This edition brought to you by PRME Principle 5: Partnership

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Everybody’s business:
“For Mark, it’s not just for his company,” Dr. Uzay Damali told Gustavson undergrads on July 16, 2015. “His life is about sustainability.”

Uzay was introducing guest speaker and eco-preneur Mark Roch to fourth-year BCom students in Service Operations and Quality Management.

As the owner of Continuum Construction, Mark has structured his business so that he hires both qualified sub-trades as well as people who live on the street. Through training and offering the latter his support, he has helped two individuals (so far) to start and grow their own successful businesses too. A storage facility owner on Vancouver Island as well, he invests 10% of that firm’s profits into greening the property. A third company converts shipping containers into adaptable housing. Every business he creates is built on the three linked pillars of environment, society, and economics.

“Sustainability is just another word for efficiency,” he explained. “If you try to make something more efficient, you are making it more sustainable.”

But there’s more to it, he added.
“If you don’t stand up for your personal values,” he told students, “you’ll be off track with everything else.”

BC Hydro reaches Site C deal with First Nations band
The Crown Corporation has reached an agreement with the Saulteau First Nations band that could be a model for other groups currently battling the controversial hydroelectric project, according to the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions News Scan for July 16, 2015.

The dam project is projected to deliver low-carbon power to 450,000 homes annually upon completion. Financial details of the ‘impact benefits agreement’ reached on July 13 were not disclosed, but the cost is likely to be substantial for the public energy company, which will provide a lump-sum to the band along with annual payments, job and contract opportunities, and the transfer of Crown lands to compensate for what will be lost beneath the dam’s reservoir.

The power of education
Just letting people know about water restrictions was enough to get Vancouver, BC residents to cut a quarter of a billion litres - in one day.
Learn more in the VanCity Buzz of July 22, 2015.

Top ten risk governance areas for boards
This Conference Board of Canada webinar is led by lawyer Richard Leblanc, who will discuss ten key areas for boards in risk governance. He draws on lessons from his recent work with 20 board and regulatory reviews, involving alleged corruption, property destruction, sexual assault, and other risk failures.

Some highlights in this 60-minute webinar include:
• the role of the board in such issues as ethics and integrity monitoring;
• what leading boards are doing about cyber security, IT, safety and terrorism;
• red flags boards to look for with regards to reputation, brand and tone at the top.

This webinar is free to UVic employees.

Connecting some climate action dots
In 2007, BC set greenhouse gas reduction targets based on the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world’s foremost authority on the subject.
Since then, we have introduced North America’s first revenue-neutral carbon tax and achieved carbon neutral government every year since 2010.
In 2008, government launched the Climate Action Plan. A new Climate Leadership Plan will build on that work and move the province closer to its long-term goals.
So the government of BC is asking us to please read this Discussion Paper (only 16 pages of text) and then take the online survey.