

Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

2015 Annual Report



Report from the Executive Director

Develop Tools and Talent; Focus on Outcomes

November 19, 2010 is indeed a memorable date in the annals of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia. November 19 is the date of record for incorporation of an inter-governmental initiative as a not-for-profit society.

Five Years Ago: The 2010 Land Summit, hosted by the Real Estate Foundation on November 19, is the “event of record” at which the Partnership was announced to a provincial audience. A fact known to only a few is that we had been negotiating with the Premier’s Office to have Premier Gordon Campbell make the announcement at the Summit. Alas, the Premier resigned two weeks before the event. Oh well, politicians come and go. So we have learned to carry on with our mission – which is to develop tools and talent, and focus on outcomes.

Inter-Regional Collaboration: We are particularly proud of what we are facilitating via the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative*. Launched in 2012, the IREI is a partnership of five regional districts representing 75% of BC’s population. The IREI is enabling “sharing & learning” through inter-regional collaboration. Everyone benefits. Why reinvent the wheel when you can adapt what others are successfully doing?

In this regard, we collectively have spent a generation building up expectations about living water smart and designing with nature in the urban setting so that we can successfully adapt to a changing climate. On the one hand, there is reason for optimism. On the other hand,....

Inter-Generational Memory & Continuity of Understanding: We are now at a defining moment in time because the accelerating wave of land and water practitioners retiring from the work force is resulting in a loss of institutional memory. Also, there is a loss of firsthand understanding of what works in practice, and what does not.

Overnight a generation of cumulative understanding – of what needs to be done to achieve a vision for ‘restorative development’ and how to do it – could be lost. The urgent need to provide ‘continuity of understanding’ is an emerging issue within government where decisions about land and water are made on a daily basis, and reverberate through time.

For these reasons, the pressure is increasingly on a small band of experienced volunteers to bridge the mentoring gap over the next decade. This is an inter-generational responsibility that the Partnership for Water Sustainability has embraced. This is our commitment.

Kim A. Stephens,
Executive Director
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
December 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim A. Stephens". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name above it.