



**the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc**

# 2017 Annual Report



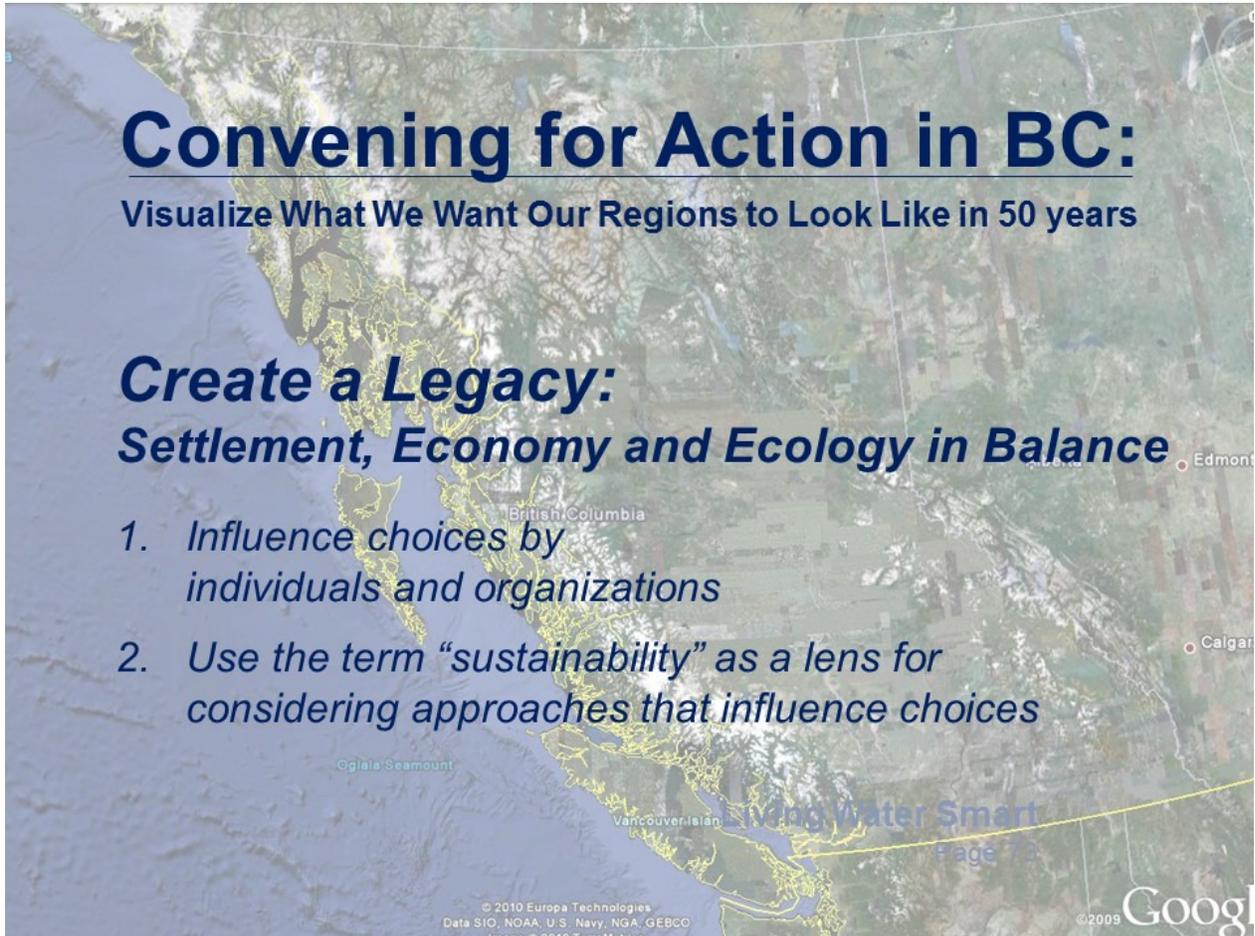
**December 2017**

### **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*

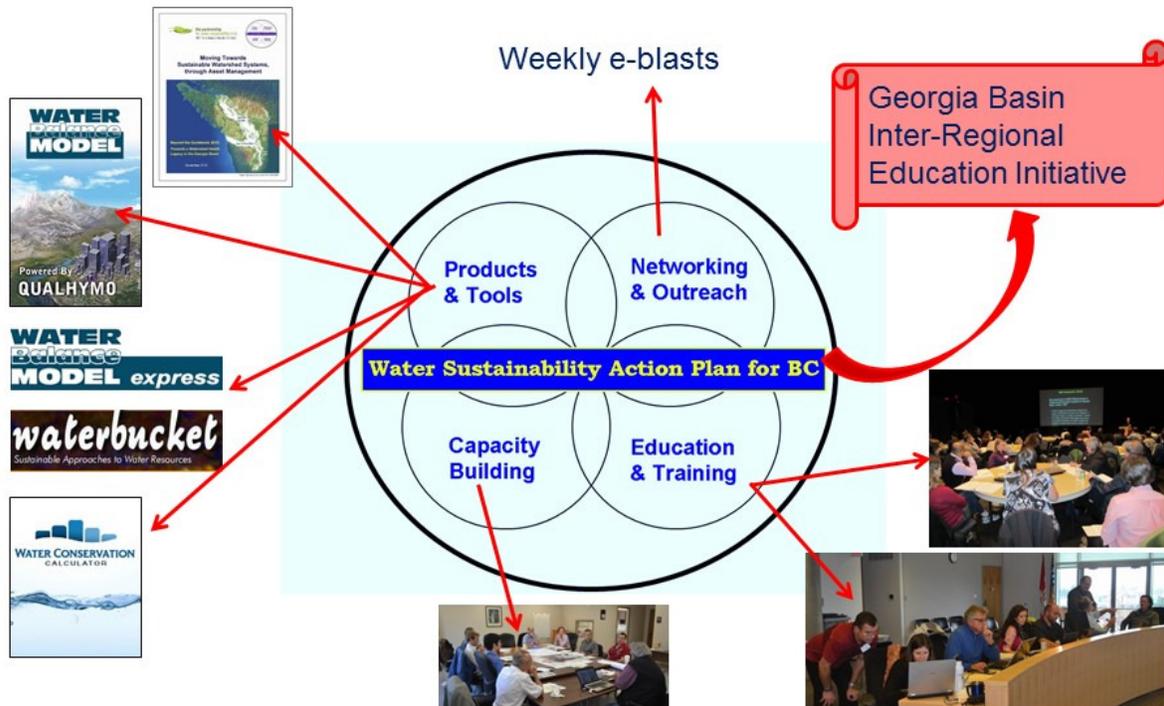


# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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

 the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc



*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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## President's Perspective

### Breadth and Reach of the Partnership

This past year has found the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC in the midst of a number of new and old ventures with respect to promoting sustainable watersheds in BC.

***Annual Water Sustainability Workshop:*** The Partnership again partnered with the Irrigation Industry Association of BC convention in delivering a workshop held in Richmond, BC and titled Blue Ecology. The workshop is an outreach and professional development event, held under the umbrella of the Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative, and designed to further the conversation in Metro Vancouver about moving towards “Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management”

***Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative:*** In March, the Partnership received grant funding from the federal / provincial Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The project will advance Green Infrastructure strategies used by local governments in environmental protection and infrastructure design. To protect watershed health, engineered infrastructure ought to fit into natural systems rather than the other way around. The program will address new paradigm of thinking planning, designing, constructing and maintaining watersheds which is **WATERSHEDS ARE INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS, PROVIDING WATER BALANCE SERVICES**. The project is comprised of three initiatives:

- **Ecological Accounting Protocol:** Local governments would use EAP to develop a more complete financial picture. Sustainable service delivery would then be more robust with the inclusion of the value and costs associated with the use of services from natural assets as municipal infrastructure. Two case study areas are underway for applying/testing EAP.
- **Water Balance Methodology / Model / Express:** Local governments would use the suite of Water Balance online tools to both establish and implement performance targets for restoring hydrologic integrity, and thus the water balance. The existing tools will be enhanced to support EAP plus expand their use.
- **Professional Development & Outreach:** A program of teaching, training and mentoring would ensure consistent understanding of WHY and HOW to apply methodologies and tools, and would build up practitioner capacity within local governments thus advancing water and watershed sustainability outcomes, and sustainable service delivery.

# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

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**Water Sustainability Act:** The Partnership is responsible for the following:

- **Water Licencing Tool:** The water licencing tool was initially build in 2016 and has been integrated into the water licencing process. However, upgrades were required to make the tool more functional and a drawing tool was added to allow the report generated by users to be submitted as the planning requirements under a licence.
- **Water Use Reporting Tool:** The province is considering a regulation requiring all large users to report in on their water use. This would be particularly cumbersome for farmers and producers in BC. The Partnership has worked with the province and the Okanagan Basin Water Board in producing a water use reporting tool that can be used by farmers to calculate water use and submit water use reports.

**Agriculture Water Demand Model:** The Partnership is now in the last year of a five year agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to deliver the Agriculture Water Demand Model program. This past year Metro Vancouver Region was resurveyed along with new surveys in Squamish Lillooet and Mt Waddington. Extensive work was completed on digitizing soils data. The AWDM has also been transferred over to a new platform that will allow the model to be run from a website in a future date if desired.

**Water Balance Model:** The Water Balance Model Express continues to expand. This year the Town of Gibsons and Langley Township were added and work is underway to complete those additions. The PWSBC is also continuing to initiate upgrades to the Water Balance Model, including a tree canopy component.

**Waterbucket Website:** The site has a new look and feel to make it easier to navigate, post new information and promote Partnership events. The site can be found at [www.waterbucket.ca](http://www.waterbucket.ca)

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 their 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.

Ted van der Gulik  
President  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
December 2017



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## Report from the Executive Director

### The New Societies Act and What It Means

In November 2016, the new Societies Act came into effect in British Columbia. There is a 2-year transition period for implementation. A significant outcome of the new Act is the resulting clarity regarding distinctively different classifications of societies. This clarity helps the Partnership define its identity.

On transition, each pre-existing society has been asked whether it wishes to designate itself as a “member-funded society” by including a statement to that effect in its constitution. A member-funded society is a society that is funded primarily by its members to carry on activities for the benefit of its members.

A society cannot be a member-funded society if it receives government funding above a certain threshold. Hence, the choice was made for us. The Partnership is not and cannot be a member-funded society. The Partnership is funded exclusively by government and provides services to government.

The Partnership’s Constitution is now aligned with the new Societies Act. This means that only Directors are ‘Members’ and have voting rights. Any and all categories of membership that may be established by Board policy would be non-voting.

Now that the Societies Act has provided the Partnership with clarity regarding our identity, it allows the Board of Directors to focus on the Partnership mission - which is to serve as the hub for a ‘convening for action’ network in the local government setting, and to deliver the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia through partnerships and collaboration.

*Kim A. Stephens,  
Executive Director  
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC  
December 2017*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim A. Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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## Report from the Membership Chair

### Categories of Membership

Our policy is that any individual with an interest in green infrastructure and/or water sustainability can become an Associate Member of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia. However, there is no voting privilege associated with this category.

To become an Associate Member, all an individual need do is go to the top-right corner of any page on the waterbucket.ca website and follow the instructions to receive the weekly Waterbucket News. The Partnership has ~450 Associate Members.

Members who are registered in the non-voting Associate category have our permission to make use of information resources and guidance documents published by the Partnership. Currently, almost 2000 individuals receive the Partnership's weekly Waterbucket News.

An Associate membership does NOT entitle those individuals to discounted registration fees for Partnership events.

The Partnership does have two categories of annual subscriptions which do entitle subscribers to discounted registration fees for outreach and professional development events organized by the Partnership. The two categories are:

- Professional – \$100 per year
- Organization (Corporate) – \$250 per year

The Professional category allows flexibility to accommodate the possibility that some individuals may wish to become proactively involved in Partnership activities, yet do so independently of an organizational constraint.

*Peter Law*  
Membership Chair  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
December 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Law', written in a cursive style.

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## Report from the Secretary

### British Columbia's New Societies Act

2017 has been another year of accomplishments and changes. While the acronym CAVI (for Convening for Action on Vancouver Island) has been dropped from our day-to-day vocabulary, its purpose remains in play as an initiative of the Partnership under its general umbrella. Since 2015, the CAVI initiative has moved forward as 'The Partnership on Vancouver Island'. Changes in municipal staffing which have enabled us to renew and strengthen old relationships and also develop new relationships.

This model had demonstrated what can be accomplished through collaboration, partnerships and a regional team approach. This is proving to be an ongoing foundation for success in older established partnerships as well as newer initiatives such as the NALT (Nanaimo Area Land Trust) symposium scheduled for April, 2018. As referenced in the Partnership's 2016 Annual Report, 'The Partnership on Vancouver Island' continues to be a prototype for a water-centric approach guided by intergenerational commitment to action; - it continues to be a long-distance relay race.

Changes to the BC Societies Act have meant changes to our Constitution and By-laws to bring us into alignment with the new Act and to carry out some house-cleaning to be more effective and efficient in our general operations. Part of these changes have meant a clarification around 'membership' and to review the need for additional directors. The board currently comprises seven (7) directors. These changes were discussed at a directors' meeting in October and were passed by special resolution. Changes have been registered with the BC Societies.

We continue to anticipate significant interest and high energy collaboration in the Partnerships' initiatives for 2018.

*Derek Richmond  
CAVI Chair  
Partnership for Water Sustainability  
December 2017*



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## 2018 Board of Directors



**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.”



**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*.”



**RAY FUNG** is the Director of Engineering & Transportation Services with the District of West Vancouver. He is a founding member of the Partnership. He previously chaired two of the Partnership’s original incarnations, namely: the Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA (2003-2008) and the BC Green Infrastructure Partnership (2008-2011). “Over the last 10 years, the Partnership has accomplished much. Yet much still remains to be accomplished,” states Ray.

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## 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>