

# **The Search for Sustainability:** **A Presentation by Eva Kras**

BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee  
January 23, 2009



# The Search for Sustainability

## Presentation Road Map


- My Background
- Current Situation
- Wisdom of Visionaries
- Roots of Blockage
- Governance Influence
- Governance Principles
- CANSEE Conference

# The Search for Sustainability

- ❑ Leadership Group – “Food for thought”
- ❑ My Learning Experience
- ❑ Management :  
North American / Latin American companies

# The Search for Sustainability

## Management Issues

- Education
  - Whose Approach?
  - Who is right?
  - Participation
- 

# Present Situation

## A. Our Dilemma

- global breakdown
- solutions → many positive attempts
- outcomes generally inadequate

## B. Blockage

- our way of thinking (beliefs / values)
- alternative: examination of roots of thinking

# Wisdom of Visionaries

## ☐ Ervin Laszlo:

*“We are attempting to cope with the conditions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the thinking of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.”*

## ☐ Albert Einstein:

*“Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts.”*

## ☐ Union of Concerned Scientists:

*“A new ethic is required. This ethic must motivate leaders and reluctant governments and reluctant people themselves to effect the needed changes... A great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.”*

# Roots of our Blockage

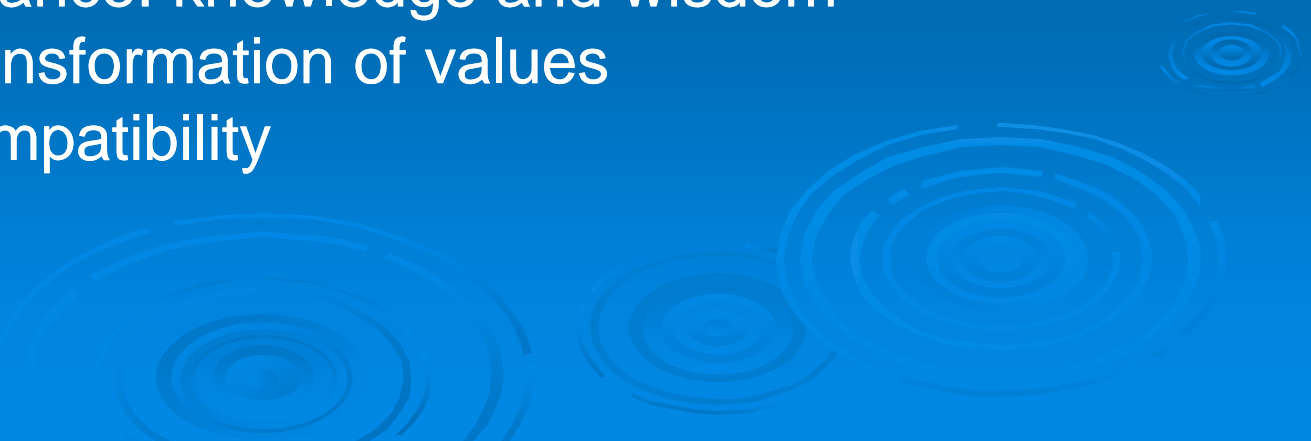
- ❑ Root values →  
Universal values (in policies/practices)
- ❑ Universal Human values → What are they?
- ❑ Relationship with Community
  - long term sustainability
  - full participation
  - community self governance?

# Influences on Governance

## □ Linkages:

- Universal values and sustainable governance

## □ Common threads:

- Balance: objective / intuitive thinking
  - Balance: knowledge and wisdom
  - Transformation of values
  - Compatibility
- 



# The Search for Sustainability

## Lerma – Chapala International Foundation (FILCHA)

- ❑ Region: river/lake eco-region
- ❑ Purpose
- ❑ Challenges: ecological/political/economic
- ❑ Present project: Mexico - Canada

# Governance Principles

## Conventional Principles

---

1. Linear thinking  
(economic priority)
2. Strong Individualism  
(personal agendas)
3. Win/Lose outcomes  
(strong competition)

## Sustainable Principles

---

1. Integrative thinking  
(multiple priorities)
2. Collective good  
(service)
3. Win/Win outcomes  
(cooperation/trust)

# Governance Principles (continued)

## Conventional Principles

---

4. Priority: economic development (other aspects – externalities)
5. Short-term thinking
6. Guide: objective thinking

## Sustainable Principles

---


4. Priority: ecological health (balanced priorities)
5. Long-term thinking
6. Guide: objective and intuitive thinking

# CANSEE Conference

Canadian Society for Ecological Economics

October 15-17, 2009, Vancouver, BC

---

1. What is ecological economics?
  2. Purpose of CANSEE conference?
  3. Invitation to participate: [www.cansee.org](http://www.cansee.org)
  4. Vision for your participation:  
potential new models.
- 

# The Search for Sustainability

In closing,  
and as Albert Einstein said....

*“No problem can be solved from the same consciousness that created it.*

*We have to learn to see the world anew.”*

