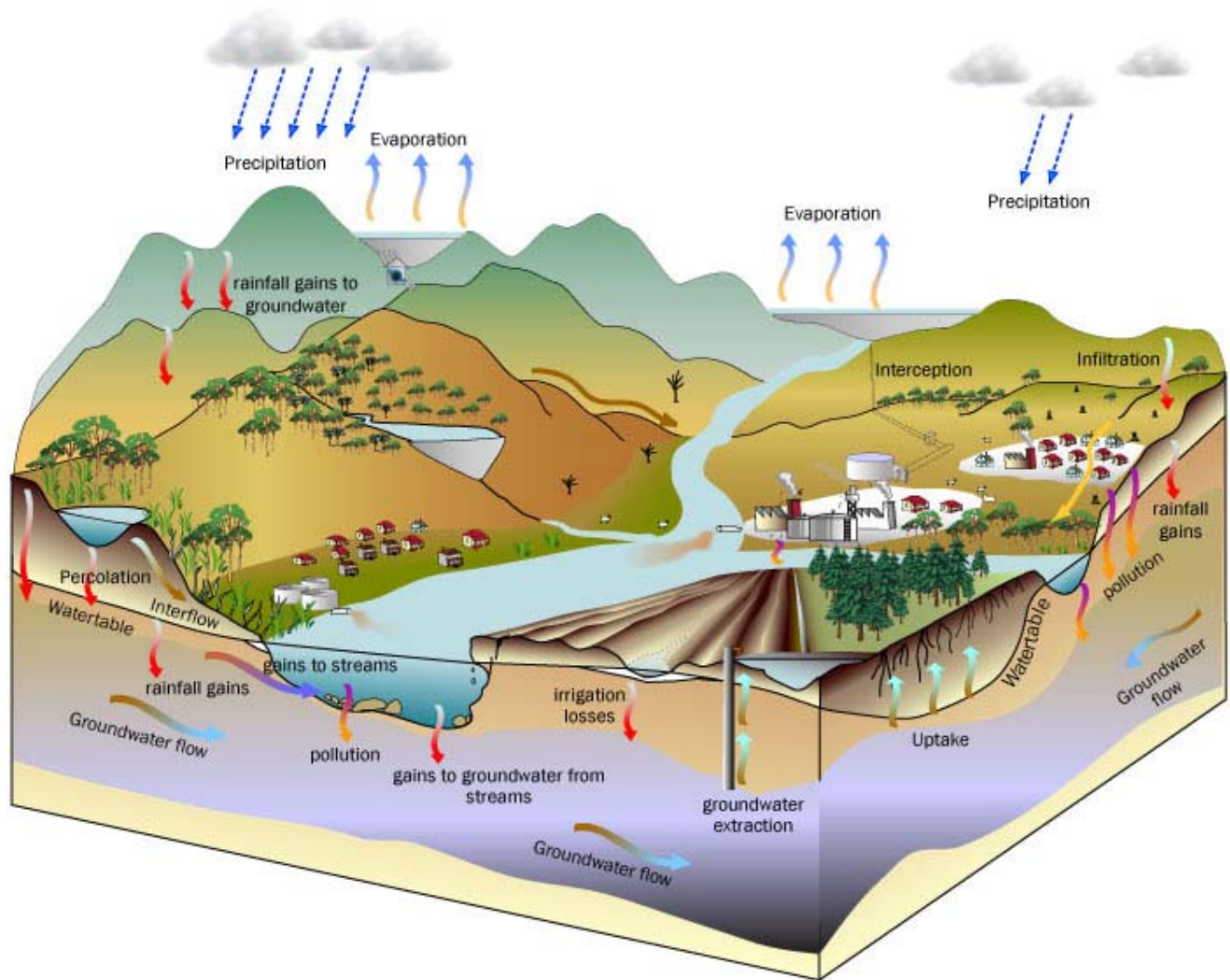




What Membership in the Partnership Means



Increasing population growth and economic development over the past 20 years has resulted in an increased demand for water. As a result of this growth, close to 1/5th of BC's surface water sources have reached, or are nearing, capacity to reliably supply water for extractive uses. This increasing demand also places additional pressures on water quality, water levels and aquatic ecosystems.

Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

What Membership in the Partnership Means

Why was our Partnership formed?

The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC (PWSBC) was incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 2010 to promote and advance the protection and management of natural and engineered water resources in British Columbia. We believe that by providing education, research, technical services and tools, we can help communities both reduce the increased demand for water and protect stream health from the adverse consequences of land development practices. We are working with practitioners involved in water resources functions to foster integrated protection and management strategies through enhancement of practitioner expertise (i.e. “developing talent”), and through further evolution and delivery of program elements developed under the umbrella of the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia*.

What is our vision?

The vision of the Partnership is that water sustainability will be achieved through implementation of green infrastructure policies and practices. How communities in BC get there relies on a change in mind-set.

What is our mission?

The Partnership mission is to facilitate that change with a focus on community and regional land planning, to promote strategies that integrate decisions about land use and conservation with water sustainability outcomes.

What are the specific challenges that the Partnership is addressing?

- Facilitating communication and integration across initiatives, regions, sectors and disciplines and linking these in order to foster development and implementation of “Design with Nature” practices.
- Sharing stories about how practitioners can reduce project (and environmental) costs by applying “Design with Nature” principles.
- Finding and retrieving and/or developing and sharing appropriate resources useful for promoting, learning and change.
- Recognizing that the ties of Pacific Salmon to communities, the people and ecology are important and that wild salmon need appropriate freshwater habitat to survive and prosper: no habitat, no salmon. (Wild Salmon Policy – DFO 2009).

Who will benefit?

- Land development and water use practitioners will be able to articulate a vision of what the regions of the province can look like if local governments prepare communities for climate change, choose to live water smart, and strive to build greener communities.
- Communities and municipalities will benefit as a result of reducing overhead and deferring capital costs.
- Utility managers will have up-to-date information about programs, water management initiatives, best management practices, and utility-specific success stories.
- All users (including domestic, industrial, commercial and agricultural) can take advantage of new practices and tools in order to enhance the environment and provide attractive social and economic returns.
- Visitors to our waterbucket.ca website will have access to a central point of collection for information and case studies on water sustainability in all regions of the province.
- Funders will have their involvement in the Partnership publicized on the website and will have the opportunity to post articles and information about what they are doing to benefit their community.
- Everyone will understand that Nature is the best teacher, the best architect, the best engineer when it comes to storing, treating and filtering our water (Living Water Smart)

Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

What Membership in the Partnership Means

What methods will the Partnership use to alleviate/solve these challenges/issues?

By advancing the Water Sustainability Action Plan which includes:

- A. The waterbucket.ca website
- B. The Convening for Action in British Columbia initiative
- C. Tools to enable leading practices

For details, refer to Table 1

What is our track record of accomplishments?

- To date, over 160,000 visitors have visited the waterbucket.ca website which is now averaging over 5,000 site visits and over 9,000 page views per month
- To date, over forty (40) Convening for Action workshops have been conducted in four regions in the province, those being: Vancouver Island, Metro Vancouver, South Okanagan and Thompson-Nicola
- History of successful implementation of practitioner-related education and collaboration
- Through working together and helping each other in collective projects, we have built a sense of trust and co-operation with others that extends beyond the tasks at hand
- We have established policies and processes for communicating and receiving feedback from stakeholders

What are our qualifications to solve these challenges?

The Partnership had its genesis in the Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the BC Water and Waste Association. From 2003 to 2010, the WSC was the hub for a partnership network operating in the local government setting. Going forward the Partnership is now that hub. The Partnership's Executive Committee is made up of the following:

- **Tim Pringle:**
President, retired as Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation of B.C.
- **Richard Boase:** P.Ge.
Vice-President, Co-Chair of the Water Balance Model Partnership and currently the Environmental Protection Officer with the District of North Vancouver
- **Kim Stephens:** MEng, PEng,
Executive Director and formerly the Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia; and prior to that, 30 years in consulting engineering
- **Ted van der Gulik:** PEng.
Treasurer, Chair of the Water Balance Model Inter-Governmental Partnership and currently a Senior Engineer with the Ministry of Agriculture
- **Peter Law:**
Vancouver Island Director representing CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Initiative and retired from the Ministry of Environment
- **Mike Tanner:**
Secretary and Chair of the Waterbucket Website Partnership and retired as a Senior Manager with BC Hydro's Power Smart Program

Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

What Membership in the Partnership Means

Why we need your support now and in the future?

In order for the PWSBC to fully accomplish our mission, and meet the challenges, we require funding to educate and promote the conservation of land in conjunction with water sustainability outcomes. Your financial support will:

- Provide for a part-time writer to insure that information on the website is maintained and kept current as well as producing case studies
- Insure that the waterbucket.ca website is maintained, and continues to provide up-to-date information and tools
- Broaden the Convening for Action coalition to reach out to new target audiences and practitioner groups

Why is it important for you to become and remain a funding partner and/or member?

You will:

- Have the opportunity to influence change within your community and other regions by becoming actively involved
- Know that your funds are going to an organization that is effective, managed well and has the proven and demonstrated effectiveness to affect change and do so in measurable outcome-based ways
- Know that over 90 percent of all funds received provide opportunities to meet the challenges identified in the Action Plan
- Through the waterbucket.ca website, have the ability to communicate your message/s to those who are not only looking for information but have the willingness to act
- Have the opportunity to contribute ideas and/or join our working groups, to help us meet our challenges
- Understand the impacts if we don't meet our challenges

Water is essential for life, and vital to our economy, but climate change and population growth means that in the future there may not be enough water, unless we start planning and acting now.

Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

What Membership in the Partnership Means

Table 1: Partnership Initiatives / Tools

<p>Convening for Action in BC</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). 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>Water Balance Model</p>	<p>Developed 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 planners to stewardship groups. The model incorporates modules for land use, rainfall capture, climate change, rainwater harvesting, tree canopy interception, stream erosion and infrastructure.</p>
<p>Waterbucket Website</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. Primarily for elected officials, government agencies, water utilities, water suppliers and managers, it is also of interest to all water users - domestic, industrial, commercial and agricultural. The site supports several 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 several “Made in BC” tools for use by practitioners on-the-ground.</p>
<p>Water Conservation Calculator</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. The calculator produces charts and a printed report. 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. The calculator allows the user to compare and contrast the savings gained from a combination of different measures.</p>
<p>Agriculture Water Demand Model</p>	<p>Originally developed for the Okanagan Basin, the AWDM is currently operational in the Okanagan, Similkameen, Kettle and Nicola regions; and is in the process of being expanded to the Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley and Thompson regions. Many BC watersheds are fully allocated or will be in the next 15 to 20 years. The model helps users understand current agricultural water use and will be used to fulfil the province’s commitment under the Living Water Strategy to reserve water for agricultural lands. It provides current and future agriculture water demands, calculates water use on a property by property basis and sums each property to obtain a total for the entire basin or sub-basins. Crop, irrigation system type, soils and climate data are used to calculate the water demand.</p>