

Vince Verlaan B.A., M.A.

Biography

Vince Verlaan excels in developing and implementing participatory tools and processes that greatly improve plans, projects, policies, and organizations. With equal experience in Canadian and international settings, he helps clients to develop “strong engagement” initiatives that link community, non-profit, academic, business and/or government actors.

Vince consults widely as a process designer, event facilitator, strategic planner, analyst, and/or project coordinator. Healthy communities, participatory governance, land use planning, social inclusion, and genuine sustainability are areas of professional focus.

Capacity-building with non-profit groups is another passion and skill set. Vince supports the engagement activities of Smart Growth BC in his role as a member of its Board of Directors, and does the same for the Genuine Progress Index-Pacific Society as its Executive Director.



Professional Experience

Wellspring Facilitation & Planning Inc.
Principal

Roberts Creek, BC
incorporated Dec. 2005

- *Real Estate Foundation of BC - Communities in Transition strategic planning workshop* 2006
- *Town of Gibsons - Multi stakeholder facilitation re Brothers Park future uses* 2006
- *SFU Centre for Dialogue - “Strong Engagement Works Wonders” training event* 2006
- *UBC Centre for Intercultural Communication - Open Space workshop* 2006
- *Denman Island North Lands - meeting community concerns in a land use & restoration process* 2006
- *World Planner’s Congress - “Participation in an Age of Sustainability and SmartGrowth”* 2006
- *Coquitlam Inn Redevelopment - Community Concerns & Engagement Process* 2006
- *World Urban Forum - SPARC BC’s Global Dialogue on Accessible Urban Space* 2006
- *City of Kelowna - Citizen’s Forum on Achieving Sustainability for the Central Okanagan* 2006
- *BC Academic Health Council - Aboriginal Health Providers Education Summit: Action Now!* 2006
- *Building Bridges to Rwanda - Organizational Development and Strategic Planning* 2006
- *Impacts on Community Coalition - Organizational Development and Strategic Planning* 2006
- *Interior Health Authority - Operationalizing Population Health in Health Authorities workshop* 2006
- *Smart Growth Canada Network - online discussion of curriculum development* 2006
- *Sunshine Coast - “Sustainable Water Supply for All” multi-stakeholder forum* 2006
- *Yukon First Nations Comprehensive Community Planning conference, Whitehorse* 2006
- *Roberts Creek Cohousing Group - Community Values Workshop* 2006
- *Town of Gibsons - Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Area Plan* 2005-2006
- *Impacts on Community Coalition - The 2020 Healthy Communities Forum* 2005-2006
- *R-Vu Urban Observatory for Sustainability, Simon Fraser University* 2005-2006

Populi Policy Projects
Principal

Vancouver, BC
1995-2005

- *Dialogue Methodologies Showcase - SFU Harbour Centre* 2005
- *Market Mechanisms for a Super-Sustainable BC, SFU - World Café facilitator* 2005



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Professional Experience continued:

- *Shifting Course for Sustainability dialogues - Interview Matrix* 2005
- *The Learning City, Great Northern Way campus - Table facilitator* 2005
- *Vancouver Planning Commission, Neighbourhood Engagement - Open Space* 2004
- *Genuine Progress Index-Pacific Society, strategic planning - Open Space* 2004
- *St. John's Residential College, Universities and Global Citizenship - Open Space* 2004
- *Department of Family Practice, Medicine, UBC - Open Space on Communications and IT* 2004
- *Canadian Community Service Learning Network - Open Space* 2004
- *School of Community and Regional Planning, UBC - graduate course, Open Space* 2002-2004
- *Lear Property Development, Strathcona site - community consultation* 2004
- *City of Kelowna, engagement strategy for Traffic Demand Management* 2004
- *Maples Treatment Centre, "Emerging youth mental health strategies" forum* 2004
- *Raleigh International Mongolia - Youth and Community Development manual* 2001
- *Haven Family Services Society - community services proposal development* 1998
- *Marine Institute International, Memorial University - Palawan Fisheries* 1995-1996

Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia Vancouver, BC
Program Manager, Community Engagement 2002-current
Develop links with underserved populations and health authorities; support needs assessment by UBC Interprofessional clinic; develop community-based projects; integrate service-learning into curricula; develop new Community portfolio; co-chair the working group on "Special Populations"; contribute to UBC's Global Citizenship agenda.

Gonzaga Foundation Vancouver, BC
Executive Director 2001-2005
Launch and manage a charitable foundation promoting the use of "attachment" models to improve youth and family mental health services delivered in community settings.

Centre for Human Settlements, SCARP, University of British Columbia Vancouver, BC
Project Manager 1998-2002
"University Partnerships for Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam: Building Capacity for Participatory Project Planning and Policy Assessment". Plan the project, manage human and financial resources, oversee implementation, reporting. Support 200+ students, academics, and policymakers in CIDA-funded \$10 million capacity-building and social action project.

British Columbia Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre New Westminster, BC
Executive Director (locum) mid-1998

Asian Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia Vancouver, BC
Research Associate 1993-1998

- *Program Manager and Fisheries Director, "Vietnam-Canada Ocean-Coastal Cooperation"*
- *Social Impacts Coordinator for CIDA's "Asia - Pacific Ocean Cooperation Program"*

Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, Ministry of Health Burnaby, BC
Program and Policy Researcher 1990-1992
Childcare Counsellor 1988-1990



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Volunteer Experience

- *Panelist, Review of Governance Principles and Citizen Advisory Bodies, City of Vancouver* Spring 2006
- *Executive Director, Genuine Progress Index - Pacific Society* 2003-current
- *Board Member, Smart Growth British Columbia* 2005-current
- *Board Member, Global Reach Organization* 2005-current
- *Board Member, Building Bridges to Rwanda* 2005-current
- *Contributor to the East Fraserlands Rezoning Policy Statement* 2003-2004
- *Co-Chair, Everett Crowley Park Stewardship Committee* 1995-2004
- *Management Representative, UBC Sustainability Committee* 2000-2002
- *Facilitator, Asia-Pacific Environment Seminars, Capilano College* 1997-1998
- *Vice-President, Champlain Heights Community Association* 1996-1998
- *Life skills and role-modeling with "at-risk" child in the PLEA program* 1987-1988

Formal Education

- *Master of Arts Criminology, Simon Fraser University* 1988-1991
- *Bachelor of Arts Sociology; Criminology, Simon Fraser University* 1984-1988

Awards

- *Contributor to the Everett Crowley Park Management Plan, BC Parks & Recreation award winner* 2006
- *Volunteer of the Year, Park Partners program, City of Vancouver* 2004
- *Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award, City of Vancouver* 2001
- *President's Entrance Scholarship, Simon Fraser University* 1984

Facilitation Methods Training

- *The Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations - Bowen Island* 2005
- *Non-Violent Communication - Raj Gill, Centre for Non-Violent Communication* 2005
- *Creating a Culture of Generative Dialogue - Langara College* 2005
- *Skills for Leading Dialogue - Centre for Dialogue, SFU* 2004
- *Public Deliberation in an Adversarial World - John Forrester, SFU* 2003
- *Putting Dialogue into Public Consultation - Centre for Dialogue, SFU* 2003
- *Group Facilitation - Institute of Cultural Affairs* 2003
- *Open Space Technology - Facilitator Training, ChrisCorrigan.com* 2002
- *Experiential Learning for Global Education - Red Cross BC* 2002
- *Community Development Intensive - Vancouver Community College* 1998

Organizational Development Training

- *Stakeholder Engagement - Collaborative Learning and Innovation group, SFU* 2005
- *Creating Effective Corporate Partnerships - VanCity Community Foundation* 2005
- *Leading the Board to Lead the Non-Profit Society - Volunteer Vancouver* 2005
- *Financial Sustainability Strategies - VanCity Community Foundation* 2005
- *Team Leadership - Institute of Cultural Affairs* 2004
- *Foundations of Intercultural Communications - Continuing Studies, UBC* 2004
- *Financial Planning and Fundraising Techniques - Volunteer Vancouver* 2003
- *Board Member Bootcamp - Volunteer Vancouver* 2002



Workshops and Presentations Given

- V. Verlaan, 2006. "Building a Foundation of Community Engagement". Skill-building workshop, First Nations Comprehensive Community Planning Conference; Whitehorse.
- V. Verlaan, 2006. "Using the Genuine Progress Index for Community Development: Measuring What Matters". Lighthouse Learning Network public event, Roberts Creek.
- V. Verlaan, Dr. B. Calam, Dr. P. Granger, Dr. P. Boston, G. Fish, and A. Morgan, 2005. "Building a Foundation for Community Engagement at the UBC Faculty of Medicine". Panel at the "Where's the Patient Voice in Health Profession Education?" conference, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan, K. Ahamad, and K. MacDonald, 2005. "Creating a Community Advisory Board for a Core Course in Undergraduate Medical Education: the Why, the What, and the How". Poster presentation at the "Where's the Patient Voice in Health Profession Education?" conference, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan, 2005. "Using the Genuine Progress Index to Stimulate and Measure Social Enterprise Success". Interactive workshop at "Capital Change: New Return on Investment" event, Abbotsford.
- V. Verlaan and J. Sands, 2005. "Using the Genuine Progress Index to Measure the Social Economy". Interactive workshop at the Langara Summer School on Community Building, Vancouver.
- V. Verlaan, Dr. J. Frankish, and Dr. M. Fryer, 2005. "Implementing Community-Service Learning in Health Professions Education". Panel presentation at the "Canadian Association for Community Service Learning" conference, UBC Robson Square, Vancouver.
- V. Verlaan, M. Fryer, S. Dharamsi, and F. Magee, 2005. "Assessing Student Learning Outcomes: The Doctor, Patient, Society course and Community Service-Learning". Presentation to the quarterly meeting of the Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan and E. De Castro, 2002. "Capacity Building in Participatory Planning: Lessons for Canadian Universities from CIDA-funded projects in Vietnam and Brazil". Presentation at the Participatory Development for Global Action and Change conference, University of Guelph.
- V. Verlaan and S. Lloyd, 2002. "Healing the Land and Ourselves: the Everett Crowley Park Committee". Presentation at the Environmental Studies of Canada conference, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan and R. Woollard, 2001. "Engaging government, local people and academics in Community Profiling". Training course and guidelines for curricula development. Hue, Vietnam.
- V. Verlaan and S. Scott. 2001. "Student Involvement in Participatory Action Research Projects: Capacity Building." Paper at the Inquiry-Based Learning Conference, University of British Columbia, May 14-15.
- S. Scott and V. Verlaan. 2001. "University Roles and Research Partnerships through the Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam Program: A Reflexive View." Paper at the Inter-disciplinarity: Greater than the Sum of the Parts, Independent Interdisciplinary Studies Symposium, University of British Columbia.
- S. Scott and V. Verlaan. 2000. "Riding on Horseback to Look at the Flowers: Towards an Indigenization of Participatory Development Approaches in a Collaborative Vietnam-Canada Program." Paper presented at the Building Bridges Interdisciplinary Studies Symposium, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan. 2000. "North-South Dialogue using Participatory Action Research". Canadian Association of Planning Schools Conference, Planning a Sustainable Millennium, UBC.
- V. Verlaan, S. Scott, L. Angeles, J. Trang. 1999. "Dialogue on Participation: Experiences and Dilemmas in the Localized Poverty Reduction in Vietnam Program". Panel presentation at the Joint NWRCEAS-CCSEAS Conference, University of British Columbia.
- V. Verlaan, M. Norman, and S. Lloyd. 1998. "Community Development through Park Stewardship: the case of the Everett Crowley Park Committee". Panel presentation at the Western Association of Sociology and Anthropology conference, Vancouver.



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