

# Beyond the Guidebook 2010: Implementing A New Culture for Urban Watershed Protection & Restoration in British Columbia

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September 22, 2010

# “Overcoming Fear and Doubt”

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In 2001, we were literally hanging on by our fingernails.

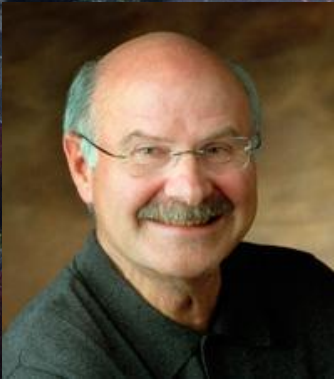


“If we fail, it will be a generation before anyone will even have the opportunity to try again; so we must not fail.”

Patrick Condon  
2001 SmartStorm Forums



# Context for changing water management practices at the site level



**“Cities are all about choices – choices that become reality very quickly, with lasting consequences. Over the 21<sup>st</sup> century – the urban century – much will depend upon getting the choices right.”**

Mike Harcourt  
former Premier of BC  
September 2003

# A Perspective on Climate Change

*"If mitigation is about CARBON,  
then adaptation is about WATER."*



Jim Mattison, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Water Stewardship Division  
Ministry of Environment  
April 2008

# Mind Map for a Conversation

- ❑ Convening for Action
- ❑ Design with Nature
- ❑ Regional Team Approach
- ❑ Connecting Dots

Convening for Action in British Columbia



**Beyond the Guidebook 2010:  
Implementing a New Culture for Urban  
Watershed Protection and Restoration  
In British Columbia**

June 2010



A decade ago we made a conscious decision to follow an educational rather than prescriptive path in BC.

We knew it would take time to change the practitioner culture.

Beyond the Guidebook 2010 is the story of what local governments are accomplishing on the ground.



# Convening for Action in BC:

Visualize What We Want Our Regions to Look Like in 50 years



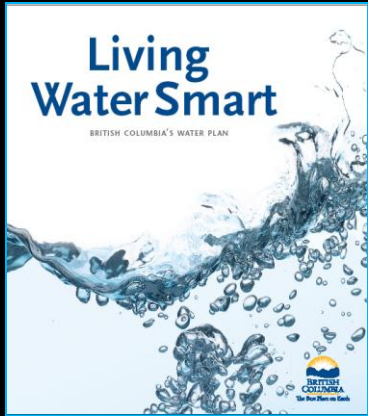
## *Create a Legacy: Settlement Change in Balance with Ecology*

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations*
- 2. Use the term “sustainability” as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices*

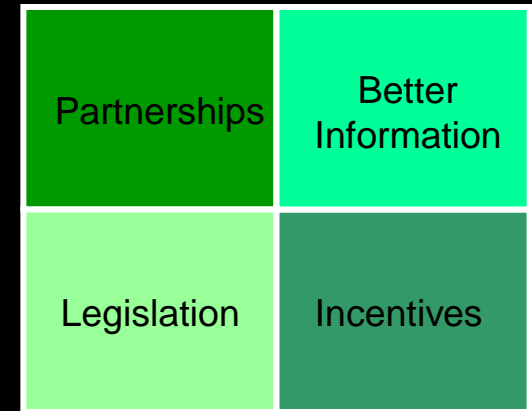
# When 'convening for action', we create a picture of the future that we want:

1. **Vision:** What the regions of BC will look like in 50 years *~WHAT~*
2. **Goal:** Implement the 'New Business As Usual' *~SO WHAT~*
3. **Strategy:** What we are going to do better or differently to get from here to there *~NOW WHAT~*





# A Call to Action



## Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan

and the **Green Communities Initiative** provide a vision of what the regions of our province can look like if local governments.....

- prepare communities for climate change,
- choose to be water smart, and
- strive to build greener communities



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



real estate  
foundation

BRITISH COLUMBIA



**BCWWA**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA WATER  
& WASTE ASSOCIATION

# Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC

- a partnership umbrella for *on-the-ground* initiatives that advance a '*water-centric*' approach to community development

Because *'everything is connected'*,  
the Action Plan focus is on the relationship  
between land and water

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Where and How Land is Developed  
Determines How Water is Used and  
How Water Runs Off the Land





# This is the “BC process” for moving from Awareness to Action

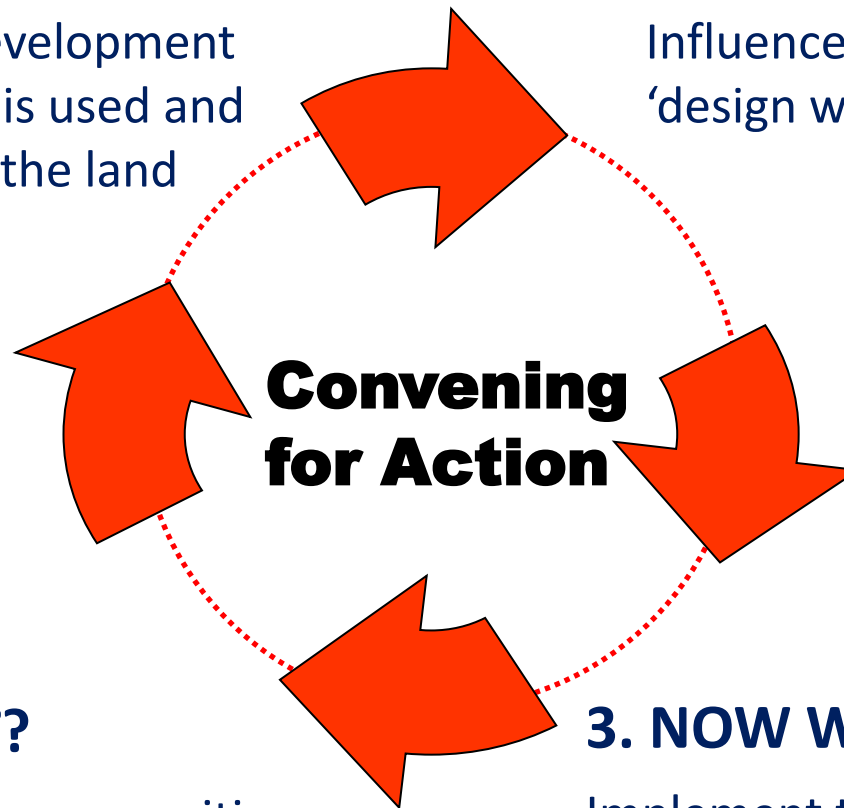
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## 1. WHAT is the issue?

The form of land development impacts how water is used and how water runs off the land

## 2. SO WHAT can be done?

Influence practitioners to ‘design with nature’



## 4. THEN WHAT?

Replicate in other communities

## 3. NOW WHAT can we do?

Implement the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

# In 2005, we chose the South Okanagan as the sub-regional pilot for 'Convening for Action'

- OUR VISION:  
Water-Centric Planning:  
A Guidebook for British Columbia
- South Okanagan  
Regional Growth Strategy
- Convening for Action  
in the South Okanagan
- Town of Oliver:  
Smart Growth on the Ground



# CAVI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island *Leadership in Water Sustainability*

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***Vancouver Island is the ‘Demonstration Region’***

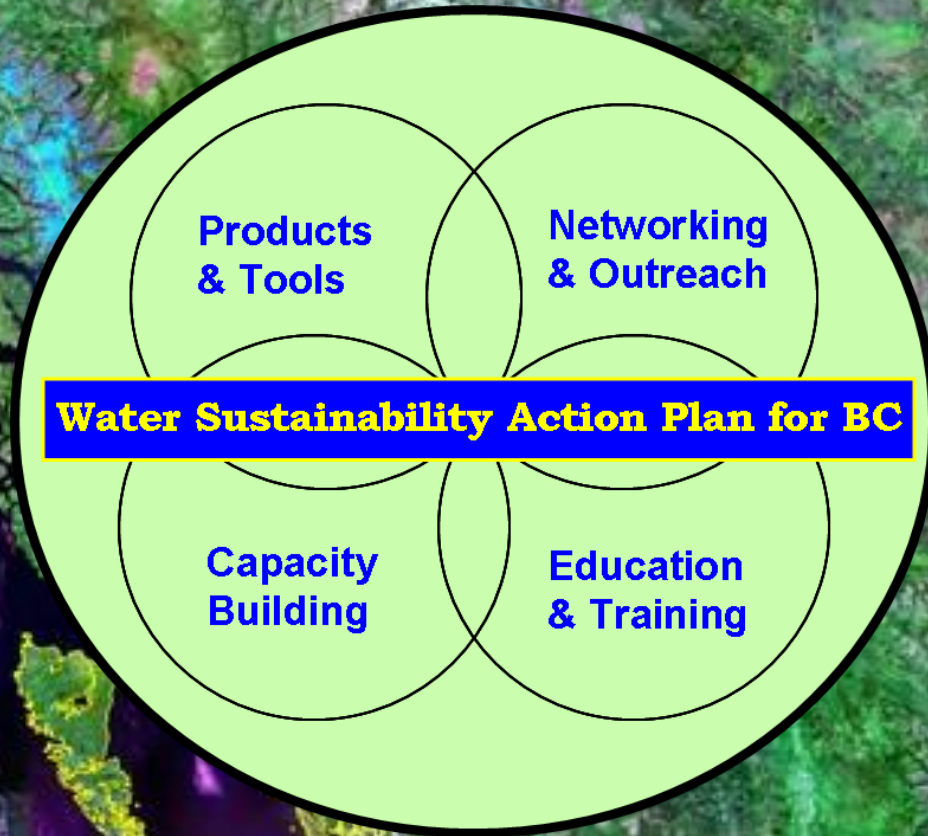
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***Comox Valley is Demonstrating the ‘Regional Team Approach’***



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**The approach is bottom-up:  
Change expectations and build practitioner capacity  
by providing education and tools**

# Collaboration, a 'Design with Nature' approach, and re-use of resources are keys to climate change adaptation

- Develop compact, complete communities
- Increase transportation options
- Re-use and recycle water, energy and nutrients from liquid wastes
- Protect and restore urban 'green' space
- Strive for a lighter 'hydrologic footprint'
- Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and marine environment protection





# An example of how an environmental ethic is taking root and influencing road drainage design



**Protecting Stream Health Starts at the Storm Drain Inlet: Streetscape Enhancement in West Vancouver:**



A photograph showing a person's hand pointing to a soil profile in a grassy field. The soil is dark brown and appears to be a topsoil layer. The person is wearing a watch and a ring. The background is a field of green grass.

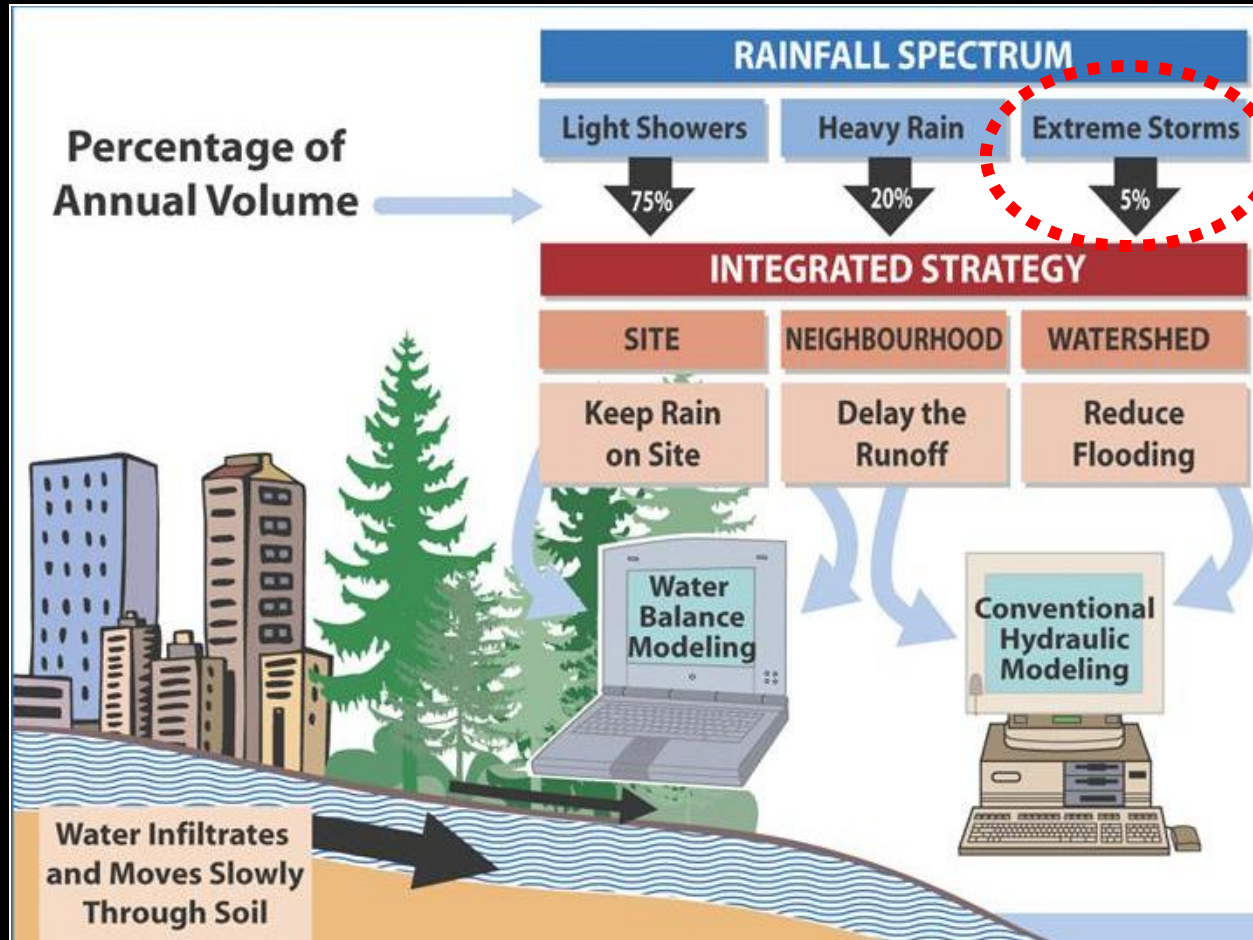
**Soil depth after land is developed for urban uses will have a bearing on....**

■ **How water is conserved**  
→ *sustainability of supply*

■ **How water runs off the land**  
→ *sustainability of aquatic habitat*



# Rainwater Management is at the heart of Green Infrastructure; and Water Sustainability will be achieved through Green Infrastructure policies and practices



Stormwater Management is narrow in scope





**A 'made in BC' tool is the  
web-based Water Balance Model...**

**This decision support tool demonstrates  
how to achieve a 'light hydrologic footprint'**





## Returning Users

Username

Password

[Log In!](#)

[Forgotten Your Password?](#)

[Help](#)

### Is this your first visit to the model?

You will have to register in order to create model scenarios. There is only one option during our public beta testing period:

1. Register a (free) "trial" account. As a trial account registrant you are free to access all model features, however your account and any scenarios you've created **will be deleted 7 days** from the time you register.

Following the end of the beta period, scenarios created by subscribers or members of subscribing groups will remain in the database permanently.

[Create a New Account](#)



# The Water Balance Model integrates the Site with the Watershed and the Stream...

to evaluate performance targets for greening the urban landscape and protecting watershed health

CANADA


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# FRESHWATER ECO-CENTRE

## The Action Plan provides neutral forums for advancing a 'regional team approach'

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- **The Province** - *those who provide legislative framework*
  - **Local Government** - *those who plan and regulate*
  - **Developers** - *those who build*
  - **Stewardship Sector** – *those who advocate for conservation*
  - **Agricultural Sector** – *those who grow food*
  - **Academia** - *those who provide research*

The 'regional team approach' is founded on partnerships and collaboration; and seeks to align actions at three scales – provincial, regional and local.



*“Everyone needs to agree on expectations and how all the players will work together, and after that each community can reach its goals in its own way.”*

Eric Bonham

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island

# The 'Regional Team Approach'.....

- Had its genesis in the **2008 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series**
- Was introduced to the Metro Vancouver region at the **2009 Surrey Water Balance Model Forum**
- Was showcased provincially at the **2009 Penticton Forum**
- Is embedded in the policy framework for Metro Vancouver's **Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan**
- Is being demonstrated as a way to collaborate and innovate under the **Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy** and the inter-municipal **Bowker Creek Blueprint** in the CRD





**These principles are key to the success of partnerships, collaboration, alignment, innovation and integration under a regional team approach...**

- **We seek a common vision**
- **We create learning and networking opportunities**
- **We focus on the relationship between land and water**
- **We promote sharing of ideas and experience**

# In May 2005, we convened a Consultation Workshop that resulted in 'Celebrating Green Infrastructure'



Because it is lonely being a champion, and everyone in local government is so busy, participants expressed a strong desire to pool resources and convene on-the-ground to share 'how to do it' experiences



# The goal in Showcasing Innovation is to build regional capacity ...



... by sharing green infrastructure approaches,  
experiences and lessons learned as an  
outcome of '*designing with nature*'.





**In 2007, there were parallel  
Showcasing Green Infrastructure  
Innovation series on Vancouver Island  
and in Metro Vancouver**

**The Showcasing Innovation Series  
resonated because it enabled local  
governments to tell their stories in a way  
that no other forum currently provides**



# Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island is building a practitioners network

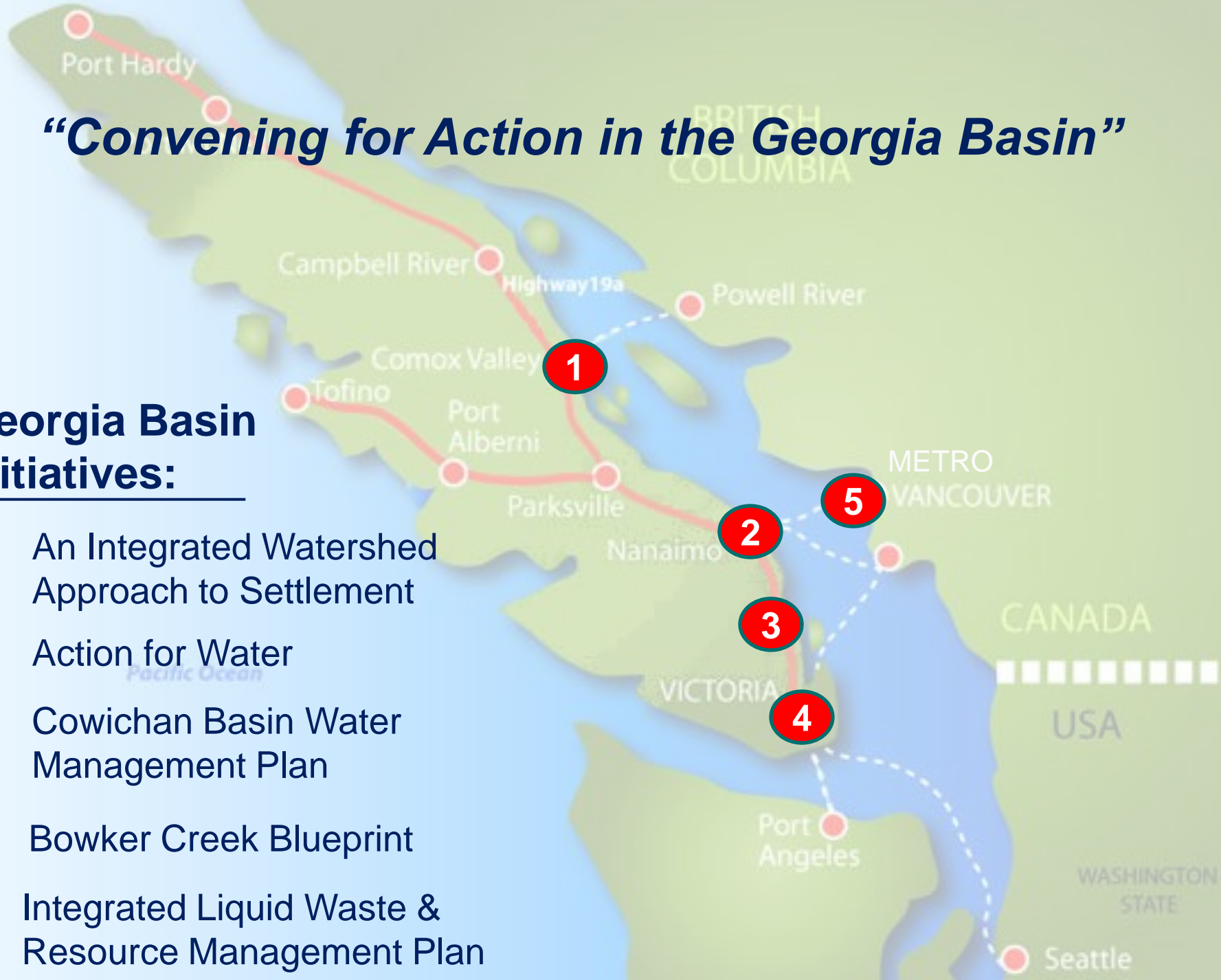
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- **Comox Valley**  
*Connecting to Sustainability*
- **Nanaimo Region**  
*Designing with Nature*
- **Cowichan Valley**  
*Partnerships & Collaboration –  
moving from Concept to Reality*
- **Capital Region**  
*Integration & Innovation at a Community Scale*

# *“Convening for Action in the Georgia Basin”*

## Georgia Basin Initiatives:

- 1** An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement
- 2** Action for Water
- 3** Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan
- 4** Bowker Creek Blueprint
- 5** Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan





# Mind Map for a Conversation

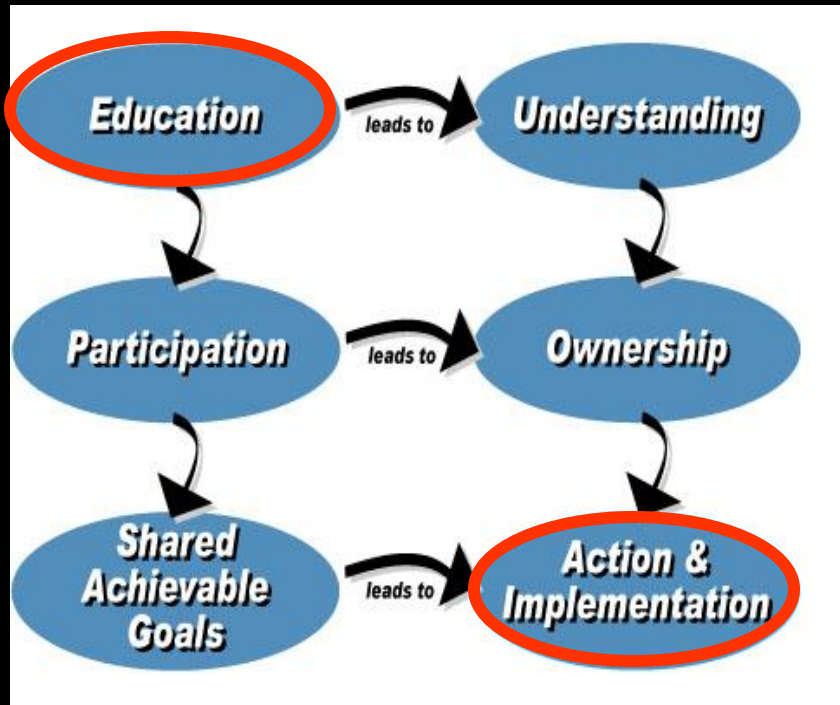
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# 'Convening for Action' experience shows that success will follow when local governments.....

1. **Choose to be enabled.**
2. Establish high expectations.
3. Embrace a shared vision.
4. Collaborate as a 'regional team'.
5. Align and integrate efforts.
6. Celebrate innovation.
7. Connect with community advocates.
8. **Develop local government talent.**
9. Promote shared responsibility.
10. Change the land ethic for the better.

# This is what needs to happen to achieve **integration** that leads to **action**

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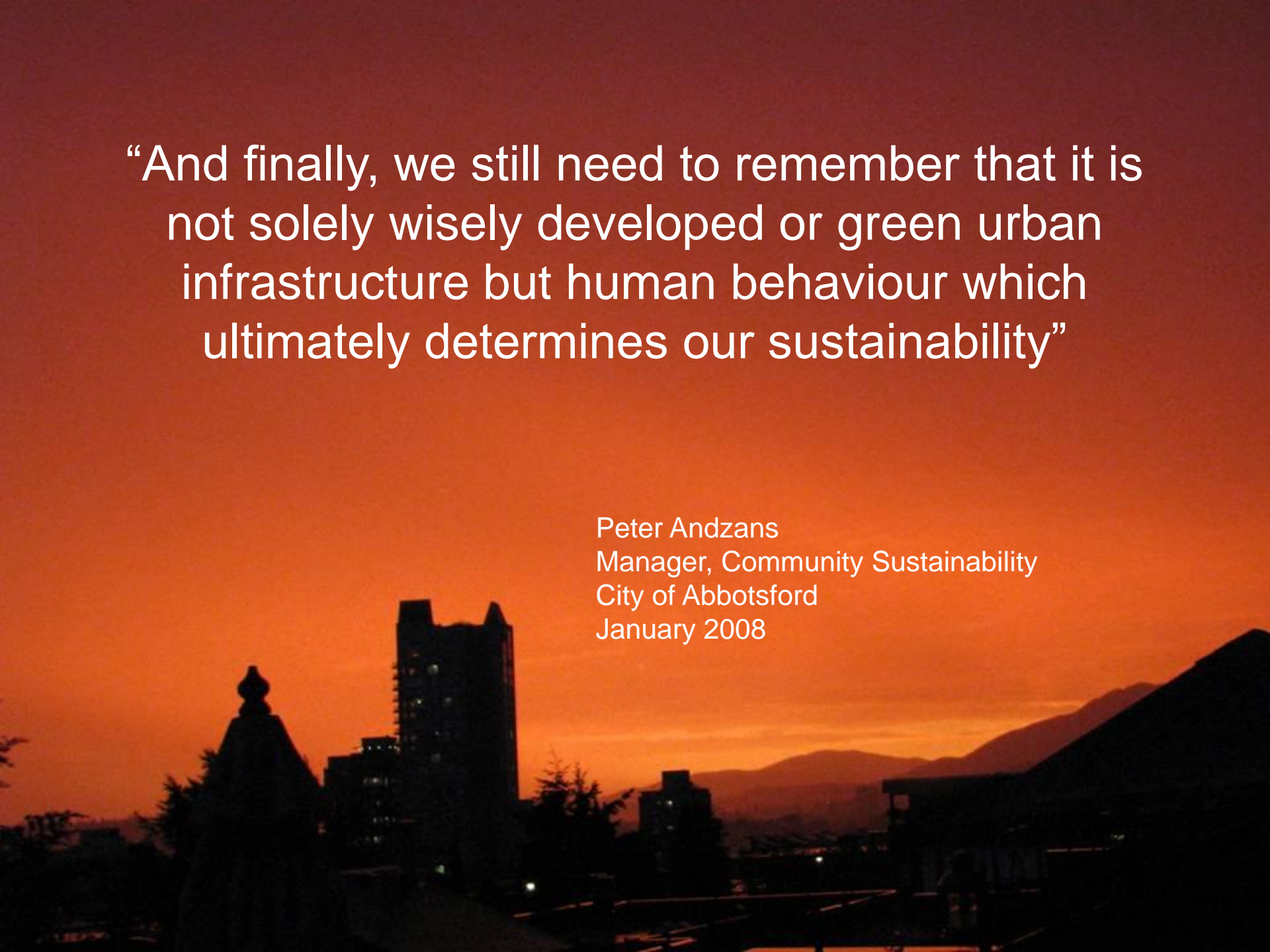


## Critical Success Factors:

- *Commitment* to take action & deliver
- *Champions* to provide energy & drive
- *Accountability* to deliver at all levels
- *Resources* to get the job done

*Inform, Educate & Inspire*



A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a deep orange-red, and the silhouettes of buildings and mountains are visible against the bright horizon. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

“And finally, we still need to remember that it is not solely wisely developed or green urban infrastructure but human behaviour which ultimately determines our sustainability”

Peter Andzans  
Manager, Community Sustainability  
City of Abbotsford  
January 2008