

2887 – 212 Street
Langley, BC
V2Z 2E8

Home: (778) 277-2230
Cell: (780) 935-7200
bill.sutherland@beaconforchange.com

W.G.S. (Bill) Sutherland

Profile

A proven and acknowledged senior leader and strategic thinker who has been intimately involved with municipal issues, both urban and rural, for 10 years as Chief Commissioner for the Specialized Municipality of Strathcona County and since 2007 in working with municipalities as a strategic advisor, governance advisor and facilitator/mediator. Well known as an innovator who sees the big picture, builds relationships and gets things done. Believes in integrated, holistic approaches to creating sustainable communities and in the benefit of good inter-municipal and inter-governmental relationships. An award-winning and respected senior public servant who believes in the value of such service and wants to continue to contribute to the success of Municipal Governments.

Related Experience

Strategic Advisor and Municipal Team Leader (Sep 2007- Present)

As a strategic advisor, assists municipalities and other public and private sector organizations to develop strategic approaches to decision-making and governance as well as the internal capacity to accomplish them. Assists municipalities in developing mutually beneficial inter-municipal relationships, regional cooperative initiatives and self-determined approaches to collaboration. Assists and mentors elected and administrative officials to become better leaders and deal effectively with the issues confronting them.

Advises elected officials and senior administrations on effective municipal governance. Provides coaching to Councils, CAOs and senior administrations on organizational dynamics, effective leadership and productive decision-making in both urban and rural municipal contexts.

Mediates inter-municipal disputes and facilitates enhanced relationships between and among governments. Has worked with a number of urban and rural municipalities and at times, First Nations, to mediate/facilitate improved collaborative inter-municipal relationships and to help them think and act more strategically individually and collectively. This has involved bilateral as well as multi-lateral mediation/facilitation and invariably results in the creation of negotiation protocols that subsequently act as a foundation for improved relationships, inter-municipal operational and/or capital cost-sharing agreements, inter-municipal information-sharing and communications protocols and self-determined multi-jurisdictional/regional governance protocols.

Has been involved with the recovery of the Slave Lake Region as the Recovery's Strategic Governance Advisor since the wildfires of May 2011 that devastated that region. Also acts as a Strategic Advisor to municipalities and the Government of Alberta for the ongoing post-flood recovery of the 2013 flood damaged communities in Southern Alberta.

Chief Commissioner, Specialized Municipality of Strathcona County, Alberta (1997- 2007)

As Chief Commissioner was instrumental in creating an empowered and innovative corporate culture; introducing and applying a comprehensive strategic planning regime to municipal governance; establishing a corporate applied leadership development program; establishing a sustainable community development ethic and the enabling policy, planning and organizational framework to accomplish it. Also established good working relationships with both urban and rural municipalities; various Provincial Ministries; the private sector and civil society organizations.

Officer, Canadian Army (Prior to 1997)

Served in increasingly senior leadership positions for 28+ years in the Canadian Army as an officer with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Last two assignments were as Chief of Staff for the Army in Western Canada when the Army consolidated its operations in Edmonton and then as the Base Commander when Edmonton Garrison was turned into one of the Army's four super bases in Canada.

Recent Awards

2012 – Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for exceptional volunteer service.

2010 – Commissionaires Distinguished Service Medal (CDSM) for outstanding leadership and volunteer service in support of veterans.

2005 - The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal for "Exceptional achievement, distinctive leadership and outstanding contribution to public administration."

2002 - Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for volunteer service