

Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

2014 Annual Report



Report from the Executive Director

Develop Tools and Talent; Focus on Outcomes

Throughout the past year, the Partnership has celebrated the 10th anniversary of the *Water Sustainability Action for British Columbia*, released in February 2004. This is a significant and noteworthy milestone. The 10th anniversary has provided us with the reason to reflect on our *raison d'être* and to look ahead to define a path forward for the next 10 years.

Looking Back: The Partnership is responsible for delivering the Action Plan through collaboration and alignment of efforts at the provincial, regional and local scales:

- **Our Vision:** In 2003, we set out to create a partnership umbrella for implementing demonstration projects and initiatives in the local government setting. Desired outcomes included: 1) establish precedents; 2) build confidence; and 3) inform provincial policy through the 'top-down & bottom-up' shared responsibility model.
- **Our Mission:** Early success established credibility with the Province and local governments. This has allowed the Partnership to develop tools, develop talent and focus on outcomes. It has also allowed the Partnership to show leadership in bringing local governments together so that they can share and learn from each other.

Looking Ahead: Tools, talent and outcomes go hand-in-hand. To achieve affordable and effective outcomes, future leaders will need to be equipped with the tools and experience that will enable them to make informed decisions.

In view of the demographic shift that is taking place in society, and that is characterized by a loss of institutional memory, the Partnership's leadership team is committed to a bridging and mentoring role over the next decade. We are here to guide. Ongoing transfer of knowledge... from those who were key players or leaders in past processes or initiatives... is essential if there is to be continuity and consistency of understanding.

Over the past year, we have been encouraged by the emergence of a generation that we anticipate will be the future leadership in local government. They represent planning, engineering and environmental management. These future leaders are 30-something, and are predominantly women. They are keen to learn, they collaborate and share, and they are passionate about "making a difference".

In closing, the Partnership takes this opportunity to announce that in 2015 we will be celebrating the 10th anniversaries of the launch of the *Convening for Action in British Columbia* and *waterbucket.ca website* initiatives. Stay tuned!

Kim A. Stephens,
Executive Director
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
December 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim A. Stephens".