

# Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Leadership in Water Sustainability



## What will Vancouver Island look like in 50 years?

*The way land is developed determines how water is used, and how water runs off the land*

The landscape and livability of Vancouver Island are being transformed by settlement, economic growth, and a limit on the natural supply of potable water. While the Island has been experiencing enhanced social and economic well-being, it has also experienced *avoidable cumulative environmental impacts*. The latter are due to pressures on land and water resources. The desire to mitigate environmental impacts has provided a driver for a ‘green infrastructure’ movement in British Columbia that is water-centric and is founded on a natural systems approach:

Green infrastructure is associated with how we use water and how our use impacts on the **sustainability of water supply**.

Green infrastructure is also associated with management of water that runs off the land and how runoff impacts on the **sustainability of both terrestrial and aquatic habitat and resources**.

Infrastructure design in British Columbia is changing. Cumulative benefits are achievable, one property at a time, through changes in the policies, programs, practices and standards that determine how land is developed and water is used. By implementing **design with nature** infrastructure practices and regulation, the ‘convening for action’ vision is that Vancouver Island will be well on the way to achieving water sustainability by 2010.

The objective when ‘convening for action’ is to influence practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes. Practitioners are defined as those whose professions, vocations and volunteer tasks relate to use and conservation of water, land and real estate.

**Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI)** is led by a team that represents both the private and government sectors. CAVI is supported by the Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA, the Green Infrastructure Partnership, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and two provincial Ministries – namely Environment and Community Services. CAVI will ultimately comprise an array of program elements that celebrate and advance on-the-ground examples of green infrastructure innovation and ‘designing with nature’.

For more information, please contact **Kim Stephens, P.Eng.**, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia, at [kimastephens@shaw.ca](mailto:kimastephens@shaw.ca)

**An Initiative of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia**