

## **STRONG Sustainability, STRONG Professionals: Strengthening Graduate Learning**

**Tuesday November 17th, 2009**

12:15– 1:45pm.

Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory  
2202 Main Mall, Room 120

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School of Community and Regional Planning**

Frustrated by spin doctoring the concept of a *sustainability spectrum* was introduced by progressive advocates almost twenty years ago to distinguish between policy goals, strategies and outcomes that were relatively weak from those that were relatively strong. Today goals and strategies still cluster predominantly in the very weak to weak sustainability range and results fall frighteningly short of meeting escalating environmental, economic and social sustainability challenges. In this presentation I focus on stimulating discussion about how graduate educators and professional organizations might collaborate in nurturing stronger sustainability professionals who can contribute to greater progress. I draw on my experiences in graduate education and public service over four decades and as a member of three professional organizations - Canadian Institute of Planners, Canadian Water Resources Association, and the Association of Conflict Resolution - to suggest how the ideals of STRONG sustainability and STRONG professionals can reinforce each other and be central to a Strong Sustainability Academic Strategy (S2AS) for UBC.

After obtaining a MA in Economic Science from Aberdeen University and a MS in Regional Planning from Wisconsin University, Tony Dorcey came to UBC in 1971 as a founding member of the Westwater Research Centre. In 1982 he became a faculty member in the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) and later in the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES). His research and teaching have had three foci: (i) policies and institutional arrangements for natural resources planning and management with particular emphasis on water; (ii) negotiation and mediation in sustainability governance; and (iii) educating the planner for tomorrow. He was a member of the B.C. Round Table on Environment and Economy (1990-94) and inaugural Chair of the Fraser Basin Management Board (1992-94). During the late 1990s he was a facilitator/mediator for global multistakeholder dialogues of the World Commission on Dams and the World Bank's forestry policy. From 1999 to 2006 he was Director of SCARP. He was awarded the 2000 Professional Award by the BC Branch of the Canadian Water Resources Association and in 2007 was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

