

# Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

## CAVI - CONVENING FOR ACTION ON VANCOUVER ISLAND:

Launched in 2006, and chaired by John Finnie (Regional District of Nanaimo), CAVI is a demonstration program in the local government setting. CAVI organizes “convening for action” forums, challenges Vancouver Island communities to visualize what they want to look like in 50 years, and is building leadership capacity to ‘design with nature’ to manage settlement change and adapt to climate change.

The **CAVI - Comox Valley Regional Team** is the provincial demonstration for a ‘regional team approach’ to *shared responsibility*. The regional team seeks to align actions at three scales – provincial, regional and local. Desired outcomes include consistency at front counters, and pooling of resources to do more with less.

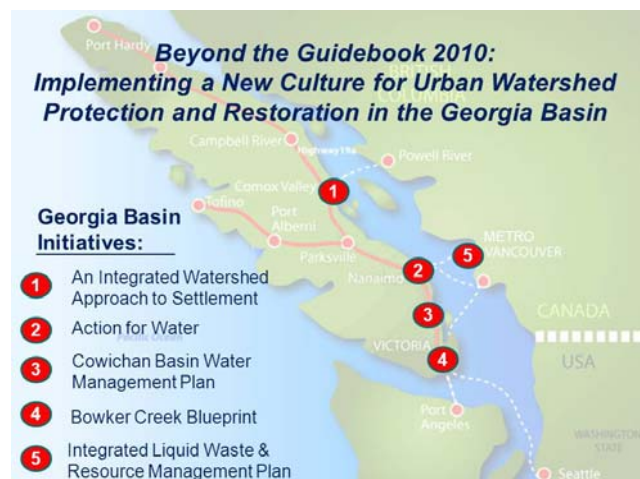


Everyone needs to agree on expectations and how all the players will work together; and after that each community can reach its goals in its own way. Support the learning environment necessary to explore and embrace innovation. Choose to be enabled!

CAVI has been effective in getting the message out about the need for a shared vision for Vancouver Island communities; and a consistent Island-wide approach to green infrastructure policies and practices.

In February 2010, the Bowker Creek Forum held at the University of Victoria drew attention to five watershed-based initiatives in five regional districts. All five are keyed to integration of water and land planning. Each one has established a provincial precedent.

Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver are learning from each other, and are moving in the same direction. Program elements implemented by CAVI have built on Metro Vancouver approaches. The Vancouver Island experience has since informed and influenced elements of the Metro Vancouver Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan, in particular those actions that will advance a *regional team approach*. For example, the Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series is seen as the model for an approach to team-building and integration that is desired in the Metro Vancouver region.



## TO LEARN MORE:

The CAVI story is told in [Beyond the Guidebook 2010: Implementing a New Culture for Urban Watershed Protection and Restoration in British Columbia](http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/403.pdf) --- Released in June, 'Beyond the Guidebook 2010' describes how a 'convening for action' philosophy has taken root in British Columbia. Bringing together local government practitioners in neutral forums has enabled implementers to collaborate as regional teams. Their action-oriented focus has resulted in 'how to do it' examples that help decision-makers visualize what 'design with nature' policy goals look like on the ground. To download, click on <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/403.pdf>

To download a copy of the 'CAVI brochure', click on [CAVI - Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Leadership in Water Sustainability](http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/89.pdf) OR <http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/sites/wbccfa/documents/media/89.pdf> >>