

# Convening for Action in Metro Vancouver Getting Green Infrastructure Built

Moving Beyond Pilot Projects to a Broader Watersheds Objectives Approach

**THE CHALLENGE:** *How do we simultaneously work together as staff within a municipality and as a region AND externally with developers and other private sector players, to ensure we implement sustainable approaches to development?*

## “The best laid plans....”

The problem is the gap between design and build  
How to ensure that the best laid plans come to fruition?  
How to get all the actors singing from the same song sheet?

To get to the big picture, it starts with the smallest pieces. For this reason, the Surrey Forum is advancing a regional team approach that aligns local actions with provincial policy goals as articulated in the [Living Water Smart](#) and the [Green Communities](#) initiatives. Making this happen requires partnerships, collaboration, innovation and integration.

We see the Forum as providing an opportunity to generate positive energy in the region. In particular, the Forum will inform the actions identified in the rainwater/stormwater component of Metro Vancouver's updated [Liquid Waste Management Plan](#). We believe this is where the opportunity for implementing a regional team approach resides.

We anticipate that the Forum sharing sessions will show that there are solutions if people talk to each other about what they each could do differently. This will help all parties collaborate to more effectively fulfil their piece of the sustainable development puzzle.

Once we know what we want our watersheds and neighbourhoods to look like, the next step is to decide *what the tools are that will get us there*. All of us ....whether we are regulators, developers or designers ....need to understand and care about the goal if we are to create the future that we all want.

Ted van der Gulik, P.Eng.  
(BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands)  
Chair, Inter-Governmental Partnership

Vincent Lalonde, P.Eng.  
(City of Surrey)  
General Manager, Engineering

Raymond Fung, P.Eng.  
(District of West Vancouver)  
Chair, Green Infrastructure Partnership

