

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: How Managing Water Now....Will Shape the Future

A Workshop to Inform a Vision for Vancouver Island and
Demonstrate Tools to Help Achieve that Vision



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc



Opala Seamount

Vancouver Island

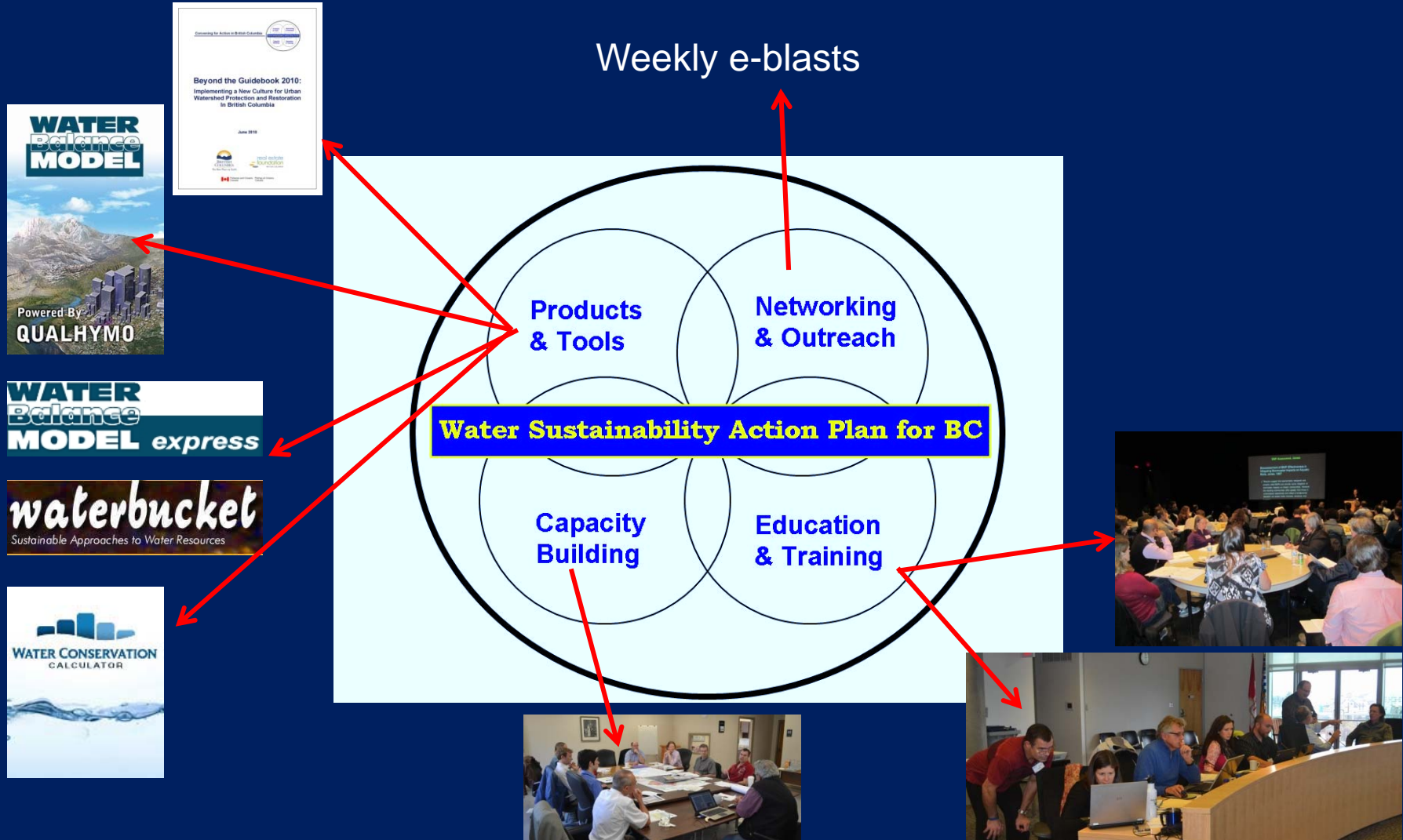
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OUR MISSION:



Develop Tools. Develop Talent. Focus on Outcomes



A group of people are seated around a large table covered with a white tablecloth in a meeting room. They appear to be in a collaborative discussion. There are papers, mugs, and other items on the table. The room has a whiteboard on the left and a framed picture on the wall in the background.

**“Through sharing & learning,
ensure that where we are going is
indeed the right way”**

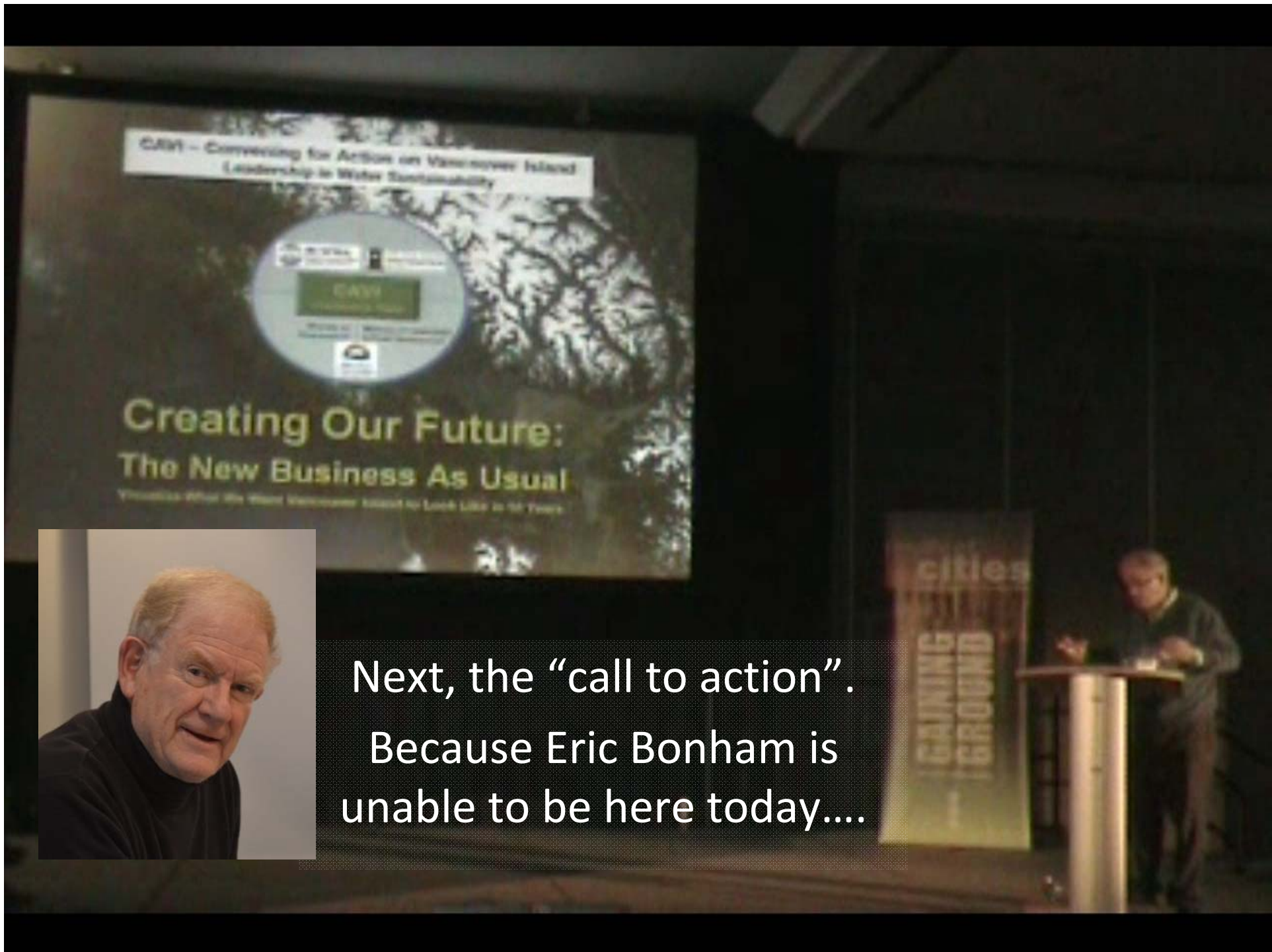
Jody Watson
Capital Regional District
June 2013

Workshop Road Map

- A. VI2065: The Vision for Vancouver Island in 50 Years
- B. Water and the Urban Environment - Adapting to a Changing Climate
- C. Agriculture and Water – How Will Climate Change Impact the Future?
- D. Landscape Irrigation – How Efficiency Can Be Improved

In this workshop you will learn

1. **WHY** a vision for “settlement, economy and ecology in balance” starts with water
2. **HOW** tools and imagery can help local governments adapt to a changing climate
3. **HOW** food security will drive a major shift in the way water and agricultural lands are managed
4. **HOW** the efficiency of landscape irrigation can be improved through use of state-of-the-art tools



CAWI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



Creating Our Future:
The New Business As Usual

Visualizing What the West Vancouver Island for Look Like in 50 Years

cities
LEARNING FROM THE
GROUND



Next, the “call to action”.
Because Eric Bonham is
unable to be here today....

Mission Possible on Vancouver Island

“A top-down and bottom-up strategy”

“Decision Maker. Visionary”



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”

John Muir

President Teddy Roosevelt & John Muir
At Yosemite National Park in 1903

Collaboration and Interdependence

A photograph of a spider web on a green background. The web is a complex, interconnected network of white threads, symbolizing collaboration and interdependence. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, with some green stems and leaves visible on the left and right sides. The text is overlaid on the web.

“Sustainability is a complex concept that integrates environmental, economic and social issues in one interdependent web of human and natural systems”

**BC Roundtable
March 1993**

“The Times They are A-Changin’”

— *Bob Dylan* 1964

***Climate
Change***



“Our climate is changing and all we have to do is look at California to see extended droughts.”



Rob Hutchins
formerly Mayor, Town of Ladysmith
Chair, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Chair, Cowichan Watershed Board





Community Stewardship in Action:

Three of four mayors in Cowichan Valley Regional District participate, along with citizens, in watershed clean up

Water is the Vital Link

**Urban
Settlement**

Tourism

Business

Fisheries

Forestry

Habitat / Watershed
Protection

**Water
Security**

Agriculture

Mining

Industry



"Food Security Vancouver Island" Wake-Up Call

- 50 years ago the island produced 85% of its food requirements - currently 5% to 10%
- **We can no longer rely on California for food security**
- Food prices increase 35% in BC
- If there is a natural disaster - only 3 days food supply



“Food Security Vancouver Island”

Wake-Up Call

- Only 2% of the population on the island involved in food production
- Development threat to agricultural land
- Climate change and water availability
- Small farms cannot compete economically with industrial farming
- Young people not choosing farming as a career, in part because of the financial challenges.....

NEWS

NEWS FEATURE: Farming faces an uncertain future in Metchosin



Bob Mitchell of Sea Bluff Farms looks over the fields he has worked for decades in Metchosin. A farm study undertaken by Royal Roads University students paints a bleak picture for the future of farming in the rural municipality, based on current succession plans. — *Image Credit: Arnold Lim/News Gazette Staff*



Bob Sandford
Ethical Water

**“Problems associated with water
in Canada are here to stay.
It is time for water to re-enter
Canadian consciousness.
It is time for a new Canadian
Water Ethic.”**



Water Challenges

Climate Change

Reduced precipitation

Groundwater recharge

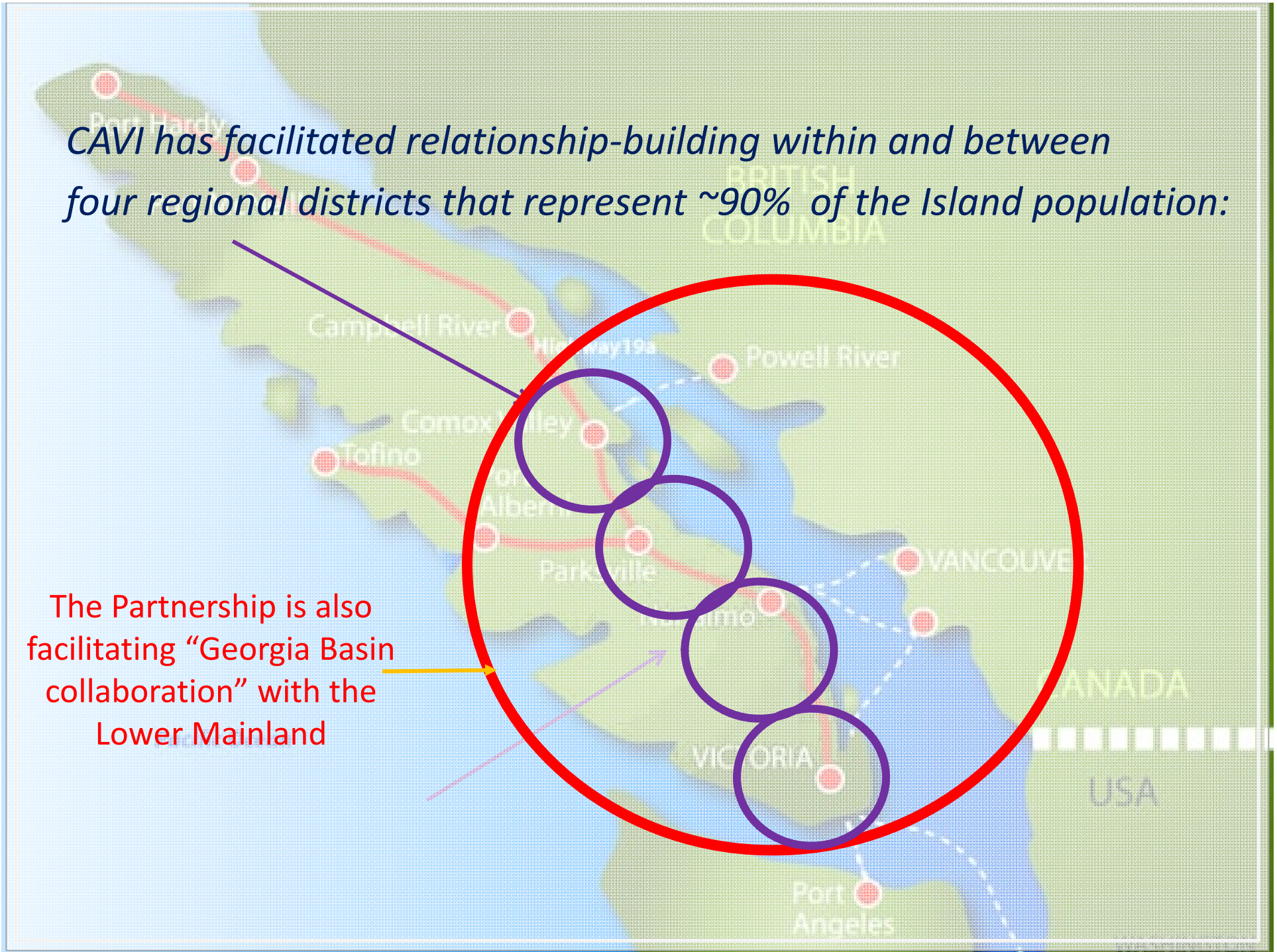
Limited water storage capacity

Increased development

Increased irrigation

CAVI has facilitated relationship-building within and between four regional districts that represent ~90% of the Island population:

The Partnership is also facilitating “Georgia Basin collaboration” with the Lower Mainland



VI 2065: The Vision for Vancouver Island in 50 Years

**VIEA –
Vancouver Island
Economic Alliance
(Economy)**

**Settlement,
Economy
and Ecology
in Balance**

**CAVI –
Convening for Action
on Vancouver Island
(Ecology)**

**Royal Roads University
(Education)**



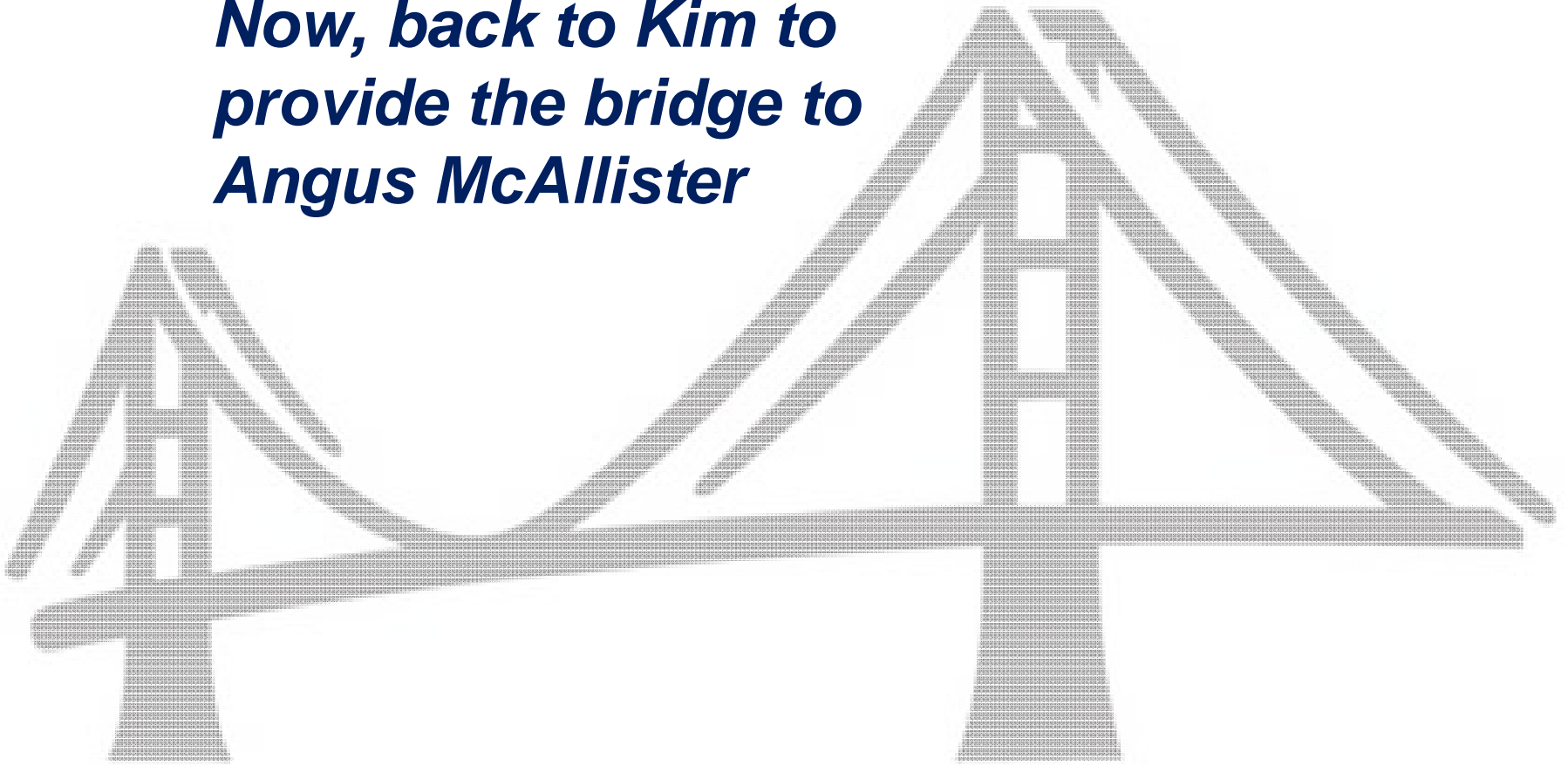
Settlement, Economy and Ecology in Balance

Vancouver Island 2065: Why Not?

**“A vision without a task is but a dream.
A task without a vision is but drudgery.
A vision with a task is the hope of the world.”**

Church inscription
Suffolk, England 1786

***Now, back to Kim to
provide the bridge to
Angus McAllister***

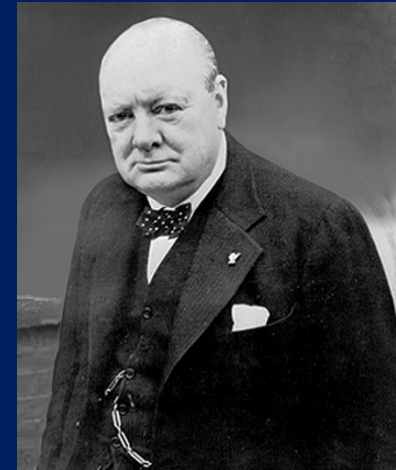


In October – November, a team from the Partnership travelled across Canada to share our BC experience in a workshop series about adapting to a changing climate



“The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”

Sir Winston Churchill
(1874-1965)



In BC, local government leaders are applying science-based understanding to:

- develop tools
- establish precedents, and
- gain the experience.....

.... necessary to successfully implement, through collaboration, an environmentally adaptive approach to community design.

A local government perspective on the success of 'Convening for Action in BC'



John Finnie, PEng
Past-Chair (2006-2011)
CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

“Part of the reason for the success in BC of our way of thinking and approach is that.....

In many jurisdictions, *‘water-centric’* has become a focus and part of our daily conversations.”

Participants in four provinces used the same word to describe the workshop day: INSPIRATIONAL



Jocelyne Rankin
Water Coordinator
Ecology Action Centre, Halifax

“The Resilient Rainwater Management workshop was the ideal stepping stone to advance our collective thinking on rainwater management and climate change adaptation in the Atlantic region.”

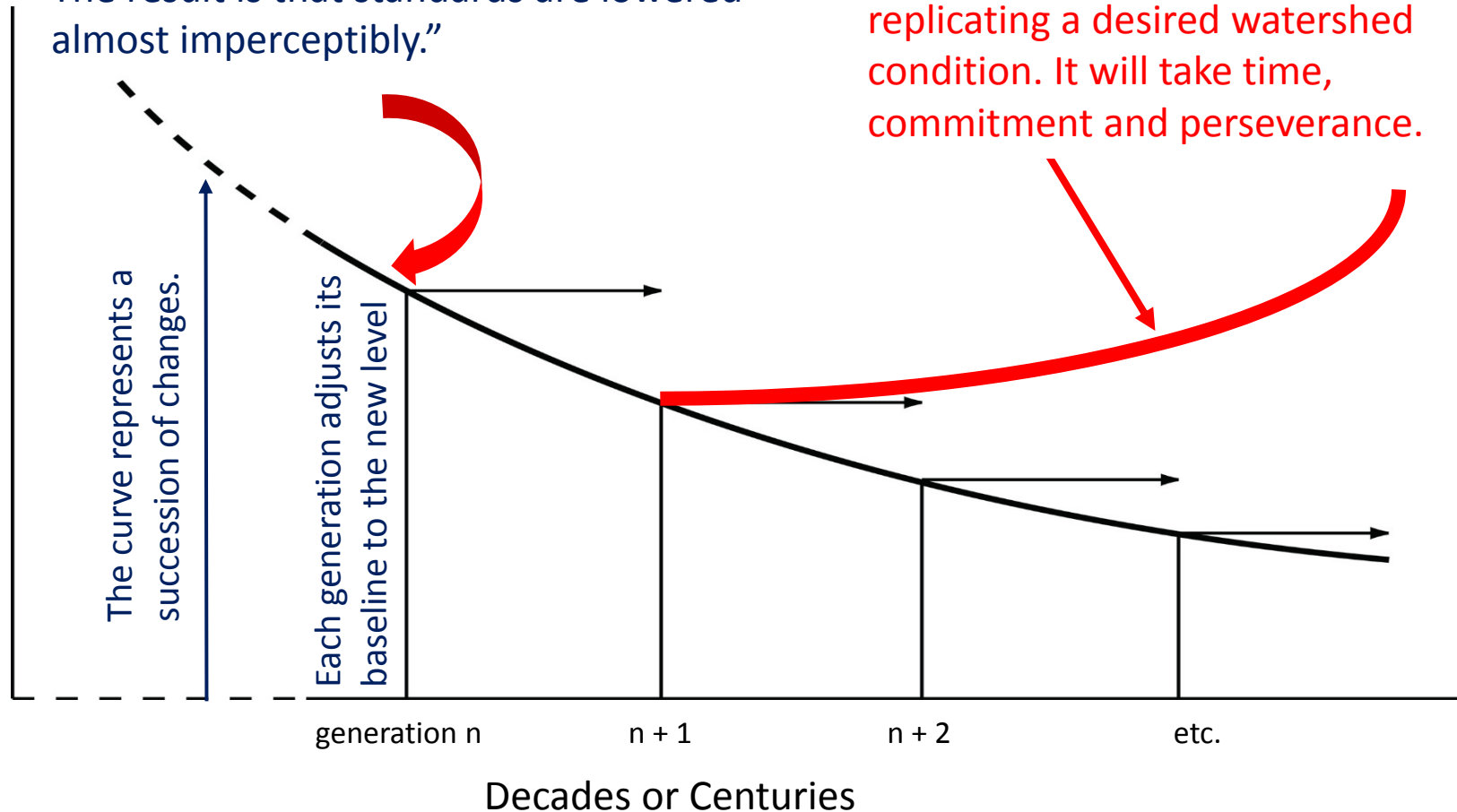
In 1995, Dr. Daniel Pauly coined the phrase
“Shifting Baseline Syndrome”



“With each new generation, the expectation of various ecological conditions shifts. The result is that standards are lowered almost imperceptibly.”

We can shift the baseline by replicating a desired watershed condition. It will take time, commitment and perseverance.

Some Good Thing = Driver for Action
(Aquatic Habitat, Salmon, Clean Water or...)



A Living Water Smart goal is to influence the form and function of the Built Environment:



Lynn Kriwoken
Executive Director
BC Ministry of Environment

“While legislative reform is a foundation piece, collaboration takes place outside the legislative framework.....

Embrace shared responsibility.
Create a legacy for those who follow in our footsteps.”

Next, Angus McAllister will engage you in sharing your favourite “water moments”....



“It is no accident that we gather around water coolers and watering holes. Water brings people together. It is a natural starting point for any conversation about common interests, and by extension, our shared future.”