

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards In British Columbia

Provincial Programs Provide Direction as to Where the Province Wants to Go with
Living Water Smart and the Green Communities Initiative



The New Business As Usual: Visualize What We Want Vancouver Island to Look Like in 50 years

The Mission is to Create a Legacy

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations*
- 2. Use the term "sustainability" as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices*

2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Comox Valley is Demonstrating the Regional Team Approach

Water Bucket Web Story #7 posted September 2009

Preface

A series of stories published on the Convening for Action community-of-interest on the Water Bucket progressively foreshadow and/or elaborate on the curriculum for the 2009 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series. Briefly:

- **On July 14, 2009:** Story #1 titled *Comox Valley Regional District will host 2009 Learning Lunch Seminar Series* introduced the purpose of a 'regional team approach' as a springboard beyond the Comox Valley.
- **On July 28, 2009:** Story #2 titled *CAVI releases program details for 2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series* provided context for a paradigm-shift that will result in regional alignment around the concept of settlement in balance with ecology.
- **On August 24, 2009:** Story #3 titled *What Drives Settlement on the East Coast of Vancouver Island* initiated a conversation about "one market, from Cobble Hill to Campbell River".
- **On September 9, 2009:** This Story #4 titled *A Regional Perspective on Water Supply in the Comox Valley* provided a broad-brush picture of source identification, source quality and watershed protection, population-source capacity, infrastructure upgrading and implementation issues.
- **On September 9, 2009:** Story #5 titled *An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement Change* connected the dots between the Comox Valley Regional Conservation Strategy and the regional team approach.
- **On September 15, 2009:** Story #6 titled *The Comox Valley Learning Lunch Series is for Implementers* reflected the perspectives of municipal staffs which will be tasked with implementing regional outcomes.
- **On September 22, 2009:** Story #7 titled *Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards In British Columbia* elaborates on provincial expectations and programs that provide direction as to where the Province wants to go.

Additional stories will be published during the October through December 2009 period to summarize what was accomplished at each seminar.

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1. Context

This article is the seventh in a series of resource materials for the 2009 Learning Lunch Series. The organizing team is encouraging participating planners, engineers and other practitioners to take the time to read and reflect on these articles in preparation for the Town Hall sharing sessions.

Regional Team Approach

By sharing core concepts and key information in advance, the organizing team hopes this will inspire practitioners to think about collaboration and the roles they can play in implementing a 'regional team approach' as follows:

"How we will simultaneously work together as staff within a municipality and as a region AND externally with the stewardship sector, developers and other private sector players, to ensure we implement sustainable approaches to development"

The Comox Valley is demonstrating the application of a 'regional team approach' to implement green infrastructure practices that in turn will lead to water sustainability. This process is inter-governmental and inter-departmental.

Provincial Context: This article describes the provincial context that provides a backdrop for the 2009 Series. The article elaborates on complementary programs led by two ministries, namely:

- **Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan**, an across-government program led by the Water Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment
- **Green Communities Initiative**, led by the Ministry of Community and Rural Development

These two programs are mutually supportive and together establish clear expectations for local governments going forward.

Call to Action

Implementation of Living Water Smart and the Green Communities Initiative is being advanced through partnerships, in particular the **Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**, released in February 2004.

Co-sponsored by the Province and the **Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia**, and delivered through the **BC Water & Waste Association**, the Action Plan serves as a partnership umbrella for aligning actions at three scales – provincial, regional and local. One vehicle for program delivery is **CAVI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island**.

A Call to Action

Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan
and the **Green Communities Initiative**
provide a vision of what the regions of our province can look like if local governments.....

- prepare communities for climate change,
- choose to live water smart, and
- strive to build greener communities

"The program goals for Living Water Smart and Green Communities constitute a 'call to action' on the part of British Columbians to implement *The New Business As Usual*," states **Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator** for the Action Plan.



"The Province has put in place a policy framework that enables local governments to be proactive in doing business differently: '*This is what we want our communities to look like in 50 years, and this is what we will do starting now to ensure it happens*'. To help local governments move from awareness to action on the ground, the Province has also provided funding for web-based tools such as the Water Balance Model, Water Bucket Website, Irrigation Scheduling Calculator and Water Conservation Calculator."

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2. Living Water Smart & Building Greener Communities

At the first seminar in the 2009 Series, the provincial context will be provided by a three person panel comprising Laura Tate, Lynn Kriwoken and Glen Brown. They will follow the **Call to Courage** segment of the agenda.

Provincial Context for Regional Team Approach

The unifying theme for the provincial panel is *'how the Province fits into the local context'*. Each panel member will identify one key message that captures the essence of their individual area of responsibility. Their order of delivery is:

- **Laura Tate** of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development will lead off by providing context for the **Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy**, and will introduce the Green Communities Initiative. Laura Tate is Manager, Growth Strategies – Vancouver Island. She was the principal author of **A Guide to Green Choices**, released in 2008. 
- **Lynn Kriwoken** of the Ministry of Environment will then add the Living Water Smart layer. Lynn Kriwoken is Director of the Water Stewardship Division, and is the Province's lead person for development and delivery of Living Water Smart. It was Lynn Kriwoken's inspiration plus her Ministry's seed funding that brought the vision for the **Water Sustainability Action Plan** to fruition. The Action Plan had its genesis in **A Water Conservation Strategy for British Columbia**, released in 1998. 
- **Glen Brown** of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development will conclude with an overview of how infrastructure grant programs support Living Water Smart and Green Communities by influencing local government behaviour. Glen Brown is Executive Director of the Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Division of the Ministry. He is also Chair of the **Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the BCWWA**. The WSC is the hub for the roundtable of organizations and groups that have a vested interest in implementing the **Water Sustainability Action Plan**. 

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3. Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards

"Living Water Smart and the Green Communities Initiative are all about influencing behaviour for the greater good over the long-term. So, choice of language is critical if the words are to resonate and motivate. The intent has to be immediately and intuitively obvious," explains **Kim Stephens**.

"If the words make sense, people will readily embrace the desired outcome - especially if and when they can relate the intent to their own experience and/or where they personally want to go. This explains why, for example, a phrase such as *Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards* is proving so powerful in communicating the direction which the Province wishes to go."

Beyond the Guidebook

"The mantra *Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards* had its genesis in the Province's 2007 Throne Speech. The actual phrase was then unveiled at the **Beyond the Guidebook Seminar**, held in November 2007 in Vancouver, and organized under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan."

"Looking back, this provincial forum stands out as a defining milestone in a continuing process – one that is enabling a cultural change among land and water practitioners. The Action Plan is providing them with new tools so that they can rise to the challenge in doing their part to create liveable communities and protect stream health."

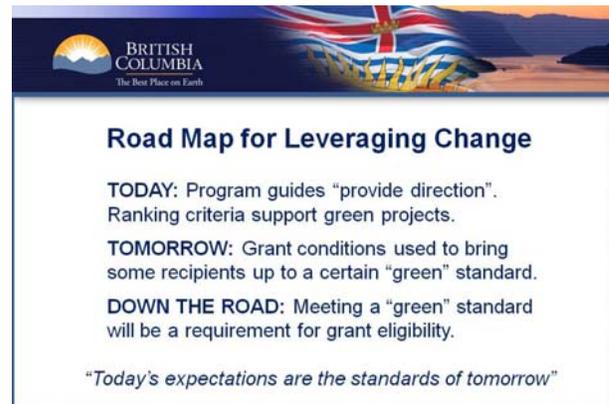
"Released in June 2007, **Beyond the Guidebook** has built on the technical foundation provided by **Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia**. It foreshadowed Living Water Smart; and it reflects a 'design with nature' approach to community development that integrates green infrastructure, water sustainability, and climate change adaptation," summarizes Kim Stephens.

Road Map for Leveraging Change

"Looking back to November 2007, the Beyond the Guidebook seminar provided an early opportunity to share the Province's new way of doing business with a local government oriented audience of implementers – planners and engineers from around BC. This seminar was the first time that we presented what has become known as the *road map for leveraging change*," recalls **Glen Brown**."

"The role that our Ministry played in developing the seminar agenda allowed us to draw attention to the Green Communities Initiative, and in particular the direction in which the Province wants to go."

"This provincial seminar also provided a platform to explain how infrastructure grant programs would provide local governments with financial incentives to implement green infrastructure practices that achieve water sustainability."



Trickle Down to Local Government: "This transitional road map way-of-thinking also trickles down to the domain of local government," adds **Kim Stephens**. "Rather than being stuck in the past with practices and standards that are not sustainable, local governments can similarly say to the development community: *These are our expectations going forward, and we challenge you to collaborate with us and be innovative in doing business differently.*"

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New West Coast Publication Highlights Opportunities for Action on Bill 27: Local governments will recall that in May 2008, the “Green Communities” legislation known as Bill 27 amended the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*.

In June 2009, West Coast Environmental Law released a discussion paper titled **Bill 27: Opportunities and Strategies for Green Action by BC Local Governments**. Written by West Coast Staff Counsel, **Susan Rutherford**, the paper is intended to contribute to the discussion on how local governments may build more sustainable communities, and specifically, is designed to provide “...analysis and practical guidance regarding how local governments may use the legal tools available to advance green initiatives.” The focus is Bill 27, new powers extended under it, and how that power may be used to strengthen sustainability efforts.



Achieving Green Action Objectives: The West Coast paper is organized by four Green Action topics [which] are:

1. Global Warming Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Energy Reduction;
2. Climate Change Adaptation;
3. Water Sustainability; and
4. Sustainable Land Use.

Under each topic, the paper discusses *New Requirements* and *New Opportunities*, as well as *Strategies* for overcoming challenges and making the best use of the powers for achieving each of the Green Action objectives.

The paper discusses a variety of legal tools, including development permit area guidelines. This is especially relevant to the 2009 Comox Valley Series because the development permit tool has been identified as a means to advance the regional team approach.

Local governments are now empowered to designate a development permit area having the purpose of the establishment of objectives to promote (among other things) water conservation.

“New Opportunity for Water Sustainability Action:” The paper examines the new statutory authority for development permits in light of water conservation objectives and asks, “...what sort of water conservation actions might be sought using development permit guidelines?” In the paper, Rutherford writes that the following guidelines might be considered, amongst others:

- Establishment of a water conservation target to compare to “business as usual” water use (and leave it up to the proponent to determine how to meet the target using proven technologies or strategies);
- Landscaping using xeriscaping principles;
- Requirement to landscape with trees, to retain moisture;
- Mandatory disconnection of roof leaders and use of rainwater collection systems to capture rain and reuse it for outside watering or irrigation (at minimum);
- Installation of equipment and infrastructure for reuse of treated water (“purple pipe”) on a neighbourhood scale;
- Grey water reuse encouraged;
- Green infrastructure features (i.e., reduce impermeable surfaces, increase infiltration) to encourage recharge of water table and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

“A compatible policy initiative would be to promote adoption by the region of an ecosystem-based approach to watershed planning and establishment of watershed targets, with guidance that would be linked,” she concludes.

Water OUT = Water IN: “In effect, then, Bill 27 has provided local government with the ability to make the *Water OUT = Water IN* equation real,” states Kim Stephens. “This holistic way of thinking about water touches on all aspects of land development.”

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Dealing with Uncertainty & Managing Risk

“The *Water OUT = Water IN* equation embodies a way-of-thinking that enables us to integrate the planning and engineering perspectives. The purpose of the equation is to provide land and water managers with a science-based framework for dealing with uncertainty and managing risk by **building resiliency incrementally**,” states Kim Stephens.

“Population-support capacity is one of many variables embedded in the *Water OUT = Water IN* equation. When water demand is small relative to the available water resource, variability is not that noticeable. But when demand is large relative to the available supply, a small variation on the supply side magnifies the perception of impact.”

“So, if a community is vulnerable on the IN side of the equation, then it must build in resiliency on the OUT side. This means it must look to the little things that will yield **cumulative benefits** – for example, a topsoil sponge on development sites reduces *water need* and also limits *water runoff*.”

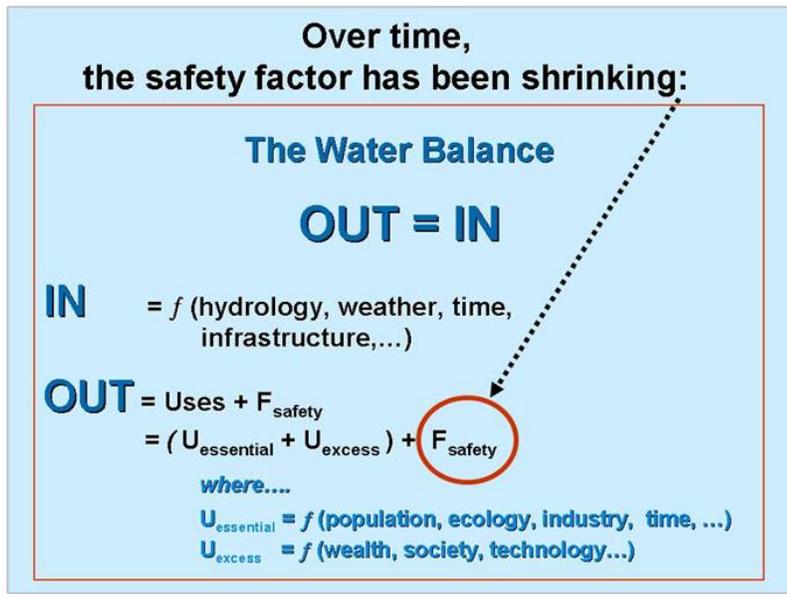
Use of Development Permit Areas for Water Conservation: The Town Hall Sharing Session at the first seminar in the 2009 Series will focus on the use of Development Permit Areas.

“The organizing team has recognized the potential for integrating the DPA planning tool with engineering objectives; and will explore how the four Comox Valley local governments could collaborate to achieve desired *Water OUT = Water IN* outcomes.”

“The relevance of connecting the dots to Bill 27 is that the combination of Living Water Smart plus the Green Communities Initiative would lead to holistic strategies and outcomes. This is pretty significant,” concludes Kim Stephens.

“The DPA is a way to connect values and uses. Also, it incorporates a design perspective that allows the players to collaborate and target a vision that is outcome-oriented,” adds **Tim Pringle** of the Real Estate Foundation.

Water for Life & Livelihoods: *This deceptively simple equation embodies principles and concepts that are key to balancing settlement change and ecology*



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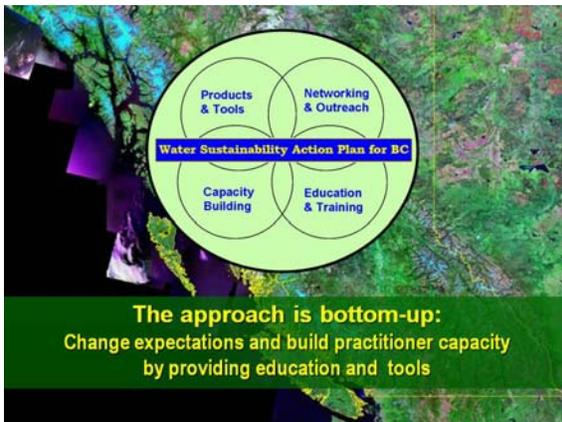
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4. The Comox Valley is Demonstrating the Regional Team Approach

The focus of the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC* is on implementation - in particular, it is about showcasing what implementers are doing on the ground to effect changes in land and water use practices. It is also about 'building capacity' to implement *The New Business As Usual* by:

- informing and educating practitioners;
- aligning expectations with desired outcomes;
- empowering a regional team approach; and
- providing tools that enable 'designing with nature'.



Convening for Action in British Columbia

Commencing in 2005, the Water Sustainability Action Plan has fostered 'convening for action' initiatives in three regions: on Vancouver Island (i.e. known as CAVI), in the Okanagan, and within Metro Vancouver.

"Each regional initiative has its own vision and road map for changing the way that land is developed and water is used," states **Kim Stephens**. "However, a commonality is a desire for a *regional team approach* that is founded on partnerships and collaboration. Cross-fertilization between and within regions creates opportunities to build on the experience of others."

"Due to strong, local leadership at the working level, the Comox Valley has emerged as a designated provincial pilot for a regional team approach."

A Convergence of Initiatives

"The Comox Valley is demonstrating what can happen where there is a convergence of bottom-up and top-down initiatives. The vision for a regional team approach had its origins in the **2008 Learning Lunch Series**. The driver for 'making it real' has resulted from provincial intervention in the governance of the valley," explains Kim Stephens. He identifies three defining moments in an unfolding process:

- In July 2007, the Province divided the former Comox-Strathcona Regional District into two jurisdictions, one being the new Comox Valley Regional District. At the same time, the Province mandated development of a **Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy** and a **Regional Water Supply Plan**.
- In June 2008, the CVRD and its three member municipalities agreed to a regional-based approach to conservation planning; and by Joint Resolution formally endorsed the **Regional Conservation Strategy**... development of which was led by the Comox Valley Land Trust a stewardship group.
- In November 2008, Mayors and CAOs representing the four local governments made a public declaration of endorsement when they dropped in to show their support for the 2008 Learning Lunch Series.

"Deadlines for producing tangible regional outcomes are real; successful implementation ultimately hinges on goodwill plus the ability of implementers to collaborate and work toward a common vision. In a nutshell, the **2009 Learning Lunch Series** is about relationship-building and personal commitment to the common good."

"In addition to meeting Comox Valley objectives, the 2009 Series outcomes and lessons learned will inform regional processes in both Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District. In fact, the 2009 Series is already referenced in the July 2009 policy framework document that is now guiding Metro Vancouver's **Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan**," concludes Kim Stephens.

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5. A Perspective on the Regional Growth Strategy

The July 2007 notice of intervention from the Minister of Community Services stated that the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) mandated by the Province “will have a very strong environmental focus and deal with critical issues of urban containment boundaries, urban intensification...”

Understanding Our Choices

The June 2009 RGS document titled **Understanding Our Choices** states that the Comox Valley has become a destination both for tourism and residency such that:

“The purpose of developing a strategy for regional growth is to create a balance between these various land uses and activities, to protect the natural beauty and function of the Comox Valley, and to ensure that it is a healthy place...”

“The RGS development process is intended to help all local governments arrive at a shared understanding of how they will achieve a regional vision for managing growth and for addressing a range of related issues to promote broader sustainability. Once that shared understanding has occurred, and has been formalized through adoption, it is implemented through Official Community Plans (OCPs) and other means, including memoranda of understanding, implementation agreements, and possibly new program development by one or more affected local governments.”

“Related to this is a required Regional Context Statement, which specifies how the OCP and the RGS will be made consistent over time,” explains **Laura Tate**.

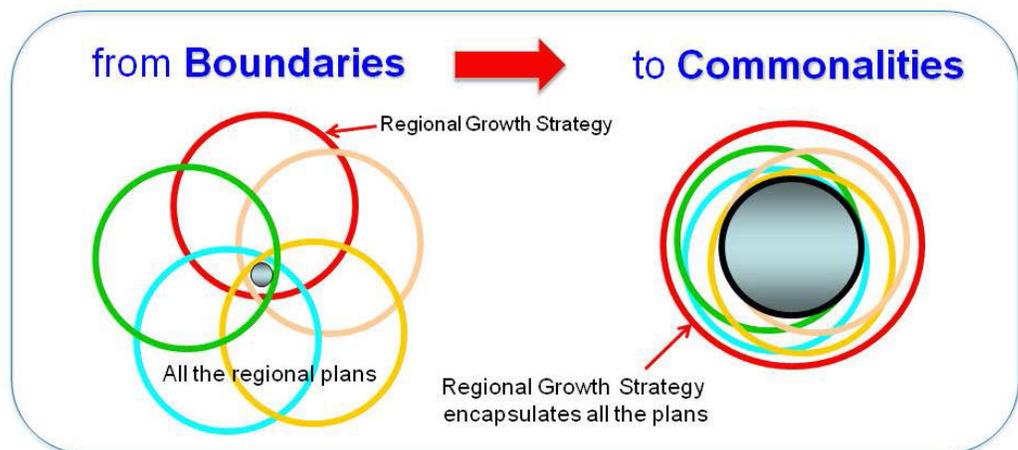
From Boundaries to Commonalities

“Formation of the new regional district started conversations that have led to an open and transparent dialogue about the future of the Comox Valley. This is healthy. Progress is happening.”

“As I reflect on the series of Water Bucket articles, my sense is that a collective shared responsibility is emerging amongst the local government implementers. This is a pretty significant outcome and bodes well for a regional team approach.”

“The MOU signed by the four local governments in July 2008 has proven helpful. It addresses the approach to be followed regarding key planning and development issues during RGS preparation. My observation is that the MOU has facilitated knowledge-transfer. This is invaluable. It is an illustration of what a regional team approach means in practice, and provides a foundation upon which to build,” concludes Laura Tate.

“In planning for the 2009 Learning Lunch Series, the organizing team has developed a graphic that conceptualizes how the RGS can help the Comox Valley move *from boundaries to commonalities*,” adds **Kim Stephens**. “The RGS provides a way to encapsulate all the regional plans so that the implementers will have the mandate they need to ensure that ‘consistent integration’ happens.”



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6. Alignment with Living Water Smart Vision

“A key message in Living Water Smart is that green development makes sense,” emphasizes **Lynn Kriwoken**. “New thinking about development leads to new benefits. These include more green spaces, more water and fish in the streams, improved community vitality, reduced demand for water, and reduced expenditure on infrastructure.”



Climate Change Adaptation

“By choosing to live water smart, communities will be more prepared for climate change and their quality of life will be enhanced. If we can show how to get the water part right, then other parts are more likely to follow.”

Design with Nature: According to Lynn Kriwoken, the ‘design with nature’ paradigm captures the essence of climate change adaptation. “Adaptation is about responding to the changes that will inevitably occur. Adaptation is at the community level and is therefore about collaboration.”

A ‘Design with Nature’ approach and re-use of resources are key to climate change adaptation

- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Re-use and recycle water, energy and nutrients from liquid wastes
- Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space
- Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and marine environment protection



Implementation Themes

Living Water Smart comprises 45 commitments, which are grouped into five themes.

Living Water Smart - Implementation Themes

1. Governance, legislation, regulatory change
2. Efficiency, outreach, public awareness
3. Science, information & learning
4. Watershed planning & restoration
5. Community planning and development

Delivery Role: “The partnership umbrella provided by the Water Sustainability Action Plan has allowed the Province to leverage partnerships to greatly enhance the profile and resulting impact of Living Water Smart,” continues Lynn Kriwoken. “On Vancouver Island, the CAVI team is playing a key delivery role in two of the five theme areas, namely: community planning and development; and efficiency, outreach, public awareness.”

“In effect, the Action Plan partners and CAVI team in particular are functioning as the on-the-ground Living Water Smart implementation arm with local government. The in-kind support from local governments is substantial and growing, and means my team can focus our work effort on legislative reform.”

Shared Responsibility: “Water issues are complex and best solved collaboratively, which include using strategies and solutions that fall outside government control. While legislative reform is a foundation piece, collaboration takes place outside the legislative framework. At the end of the day, planners and engineers and other disciplines must come together to determine the issues and solutions. No statute will help them do that.”

“This is why we constantly emphasize that Living Water Smart is about motivating and inspiring everyone to embrace *shared responsibility*. Influencing behaviour and attitudes is at the heart of moving from awareness to action.”

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Build a Vision, Create a Legacy

“The ultimate goal of the Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives is to establish expectations that, in turn, will influence the form and function of the built environment. If land and water practitioners are then successful in bringing the water for life and livelihoods vision to fruition by embracing **shared responsibility**, this will create a legacy for those who follow in our footsteps,” states Lynn Kriwoken.

‘Build a Vision, Create a Legacy’ means...

- Apply a science-based approach to create a shared vision of achievable goals
- Facilitate a **participatory decision process** to build stakeholder consensus and agree on expectations
- Obtain **commitment from everyone** to truly integrate water management with land development practices

Cumulative Benefits: “Our immediate objective is to encourage ‘green choices’ that will ripple through time, and will be cumulative in creating liveable communities, reducing wasteful water use, and protecting stream health.”

“In urban settings, measures that ‘green’ (and improve) the built environment can also protect or help restore the natural environment. How communities choose to develop or redevelop individual sites has ripple effects at the watershed scale. By designing with nature, this means actions on the ground can add up and result in **cumulative benefits** over time.”



Building a Vision & Creating a Legacy

- **Issue:** How We Manage Population Growth
- **Impact:** Growth Resulting in Urban Densification (Land Constraints; Smaller Lots)
- **Sustainability:** Means *Design with Nature*
- **Built Environment:** We Can Improve It
- **Natural Environment:** We Can Protect It
- **Cumulative Benefits:** Accrue Over Time
- **Outcome:** Sustain Community Livability

Accelerating the Current Momentum

Under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan, the CAVI team is adding value to Living Water Smart delivery by accelerating action with a particular focus on:

- *By 2012, all land and water managers will know what makes a stream healthy, and therefore be able to help land and water users factor in new approaches to securing stream health and the full range of stream benefits* (p 43 Living Water Smart)
- *Fifty percent of new municipal water needs will be acquired through conservation by 2020* (p 75 Living Water Smart)

“The 2008 Learning Lunch Series successfully demonstrated how to inform, educate and inspire local government practitioners about making



‘green choices’ to create liveable communities and protect stream health,” reports **John Finnie, CAVI Chair** (and General Manager, Water & Wastewater Services, Regional District of Nanaimo).

“As an outcome of the 2009 Series, we want to get people thinking about how to **make real** the 2020 objective of supplying 50% of new water demand by using less. Getting there requires going well beyond the usual indoor water saving measures. It entails accelerating the current momentum for changing what we do on and to the land.”

LIVING WATER SMART

..... government’s vision and commitment to ensure our water stays healthy and secure, now and in the future.



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7. Provincial Funding Fosters Innovation & Integration

“A mandate of the Ministry of Community & Rural Development is to foster **partnerships, collaboration, innovation and integration** through the program elements that comprise the Green Communities Initiative. The goal is to build capacity that will result in sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities,” states **Glen Brown**.

“Ultimately it is the Ministry’s grant programs that provide the incentives that enable the Province to influence local government behaviour; and reward those who meet program objectives for doing business differently on-the-ground.”

“The Green Communities Initiative encompasses a number of plans and strategies that directly complement and/or support Living Water Smart outcomes”

Capacity Building Towards Sustainability

The continuous process for improvement is illustrated by the graphic below.

“The reality of an increasing local government infrastructure deficit means that there will be even stiffer competition for available funding. As a result, there is a greater incentive for local governments to demonstrate how their innovation and integration will be effective in meeting the goals of both the Green Communities Initiative and Living Water Smart.”



Leveraging Change Through Grants

“Integration of legislative goals and strategies with grant programs is achieved through the combination of **Eligibility Requirements, Evaluation Criteria, and Conditionality of Contracts,**” explains Glen Brown. “These three items provide the road-map for transitioning from today’s expectations to tomorrow’s standards. Over time, we are incrementally raising the bar. ”

“Conditionality of Contracts refers to what we ask local governments to do if they are successful in meeting the Eligibility Requirements and Evaluation Criteria. This is where we establish the clear link to program goals and objectives.”

Leveraging Change through Infrastructure Grants

TODAY:	Eligibility: Open to all projects Assessment Criteria: The greener the better Conditions: e.g. Water Conservation Plan
TOMORROW:	Eligibility: All projects must meet a green standard Assessment Criteria: Strong support for green projects Conditions: e.g. Watershed Management Plan

Today's Expectations are Tomorrow's Standards

Program Goals and Objectives

- Based on the principles of sustainability
- Integrated, holistic approaches to resolve issues
- Sustainable infrastructure does not mean building your way out of problems
- Engineering rules and approaches are changing
- Manage the resources

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8. Learning Lunch Program

"The program design for the 2009 Learning Lunch Series is built around the premise that local governments have choices; and hence, they can control the destiny of their communities. When we convene the first seminar, this is the message that Tim Pringle will deliver. This is an over-arching finding that emerged from his research into what drives settlement on the east coast of Vancouver Island," states **Kim Stephens**.

"Tim Pringle's 'you have choices' message takes on added relevance when one overlays *Living Water Smart*, the *Green Communities Initiative*, and the *Climate Action Plan*. Local governments have the knowledge. They have the policy, legal and technical tools. It is now a matter of how they will collaborate and integrate to apply the tools."

"Goals and/or targets identified by these three provincial initiatives serve to establish local expectations vis-à-vis how land will be developed (or redeveloped) and water will be used. A *Water Conservation DPA* is one way to then translate the high-level language into achievable objectives. After that, it is a matter of applying the tools to turn DPA objectives into actions on the ground."

Web-Based Tools Help Achieve Targets

To achieve water targets, a number of web-based technical tools have been developed with provincial funding to help local governments make informed land and water use decisions, including:

- Water Bucket Website
- Water Balance Model
- Landscape Irrigation Scheduling Calculator
- Water Conservation Calculator

Water Bucket: This website is designed to provide the complete story on integrated land and water management – why, what, how and where. The website comprises a family of communities-of-interest that provide a ready-made platform for advancing a 'design with nature' approach to living water smart and building greener communities.

Water Balance Model: This decision support and scenario modelling tool enables regulators and designers to quantify and evaluate how to reduce the hydrologic footprint of urban development. The Water Balance Model links the site to the watershed. This enables practitioners to correlate green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health (*Living Water Smart*, page 43).

Landscape Irrigation Scheduling Calculator: This tool helps turf designers and managers determine when and how much to irrigate. The calculator is integrated with climate information. It can also be used by residential homeowners to achieve more efficient outdoor water use. (*Living Water Smart*, page 75).

Water Conservation Calculator: This tool is used to assess the acceptability of infrastructure grant applications. It enables local governments to demonstrate how proposed conservation programs would improve efficiency and reduce water use (*Living Water Smart*, page 75).

Water OUT = Water IN

The combination of Bill 27 and the suite of web-based tools enables an ecosystem-based approach to watershed planning and establishment of watershed targets. Of relevance, the point of integration between the Water Balance Model and the Water Conservation Calculator is outdoor water use, which is largely a function of soil type and depth.

