

# ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

NOVEMBER  
2014

From Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director

## Upcoming Meetings

*Upcoming meetings I will attend:*

### Utilities Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2014

### Metro Vancouver Board Meeting

Friday, November 28, 2014

### Council of Councils

Saturday, December 6, 2014

*To be attended by Electoral Area A Director elected on November 15:*

### Metro Vancouver Inaugural Board Meeting

Friday, December 12, 2014



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

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx>

## News & Issues

# 2014 Election for Electoral Area A Director Saturday, November 15, 2014

Coming up this month, general local elections will be held all over the province. This includes an election for the Director of Electoral Area A in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, plus an election of Vancouver School Trustees.

General voting day is **Saturday, November 15, 2014** from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Maria Harris**



**Daniel Wood**



**Candidate Profiles:** <http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/ELECTIONS/Pages/profiles.aspx>

### First Time Voters

There is no pre-registration to vote - just show up at the voting place. You will be asked for identification and applicable documentation.

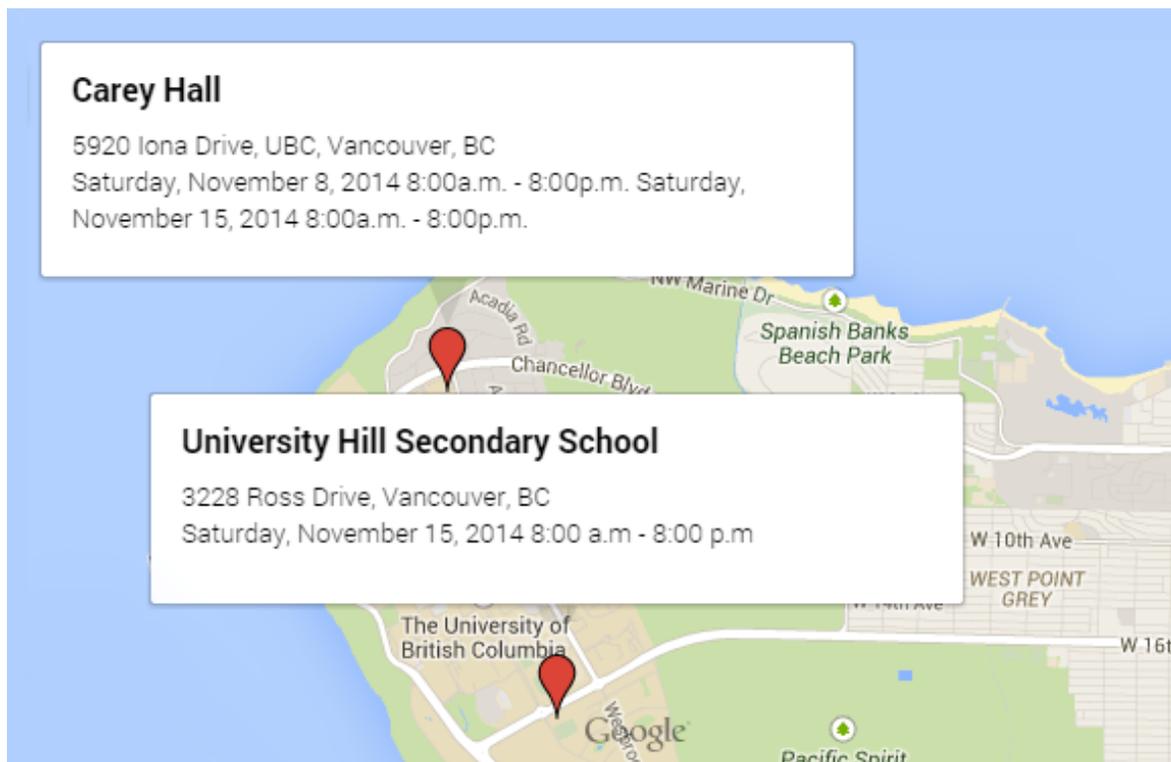
Information about [Voter Qualifications and Registration](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/elections/voterInformation/Pages/ElectorQualificationsandRegistration.aspx)

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/elections/voterInformation/Pages/ElectorQualificationsandRegistration.aspx>

## Where to Vote

There are two places in the UBC area for voting for both the Metro Vancouver Director and Vancouver School Trustees on general voting day, November 15.

- **University Hill Secondary School**, 3228 Ross Drive, Vancouver, BC (Ross Drive off 16th Ave)
- **Carey Hall**, 5920 Iona Drive, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC (Iona Drive off Westbrook Mall)



For information about **Advance Voting** and **Mail-In ballots**:

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/elections/voterInformation/Pages/VotingOpportunities.aspx>

A **BC Voter's Guide** is available for download in the following languages:

- [English](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Voter%27s_Guide_English.pdf)
- [Chinese - Simplified](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Voter%27s_Guide_Chinese_Simplified.pdf)
- [Chinese - Traditional](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Voter%27s_Guide_Chinese_Traditional.pdf)
- [French](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Voter%27s_Guide_French.pdf)
- [Punjabi](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Voter%27s_Guide_Punjabi.pdf)

## BC Ministry of Environment Rejects Bylaw 280

Metro Vancouver's financially self-sustaining and environmentally responsible solid waste management system is mostly paid for by its users – residents, small businesses and commercial waste haulers – who pay “tipping fees” at regional facilities, based on the weight of their garbage loads being dropped off.

Many materials are banned or prohibited from disposal at regional facilities: recyclables such as paper, plastics and drywall, hazardous materials like batteries, electronics and household chemicals, among others. The bans encourage thorough sorting of garbage to keep recyclables and toxic materials out of the garbage.

Unfortunately, some commercial waste haulers have been avoiding Metro Vancouver's system by trucking garbage to landfills outside the region. Thus, they avoid both the tipping fees and material bans. The practice drives up the costs for users who do follow the rules and threatens the viability of Metro Vancouver's system.

Metro Vancouver's proposed **Bylaw 280** would have required all waste generated in the region to be delivered to regional facilities, ensuring that a cost-effective and equitable waste disposal system continued to be available to all residents and businesses.

However, an October 17 decision by the Minister of Environment has rejected Bylaw 280. The Province ignored the facts provided by Metro Vancouver, which were supported by 12 other BC regional districts representing 90 percent of the provincial population, the Recycle First Coalition and the 825 workers it employs.

Without Bylaw 280, the practice of shipping waste to remote landfills is anticipated to increase and will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our diversion goals. Metro Vancouver will now need to review all elements of its solid waste management plan from disposal bans to recycling, landfilling, transfer stations, and waste-to-energy facilities to determine how best to move forward.



## Organics Disposal Ban

Food waste makes up about a third of Metro Vancouver waste currently going to disposal.

Metro Vancouver's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) calls for a ban on the disposal of organics, including food scraps and food-soiled paper and other compostables, starting in 2015.

The ban will be implemented in phases. In the first phase of the ban, the initial threshold for food waste in garbage loads at disposal sites is set at 25 percent. This means that loads exceeding 25 percent food waste will be issued a financial surcharge, as an incentive to separate food waste. Typically only loads from large generators such as grocery stores and food processors without effective organics recycling programs would exceed 25 percent. The threshold will be reduced over time to provide businesses and residents the opportunity to put organics recycling systems in place. [More info](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/businesses/OrganicsBan/)  
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/businesses/OrganicsBan/>



In support of the upcoming **2015 Organics Disposal Ban**, a food scraps campaign has been launched to create broad awareness and support for food scraps recycling across the region.

The campaign is in full swing across the region, and all campaign materials are [available online](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/Resources/Pages/AdvertisingCampaigns.aspx).  
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solidwaste/Resources/Pages/AdvertisingCampaigns.aspx>

## Community Works Fund

On May 22, 2014, the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) signed the new, ten-year **Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia**. The Agreement identifies three separate funds through which federal gas tax funding will be delivered to local governments. One of the funds is the Community Works Fund (CWF), which provides dedicated funding to local governments for investments in local capital and capacity building projects.

Every member jurisdiction of the GVRD has entered into its own 2014-2024 Community Works Fund Agreement with UBCM for its annual funding through the CWF. The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) has entered into a 2014-2024 Community Works Fund Agreement for Electoral Area A. During the first year of the Agreement (2014/2015), Area A will receive \$110,000 for local projects. In subsequent years, this amount will be increased by 2% per year in keeping with the Agreement's provision on indexing.

Metro Vancouver staff will be developing, in consultation with the Area A Director and the Electoral Area Subcommittee, a process for selecting local Electoral Area A projects for CWF funding each year.

## Metro Vancouver Budget

Metro Vancouver approved a 2015 operating budget that for, all services combined, projects a 0.5% increase over 2014, for a total of \$657.1 million. Residents, businesses and other property holders throughout the region pay for Metro Vancouver's services through a combination of user fees and property taxes. User fees are collected to pay for the region's water, sewer and solid waste services, and are determined for the most part based on level of use. For a typical household, total user fee charges are projected to rise by \$5 in 2015.

Property taxes are collected to help pay for regional services such as Air Quality Management, Regional Planning and Regional Parks. For residents of the University Neighbourhoods and the University Endowment Lands, property taxes are also collected to pay for local services that are provided specifically to Electoral Area A. For 2015, additional staffing resources are being dedicated to attend to Area A needs. The cost of these resources will result in modest tax increases for all Area A residents. The accompanying table gives an indication of the total projected tax increases that different Area A residences can expect in 2015 for GVRD regional and local services. When considering the table, it should be remembered that the property taxes collected for the GVRD services are only one part of the total property tax bill for Area A residents. Property taxes charged by the provincial government for schools and local services, and service levies charged by the University of British Columbia to homeowners in the University Neighbourhoods, are not reflected in the table, as Metro Vancouver has no influence over these other taxes.

Total Residential Assessed Value	Projected Property Tax Increase for GVRD Services (2015 over 2014)
\$500,000	\$10
\$750,000	\$15
\$1,000,000	\$20
\$2,000,000	\$39
\$3,000,000	\$59

## For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates



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

### Links & Connections

#### [Metro Vancouver](#)

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

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

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

#### [@EADirector Twitter](#)

[twitter.com/EADirector](https://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](http://myuna.ca)

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

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

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

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

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

[www.metrovancover.org/mediaroom/Pages/MediaReleases.aspx](http://www.metrovancover.org/mediaroom/Pages/MediaReleases.aspx)

#### [Metro Vancouver Videos](#)

[www.metrovancover.org/mediaroom/videos](http://www.metrovancover.org/mediaroom/videos)

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