

## My Upcoming Meetings

### Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Thursday, March 9, 2017

### Metro Vancouver Board

Friday, March 31, 2017

### Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

### Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Friday, April 7, 2017

### Electoral Area Committee

Wednesday, April 12, 2017



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

## Metro Vancouver Receives Provincial Approval for Official Name Change

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) has officially changed its name to the Metro Vancouver Regional District. Since 2007, the brand name "Metro Vancouver" has been used to collectively describe the four legal entities – GVRD, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation (MVHC), Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) – but the interchangeable use of Metro Vancouver with the GVRD has caused significant confusion outside the organization.

As a result, the Metro Vancouver Board decided in September last year to petition the province for a legal name change to Metro Vancouver Regional District. The name change was enacted on January 30 when the B.C. Lieutenant Governor in Council amended the Letters Patent and is expected to help strengthen the region's identity as an urban centre within a national and international context.

## Local Government Matters

Metro Vancouver is calling on British Columbia's four largest political parties to publicly clarify their platforms on critical issues facing the region, including affordable housing, transit and protecting the environment, as well as how they intend to work with the regional government on funding major capital projects.

Seven key questions were sent to the BC Liberals, BC NDP, BC Conservatives and the Green Party of BC, with a response deadline of March 31, 2017. Their answers will be posted on a new website, Local Government Matters, in the weeks leading up to the provincial election on May 9.

One of the questions posed to the political parties is whether they will provide funding for Phase Two of the 10-Year Vision for Transit and Transportation Plan in Metro Vancouver.

Additional questions relate to the province's willingness to work more closely with Metro Vancouver on issues of common concern, such as funding commitments for large capital projects including the Lion's Gate and Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, which have a combined cost of more than \$1.7 billion.

[www.localgovernmentmatters.com](http://www.localgovernmentmatters.com)

## Visual Air Quality & Consultation on Wood Smoke Reduction Policy

Metro Vancouver is working with federal, provincial and local agencies to develop strategies to improve visual air quality. This initiative has increased our understanding of the significant role fine particles play in degrading visual air quality in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Action is being taken by Metro Vancouver and our partners to reduce fine particle emissions from sources such as diesel engines and wood smoke.



Indoor residential wood burning is widespread in both urban and rural areas across the Metro Vancouver region. Wood smoke is a mixture of fine particles and many gases, including toxic air pollutants. Of the many sources of air pollutants in our region, the 100,000 fireplaces and stoves used each year are the largest source of fine particles. Fine particles are associated with negative health impacts, including respiratory and cardiac issues, particularly for children, the elderly, and people with existing lung and heart conditions.

Metro Vancouver's relatively high population density means that wood smoke from a single fireplace or stove can impact more people than in more rural areas of the province. As a result, wood smoke causes concern for many Metro Vancouver residents.

Metro Vancouver will be hosting preliminary consultation events in March and April 2017, for business representatives, health experts, municipal fire departments, members of the public who heat with wood, and members of the public affected by wood smoke. Metro Vancouver staff also invite feedback via email at [RWB@metrovancover.org](mailto:RWB@metrovancover.org) or by phone at 604-432-6200.

For more information about the effects of residential wood smoke, potential policy options, and the preliminary consultations, please visit the link below.

<http://www.metrovancover.org/services/air-quality/consultation/reducing-residential-woodsmoke/>

More about visual air quality: <http://www.clearairbc.ca/>

## Celebrating 50 Years of Regional Parks

Metro Vancouver marks the 50th anniversary of its Regional Parks system with a year-long celebration to showcase its 14,500-hectare network of parks and greenways.

The celebration kicks off on March 15 at Burnaby Lake Regional Park, followed by commemorative events in 18 of the region's 23 parks (including Pacific Spirit Regional Park) throughout the year.

To make it easier for nature lovers to discover new beaches, forests, rivers, trails and wetlands, Metro Vancouver has introduced the "Passport to Regional Parks," a soft-cover booklet that lists public events, and includes maps and facts about the history, wildlife and notable features of each park.

Collect stamps every time you visit a new park, event, nature house or campground to earn rewards like commemorative stickers, crests or pins. The Pacific Parklands Foundation will also offer rewards in a random draw to those who collect up to 10 or 15 stamps. The Passport to Regional Parks is also available as a smartphone app where residents can receive virtual stamps.

Passports were distributed with each copy of the special spring edition of the Check It Out! program guide. The 7,500 residents who signed up to receive the print copy received their passports in late February while another 15,500 copies will be available for pick-up at numerous community centres, libraries and regional parks locations.



The first 50th anniversary commemorative event in Pacific Spirit Regional Park is Night Quest on March 25 (more information in the events section below).

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/celebrate-parks/>

## Update on Pacific Spirit Regional Park Service Yard

On February 15, 2017, the Regional Parks Committee received an update on the Pacific Spirit Regional Park Service Yard Replacement Project.

The second phase of analysis of potential sites for the replacement service yard is nearing completion. Primary considerations include impacts to park visitor experience, adjacent land use, park ecology, servicing and access, and cost, as well as the values identified by participants in the first public engagement event. Previously identified sites were reviewed along with new sites. The replacement service yard will have a footprint of less than one acre and will include equipment, vehicle and material storage, maintenance facilities, basic shared office space, a change room and first aid facilities.



Sites under consideration are Sedgewick Fill Site, 16th Ave Parking Lot, 16th Ave – Homestead – North of Reservoir, and Chancellor Boulevard near UHill Elementary School. Little Australia and 29th at Imperial Road are no longer being considered.

Staff will complete analysis of the sites under consideration before hosting a public engagement event in spring 2017 to share their analysis and solicit feedback from the public. Staff will continue to engage Musqueam First Nation, the Pacific Spirit Park Society and community groups before reporting back to the Regional Parks Committee with a preferred service yard location. Detailed design will move forward later in 2017 in order to implement the project in 2018.

## 2016 Census

UBC's population grew by 3,220 residents between 2011 and 2016, marking a 33% rise over the five-year period and setting the highest percent growth rate across Metro Vancouver region. UBC's population reached 12,856 residents in 2016 and is expected to double again over the next 30 years. The ultimate population for UBC's market housing is 24,500. UEL's population was 3,034 in 2016 and is expected to be about 6,500 residents upon completion of the Block F development.

Note: The Census only includes UBC students who live on campus in residence year-round.

## Transportation and Public Transit

The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation committed, in its 10-Year Vision for Transit and Transportation in Metro Vancouver, to work towards the implementation of a comprehensive mobility pricing for the road network. Mobility pricing encompasses various forms of pricing for road usage, including tolls, fuel taxes, parking fees, and distance-based pricing. The objectives in introducing comprehensive mobility pricing include addressing traffic congestion and raising funds in an efficient, fair and consistent manner to help pay for the transportation and transit system.

An important initial step is to establish a Mobility Pricing Independent Commission that will undertake research, public consultation, and analysis in order to develop a short list of mobility pricing alternatives for consideration by the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors. The Commission will operate at arm's length from governments.

Since November 2016, a joint committee of the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board — the Joint Regional Mobility Pricing Steering Committee — has been undertaking the preparatory work for the establishment of the Independent Commission. The Steering Committee presented an update at the February 16th meeting of the Mayors' Council. The update is included in the [agenda package](#) for the meeting.

The Steering Committee has a deadline of spring of this year for making its recommendations to the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board for the establishment of the Independent Commission. These recommendations will include detailed terms of reference. The tentative timeline is for the Commission to be up and running before summer and to submit its findings and short list of options by early 2018.

Agenda link: [www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council/Council-Minutes-and-Reports.aspx](http://www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council/Council-Minutes-and-Reports.aspx)

**Events & Media****Night Quest – Regional Parks 50th Commemorative Event**

March 25, 2017

Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Vancouver

Nature at night is a magical experience. Wander 2 km of lantern-lit trails and explore like owls, squirrels, coyotes and other nocturnal critters. Bring a flashlight or lantern and a mug for the cash-only concession. Trails are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Allow 1.5 hours to complete.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/calendar/vancouver/608/night-quest>

**Winter Watershed Snowshoe Tours**

Mt. Seymour

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in March

Explore the connection between snow and your drinking water at Mt. Seymour. Learn about your water supply in a fun and active way while discovering alpine plants and animals. After a moderately strenuous snowshoe, warm up with a cup of hot cocoa. Ages 16+. Must be physically capable of hiking up and down steep sections with snowshoes.

**Cost:** \$18 with own snowshoes; \$25 includes snowshoes rental

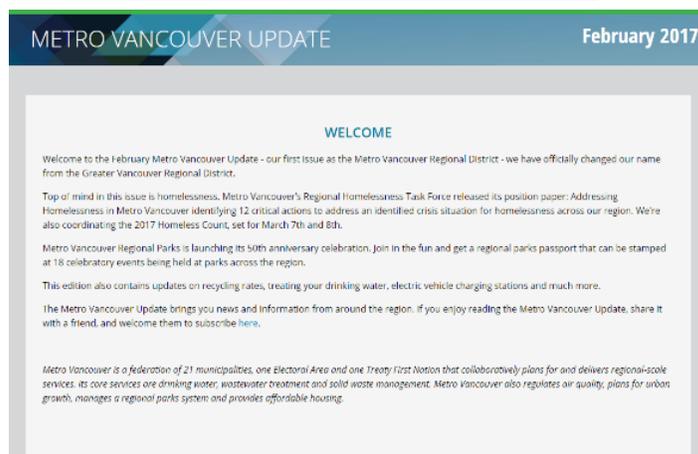
[www.metrovancouver.org/events/watershed-tours/](http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/watershed-tours/)

**Metro Vancouver Close Up**

*Metro Vancouver Close Up* shows how municipalities and community groups are promoting sustainability and shared regional goals. New videos are posted each month. To see sustainability stories about Metro Vancouver, you can search “Metro Vancouver Close Up” at [metrovancover.org](http://metrovancover.org) or follow [metrovancoverblog.org](http://metrovancoverblog.org).

**For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates**

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



## Links & Connections

### [Metro Vancouver](#)

[www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

### [Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director](#)

[www.mariaharris.ca](http://www.mariaharris.ca)

### [@EADirector Twitter](#)

[www.twitter.com/EADirector](http://www.twitter.com/EADirector)

### [Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

[www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx](http://www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx)

### [Union of BC Municipalities](#)

[www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca)

### [University Neighbourhoods Association](#)

[www.myuna.ca](http://www.myuna.ca)

### [University Endowment Lands Administration](#)

[www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca](http://www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca)

### [UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

[www.uelcommunity.com](http://www.uelcommunity.com)

### [Metro Vancouver Media Releases](#)

[www.metrovancouver.org/media-room](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room)

### [Metro Vancouver Videos](#)

[www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/video-gallery](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/video-gallery)

### [@MetroVancouver Twitter](#)

[www.twitter.com/metrovancouver](http://www.twitter.com/metrovancouver)

### [Metro Vancouver Facebook](#)

[www.facebook.com/metrovancouver](http://www.facebook.com/metrovancouver)