacts from climate change
2021	Barnston Island	\$12,100	Dike pump house electrical upgrades
2022	UBC/UNA	\$195,824	Electric vehicle charging stations
2022	UBC/UNA	\$139,276.50	Solid waste (recycling) receptacle replacement
2022	UBC/UNA	\$100,000	Acadia neighbourhood active transportation improvements

Proposed sidewalk construction is scheduled to commence during the school summer break 2024 (last day of classes is June 28th) to allow for minimal interruption to pedestrian traffic, efficiency of construction works, and to accommodate for potential inclement weather.

The project estimate is \$157,000 to remove and replace the sidewalk with landscaping costs in addition. The UEL is prepared to cover the cost of the project over and above funds available through the CWF.

Celebrating 30 Years of Bog Restoration



When: Sat. May 4, 2024. 10am to 12pm
 Where: Camosun Bog, south entrance off 21st Ave.
 What: Displays, Bog learning stations, light refreshments & more
 Who: All are WELCOME! (Free admission)
 Questions?: Contact volunteer@pacificspiritparksociety.org

On May 4, 10am to 12pm, we'll celebrate 30+ years of bog restoration! All are welcome to this free event.

There will be exhibit, children's and refreshment tables at the south entrance to Camosun Bog [here](#) (accessed via 21st Ave.), and inside the bog area, there will be learning stations set up around the boardwalk.

The "crazy bogggers" began their restoration work in the early 90's with the aim to preserve a small piece of this unique ecosystem. Camosun Bog, originally a large area stretching over many ha, has

significant Indigenous importance and features in tradition tales such as that of the 2-headed serpent. Today the Camosun Bog Restoration Group (CBRG) supply native bog plants such as Labrador tea to Musqueam.



Jen's Board and Committee Appointments for 2024

Here is a list of the boards and committees that I serve on in my role as Electoral Area A Director. 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
- Co-chair of TransLink's Indigenous Relations Working Group
- Board Member for Metro Vancouver Zero Emission Innovation Centre (ZEIC)
- ZEIC Governance Committee
- ZEIC Human Resources Committee Co-chair
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board of Directors
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Third-Vice President
- Municipal Finance Authority of BC Alternate Director

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