

Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health: Approaches and Tools for Doing Business Differently in BC

Convening for Action at the Penticton Forum on April 29, 2009

The Province's Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives have provided a framework for **convening for action** in the Okanagan, on Vancouver Island and in Metro Vancouver. Each regional initiative is developing a vision and road map for achieving **settlement in balance with ecology**. The Penticton Forum will showcase how **partnerships, collaboration, innovation and integration** are helping local governments in the three regions make the best choices for sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 0830 - 1000 | MODULE A – CREATING OUR FUTURE: WHAT DO WE WANT BRITISH COLUMBIA TO LOOK LIKE? |
| | <p>Module A is the story of the provincial policy framework that is now in place; and how this framework both enables and facilitates 'doing business differently' to create a lasting legacy province-wide. Doing business differently means 'making green choices' and 'living water smart' in order to change the way land is developed and water is used. The two go hand-in-hand.</p> <p>Creating a lasting legacy means bringing together those who plan and regulate (<i>local government</i>), those who build (<i>developers</i>), those who provide the legislative framework (<i>the Province</i>), those who do research (<i>universities and colleges</i>), and those who advocate conservation of resources (<i>the stewardship sector</i>).</p> <p>Patrick Condon, a recognized North American pioneer in applying sustainability principles to achieve smarter and cheaper urban design, will be provocative in issuing a challenge to act now while there is still time. A decade ago he captured attention with this analogy: <i>the site is to the health of a region what the cell is to the health of the human body</i>. This analogy establishes context for explaining the Province's position that "today's expectations are tomorrow's standards", and how infrastructure funding is being used to influence behaviour.</p> |
| 1030 - 1200 | MODULE B – DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY: CONVENING FOR ACTION IN THE OKANAGAN |
| | <p>Module B is the story of steady progress over time to transform the way water is viewed and managed in the Okanagan. The 1974 Okanagan Basin Study marks the start of a multi-decade process that ultimately resulted in the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy (completed in 2008) and the ongoing Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project (initiated in 2005). These efforts, grounded in action, connect the dots between urban, agricultural, and environmental water needs.</p> <p>In the intervening period, the 1987 drought was the catalyst for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the potential for domestic and irrigation water conservation in the Okanagan. The Okanagan Demand-Side Management Study received international recognition; and was the genesis for a sustained commitment by the BC Ministry of Agriculture that has culminated in the recent development of cutting-edge web tools that facilitate efficient irrigation water use.</p> <p>Over 85% of the total water supplied to the agricultural and urban sectors in the Okanagan is used for outdoor purposes. This factor has been the driver for development of the Irrigation Water Demand Model and Irrigation Scheduling Calculator. These online tools are designed to tell a compelling story that will influence behaviour at the individual property level, and hence eliminate wasteful water use.</p> |
| 1245 - 1445 | MODULE C – DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY: CONVENING FOR ACTION IN THE GEORGIA BASIN |
| | <p>Module C is the story of a Vancouver Island pilot program that is being adapted to the Metro Vancouver region. Drawing on the experience of engineering and planning managers in local governments, the Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Series employed provincial guidance documents, on-the-ground examples, walkabouts, and town hall sharing sessions to stimulate discussion of HOW to achieve water sustainability by implementing green infrastructure policies and practices.</p> <p>This grass-roots approach to 'informing and educating' provided tools (e.g. Water Balance Model), a beginning, and expertise around an issue. This combination started conversations and generated energy and passion to do business differently. Outcomes include inter-departmental collaboration, inter-municipal sharing, and regional alignment. A key message is to view 'planning' not as land-zoning function but as a multi-faceted and iterative process that embraces the concept of <i>truly integrated water-centric planning</i>.</p> |
| 1515 - 1615 | MODULE D – CREATING OUR FUTURE: THE NATURAL CITY VISION |
| | <p>Module D is the story of The Natural City as told by Vic Derman. <i>The Natural City</i> is the desired outcome of a layered design process, one that aims to shape and ensure the future wellbeing of an urban region by viewing development and redevelopment opportunities through three lenses: Regional Growth Strategy; Climate Change; and Quality of Life and Place.</p> <p>Vic Derman's key message is that <i>Quality of Life and Place</i> is BC's competitive advantage; thus, it is in our best interests to create a legacy for future generations whereby settlement is in balance with ecology. He has defined a set of ten principles that provide a planning framework for <i>The Natural City</i>. One of these is a 'design with nature' way-of-thinking and acting.</p> <p>Vic Derman is a visionary elected representative from Vancouver Island; and is well-versed in a water-centric way of thinking. In his blueprint for action, Vic Derman describes how conventional approaches to urban design could be readily modified to meet the goals of the <i>The Natural City</i>.</p> |