



Director's Report

Dear UBC/UEL neighbours,

April 17, 2020

How much our world has changed since my last newsletter! We have all been impacted by COVID-19, and I hope that each of you is doing well – finding somewhat of a new rhythm, and silver linings to brighten your days. Writing this letter is challenging for me, as I am acutely aware that there are some in our community who are feeling the effects of this pandemic far more severely than others. To those who have lost loved ones, who face significant financial insecurity, or who suffer from mental or physical health challenges, I am sorry that this is such a hard time for you, and I hope you'll reach out for support if and when you need it.

I also would like to express my gratitude to everyone working on the front lines. I am so thankful to all who are keeping our communities going – from bus drivers to garbage and recycling collectors, from grocery workers to police and airport workers – thank you. I am especially grateful for those working on the front lines of our health system. In addition to the stress and risk that all front-line workers are facing these days, each of you is also facing the emotional toll of helping those infected with the virus, and with that, the increased risk of bringing the virus into your own home.

Instead of the in-person engagement sessions that I had started earlier this year, I will be hosting a "Virtual Town Hall" meeting for residents of UBC/UNA and the UEL. The meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:15 pm, just after the evening cheer for front-line workers (see below for more on that). Please join us using this link in the sidebar and invite any neighbours to join as well. The agenda will include updates from community leaders, followed by time for residents to share ideas, questions, concerns, and resources. We will be joined by the Honourable David Eby, our provincial MLA, as well as Richard Watson and Claire Huxtable, the UNA and CAC Board Chairs, respectively.

In the words of wisdom from BC's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bonny Henry: "Be kind, be calm, and be safe" during this unsettling time. Please reach out if you are struggling, have questions or suggestions.

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon. (areaajen@gmail.com)

Virtual Town Hall

Tuesday, April 28 at 7:15pm

(following the 7pm cheer for essential workers)

This virtual meeting is a chance for anyone in our broader community – those living at UBC or the University Endowment Lands to connect (virtually), ask and get answers to questions about local and regional COVID-19 responses, and discuss how we can best support each other.

Link via Zoom on your device:

<https://zoom.us/j/92307486955?pwd=dXVYV1RhQkRkK0V5Q2c0aDQ4Y1Btdz09>

Or on your phone: +1-778-907-2071

Meeting ID: 923 0748 6955

Password: 610456



Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation Updates

This is a very challenging time for our regional transportation system. TransLink (which runs our bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus, and West Coast Express public transportation systems) continues to play a critical role in getting our essential workers to and from their jobs through the pandemic. While ridership is down approximately 80%, the system still has 75,000 riders a day (making approximately 250,000 trips per day). Of these trips, 70% are made by our region's frontline workers.

COVID-19: Transit Service Suspensions
 Further transit service suspensions are being implemented across the network due to low ridership relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 For details, please visit the [Transit Service Changes](#) page.

However, the revenue sources for the transit system are down very significantly, resulting in a loss of \$75M per month (\$2.5M per day). These losses are clearly not sustainable, and the organization – through senior leadership, the board, and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation – has made the tough decision to decrease services significantly, beginning this week. This was not an easy decision, as we are acutely aware that both our most vulnerable residents, and our essential workers are the ones relying most on our public transit system. This is also a major setback for the employees who will be temporarily laid off as a result of these cuts.

You can read more about the details of the cuts to TransLink on their [website](#), but I wanted to highlight the cuts that will directly impact UBC/UEL. Beginning on Friday, April 24, 18 bus routes will be suspended, including three that service UBC/UEL. These are the 68, 480, N17 (night bus) routes. In addition, beginning on Wednesday, April 22, SkyTrain capacity will be reduced. Further, beginning in early May, it is anticipated that another 47 routes will be suspended, and frequency reduced on many remaining routes.

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks – how you can help to keep them open



More than 300 new signs have placed in Metro Vancouver parks

Our regional parks and other green spaces are such special places at the best of times and become even more important during times such as these. I am very thankful to the staff at Metro Vancouver for all their work to keep our parks, and in particular Pacific Spirit Regional Park in our community, open. We very much want to keep the parks open, but also need to ensure that the physical distancing orders from Dr. Henry are adhered to. When you are visiting the park, please do your part to ensure that a distance of at least 2 metres is maintained at all times.

Also, did you know that Wreck Beach gets 625,000 visitors a year?! In an effort to maintain physical distancing, the main stairs to Wreck Beach (Trail 6) is now one way **down**, and the stairs near the Museum of



Anthropology (Trail 4) are one way back **up**. Please do your part to adhere to the physical distancing guidelines to help ensure that we can keep the park open.

You can keep up to date on the status of our regional parks (including the recent closure of the Acadia Beach parking lot) here: <http://www.metrovancover.org/services/parks/>

Brainstorming ways that we can support each other within our communities

During this challenging time, I have found solace in looking for ways that we can connect and support each other. I've reached out to some of our front-line workers, and with them, have come up with the short list below. I am sure that many of you have found other ways to reach out, and I'd love to hear about them. Please email me with your ideas and ways you've connected (areaajen@gmail.com).

- ☑ Decorate the square between UBC Acute Care Hospital and Purdy Pavilion with signs, notes, sidewalk chalk to thank staff for all their work. This “square” is located just south of UBC hospital.
- ☑ Cheer, bang pots, or make music out on your porch or front lawn at 7:00 pm each night to show our support for frontline workers
- ☑ Make signs or cards for residents and staff at Tapestry: you can drop these off at the concierge desk just inside the front entrance and they will be shared with residents and/or staff
- ☑ Make signs or cards for grocery and other retail workers: you can drop these off at customer service, or post them on the front window
- ☑ Reach out through your strata or neighbourhood watch/group to see if there are people around you who could use a little help right now, or set up a zoom call for your neighbours to join
- ☑ Make masks from cotton fabric to give to neighbours (save medical masks – simple surgical and N95 for our health care workers). Here is some guidance on this from BC CDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>
- ☑ While we maintain our 2 metre distance from each other, don't forget to still smile or even say hello when you walk by someone – humans are social creatures and a smile can still go a long way to brighten someone's day 😊





Community Centre Update

Within the UNA, the Old Barn Community Centre has transformed some of its space into a temporary, full-day daycare, which opened this week. This childcare service is for those who need it most, with priority given to children whose parents perform essential services during the pandemic. Operated by the YMCA, the daycare is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm.

The YMCA considers the health and well-being of children, families and staff as a top priority, and is following the recommendations of the government agencies, including following enhanced health measures in compliance with public health recommendations.



To apply for the YMCA Essential Child Care program, please email: essentialchildcare@gv.ymca.ca.

If you have information about things happening in our community that we can share here, please let me know.

Wipes: to flush or not to flush?

The short answer: ***please don't flush any wipes down the toilet, ever.***

All wipes, even wipes that are labeled “flushable”, jam up pumps within Metro Vancouver’s treatment plants, and when combined with grease, they contribute to the formation of fatbergs which can lead to system blockages in the pipe network. This can result in costly repairs for homeowners and strata councils, as well as for Metro Vancouver. Other items that should not be flushed down your toilet include hair, floss, tampons, paper towels, etc. The only items that should be flushed down your toilet are pee, poo and toilet paper. Metro Vancouver has released “The Unflushables” campaign, which you can watch [here \(www.unflushables.ca\)](http://www.unflushables.ca).





Ways you can help stop the spread of COVID 19

As complex as this pandemic is, the individual actions that we each can do to help stop the spread and prevent infections are fairly straightforward. Please see [BC CDC](#) for more details, but their recommendations are:

1. Wash your hands frequently and well
2. Stay home as much as you can
3. When you do go out (e.g., for exercise or groceries), ensure that you maintain a space of at least 2 metres between you and others



Also, remember to:

- Stay at home when you're sick, even if your symptoms are mild
- Avoid crowded places
 - This includes play dates, group walks, basketball games and gathering on the beach
- Take care of your mental well-being by checking in with loved ones and practicing self-care
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or sleeve

If you live in an apartment:

- Limit your time in common spaces
- Use common amenities like laundry only when neighbours are not present in the room or you can keep two meters of distance between yourself and others

More tips:

- Greet people with a smile or wave instead of a handshake, kiss or hug
- Work from home if possible
- Use public transportation at off-peak times

Resources

Health resources, COVID-19 statistics and other data:

1. BC Centres for Disease Control: www.bccdc.ca
2. BC Government Orders from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>
3. Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>



Provincial/Federal Economic Recovery:

1. Provincial: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports>
2. Federal: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Metro Vancouver:

1. COVID 19 updates: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/covid-19/>
2. Metro Vancouver Regional Parks (including Pacific Spirit Regional Park): <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/>

Housing support:

Tips for residents living in condos or apartment: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health-safety/7473_covid-19_apartment_poster_85x11.pdf

My Recent and Upcoming Meetings

Finance and Intergovernment Committee
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Emergency TransLink Mayors' Council Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020,

Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force
Wednesday, April 22 and May 6, 2020

CAC Meeting Monday
April 20, 2020

UNA Board Meeting
Tuesday April 21, 2020


Fraser Valley Regional Library Board
Wednesday April 22, 2020

TransLink Mayors' Council
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Metro Vancouver Board Meeting
Friday, April 24, 2020

UBC/UEL Virtual Town Hall
Tuesday April 28, 2020

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 metrovanancouver.org or follow metrovanancouverblog.org.



Links & Connections

[Metro Vancouver](#)

www.metrovancouver.org

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

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

[Jen McCutcheon's Website](#)

www.areaajen.ca

[Jen McCutcheon's Twitter](#)

www.twitter.com/jcmcc2

[Jen McCutcheon's Facebook](#)

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

[Union of BC Municipalities](#)

www.ubcm.ca

[University Neighbourhoods Association](#)

www.myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands Administration](#)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

www.uelcommunity.com