

## My Upcoming Meetings



Metro Vancouver Board and  
Committee Agendas & Minutes:

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

**Metro Vancouver Board**

Friday, July 26, 2019

**Mayors' Council on Transportation**

Thursday, July 25, 2019

## Director's Introduction

Dear Residents,

It is an honour and a privilege to represent you on the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors and the Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation. As you may know, I was elected to this position on June 15, 2019, and was sworn into office shortly after on June 27. I am very grateful to my amazing campaign team, as well as to everyone who took the time to learn about the candidates and get out to vote. In particular, thank you to Maria Harris who very competently served in this position from 2008-2018, her Alternate Bill Holmes, and Mike Feeley, who has been Acting Director for the past four months, and who will remain involved as my Alternate. Maria left big shoes to fill but with her continued support, input from Bill and Mike, as well as my experience and dedication, I am confident that I can effectively fit the bill.

I made the decision to run in order to contribute positively to our communities and to the future of our region. My work as Director began almost immediately following the election, and in my short tenure to date, I have found it fulfilling and enjoyable. We are fortunate to live in a region where elected officials from the various municipalities choose to work together to make progressive decisions for the greater good of the whole region. This manifests in more coordinated planning, economies of scale in the provision of services such as clean water and waste management and sharing of best practices across municipal boundaries. Specifically, I wanted a voice at the regional table on issues related to sustainability, environmental protection and climate action. Below, you can read about some of the initiatives that Metro Vancouver is undertaking in these areas.

In addition to using this position to help drive sustainable regional development, I hope to build on the momentum of the recent election to increase communication with residents. As I learn more about Metro Vancouver's work, I look forward to sharing updates with you. At the same time, I need your input! I want to hear your thoughts on issues managed by Metro Vancouver and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation (including the proposed SkyTrain extension to UBC). Please reach out to me if you have ideas or suggestions, either on a specific issue or on better ways to connect. For example, I would love to meet with residents in smaller groups, so please consider including me in any neighbourhood events you are holding so that I can get to know residents better. These monthly newsletters and other information can be found on my website at [AreaAJen.ca](http://AreaAJen.ca).

I look forward to meeting you in person or hearing from you via email at [AreaAJen@gmail.com](mailto:AreaAJen@gmail.com)

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon

## Caring for the Air

Although unprecedented levels of wildfire smoke have affected Metro Vancouver's air quality in recent years, the good news is smog-forming pollutants are expected to continue to decline in Metro Vancouver over the next 20 years, according to the latest [Caring for the Air report](#).

Metro Vancouver's eighth annual air quality report suggests that from 2015 to 2035, in spite of our growing population, regional smog-forming emissions could decrease by 10 per cent and regional greenhouse (GHG) emissions are expected to decrease by one per cent. Initiatives for non-road diesel engines and residential wood heating are contributing to the improvements in smog-forming emissions. Despite more vehicles on the road, key measures such as enhanced emissions standards for vehicles and lower-carbon fuels are resulting in emissions reductions. Programs to increase awareness and uptake of electric vehicles can drive these reductions even further, moving Metro Vancouver towards the aggressive emission reduction goals in the Climate 2050 Strategy and ensuring our infrastructure, ecosystems, and communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change, and pursuing the greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the Board.

In recent years, wildfire smoke has triggered lengthy air quality advisories, such as an unprecedented 22 days in the summer of 2018. This increased number underscores the importance of Metro Vancouver's extensive Air Quality Monitoring Network, which includes 31 monitoring stations from Horseshoe Bay to Hope that collect data every hour, seven days a week. This data is available to the public in real-time at [www.airmap.ca](http://www.airmap.ca).

A discussion paper on a new **Clean Air Plan** is expected to go to the public and interested parties for feedback and comments in 2019, with adoption of a new Clean Air Plan (Metro Vancouver's fourth) to be considered by the Board in 2020. Metro Vancouver is also implementing its Climate 2050 Strategy, which will guide policy and actions across the region to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

### Caring for the Air 2019

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air-quality/AirQualityPublications/CaringfortheAir2019.pdf>

## Lawn Watering Regulations

Metro Vancouver's lawn watering regulations are in effect across the region from May 1 until October 15, in order to conserve treated drinking water during the hotter, drier summer months.

Residential lawn watering for even-numbered addresses is allowed Wednesday and Saturday from 4:00 am to 9:00 am and odd-numbered addresses Thursday and Sunday from 4:00 am to 9:00 am.

Non-residential lawn watering for even-numbered addresses is allowed Monday 1:00 am to 6:00 am and odd-numbered addresses Tuesday from 1:00 am to 6:00 am.

Water conservation is not always on the minds of residents in our region, but hotter, drier weather has resulted in higher-than-anticipated water usage in June. On June 12, Metro Vancouver residents consumed 1.52 billion litres of water, an amount not typically seen until later in the summer.

Metro Vancouver is also reminding residents to embrace the annual We Love Water campaign and use less water this summer. The annual We Love Water campaign offers ideas for indoor and outdoor conservation to reinforce mindful water use year-round. It comes this year amid a particularly hot and dry spring, a below-average snowpack and increasing discussion around the effects of climate change on Metro Vancouver's water supply.

Metro Vancouver's drinking water supply relies on cumulative precipitation as well as snowpack to bolster the water levels in the three reservoirs that supply our drinking water.

Residents can visit the WeLoveWater.ca website, which provides information on how to use a less water during the driest time of the year. The campaign follows the launch of the region's lawn and garden watering regulations, and emphasizes water conservation efforts around lawn care and gardening, as well as integration with Metro Vancouver's Grow Green Guide.

Lawns need as little as 2.5 centimetres of water per week to stay healthy and maintain a strong root system – equivalent to about one hour per week of rainfall or sprinkling. Watering early in the morning, before 9:00 am, also reduces the risk of evaporation from the sun.

<http://www.WeLoveWater.ca>

## Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Engagement

Wastewater from the UBC/UEL area is treated at the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Richmond. A new plant is required to be built by 2030 to comply with regulations and standards adopted by the federal and provincial governments for secondary treatment for wastewater. Metro Vancouver is engaging the public and First Nations as part of its work to design the new Iona Plant. In addition to serving the UBC/UEL area, the existing 55-year-old plant serves about 680,000 residents of Vancouver, parts of Burnaby and Richmond, Musqueam Indian Band and Squamish Nation. The existing plant will continue operating until the new plant is complete.

Metro Vancouver is currently in the Project Definition Phase, which includes eight Integrated Design Process workshops involving Metro Vancouver and a consultant team. The latest workshop, held on April 10 and 11, focused on identifying wastewater treatment technologies and their integration into three potential concepts. These concepts will meet the project's three main goals of secondary treatment, resource recovery, and community and park integration, as well as being adaptable to higher levels of treatment and climate change resiliency. Stakeholder-specific meetings are being held throughout this phase, along with staff and community meetings with Musqueam Indian Band.

Once the Project Definition Phase is completed in 2020, the key outcomes will include an indicative design, cost estimate, design and construction schedule and a recommended procurement method.

Additional community workshops will be scheduled for fall 2019 and spring 2020. I'll share details once they are available, and you can [sign up for email alerts](#) about the project.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/liquid-waste/projects-initiatives/iona-island-wwtp-project/>

## Metro Vancouver Provides Safe Disposal of Canadian Waste from the Philippines

As you may have heard, Canada recently shipped home 1,500 tonnes of abandoned Canadian waste from the Philippines. The waste was primarily plastic and paper with small quantities of household waste that was originally shipped to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014. Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility was selected by Environment and Climate Change Canada as the preferred choice for disposal due to its proximity to the Port of Vancouver and its designation as a facility authorized to receive waste under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's International Waste Directive.

The facility, which has operated for over 30 years and produces enough electricity to power approximately 16,000 homes, is the most environmentally sustainable option to recover energy and resources from waste that cannot be reused or recycled. With more than \$92 million in environmental and operational improvements and technology upgrades, the Waste-to-Energy Facility consistently outperforms the required regulatory emissions standards, contributing just 0.007% particulate and 0.4% nitrogen oxide emissions respectively to the region's airshed in 2018. I was happy to hear how progressive this facility is.

Metro Vancouver's Chair Sav Dhaliwal said: "for decades, Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility has responsibly processed waste material from the international airline and shipping industries, as well as other materials designated for secure disposal by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. We have the technology and capacity to safely and efficiently handle this type of material."

The Waste-to-Energy Facility operates 365 days per year and safely turns 250,000 tonnes of waste into electricity every year. The volume of waste in the containers from the Philippines is equivalent to two days' processing capacity. "With one of the highest recycling and waste reduction rates in North America, Metro Vancouver is uniquely positioned to be able to provide safe, secure disposal of this material and to bring closure to this complex international issue," added Chair Dhaliwal.

## Chair Dhaliwal's Board of Trade Address

Metro Vancouver Board Chair Sav Dhaliwal made his inaugural address to the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade on the region's Five-Year Outlook, which includes nearly \$5.5 billion worth of capital projects, and discussed key initiatives such as the Climate 2050 Strategy and the Industrial Lands Strategy Task Force.

Metro Vancouver's enviable quality of life attracts about 35,000 people every year to the region. This growth brings challenges – from affordability, increased pressure on our infrastructure, transit and industrial lands – as the region strives to accommodate 2.5 million residents and many businesses across the region.

The major investments Metro Vancouver is planning over the next five years are based on four drivers: regional growth, system stewardship, environment and climate change, and the regulatory and legislative environment. As the region grows, its utilities and services must keep up with increasing demand, and these investments will help Metro Vancouver to strengthen the foundation on which the future of the region will be built.

I encourage you to [watch the Chair's presentation](#), as it provides a good overview of Metro Vancouver's priorities over the next five years.

<https://vimeo.com/338775773>

### TransLink Mayors Council Update

In addition to my role as a Director for Metro Vancouver, I am also our area's representative on the Mayors' Council for Regional Transportation. This council provides oversight and strategic direction to Translink's operations across the region. In 2018, Translink saw a record 7% growth in ridership – the highest increase on the continent! While this is good news for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, it has resulted in overcrowded buses, especially to UBC (9 of the 10 most crowded buses service UBC). To address this, the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision has committed to increasing bus service by 25%, with the 18% of this new service already funded, approved and being rolled out over the next 18 months. In the near term, bus route improvements are underway this summer for a number of routes that service UBC, specifically routes 25, 33, 41, 49, 84, 99 and N17. In addition, plans are still underway for a new B-line express bus along 41<sup>st</sup>Ave, which is scheduled to begin in January, 2020.

With the Federal election approaching this fall, we have launched the [Cure Congestion](#) campaign. This initiative is designed to encourage citizens to submit requests to their federal MPs to contribute more to regional transportation: "*We need permanent, predictable funding for public transit so we can cure congestion and keep Metro Vancouver moving!*". Please check out the website and consider writing to our MP and candidates.

In February 2019, the Mayors' Council directed TransLink to advance a SkyTrain Millennium Line extension from Arbutus Street to UBC to the next stage of project development, including an assessment of alternative concept designs and preliminary business case inputs. There are three streams of work to move forward the next stage of Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain planning work, including:

- Completing the technical analysis needed to get to a preferred concept design and cost-benefit estimate, including assessing vertical and horizontal alignment options
- Developing a strategic approach to relevant policy topics including land value capture, affordable housing, and land use; and
- Consulting with the public and stakeholders.

The proposed Skytrain extension to UBC will impact our communities, hopefully in a positive way. The coming months will be our opportunity to ensure that the voices of UBC and UEL residents are heard on questions such as which road the Skytrain will enter the UEL/UBC peninsula on, whether the Skytrain is above or below ground, and where the stations are placed. In addition to attending the public consultations that Translink will conduct, please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, concerns, and suggestions on this issue.

<https://www.curecongestion.ca>

## 2019 Zero Waste Conference Keynote Speakers Announced

This October, Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference will be back for its ninth year, connecting global thought leaders and celebrating the successes, innovations and fresh perspectives that are driving the transition to a Circular Economy.

I look forward to attending this year's conference, which will be held in downtown Vancouver on October 30 and 31. You can find more information and a link to conference details and registration at the bottom of this section. The 2019 Zero Waste Conference promises to be an exciting and inspiring event, showcasing the people, ideas and actions that are having the biggest impact on waste reduction.

Three conference keynote speakers have been announced, each bringing a unique and practical take on zero waste and Circular Economy.

### **Arthur Huang, Founder and CEO of MINIWIZ**

Structural engineer, architect, and innovator, Arthur has spent over a decade turning post-consumer waste into innovative products for businesses and consumers through his company, MINIWIZ. Arthur has been a National Geographic Explorer since 2016. In February 2019, the World Economic Forum named MINIWIZ as one of the top 11 companies leading the way to a circular economy.

### **Tom Szaky, Founder and CEO of TerraCycle and Loop**

TerraCycle is a global leader in the collection and repurposing of complex waste streams. Instead of relying on municipal curbside pickup, TerraCycle works directly with brands and consumers to set up bespoke recycling services.

### **Harald Friedl, CEO of Circle Economy**

In his role as Circle Economy's CEO, Harald brings extensive international experience running both for-profit and non-profit businesses with a focus on practical, scalable implementation of the Circular Economy.

## 2019 Zero Waste Conference: Mobilizing for Success in the Circular Economy.

October 30 - 31, 2019, Vancouver Convention Centre East - 999 Canada Place, Vancouver

Information and Registration <http://www.zwc.ca/>

## Events

### Metro Vancouver's Summer Watershed Tours

Metro Vancouver offers tours of our protected watersheds every summer to help people discover these pristine valleys firsthand. Join us and register for an engaging and scenic guided tour. Tours are offered Thursday to Sunday in July and August.

*Information and registration*

### Wednesday Wanderings: Botanical Beauties

July 10, 2019, Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Use your senses to experience the variety of plant species found in the rainforest.

Registration required for program 7704. \$3 per person. call 604-432-6359

*Information and registration*

## Media



*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.metrovancover.org/metroudate/>



## Links & Connections

### [Metro Vancouver](#)

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

### [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)

### [Jen McCutcheon's Website and Email](#)

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### [Jen McCutcheon's Twitter](#)

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

### [Jen McCutcheon's Facebook](#)

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

### [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)

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