

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS: Police, Fire & Emergency Planning

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



UEL Factsheet Series: #4

January 2017





University Endowment Lands: Police, Fire and Emergency Planning

In the UEL area, **police, fire and rescue**, and **emergency planning** are all provided by different levels of government and different agencies, each with their own unique funding and decision-making arrangements.



*Photo: the last Point Grey Fire Department (1928)
[City of Vancouver Archives]*

INSIDE THIS FACTSHEET

Police Services.....	3
Fire and Rescue services ...	4
Emergency Planning	5

DECISION-MAKING

Police: decisions such as the number of officers in the detachment and overall financial matters are made by the provincial Ministry of Justice; day to day operational decisions are made by the RCMP detachment management.

Fire and rescue services: are provided under contract between the Province and the City of Vancouver, via the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services; they make all the operational decisions while overall service and budget decisions are made by Vancouver City Council.

Emergency planning: planning for the UEL is Metro Vancouver's responsibility; however decisions on actual emergency response would of necessity be made by a combination of the UEL Administration, RCMP, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and Metro Vancouver.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The University RCMP Unit is funded by the province in accordance with its agreement with the federal government.
- The provincial share of costs for an unincorporated area is 70 percent of the RCMP cost, with the remainder coming from the federal government.
- The UEL area contributes towards the cost of police through the provincial police property tax. Under the provincial system for providing and funding police services for unincorporated areas and small municipalities, there is no direct link between funding and costs in any individual area.

DID YOU KNOW...

UEL police property taxes are equivalent to all other unincorporated areas and small municipalities within Metro Vancouver.



POLICE SERVICES

Police services (i.e. the enforcement of federal and provincial laws and the maintenance of public order), are provided by RCMP under contract with the federal government. The **University RCMP Provincial Policing Unit** is responsible for policing the UEL and UBC areas and is:

- ♦ a stand-alone detachment with 17 RCMP officers (supported by equivalent of 3.5 full-time and 4 casual public service employees)
- ♦ located in a provincially owned building on Wesbrook Mall (which is shared with the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services).



*Photo: University RCMP Provincial Policing Unit
[Royal Canadian Mounted Police]*

DID YOU KNOW...

The Province contracts fire and rescue service for the West Point Grey area to the City of Vancouver. The UEL portion of the contract is included in the administration's budget which means costs are essentially recovered through property taxes proportional to the value of individual properties.

DID YOU KNOW...

Not all unincorporated areas in B.C. have fire protection services. Where they do, there is often a separate property tax to pay for this service. In the UEL, it is not a separate cost but is included in the annual budget, which is funded by property taxes, water rates and other fees.

In 2016, UBC/UNA signed an agreement with the Province to contribute to their share of fire service costs for residential property proportional to the population in those residences.



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Fire and rescue services are the first responders to emergency and non-emergency incidents, such as fires, medical emergencies, and road accidents. These services are provided to UEL (and to UBC and the City of Vancouver), by the **Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service**.

- ◆ Until 1995, the UEL had a fire department that served the UEL and UBC. In that year, the province contracted with the City of Vancouver for the service and the UEL Fire Department was merged into the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service.
- ◆ Approximately 70 percent of the workload of the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service is non-fire related; the number of responses for reportable fires is a very small proportion of emergency calls received, with the majority of responses being for medical incidents.
- ◆ The Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service also promotes and enforces fire safety bylaws, and does community outreach on fire and safety issues.

Fire halls:

Fire and Rescue Service is provided to the UEL area primarily from two fire halls, one at UBC and one in Point Grey adjacent to the UEL (backup available for larger incidents from other units of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service).

Ambulance service:

is provided to the UEL area by BC Emergency Health Services which is one of the services provided under the Provincial Health Services Authority.



EMERGENCY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Metro Vancouver is responsible (under the *Emergency Program Act*), for emergency planning and management in Electoral Area A which includes the UEL area. Most of Electoral Area A is sparsely populated (Barnston Island, Indian Arm), however West Point Grey is a small portion of the land area but includes over 95% of the population and is highly urbanized. This is in contrast to electoral areas throughout the rest of B.C.

In a major emergency, Metro Vancouver's role includes providing emergency planning and response in the UEL (which includes emergency social services, disaster financial assistance, wildland fire suppression, and incident command). In a situation where Emergency Management BC takes a level of control to respond to an emergency, the province would fund the response. In practice, an actual emergency response can involve resources from multiple players, including the UEL Administration, RCMP, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, UBC and Metro Vancouver.

Being Prepared

The UEL Administration encourages individual households and businesses to make plans for emergencies. The UEL Administration co-sponsored an "Emergency Planning Day" in May 2016 to promote awareness of emergency planning needs and available resources.

UBC

UBC has a well-developed emergency planning and preparedness function in place to respond to the needs of the facilities and institutions on UBC land including UNA residential areas.

DID YOU KNOW...

Metro Vancouver is responsible for facilitating regional coordination of emergency planning activities of municipalities and Electoral Area A (which includes the UEL).

Metro Vancouver is working towards approval of an emergency planning and management bylaw; if approved, emergency planning and management within Electoral Area A would be funded through an annual Electoral Area tax requisition.

FACTSHEETS IN THIS SERIES

- #1 University Endowment Lands: Present and Past
- #2 Service Provision
- #3 Community Planning and Growth
- #4 Police, Fire and Emergency Planning
- #5 Water, Sewer and Garbage
- #6 Public Schools, Parks, Recreation and Libraries
- #7 Roads, Transit, Cycling and Walkways
- #8 Taxation and Finance
- #9 Regulation and Enforcement