

## ***Oliver M Brandes BA(H), DipRNS, M.Econ, JD***

**Oliver M Brandes** joined the Centre for Global Studies' POLIS Project on Ecological Governance at the University of Victoria in 2002. He serves as Co-Director and leads the Water Sustainability Project where his work focuses on water sustainability, sound resource management, public policy development and ecologically based legal and institutional reform.

He is an economist and lawyer by training and a trans-disciplinarian by design, with a Master of Economics from Queens University and a Law Degree from the University of Victoria and has diplomas in ecological restoration and international relations. He was involved in various environmental and development projects in Costa Rica and Ecuador and has worked in Canada's north for the territorial judges at the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Oliver is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria in both the Faculty of Law and in the School of Public Administration. He is a founding member of the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) – where he is currently the co-chair – and BC's Convening for Action Vancouver Island (CAVI) Leadership Team and has affiliations at a number of Canadian Universities as an Adjunct at the University of Waterloo, a Research Associate at the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria and at Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre and a Faculty Associate at the University of Manitoba's Global Political Economy Program. In 2012 he co-developed and delivered BC's first Water Law course at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law.

He formally serves the BC Ministry of Environment advising on *Water Act* Modernization and is an advisor to the Council of the Federation Water Charter initiative and he serves on many boards and advisory committees that provides strategic water policy advice to all levels of government, as well as numerous national and regional non-government and funding organizations. In 2009, helped lead the writing of *Making the Most of the Water We Have: The Soft Path Approach to Water Management* which brought together the results of the first-ever international comprehensive water soft path study. Most recently he was the lead author of a comprehensive public policy book *A Blueprint for Watershed Governance in British Columbia*.

## ***About POLIS and the Water Sustainability Project***

The **POLIS Project on Ecological Governance** is a trans-disciplinary centre for research and action established in 2000 by the Eco-Research Chair of Environmental Law and Policy at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. It is located in the Centre for Global Studies and POLIS' mission is to cultivate ecological governance through innovative research, policy analysis and advocacy, legal reform, education, and community action.

POLIS' **Water Sustainability Project (WSP)** was launched in 2002 and conducts leading sustainable water management, law and governance research. Firmly focused on operationalizing water sustainability, WSP has developed the ideas of *Soft Path for Water* and *Watershed Governance*. As applied concepts, these guide water policy and practice in Canada through strategic legal and institutional reforms – seeking to embed stewardship and conservation in all aspects of decision making and practice. The primary intent of the project is to shift law, policy and governance away from extraction and toward maintaining, restoring and enhancing the ecological health of the watershed as a fundamental priority and the critical nexus of collective societal decisions.

Please visit [www.polisproject.org](http://www.polisproject.org) and [www.poliswaterproject.org](http://www.poliswaterproject.org) for more information.