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Wellspring Facilitation & Planning Inc.

Vince Verlaan, Principal

Nurturing meaningful conversations that lead to joint action and collaborative relationships is at the centre of Wellspring’s facilitation approach.

A variety of powerful techniques can be adapted to the unique situations facing clients and communities, resulting in less conflict, more buy-in, and more “win-wins”. Health, sustainability, participatory governance and social equity are major focus areas.

Wellspring projects demonstrate that citizens and local communities are best able to define, analyze and prioritize their own needs and capacities. Creative and rewarding collaboration with government, business and/or academics on those priorities is the best way to generate effective learning and action that benefits all partners.

Accordingly, methods of engagement, facilitation and implementation are co-created with Wellspring clients and event attendees to uncover and use different perspectives on complex issues. We then channel that energy productively to create new initiatives and to build capacity for ongoing collaboration.



Key Personnel

Vince Verlaan, B.A., M.A., Principal

As a facilitator, Vince works with clients to jointly design powerful public events using “hosting principles”, which help to open space for dialogue, creativity and responsibility to emerge. Vince has developed multi-player collaborative projects in all of his professional positions, as well as in extensive volunteer efforts and a decade-long consulting career. An experienced public speaker and project leader in participatory governance and community development in Canada and internationally, he has won awards for park stewardship in Vancouver and has helped organize Earth Day Vancouver since 2001. Vince is currently serving on the City of Vancouver’s blue-ribbon “Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities of Citizen Advisory Panels” review committee, is assisting the planning of a 6-country forum on Global Citizenship for the University of British Columbia, and has developed a workshop on “Essentials of Community Engagement” for a First Nations Community Planning Workshop in Whitehorse.

Recent Projects

Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan, Town of Gibsons, BC: Vince Verlaan is working with the Holland Barrs Planning Group as the community engagement facilitator for a highly-valued greenfield site located in the Town of Gibsons. The public engagement process has to date included a community mapping exercise that attracted over 80 participants and will include a community visioning process and multi-stakeholder design charrette. See www.gibsons.ca/gospelrock for further details on how technical work, community engagement and Smart Growth principles are being combined to produce a cutting-edge plan for a sensitive site.

Reference:
Chris Marshall
Director of Planning,
Town of Gibsons, BC
T: 604-886-2274
E: chrismarshall@gibsons.ca



Recent Projects continued:

Project 2020 - Indicators for Healthy Communities/Healthy Olympics

Vince Verlaan was lead facilitator and planner for a January 27, 2006 forum attended by 90 people, funded by the “Impacts on Community Coalition” non-profit society and the Vancouver Olympic Games Organizing Committee. Using a mix of expert panels and World Café group work, the event generated a detailed workplan for a seven-year action-research project. The 2020 project will use community-selected indicators to monitor the sustainability and social equity impacts of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the Vancouver region.

Reference:

Dr. Rob
VanWynsberghe
Professor, School of
Environment and
Sustainability, Royal
Roads University.
T. 250 391-2600 x4785;
E.rob.vanwynsberghe
@ royalroads.ca

Sunshine Coast Water Summit - Sustaining a Healthy Water Supply

More than 100 technical experts, government officials, and local stakeholders will examine regional water quality issues and create a detailed action plan in a forum funded by the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation. As lead planner, Vince Verlaan has clarified project objectives and designed a mix of plenary presentations and breakout sessions organized around 4 sub-topics with action-planning in each session.

Reference:

Dr. Michael Jackson,
Director, Ruby Lake
Lagoon Nature
Reserve society.
T. 604 883 9853
E. m.jackson@
acroloxus.com

Comprehensive Community Planning for First Nations - workshop

Vince was a guest speaker and facilitator on “Foundations for Community Engagement” in CCP activities at an event in Feb 2006 in Whitehorse. This training event brought together INAC representatives with First Nations leaders from across the Yukon to jointly develop models for effective comprehensive planning with First Nations.

Reference:

Jeff Cook
Beringia Community
Planning, Whitehorse
T. 867 668 2340
E. jcook1@shaw.ca

Improving Neighbourhood Engagement in the City of Vancouver

This forum brought together a diverse set of 40 citizens and city staff in December 2004 to generate specific recommendations for increasing citizen and neighbourhood involvement in civic decision-making. Vince Verlaan lead the planning of the event, and used the Open Space Technology format to develop agreement on hi-value strategies, which lead to formal motions being put forward to city council.

Reference:

Robert Buller,
Manager
Vancouver Planning
Commission.
T. 604 873 7477
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vancouver_planning_
commission@city.
vancouver.bc.ca

Emerging youth mental health strategies: Applications in BC

This two-day event brought 185 mental health professionals, line workers, policymakers and academics together to discuss the state of clinical service models in BC, to discuss emerging models, and to identify promising strategies and next steps. Vince Verlaan planned and facilitated the September 2003 event at SFU Harbour Centre in support of the host organizations.

Reference:

Ken Moore, Director
Maples Treatment
Ctr., Ministry of
Health.
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