



**the partnership**  
for water sustainability in bc

# 2016 Annual Report



**November 2016**

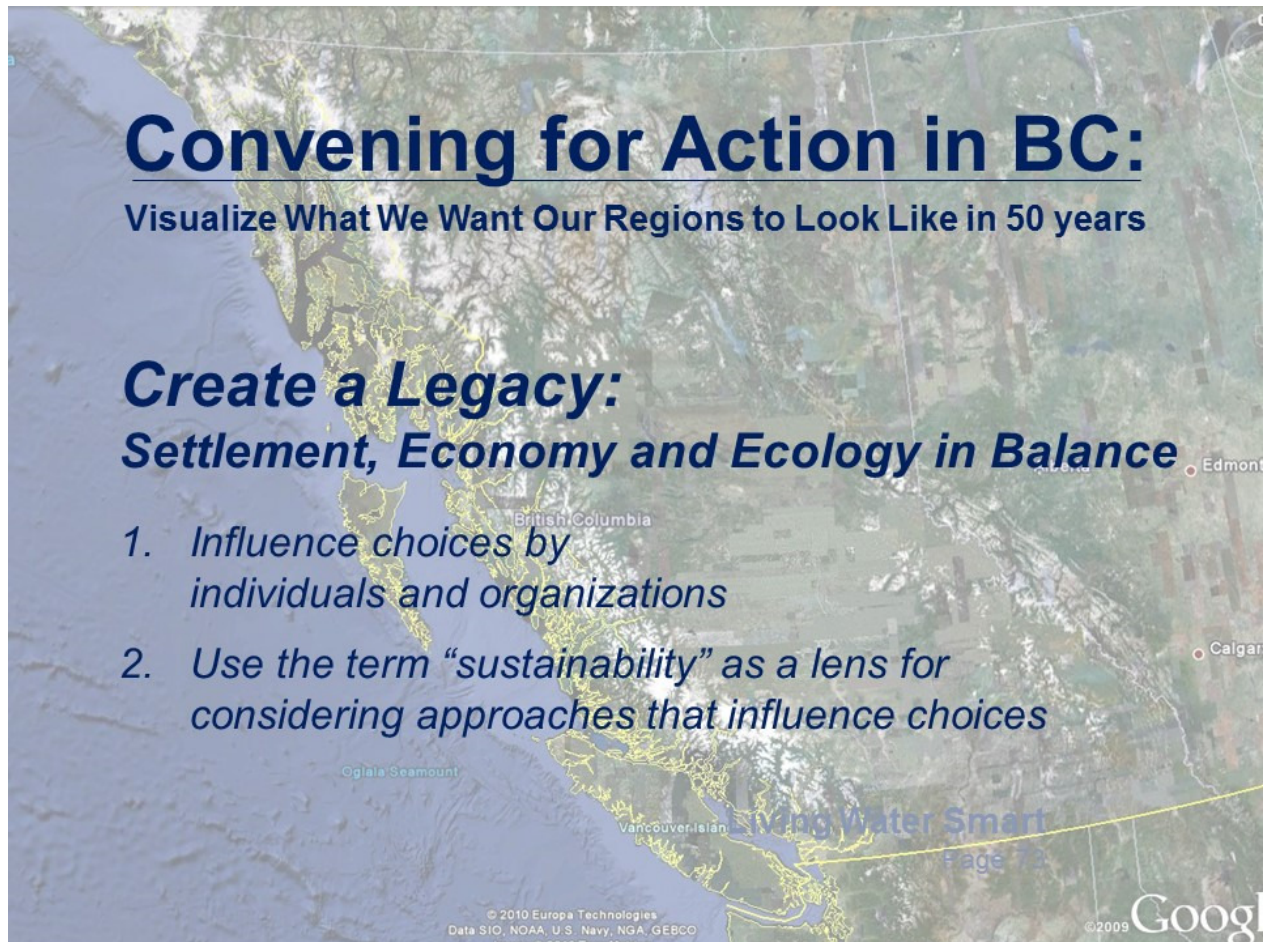
For adoption at the Annual General Meeting held at 3:00pm on November 3, 2016  
at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond, BC

### **Convening for Action in BC:**

Visualize What We Want Our Regions to Look Like in 50 years

### **Create a Legacy: Settlement, Economy and Ecology in Balance**

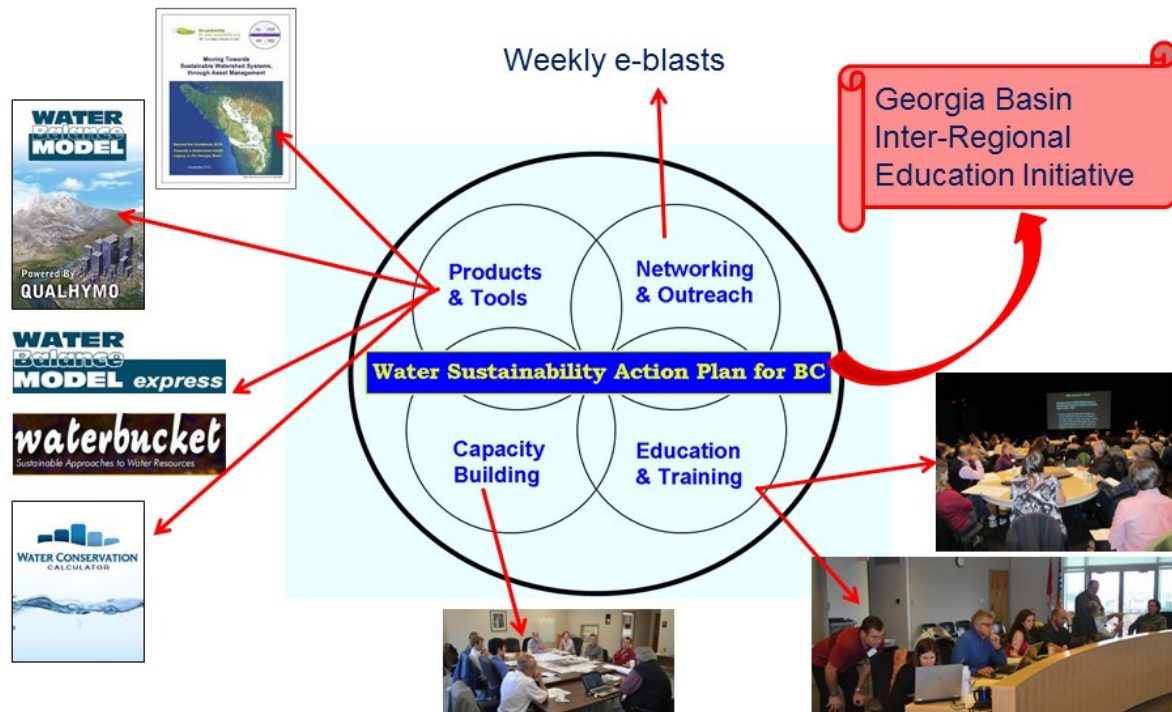
1. *Influence choices by individuals and organizations*
2. *Use the term “sustainability” as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices*



# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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**OUR MISSION:** Develop Tools. Develop Talent.  
Focus on Outcomes



*The Partnership originated as an inter-governmental initiative 15 years ago, became the BC Water Sustainability Committee in 2003, and then 6 years ago on November 19, 2010 was incorporated as a not-for-profit society.*

*The purpose of incorporation of the Partnership as a society is to ensure the legacy of the tools and initiatives developed under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia.*

*The mission of the Partnership is to develop tools and talent, and focus on outcomes that align regional and local actions with a provincial policy, program and regulatory framework for achieving water and watershed sustainability.*

# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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## 2016 Annual Report



### President's Perspective

#### Breadth and Reach of the Partnership

For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Partnership for Water Sustainability and Irrigation Industry Association of BC are collaborating to deliver a workshop. This year's event is titled **FLOWnGROW: Balancing Economy, Ecology and Settlement in the Okanagan**.

The three previous workshops were extremely successful and we are looking forward to building on our past successes. FLOWnGROW is a timely follow up to *Feast and Famine – Solutions and Tools in Response to a Changing Climate in BC*, which was held in Richmond in December 2015.

**Sitelines Magazine:** In May, the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects (BCLSA) invited the Partnership to deliver the keynote address at the BCLSA Annual Conference. BCLSA then asked us to be co-editor and provide the content for the June issue of their Sitelines Magazine. Copies will be distributed at FLOWnGROW. Article titles listed below demonstrate the breadth and reach of the Partnership:

- Restoring the Water Balance – What Happens on the Land Matters
- Water as a Form-Maker
- The Journey to Balance Economy, Ecology, and Settlement on Vancouver Island
- Waterbucket.ca: Website Showcases Water-Centric Innovation and Leadership
- Water Balance Express: Restore 'Environmental Flows' in Urban Streams
- Water Licence Calculator: Managing Water as One Resource
- High Efficiency Irrigation Standard: How it Will Help Achieve a Water Balance
- Sustainable Service Delivery: Watersheds are Infrastructure Assets

**Metro Vancouver Agriculture Water Forum:** Metro Vancouver asked the Partnership to help organize and facilitate an Agriculture Water Forum for the Metro Vancouver region in November 2016. The Partnership is moderating the forum as well as providing presentations. The forum will highlight water supply issues facing the agriculture industry in the region.

**Water Sustainability Act:** Because groundwater licencing is a requirement under the Water Sustainability Act, the Province looked to the Partnership to develop an agriculture water licencing tool. The tool went live on February 29<sup>th</sup> and is now being used by those applying for a water licence as well as the water licence adjudicators. Some additions that have been added to the tool include livestock water use, adjusted irrigation season lengths, as well as groundwater and watershed boundaries.



# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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***Agriculture Water Demand Model:*** The Partnership is now in Year Four of a five-year agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to deliver the Agriculture Water Demand Model program. This past year the Central Kootenay Regional District as well as the Alberni Clayoquat Regional District were surveyed to compile the land use inventory information. A methodology for obtaining the Peace River land use inventory is still being investigated. Work on the soil data attributes is also continuing.

***Water Balance Model:*** The Water Balance Model Express continues to expand. It is currently operational for the District of North Vancouver, Cowichan Valley Regional District, the City of Surrey, Coquitlam, Comox Valley Regional District and Cape Breton. The Partnership is also continuing to initiate upgrades to the Water Balance Model.

***A Look Ahead:*** The Partnership will continue to implement the *Water Sustainability Action Plan* in 2017 and will look for new opportunities and activities that can help us celebrate our successes and build on Action Plan initiatives such as:

- Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI)
- waterbucket.ca website

Success can only be accomplished through the integration of efforts of practitioners including our many partners in the provincial government, local governments and non-profit societies. Our successes are only possible with your support and efforts.

I thank the Partnership leadership team - Kim Stephens, Richard Boase, Eric Bonham, Glen Brown, Raymond Fung, Peter Law, Tim Pringle, Mike Tanner, John Finnie and Derek Richmond - for their insight and direction. As a team we have many exciting initiatives planned. If anyone reading this is interested in working with us please feel free to contact any of the above.

Ted van der Gulik  
President  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
November 2016



# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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### Report from the Treasurer

Incorporated as a not-for-profit society under the Societies Act of BC, the Partnership:

- has two principal sources of income: grants and Water Balance Model annual subscription fees;
- relies on the substantial in-kind contributions by members and partner organizations to develop tools and deliver programs; and
- has minimal overhead expenses and is initiative-oriented, with revenue and expenses tracked by initiative or project.

In addition to our General Account, the Partnership has initiated funding for seven projects and/or initiatives. All are tracked under the Financial Accounting System. For the fiscal year ending on **August 31, 2016** revenues and expenses are tabulated below:

	REVENUE	EXPENSES	BALANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR
General Account	\$21,444.73	\$9,496.50	\$11,948.23
Water Balance Model	\$52,878.00	\$71,910.29	-\$19,032.29
Convening for Action in BC	\$9172	\$12,929.97	-\$3,757.97
Waterbucket Website	\$0.00	\$946.63	-\$946.63
Ag Water Demand Model	\$254,243.11	\$256,872.18	-\$2,629.07
Water Conservation Calculator	\$0	\$33,398.94	-\$33,398.94
Ag Water Licence Calculator	92,834.42	93,300.76	-\$466.34
Small Contracts	\$4,497.14	\$4,497.14	0

#### Footnotes to the Financial Statement:

1. For items in the table above where Fiscal 2016 expenses exceed revenue, the differences were in fact funded by the carry-over from Fiscal 2015.
2. The bank balance of the society carried forward from Fiscal 2015 into Fiscal 2016 is \$272,027.01
  - a. The year-end bank balance has decreased slightly when compared to \$300,167.87 in 2015 because expenses are higher than new funding received for projects listed above.
  - b. Most of this funding is committed through established work plans.
  - c. Ongoing plus additional contracts to be completed and/or executed in Fiscal 2017 are expected to draw down the bank balance during the upcoming year.

*The Executive Director is engaged by the society under two or more contracts to develop and deliver the society's outreach and education program.*

Mike Tanner,  
Treasurer  
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC  
November 2016



## Report from the Executive Director

### Embrace Bold Ideas

Water is a form-maker. It defines communities. Also, water-centric decisions ripple through time. Choices made today will determine what the future looks like. Over time, will our decisions result in cumulative benefits or cumulative impacts?

To help communities make informed choices that would create a desirable future, the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC is dedicated to mainstreaming **bold ideas** in a pragmatic way.

Through an approach that is inclusive, we draw attention to leading thinkers and to ideas that would transform how communities tackle critical issues - thought leaders such as:

- Richard Horner – the primacy of hydrology
- Daniel Pauly – the shifting baseline syndrome
- Michael Blackstock – blue ecology
- Rick Antonson – cathedral thinking

**Moving Towards a Sustainable Water Future:** Common practice is to manipulate a single variable out of context with the whole and its many additional variables. Yet everything is connected to everything else.

Recognition of this fact-of-life provides the starting point for a **Whole Systems Approach** that respects ecosystem and cultural values, ensures food security and builds water-resilient communities.

**Blue Ecology** is a concept whose time has come. “Interweaving is a tool for bringing perspectives together. Western science is not wrong. It is just not complete. It is a matter of Western science embracing that water is part of a living ecosystem,” asserts Michael D. Blackstock, independent scholar and Blue Ecology pioneer.

The journey to a water-resilient future would be guided by **Cathedral Thinking**. The concept dates back to medieval times. It aptly describes the inter-generational commitment that would be required to achieve a ‘design with nature’ vision – one that integrates water balance solutions into land use decisions, and restores ecosystem values.

Kim A. Stephens,  
Executive Director  
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC  
November 2016

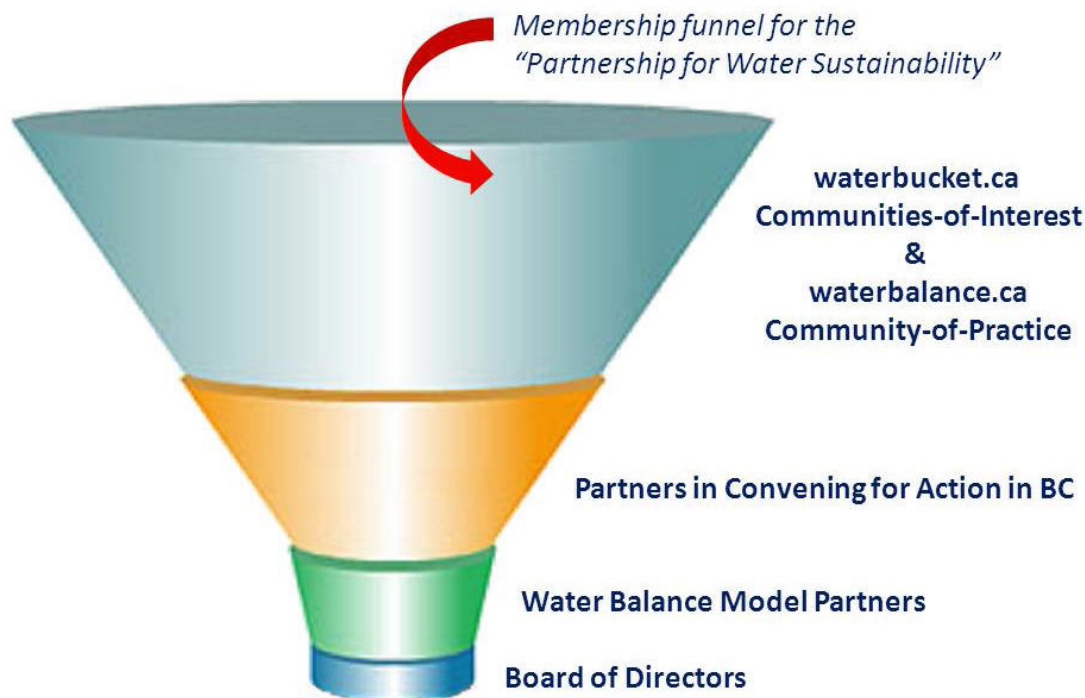




## Report from the Membership Chair

### Categories of Membership

The graphic below represents the "Membership funnel" where the Board encourages "inclusivity" of all stakeholders in water sustainability, from those non-paying members at the top of the funnel, to the paying members who play an active role in developing tools and educational materials, to Board members who set direction for the society.



The Partnership's three categories of membership, the associated annual fees, and voting privileges (or not) are listed as follows:

1	Associate	Free	Non-Voting
2	Professional	\$100 per year	Voting
3	Organization (corporate)	\$250 per year	Voting



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### About the Membership Categories

Briefly:

- **ASSOCIATE (non-voting):** Anyone with an interest in water sustainability or green infrastructure can join as a non-voting member just by going to [waterbucket.ca](http://waterbucket.ca) and registering online. Since September 2012, over 460 individuals have signed up (with 80 people joining in the past year alone!).
- **PROFESSIONAL (voting):** This category is for individuals who wish to “make a difference” and play a hands-role in contributing to the Partnership's mission. To date, we have 34 members in this category.
- **ORGANIZATION (voting):** This category currently totals 25 organizations local governments and consultants that are Water Balance Model (WBM) Partners and Subscribers, respectively.

In addition to the three categories of membership above, the Partnership has two other categories: **Lifetime Members (6)** and **Champion Supporters (20)**.

- **CHAMPION SUPPORTERS:** This designation recognizes agencies and organizations that provide substantial financial and/or in-kind support that in turn enables the Partnership to develop tools and deliver programs under the umbrella of the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia*.

Stories about the Champion Supporters are posted on the [waterbucket.ca](http://waterbucket.ca/cfa/category/partnership-for-water-sustainability-in-bc/champion-supporters/) website at: <http://waterbucket.ca/cfa/category/partnership-for-water-sustainability-in-bc/champion-supporters/>

In 2016, the Partnership is modifying our Constitution and Bylaws to conform with the new *Societies Act*. Our society has always been a mission oriented society, and has not relied on membership fees to sustain our activities. Wording will be adopted in our new bylaws to reflect this fact at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

### Elections to the Board

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, there will be an election of members to fill two (2) Director positions on the Partnership's Board. *Professional* members, who have submitted a notice for nomination, are posted on page 8. Directors are elected for a 3-year term.

Peter Law  
Membership Chair  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
November 2016



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## Report from the Chair of CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

### Inter-Regional Collaboration & A Vision for Vancouver Island

This has indeed been a year of 'action' and change for both the Partnership as a whole and in particular for CAVI since its conception a decade ago when a bold experiment was launched at the Water in the City Conference held in Victoria. Since then, the CAVI model has demonstrated what can be accomplished through collaboration, partnerships, celebration and a regional team approach. The stage is now set for achieving 'economy, ecology and settlement in balance'.

CAVI has been a prototype for a water-centric approach guided by intergenerational commitment to action. It will take time and therefore requires perseverance. Simply put, it is a long distance relay race. The Partnerships' mission is to inspire successive generations of champions to carry the baton. The Vancouver Island experience over the past decade has attracted international attention – for example, the CAVI prototype has been the subject of keynote addresses at forums in the United States and Australia.

At the end of 2015, we talked about moving ahead with a bold water-centric initiative for visioning the future on Vancouver Island - VI 2065. The first decade (of CAVI) was the 'proof of approach' for a different way of doing business. In Decade #2 of a multi-decade journey, the CAVI legacy will live on through VI 2065, acronym for the Vancouver Island 2065 initiative.

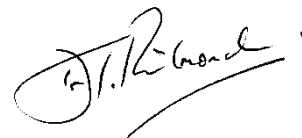
Beyond the Guidebook 2015 introduced the paradigm that watersheds are infrastructure assets. They need to be managed and protected as such. By expanding understanding of and support for Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management paradigm, VI 2065 would help set a course so that Vancouver Island would achieve a water-resilient future over the next 50 years – which is only two generations (children and grand-children).

"The future of Vancouver Island calls for 'cathedral thinking' to create an inter-generational vision that is inspirational, pragmatic, and based on a strong foundation," states Eric Bonham, CAVI founding member and inspirational speaker. "The VI2065 initiative envisions a Vancouver Island based on long-term sustainability and water resiliency models that involve innovative partnerships. The results guide us towards effective land and water management practices."

Having redefined the scope of CAVI as a regional initiative of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC in 2015, and with past successes and some fresh ideas, CAVI is moving forward under a new name – The Partnership on Vancouver Island. It will take time and therefore requires perseverance. Simply put, it is a long distance relay race. The Partnership mission is to inspire successive generations of champions to carry the baton.

We are anticipating significant interest and high energy collaboration in the Partnerships' initiatives for 2016 – and beyond!

*Derek Richmond  
CAVI Chair  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
November 2016*



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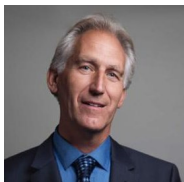
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# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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### Nominees for 2017 Board of Directors (2 positions)



**TED VAN DER GULIK** is chair of the Water Balance Model initiative and also led the Agriculture Water Demand Project initiative for the Province. In February 2014, he retired from the Ministry of Agriculture after 35 years of service as the Senior Engineer in the Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch in Abbotsford. “The Water Balance Model was the driving force behind the formation of the Partnership and continues to provide a strong link to the other projects that have been initiated,” says Ted.



**RICHARD BOASE** is the District of North Vancouver’s Environmental Protection Officer. Richard is also Co-Chair of the Water Balance Model initiative. “Getting involved in the Partnership was simply the right thing to do,” reflects Richard. “This belief is what drives my personal commitment to fulfilling my own ecological and sustainable vision. Our water is the most precious commodity on the planet. Through the Partnership, I saw a way of contributing and making a difference to sustain this resource, which is a right for all, in a way that appealed to me immensely.”

### Current Directors (4 positions)



**MIKE TANNER** is Chair of the Waterbucket Website and Partnership Treasurer. He retired as a Senior Manager with BC Hydro’s Power Smart Program. “Recognizing a need for a single point of access to news, information and tools for sustainable water management in BC, we launched the waterbucket.ca website in 2005,” says Mike. “By providing universal access to information, we believe we will continue to see ever-improving standards of practice in all aspects of land development and water resource management.”



**TIM PRINGLE** was the founding Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and served in that capacity for 20 years. “A number of creative and experienced volunteers direct the work of the Partnership and help implement its programs,” says Tim. “I am privileged to work with them and to be able to pursue my passion to see BC communities adopt a more integrated approach to stewardship of land and water. The Partnership’s goal is to help communities implement designing with nature strategies as a basic step to managing settlement change in balance with ecology makes perfect sense.”



**DEREK RICHMOND** retired from the City of Courtenay in 2013. He has served as Chair of CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island since 2011. “My passion for water resources and the environment has been with me from an early age. As a practitioner with more than 40 years in engineering and environmental issues, I am fortunate to have been involved in a wide variety of projects and initiatives across Canada, and in the USA and the UK. I see an opportunity to apply experience gained during my career to the visioning that will help steer us in the right direction to maintain water resources in balance with ecology, economy and education,” says Derek.



**PETER LAW** has volunteered his time to undertake many important Partnership functions, such as recording secretary and Membership Chair. “My principle interest in seeking the nomination is the promotion of Water Sustainability as it pertains to the restoration of our small streams and how this is linked to maintaining a watershed’s health. As a Provincial Biologist with the Ministry of Environment for 30+ years, I became acutely aware of how our existing land development practices are causing natural systems to degrade. I have supported the need for ‘change’ through educational approaches promoted by the Partnership to *Design with Nature*.”

### A Selection of Initiatives and Tools

<p><b>Convening for Action in BC</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.conveningforaction.ca">www.conveningforaction.ca</a></p>	<p>This is the ‘convening for action’ mantra: <i>When we gather; it is for a purpose. There must be an action item or an outcome.</i> Committed to achieving settlement in balance with ecology and economy, the grass-roots collective partnership approach is founded upon collaboration. It reaches across boundaries. It brings together those who plan and regulate land use (local government) those who build (developers) and those who provide the legislative framework (the Province).</p> <p>This collaborative model results in the provision of expertise and support to local governments and organizations with a focus on achieving water sustainability through the sharing of ideas and success stories based upon a common vision.</p>
<p><b>Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.vancouverislandwater.ca">www.vancouverislandwater.ca</a></p>	<p>Launched in 2012, the <i>Inter-Regional Educational Initiative for ‘Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context’</i> provides local governments with a mechanism for collaboration. Secondly, it provides the framework for consistent messaging and consistent application of tools and understanding. Thirdly, it helps the champions in each region understand what the other regions are doing, what works and what does not.</p> <p>Now, the Metro Vancouver region and four largest Vancouver Island regional districts are collaborating to make the link between local government services, the infrastructure that supports the delivery of those services, and watershed health.</p>
<p><b>Beyond the Guidebook Primer Series</b></p>	<p>With release of <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i> in 2002, BC was the first province or state in North America to adopt the Water Balance Methodology. This enables local governments to establish performance targets for land use. The goal is to protect watershed and stream health.</p> <p>The “Beyond the Guidebook Primer Series” is adding depth to specific aspects of the Guidebook. The goal is to inform and educate infrastructure, land use and environmental professionals about core concepts related to implementing actions at the site scale that will achieve desired outcomes at the watershed scale.</p>
<p><b>Water Balance Model for BC</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.waterbalance.ca">www.waterbalance.ca</a></p>	<p>Developed in 2003 as an extension of <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for BC</i>, the <i>Water Balance Model</i> is a web-based tool for doing scenario comparisons. It links the site to the watershed and stream. It helps communities establish performance targets and ‘design with nature’ so that land development mimics the water balance. The model is tailored to multiple levels of users who have a wide range of technical backgrounds, from hydrology experts to stewardship groups.</p>
<p><b>Waterbucket Website</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.waterbucket.ca">www.waterbucket.ca</a></p>	<p>Recognizing a need for a single point of access to news, information and tools for sustainable water management in BC, the waterbucket.ca website was launched in 2005. The site supports an array of virtual “communities of interest” with features that resemble those of a real community as well as a growing library of information resources on the BC experience and it houses “Made in BC” tools and experience.</p>
<p><b>Water Conservation Calculator</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.waterconservationcalculator.ca">www.waterconservationcalculator.ca</a></p>	<p>Designed for use by small to mid-size communities, the <i>Water Conservation Calculator</i> is a free, web-based decision-support tool. It is used to illustrate how specific water conservation measures can yield both fiscal and physical water savings for communities. It can be used to assist communities in meeting the conditional requirements of provincial capital grant programs while meeting both local and provincial commitments to water sustainability.</p>