

## Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings I will attend:

**Climate Action Committee**

Thursday, March 26, 2015

**Mayors' Council**

Thursday, April 2, 2015

**Metro Vancouver Board**

Friday, March 27, 2015


[Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/)
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

## Issues and News

**\$2.8 Million Bequest to Enhance Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks**

George Ross, a long-time Burnaby resident who loved trees and walking forested trails, left \$2.8 million to ensure that generations to come will enjoy Metro Vancouver Regional Parks as he did.

Mr. Ross's legacy will initially benefit the Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre project with \$300,000 to fill the funding gap and allow this nature-focused learning facility to become a reality.



The remaining \$2.5 million will be used to create the **George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program** to be administered by the Pacific Parklands Foundation, which is dedicated to raising funds for Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks. Annual interest of \$50,000 to \$60,000 from the endowment will fund hands-on stewardship activities by our parks partners in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

**Metro Vancouver Residents More than Double their Return of Expired Medications**

Last year, Metro Vancouver residents returned more than 45,000 kilograms of expired or unused medications to community pharmacies for safe disposal.

The BC Medications Return Program stops medications from being flushed down the toilet, where they can harm the environment, or from being thrown in the garbage, where they can be found by children or pets who may think pills are candy or treats.

Bring your unused  
medications  
back to us

Ask your pharmacist  
for more information.



Unused or expired medications can pose health risks to children and other individuals if not disposed of properly and should be returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

Any liquid or cream medications should be kept in their original container with any personal information removed or blacked out, and solid medications like pills should be combined into a small bag. For more information, visit [www.healthsteward.ca](http://www.healthsteward.ca)

## **Metro Vancouver Lowers Tipping Fees For Large Waste Loads**

In order to better reflect the costs of service delivery, the Metro Vancouver Board has revised the tipping fees to encourage waste haulers to deliver their garbage to regional facilities.

Disposal bans are a critical tool in encouraging diversion of recyclable materials and reducing waste. They are enforced when garbage is inspected at Metro Vancouver facilities. And, disposal bans play an important role in helping us achieve among the highest recycling rates in North America.

As of April 6, 2015, there will no longer be a universal \$109-per-tonne tipping fee, and rates will vary based on load sizes. The new fees will be:

- Large loads exceeding nine tonnes: \$80 per tonne.
- Medium loads between one and nine tonnes: \$109 per tonne to a maximum load fee of \$720.
- Small loads up to one tonne: \$130 per tonne and a maximum load fee of \$109.
- All loads to the Matsqui Transfer Station in Abbotsford: \$150 per tonne.

A transaction fee of \$5 will be applied to all loads to contribute to fixed costs associated with managing each load including weigh scales, maintenance and requirements of the tipping floor where garbage is dumped, and staffing costs.

The minimum cost for small loads will be \$15 up from \$10 per load, and the average charge per trip for a small vehicle is estimated at \$31 from \$22, including a \$5 transaction fee.

Loads under one tonne comprise 85 percent of all trips to our regional waste management facilities, and cost more to manage than larger loads. Therefore, the rate has been adjusted to be more consistent with the cost of managing these loads, and the increases are not expected to cause additional illegal dumping.

We know that Metro Vancouver residents and businesses are committed to recycling, and these measures are a first step in managing the flow of waste out of our region. We hope that commercial haulers will pass on the savings from reduced tipping fees to their customers.

## **Coal Terminal Facilities in Metro Vancouver**



A report presented at the February 16 Climate Action Committee meeting provided an overview of coal in Metro Vancouver, with an emphasis on the nature of coal products, the Neptune Bulk Terminals, the Fraser Surrey Docks permit from Port Metro Vancouver and Metro Vancouver's regulatory and policy-making roles.

The full presentation can be viewed here:

[http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/ClimateAction/Climate\\_Action\\_Committee-2015-Feb-18\\_Presentations.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/ClimateAction/Climate_Action_Committee-2015-Feb-18_Presentations.pdf)

## Transit Funding Plebiscite

### Plebiscite Rules

The BC Cabinet has enacted the rules for the plebiscite. They do not contain any surprises. Many of the details had already been made public.

Voting is by mail-in ballot, with ballots to be sent out starting March 16 and returned no later than 8 pm on May 29. In order to vote, a person must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older on May 29, a resident of Metro Vancouver, and a resident of B.C. for the six months preceding May 29.

Voting packages will be sent to persons who are on the provincial voters list. Residents can register, confirm their registration, or update their voter registration by contacting [Elections BC](http://www.elections.bc.ca). [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

### Elections BC

The Elections BC website now has a [section](#) on the plebiscite that provides full information on voting and contains a set of Frequently Asked Questions. [www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/index.html](http://www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/index.html)

Elections BC will be mailing an information pamphlet on the plebiscite to every household in Metro Vancouver from March 9 to March 20. While the pamphlet is in English, translations are available in 17 languages on the [Plebiscite Resources](#) page of the Elections BC website. [www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/resources.html](http://www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/resources.html)

Elections BC plans to open eight or nine Plebiscite Service Offices (PSO) on Monday, April 13. At a PSO, Elections BC officials will conduct voter registration, issue voting packages (until midnight on Friday, May 15) and accept completed ballot packages until the close of voting.

I have been told that there will not be a PSO in the UBC/UEL area. The nearest PSO may be in the vicinity of 10th and Alma.

### Mayors' Council Website

The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation—of which I am a member as the representative for Electoral Area A—has put up a new website with information about the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan and the plebiscite as well as news releases. The website address remains the same: [mayorscouncil.ca](http://mayorscouncil.ca)

I would draw your attention in particular to the [Information Centre](#) page (which can be accessed under Get Involved on the menu bar). In addition to links to the Mayors' Council plan, that page contains links to economic reports on the following topics: the costs of congestion; the economic impact of the plan; and household cost savings from the plan. <http://mayorscouncil.ca/information-centre/>

## Engaging with Residents and Others

I am organizing a community meeting on the plebiscite at MBA house (in Wesbrook Village) on the evening of Wednesday March 25 from 7-8:30 pm. The format will consist of short presentations from the speakers followed by a Q&A session. Doors will open at 6:30 pm to provide an opportunity for people to engage in discussion beforehand.

I have put out the following offer to all UNA strata council chairs:

I would welcome an opportunity to talk with the residents of your strata and to answer their questions. This could take place in conjunction with a strata event, or I could spend a couple of hours in your common area one evening. I would also be grateful for a chance to meet with strata councils.

To date, I have met with the following groups to give them an overview of the Mayors' Council plan and answer their questions: UEL Community Advisory Council (Feb 2), UHill Elementary Parent Advisory Committee (Feb 26), Tapestry residents (Mar 4). On March 2 and 3, I spent time at the UBC bus loop with a street team talking to transit riders about the referendum. And on Friday, April 10, I will speak at a seminar at MBA House organized by Sabrina Zhang and Ying Zhou for Mandarin speakers.

## Upcoming Events



### Planning for Cycling in Cities - Sustainability Community Breakfast

March 26, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

BCIT Downtown, 555 Seymour St., Vancouver

Featuring speakers: Dr. Kay Teschke, Professor, UBC School of Population and Public Health, to address cycling in cities research projects; Stu Ramsey, Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Burnaby, to address cycling infrastructure in Burnaby's town centres; and Heather Reinhold, Manager, Waterfront, City of North Vancouver, to address the North Shore Spirit Trail.

**Register:** <http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/community-breakfasts/>



### Night Quest - Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Vancouver

March 28, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

4914 West 16th Ave., 400m west of Blanca

Stroll lantern-lit trails; learn about owls, bats, coyotes and more. Bring a flashlight or headlamp and allow one hour to complete the quest. Bring a mug to use at the Girl Guides concession. This event is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Presented in partnership with the Pacific Spirit Park Society.

Call for information: 604-224-5739

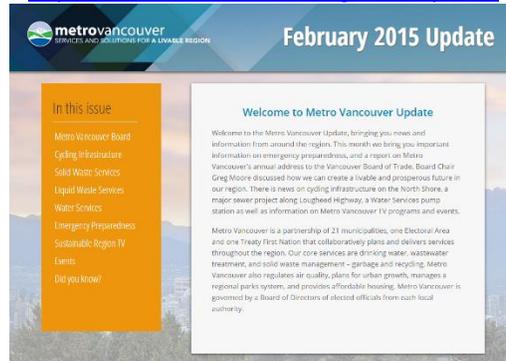
# ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

MARCH  
2015

From Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director

## For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

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



## Links & Connections

### [Metro Vancouver](http://www.metrovancouver.org/)

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

### [Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director](http://www.mariaharris.ca)

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

### [@EADirector Twitter](https://twitter.com/EADirector)

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### [Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](http://mayorscouncil.ca/)

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/>

### [Union of BC Municipalities](http://www.ubcm.ca/)

<http://www.ubcm.ca/>

### [University Neighbourhoods Association](http://myuna.ca)

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

### [University Endowment Lands](http://www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca)

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

### [UEL Community Advisory Council](http://uelcommunity.com)

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

### [Metro Vancouver Media Releases](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/)

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/>

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

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