

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

OCTOBER
2014

From Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings I will attend:

Metro Vancouver Board Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2014

Metro Vancouver Board Budget Workshop

Thursday, October 16, 2014

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Friday, October 17, 2014

Metro Vancouver Board Meetings

Friday, October 24, 2014

**Intergovernmental and Administration
Electoral Area Sub-Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Utilities Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2014

[Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes](http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx)<http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx>

Recent Events

**Zero Waste Conference - #ZWC2014**

September 16, 2014 – Vancouver Convention Centre

Metro Vancouver's fourth annual **Zero Waste Conference** was last month, with over 500 people in attendance. This year's conference featured experts and pioneers in the zero waste movement from Canada and abroad and focused on three themes: **Innovation in Design, Transformation in Business, Collaboration for Systems Change**. A special session on advancing waste prevention nationally provided an update on **Canada's National Zero Waste Council**.

We heard from and engaged with global business, government and community leaders who are tackling waste reduction head on. From how we design to how we manufacture, supply, trade, use and consume products, including the economic landscape in which all this production of goods and packaging takes place, speakers presented best practices, suggestions for strategic collaborations, and more.

The speakers provided insight and ideas into how we can make fundamental shifts towards a circular economy, including sharing goods like vehicles and tools rather than individual ownership, and what drives companies to adopt this new economic model.

Conference attendees were from all sectors: business, government, non-profit, and academic. Metro Vancouver Chair Greg Moore noted that it is by working together on these solutions and transformations that we will make the necessary shifts from our current linear to a circular economy.

All the presentations were insightful and interesting, and I've shared three in particular below. Videos of all the keynotes, panels and presenters are available on [Metro Vancouver's website](http://www.metrovancouver.org/zwc/Presentations/Pages/default.aspx).

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/zwc/Presentations/Pages/default.aspx>



Jeremy Rifkin, a famed futurist, popular TED Talks speaker, and the bestselling author of twenty books on the impact of science and technological changes on the economy, workforce, society, and the environment, gave an inspiring keynote speech explaining how the emerging communication, energy and transportation technologies are speeding us toward a “**Third Industrial Revolution.**” [Video](http://bcove.me/un6p9kxd) <http://bcove.me/un6p9kxd>



Plastic is a valuable resource and all of it can theoretically be recycled and but less than 10% of it is recycled worldwide. **Mike Biddle**, Founder and Director, **MBA Polymers Inc.**, a world leader in innovative plastic recycling, explained the reasons why and offered a look at novel solutions. [Video](http://bcove.me/4f5a4as6) <http://bcove.me/4f5a4as6>



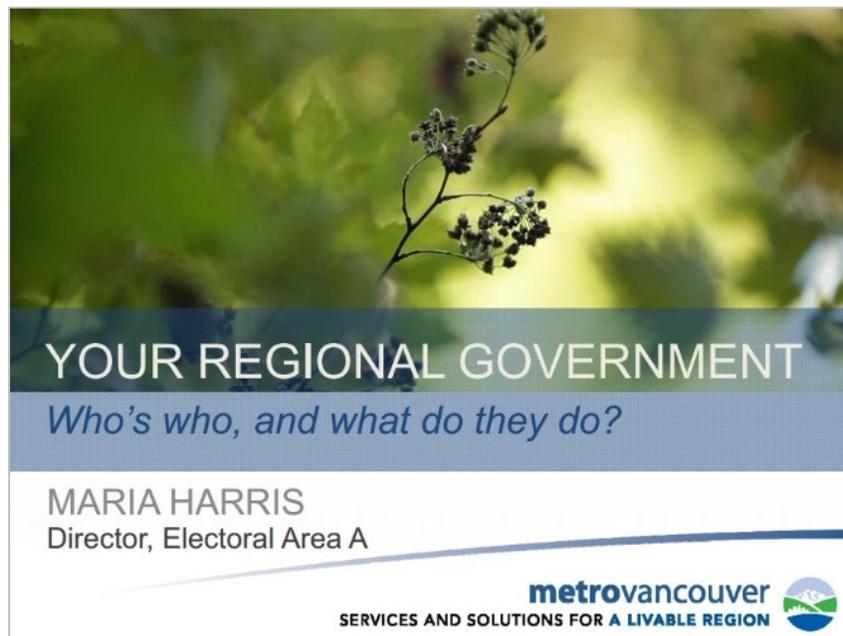
We also got an exclusive look at the trailer for an upcoming documentary, Plastic Oceans, from **Emma Langson** of the **Plastic Oceans Foundation**. They believe this problem can be turned around within a generation. The trailer starts around the 3:45 minute mark. [Video](http://bcove.me/9uw5v97d) <http://bcove.me/9uw5v97d>

YOUR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT: Who's who, and what do they do?

Last month, I gave a presentation and held an open discussion of the functions of Metro Vancouver and the Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation at the UEL and UBC.

[View the Presentation](http://mariaharris.ca/assets/Documents/Slides%20for%20September%208,%202014%20Presentation.pdf)

<http://mariaharris.ca/assets/Documents/Slides%20for%20September%208,%202014%20Presentation.pdf>



Upcoming Events

First Annual Metro Vancouver Regional Parks EcoBlitz

October 25, 10am – 1:00 p.m. at Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Pacific Spirit Regional Park is one of the ten Regional Parks taking part in a new annual event to help remove invasive plants and replant native vegetation.

The **Pacific Spirit Park Society** has been hard at work for many years restoring valuable habitat in the park by planting trees and shrubs and removing invasive plants like holly and ivy. During **EcoBlitz**, they'll be working with volunteers along Imperial Trail, a high use trail where Japanese knotweed was once dominant.



Gloves, tools, snacks and refreshments will all be provided, so please just wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be ready to work hard and have fun!

[Event info](#)

<http://www.meetup.com/Regional-Parks-Connect-Metro-Vancouver/events/179242072/>

Issues & Initiatives

Pacific Spirit Park Society – Contribution Agreement

Metro Vancouver provides funding to external organizations that provide benefits to Regional Parks and their communities such as stewardship projects, park interpretation and education programs.

Recently, the Metro Vancouver Board approved a Contribution Agreement for the Pacific Spirit Park Society for a one-year term and contribution amount of \$14,000 commencing on October 30, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2015.

Impact of Habitat Restorations on Pollinators in Metro Vancouver Parks



The October 2, 2014 Environment and Parks Committee meeting heard the findings of research on pollinators in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks from Julie Wray of SFU's Department of Biological Sciences.

[The presentation is available here](#)

[http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/Environment%20and%20Parks%20Committee/Environment and Parks Committee 2014 Oct 02 Presentation.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/Environment%20and%20Parks%20Committee/Environment%20and%20Parks%20Committee%202014%20Oct%2002%20Presentation.pdf)

Policy for Metro Vancouver Information Products to Electoral Area A Communities

The Metro Vancouver Board approved a formalized policy for Electoral Area A Community Publications. This policy formalizes Metro Vancouver staff support for the development and provision of two information pieces for Electoral Area A residents – the semi-annual Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A Bulletin and the monthly Electoral Area A Director's Update.

Element	Electoral Area A Bulletin	Electoral Area A Metro Vancouver Update
Purpose	To inform Electoral Area A residents of Metro Vancouver's policy, service, bylaw and other initiatives that affect and are relevant to Area A, in particular residents of the smaller, relatively remote communities in	To inform residents of the UEL and University Neighbourhoods of the relevant initiatives being pursued by Metro Vancouver and Translink's Mayors Council.
Title	<i>Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A Bulletin.</i>	<i>Electoral Area A Director's Update.</i> This revised title reflects the inclusion of updates on the work of the Mayors Council, and the fact that the document is not a Metro Vancouver publication.
Audience	Primarily targeted at residents who live in the non-urban communities of Area A (i.e., communities <i>other than</i> the UEL and University Neighbourhoods).	Targeted at residents in the UEL and University Neighbourhoods.
Content	Provides information on Metro Vancouver's local and regional initiatives.	Provides information on Metro Vancouver's local and regional initiatives, and on the initiatives of the Mayors Council.
Developer	Metro Vancouver staff provide content and all editing. Staff are owners of the <i>Bulletin</i> and are responsible for completing and publishing document.	Metro Vancouver staff provide content on Metro Vancouver initiatives. Director provides content (with assistance from Translink) on Mayors Council initiatives. Metro Vancouver staff assemble all content and place into template. Director is owner of the Update and is responsible for ensuring its production. Metro Vancouver must approve content that relates to Metro Vancouver initiatives.
Appearance	Metro Vancouver staff are responsible for template. Document is a Metro Vancouver publication with corporate logo and tag line.	Director is responsible for choosing template (staff may suggest). Document is not a Metro Vancouver publication, and does not feature corporate logo or tag line.

National Zero Waste Council

Since the fall of 2012, Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, has demonstrated leadership in the development, launch and now implementation of the National Zero Waste Council. The Council just conducted its first Annual General Meeting after being launched at the 2013 Zero Waste Conference.



The National Zero Waste Council is a cross-sectoral leadership initiative bringing together governments, businesses, and non-government organizations to advance a national waste prevention and reduction agenda in Canada. With a focus on influencing behaviour and improving product design and packaging, the National Zero Waste Council aims to unite efforts in waste prevention and drive a fundamental shift in our relationship with waste.

Find more information about NZWC and find out how you can join here at the [National Zero Waste Council Website](http://www.nzwc.ca/) <http://www.nzwc.ca/>

For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

[Metro Vancouver Update](http://www.metrovancouver.org/metroudate/) (<http://www.metrovancouver.org/metroudate/>)



Links & Connections

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

www.metrovancouver.org/

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

www.mariaharris.ca

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

twitter.com/EADirector

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/information-centre/>

[Union of BC Municipalities](#)

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

[University Neighbourhoods Association](#)

myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands](#)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/Pages/MediaReleases.aspx

[Metro Vancouver Videos](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/videos

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