

Upcoming meetings I will attend

Intergovernment and Finance Electoral

Area Sub-Committee

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Mayors Committee

Friday, April 8, 2016

Council of Councils

Saturday, April 23, 2016

Metro Vancouver Board

Friday, April 29, 2016

Intergovernment and Finance Electoral

Area Sub-Committee

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, May 4, 2016



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

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

New Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan

In February the GVRD Board adopted the 2016 update of the Regional Parks Plan after a year of planning efforts. This plan, which is typically updated every five years, is a key policy tool providing guidance to the delivery of the Regional Parks service.

The Regional Parks Plan is particularly important in leading the development of regional park management plans, regional park policy, land acquisition strategies and programs. The updated plan formally translates the direction contained in the GVRD Board-adopted 2014 Regional Parks Service Review into Metro Vancouver policy.

During the public feedback portion of the planning process, respondents indicated strong support for the goals and strategies in the updated document. The strong public buy-in to the plan's vision to protect important natural areas and connect people to nature confirms the findings of the 2014 Regional Parks Service Review. In the case of Pacific Spirit Park, this means that residents who enjoy the natural state of the park's woods and trails will continue to do so.

Moving forward the Regional Parks Plan will guide the continued implementation of the 2014 Regional Parks Service Review recommendations as well as the ongoing delivery of Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks service.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/RegionalParksServiceReview.pdf>

Adjusting Water Use Restrictions for 2016

The purpose of the region's Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) is to manage demand for drinking water during the summer months (lawn watering, pressure washing, vehicle washing, filling of swimming pools etc.). It also has a role during an emergency, such as an earthquake or significant infrastructure failure.

During the hot, dry summer in 2015, activating the WSRP significantly reduced Metro Vancouver residents' daily water consumption. Consumption peaked at about 1.7 billion litres/day in early July, and dropped to an average of about 1.1 billion litres/day once Stage 3 (which essentially prohibits lawn watering) was activated.

As 2015 was the first year in which higher stages (i.e., stages 2 and 3) of the plan were activated in over a decade, it was a real-time test for the effectiveness and the impact on water users, including businesses. This presented the opportunity to review the plan with local government staff, residents, and businesses during the fall and winter 2015/16.

From this review the Greater Vancouver Water District Board approved the following 2016 amendments:

1. *Extend Stage 1 of the Plan to May 15 to October 15 (previously June 1 to September 30);*
2. *Amend Stage 2 to allow water to be used by commercial cleaning services for aesthetic cleaning; and*
3. *Amend Stage 3 to allow previously issued lawn sprinkling exemption permits to remain valid.*

The amendments for summer 2016 concluded Phase 1 of the WSRP evaluation. Phase 2 of the evaluation is more in depth, and may open the plan to broader changes. Metro Vancouver is undertaking a technical review to improve the plan's efficiency, effectiveness, and equity. From this, a new plan will be drafted over summer 2016, with input from members. Consultation is planned for fall 2016. The plan is expected to go to the Board in late 2016.

Please encourage residents and businesses to complete any power washing needs before the water regulations begin on May 15; and remind residents that starting May 15, Stage 1 of the WSRP prescribes:

Residential lawn sprinkling allowed on:

Even-numbered addresses Monday, Wednesday, Saturday mornings 4 am to 9 am

Odd-numbered addresses Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday mornings 4 am to 9 am

Non-residential lawn sprinkling allowed on:

Even-numbered addresses Monday, Wednesday mornings 1 am to 6 am

Odd-numbered addresses Tuesday, Thursday mornings 1 am to 6 am

All non-residential addresses Friday mornings, 4 am to 9 am

Community Works Fund

The Community Works Fund is a program through which all local governments receive a portion of federal gas tax monies, based on their respective populations, for the purpose of funding eligible projects ([click here](#) for examples of eligible projects). For the years 2014-2018, Electoral Area A is expected to receive a total of approximately \$575,000, which reflects an amount of between approximately \$110K and \$120K per year.

In recognition of the governance and advisory bodies that exist in the Point Grey area of Electoral Area A, which include the University Neighbourhoods Association, the University Endowment Lands Community Advisory Council and Administration, and the University of British Columbia Board of Governors, Metro Vancouver staff and I will meet with representatives from these local bodies to discuss projects which could potentially be funded through the Community Works Fund. The representatives will provide advice to Metro Vancouver staff and me on the views and priorities of the bodies they represent. All decisions on the use of the Community Works Fund are made by the Metro Vancouver (GVRD) Board.

The first meeting, scheduled for early April 2016, will discuss the Community Works Fund, eligible projects, and general principles for choosing priority projects. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled once we have a better idea how long it will take for representatives to identify potential projects. We are hoping to have projects selected by late summer or early fall 2016.

Examples of Eligible Projects:

<http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/Renewed~Gas~Tax~Agreement/Community~Works~Fund/Examples-of-Eligible-Projects.pdf>

Emergency Planning Day



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

University Endowment Lands
Community Safety & Emergency Planning Day
Saturday, May 7, 2016 | 10 am – 2 pm
Jim Everett Memorial Park
(Cross-section of Dalhousie Road, Allison Road and University Boulevard)

Let's Get Prepared!

#UELprepares

请参与 UEL 社区防灾日活动 - 五月七日 (周六) 上午十时至下午二时
地址: Jim Everett 纪念园 (University Blvd 和 Allison Rd 交叉口)

Learn **safety planning** for your family and neighbours
Experience exhibits, **demos and activities**
Talk to **safety experts**
Get information on disaster and **emergency response**
Purchase **emergency preparedness kits**
Recharge your **fire extinguisher**

Drop by this event between 10 am – 2pm and talk to safety experts, see exhibits, demos and participate in an activity. Be informed, be ready.

On May 7, 2016, the UEL will be holding a Community Safety and Emergency Planning Day, open to all interested residents of the UEL, UNA and UBC. The goal of the event is to provide residents with the information and tools they need to be prepared for an emergency.

From providing an opportunity to purchase an emergency preparedness kit to demonstrating how to use a fire extinguisher, the UEL Community Safety and Emergency Planning Day promises to be a fun way to help residents in our communities be prepared.

The March issue of the U Hill Connections newspaper contains a special spread devoted to emergency preparedness.

I would appreciate your help in promoting this event.

Transportation and Public Transit

The March 22 federal budget has given a real shot in the arm to the Mayors' Council 10-Year Plan for improving transportation and transit in the Metro Vancouver region. The budget announced a two-phase plan for investing in public transit and other infrastructure and stated that the federal government will fund up to 50% of the eligible costs of projects—an increase from the traditional one-third cost-sharing formula.

Phase 1 of the plan will provide the Metro Vancouver region with \$370 million for improving bus service and SkyTrain over the short term. A portion of this money can be used to accelerate the design and engineering work for major projects, including the Broadway subway. Phase 2, the details of which will be announced in 2017, will provide a substantially larger sum for transit projects through to 2026. Two days after the budget was brought down, Infrastructure and Communities Minister Sohi met with members of the Mayors' Council to discuss Phase 2.

The Mayors' Council continues its efforts to close the funding gap for the Mayors' Council Plan. To this end, it established a Sub-Committee on a Fair Share Funding Strategy. The sub-committee's mandate is "to oversee TransLink's work to finalize cost estimates and assess TransLink finances, and, with the support of a TransLink-Local Government municipal staff team, analyze options to close the regional funding gap". The sub-committee has been meeting regularly since the beginning of February and reporting back to the Mayors' Council.

UEL Incorporation Study

Nearly 2-1/2 years ago, the UEL's Community Advisory Council (CAC) sent a letter to the previous Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development requesting that an incorporation study be undertaken for their community. The study would analyze the financial and other consequences of the community becoming a municipality. On April 1, Minister Fassbender and his deputy minister met with Dave Forsyth (CAC President), Ron Pears (past CAC President), Bill Holmes (my Alternate Director) and me to discuss the request. This was the second meeting with the Minister. The same group met with him last October, and Bill and I met with his predecessor shortly after the request was submitted.

The Minister called the meeting to keep open the lines of communication. He had no news to convey. There was a frank expression of views about the failure of the government to involve the community in its deliberations on the request, or even to provide the community with information about the process and the government's perspective. It was pointed out to the Minister that the only information the community has been able to obtain has been through freedom of information requests, which have yielded heavily redacted documents. Frustration was also expressed with the amount of time it is taking the government to make a decision. The meeting ended with a commitment from the Minister to discuss with his officials both provision of information to the community and timing.

Events

I would like to ask you to draw the following Metro Vancouver events to the attention of residents, students, and others:

Sustainability Community Breakfast – Wednesday, April 13, 2016



Climate Change Adaptation in the Region

7:30 – 9am

BCIT Downtown

555 Seymour Street, Vancouver

Climate change is global, but local impacts vary widely from region to region. Learn how Metro Vancouver and the region's municipalities are preparing strategies to adapt to and become more resilient to the likely social, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change.

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

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 more sustainability stories about Metro Vancouver, residents can search "Metro Vancouver Close Up" at metrovancover.org or follow metrovancoverblog.org.

For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

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

The screenshot shows the 'March 2016 Update' newsletter. It features a 'Welcome' section with a list of topics and a 'In this issue' section with a list of articles. The 'In this issue' section includes:

- > Start saving on your groceries with Love Food – Hate Waste
- > Have you tried an electric vehicle?
- > Limited Gypsum Recycling at Metro Vancouver Transfer Stations
- > White Board videos popular for sharing
- > Examining office space across the region
- > NEW Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan
- > Adjusting Water Use Regulations in 2016
- > Circular economy panel discussion now available on video

The 'Welcome' section includes a message from the Director and a link to the newsletter.

Links & Connections

[Metro Vancouver](#)

www.metrovancouver.org

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

www.mariaharris.ca

[@EADirector Twitter](#)

www.twitter.com/EADirector

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx

www.mayorscouncil.ca

[Union of BC Municipalities](#)

www.ubcm.ca

[University Neighbourhoods Association](#)

www.myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands](#)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

www.uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/media-room

[Metro Vancouver Videos](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/video-gallery

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