

REBECCA L. SUTHERNS, PhD

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INTRODUCTION

I am a facilitator who brings creativity and insight to group learning processes. I offer strong experience in strategic planning, alongside well-developed relational, communication and project management skills. I am a researcher and writer, skilled in applied, community-based research and policy analysis. I am also an active community volunteer and advocate. I have expertise in community development, health policy and administration, having worked in the voluntary and public sectors for the past 15 years.

RELEVANT CONSULTING CONTRACTS

Facilitator • Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health • Ongoing

- Facilitating community priority setting and policy development sessions as part of the Health Communities Partnership on behalf of the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport

Facilitator • County of Wellington • Ongoing

- Facilitating focus groups and conducting interviews with social service providers and clients as part of a research project on rural homelessness

Facilitator • Anglican Churches of Guelph • Ongoing

- Facilitating strategic conversations among multiple parishes regarding the future of Anglicanism in Guelph

Researcher • City of Guelph • Summer 2010

- Conducted community-based research in Guelph and provided strategic analysis to inform the City of Guelph's Special Events Funding Framework

Facilitator • Community Funders' Network, Guelph • Spring 2010

- Facilitated the initial sessions of an emerging network comprised of social service funding agencies in Guelph/Wellington, supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Guelph Community Foundation

Researcher and Writer • Mental Health Commission of Canada • Spring 2010

- Wrote and presented a commissioned paper on mental health and families/circles of support as part of a national strategy development process

Facilitator • University of Guelph, Centre for International Programs • Spring 2010

- Designed and facilitated a staff visioning and strategic planning session

Strategic Consultant • Eramosa Engineering Incorporated • Fall 2008 - 2010

- Planned and facilitated sessions to articulate corporate identity and values. Designed and facilitated customized courses in Presentation Skills and People Skills. Designed a multi-day experiential orientation program for new employees.

Facilitator • Ontario Trillium Foundation • Spring 2009

- Designed and facilitated a community roundtable for the voluntary sector in Guelph/Wellington.

Facilitator and Curriculum Designer • Canadian Parents for French – Upper Grand Chapter • Spring 2009

- Researched, designed and wrote workshops and facilitation guides for parents in Guelph/Wellington

Researcher and Writer • Centres of Excellence for Women's Health • 2002 – 2009

- Wrote several commissioned papers, a national study report and a multi-media communications kit. Topics have included mental health impacts of BSE on rural communities, reproductive health human resources in Canada, and rural and remote women's health policy. Reports can be accessed in the Resources section at www.pwhce.ca

Strategic Consultant • World Vision Canada • 1998 - 2009

- Successfully executed numerous strategic planning, writing, facilitation and executive coaching contracts for senior executives in the areas of Strategic Initiatives, National Programs, Public Affairs, Advocacy and Education and International Programs. Specific tasks have included executive coaching, design and facilitation of strategic planning sessions, evaluations, gender training, development of external requests for proposals, supervision of consultants and research on new programming initiatives.

Strategic Consultant • World Vision International • 2000 - 2009

- Conducted research, provided strategic planning and process design input and developed electronic curriculum on topics such as urbanization, food security, inclusion and transformational development.

Consultant • Action Read, Guelph • 2008

- Designed and facilitated strategic planning sessions for the Board of Directors, comprising a wide variety of stakeholders

Consultant • Habitat for Humanity, Waterloo Region • 2005

- Designed and facilitated strategic planning sessions for the Board of

Directors

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Fitness Instructor and Nutrition/Wellness Specialist • The Athletic Club

- September 2007 – Present

Instructor • University of Guelph • September 2007 – December 2007

- Developed and taught a fourth-year Sociology seminar entitled “Gender and Change in Rural Canada”

Co-Investigator • McMaster University • March 2003 – May 2005

- Worked with Dr. Ivy Lynn Bourgeault on project entitled “Restructuring and Rural and Remote Women’s Health,” funded by Status of Women Canada

Post-Doctoral Fellow • McMaster University • May 2003 – May 2005

- Research program explored sustainable models of maternity care and support in Canada, funded by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation
- Developed and taught “Social and Cultural Aspects of Reproduction” to Midwifery, Nursing, Health Studies and Women’s Studies students

Instructor • University of Western Ontario • September 2001 – April 2002

- Developed and taught two 200-level courses in the Sociology Department: “Sociology of Health and Illness” and “Sociology of the Health Care System”

Public Policy Officer • World Vision Canada • August 1995 - September 1997

- Designed and implemented the organization’s advocacy strategy, with the federal government and the public as the primary target audiences, working in both English and French. Specific campaigns included HIV/AIDS, land mines and child soldiers.

Program Officer, Eastern Africa • World Vision Canada • June 1992 - August 1995

- Responsible for training, monitoring, design and evaluation of Canadian government-funded community development programs in Eastern Africa

SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- **Board Member** • United Way of Guelph & Wellington • March 2009 – Present
- **Parent Volunteer** • Four schools in the Upper Grand District • 2001 - Present
- **Mentor, Trainer and Teacher** • Grace Community Church • 2008 – Present
- **Committee Member** • Social Planning, United Way of Guelph & Wellington • Present
- **Volunteer** • Habitat for Humanity, Wellington Chapter • Women Build 2010
- **Volunteer Facilitator** • Guelph/Wellington Food Roundtable • Present
- **Board Member** • East Wellington Family Health Team • 2006 – 2008
- **Board Member** • East Wellington Advisory Group for Community Services • 2005 - 2007
- **Community Health Centre Steering Committee Member** • Erin 2003-2005
- **Leadership Coach** • Erin Village Alliance Church 2002-2008
- **Strategic Planning Committee Chair** • Erin Village Alliance Church 2004/2005

FORMAL EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy • University of Guelph, Ontario • 2001

- Interdisciplinary doctoral program in Rural Studies with a focus on sustainable communities
- Research emphasizes on women's health policy; community building and social support. Dissertation entitled, "*Women's Experiences of Maternity Care in Rural Ontario: Do Doctors Matter*"
- List of academic awards available upon request

Doctor of Education Program in Adult Education • Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto • 1994 – 1997 (ABD)

- Completed doctoral-level course work, studying part-time within the Comparative, International and Development Education Program, including cross-cultural adult education, consulting and facilitation skills

Master of Public Administration • Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario • 1992

Honours Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and French) • Queen's University • 1991

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

- **Nutrition and Wellness Specialist** • Can-Fit-Pro
- **Fitness Instructor Specialist** • Ontario Fitness Council and Can-Fit-Pro
- **Skills for Innovation** • Eagle's Flight
- **Facilitation Skills** • Institute for Cultural Affairs
- **Presentation Skills** • Gilmore & Associates
- **Facilitator Training** • Innovation Associates
- **Public Policy Development** • Insight Research and the Globe and Mail
- **Gender Policy Implementation** • Canadian Council for International Cooperation
- **Program Planning and Design** • Ontario Africa Working Group

Bilingual in French and English

Publication list and references available upon request