

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS: Present & Past

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



UEL Factsheet Series: #1

January 2017





University Endowment Lands: Present and Past

The University Endowment Lands (UEL) is one of three jurisdictions that make up the Point Grey Peninsula: *City of Vancouver*; *UEL*; *University of British Columbia*. Metro Vancouver, the Musqueam First Nation and many provincial agencies also have interests in the area.

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Jurisdictional Boundaries on the Point Grey Peninsula

Electoral Area A (in map above) comprises two distinct parts, the:

- Point Grey Campus Lands of the University of British Columbia
- University Endowment Lands

DID YOU KNOW...

Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A, which consists of all the unincorporated parts of the Metro Vancouver region, includes the UEL and UBC.

UEL NEIGHBOURHOODS

Area A is bordered by Chancellor Boulevard, Acadia Road, University Boulevard and Wesbrook Mall.

Area B lies between Chancellor Boulevard and NW Marine Drive.

Area C is between Blanca St., 6th Avenue, Tasmania Crescent and College Highroad.

Area D is bordered by University Boulevard, Agronomy and Toronto Roads, Wesbrook Mall and includes Block F.

POPULATIONS

University Endowment Lands
(area of 1,200 ha)

- Resident Population (2015) = 4,000
- Projected Population (2023) = 6,500

UBC Vancouver Campus
(area of 405 ha)

- Resident Population (2015) = 9,300*
- Projected Population (2021) = 12,500

*includes only those living in UBC's neighbourhood areas

City of Vancouver
(area of 11,615 ha)

- Resident Population (2015) = 649,000
- Projected Population (2021) = 685,000

DECISION-MAKING ON THE PENINSULA

Each of the three jurisdictions on the Point Grey Peninsula (UEL, UBC, Vancouver) operates under legislation, rules (bylaws) and provides services, but their governance frameworks for decision-making are quite different.



Photo: the last Point Grey Municipality Council and others in chambers (1928) [City of Vancouver Archives]

Local governance in the **UEL area** is unique:

- ◆ Under the authority of the *University Endowment Land Act*, governance for the UEL is provided by the Province through the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. It is the only urban area in B.C. directly governed by the Province.
- ◆ Day-to-day administration and provision of services is delegated by the Minister to the UEL Manager who oversees the work of 13 staff plus auxiliary staff and contractors (together referred to as “UEL Administration”).
- ◆ The Official Community Plan — approved by the Minister — makes provision for an advisory body, the Community Advisory Council (CAC). The CAC is a society with members elected from the UEL neighbourhoods that provides advice to the UEL Manager.



DECISION-MAKING: UBC

- ◆ Provided by the Board of Governors established under the *University Act*.
- ◆ By separate legislation, the Board of Governors has responsibility for overall planning for the university campus, including residential development, under a Land Use Plan approved by the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- ◆ Some day-to-day administration and provision of services to the residential population is provided by the University Neighbourhoods Association, a society whose governing board includes representatives of UBC and the Alma Mater Society and residents elected from the community.

*“The Point Grey Peninsula is made up of **three unique jurisdictions**. Each operates under legislation, rules (bylaws) and provides services, but their governance frameworks for decision-making are quite different”*

DECISION-MAKING: CITY OF VANCOUVER

The **City of Vancouver**, which comprises the eastern portion of the Peninsula, is a municipality.

- ◆ Like most urban communities in B.C., it is governed by an elected mayor and council and served by a municipal administration.
- ◆ It provides local services — such as water supply, sewage collection, parks and recreation, land use planning and building regulation, policing (in Vancouver, through a local police force, not RCMP) and fire protection.
- ◆ At the same time, Vancouver is different than other B.C. municipalities, being the largest city in the province and the only one operating under its own legislation (the *Vancouver Charter*).

DID YOU KNOW...

The *University Endowment Lands Administration Act* was first passed by the province in 1925 — it established the structure for the UEL that essentially continues in place today.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Point Grey Peninsula is part of the traditional territory of the Musqueam First Nation, who carried out fishing, hunting, trapping and spiritual activities there for thousands of years.

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EVOLUTION OF GOVERNANCE ON THE POINT GREY PENINSULA: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Between 1860 and 1873

- Western tip of Point Grey (area west of current Blanca Street) established as a Colonial Admiralty Reserve, under ownership of the Government of Canada (likely to protect the entrance to English Bay).

1908

- In 1908, the Municipality of Point Grey is incorporated as a separate area from the Municipality of South Vancouver.
- Province passes legislation to establish UBC and in 1911, enacts the *University Site Act*, which sets aside 71 ha in Point Grey for the University.
- In 1912, the Colonial Admiralty Reserve is transferred to the provincial government and becomes provincial Crown land.
- After failure of an earlier attempt to provide a land endowment in the Interior for the benefit of the University, the province passes the *British Columbia University Loan Act*, which allows the Province to develop and dispose of 1200 ha of Crown land on the Point Grey Peninsula primarily for residential purposes, with the proceeds to be made available to UBC.

1925

- To provide administration of local services to the developing residential community, in 1925 the Province passes the *University Endowment Lands Administration Act*.
- Residential development slowed in the 1930s to the point that the University could not afford to undertake land development and returns control of the land to the Province.
- The merger of the municipalities of South Vancouver and Point Grey into the City of Vancouver in 1929 does not encompass the UEL and sets the eastern boundary of the UEL that exists today.

1965

- Province enacts legislation to create regional districts for nearly all of the provincial territory. The Greater Vancouver Regional District (now Metro Vancouver) is formed and the UEL becomes Electoral Area A.
- Later, all of Metro's electoral areas are consolidated into one Electoral Area (A), which includes the UEL, UBC, Barnston Island and isolated settlements on Howe Sound, Indian Arm and Pitt Lake.

1989

- The Province establishes Pacific Spirit Regional Park under a tenure that stipulates that the land can only be used for park purposes.

1995

- A vote is held on incorporating the UEL and Hampton Place, one of the now UNA areas, as a municipality; it was unsuccessful.

2008

- Under the *Musqueam Reconciliation, Settlement and Benefits Agreement Act* of 2008, the Province transfers ownership of three blocks of land within the UEL to the Musqueam First Nation under various conditions: Block F; Block K; and the University Golf Course. Rezoning of Block F was approved in November 2016.