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the Ring

The University of Victoria's Community Newspaper

March 2004 · Vol 30 · No 3

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The Ring is published at the University of Victoria by UVic Communications.


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Funding extended for water usage project

A UVic project aiming to increase the efficiency of Canada's urban water use will continue for a second year, thanks to a \$142,000 grant from the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation.

The project on urban water demand management, carried out through UVic's POLIS project on ecological governance, addresses the regulatory and policy reforms needed to improve on Canadians' record as being among the world's most wasteful water users.

In its first year, POLIS released two reports: *Flushing the Future: Examining Urban Water Use in Canada* and *What the Experts Think: Understanding Urban Water Demand Management in Canada*, which received widespread national media coverage.

"We're extremely grateful for this vote of confidence from the Gordon Foundation. It will allow us to continue our work and hopefully contribute to new policies and models that help shift Canada from simply searching out new sources of water to a demand management approach," says Dr. Michael M'Gonigle, the POLIS project eco-research chair.

Led by researchers Oliver Brandes and Keith Ferguson, the urban water demand management project will soon release its third report—a detailed policy agenda for federal, provincial and municipal governments. Further research will examine the broader relationship between urban centres and water, extending the examination to areas such as food and fuel products that come from water-intensive processes.

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