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W.G.S. (Bill) Sutherland

Profile

An acknowledged and proven senior leader and strategic thinker who has been intimately involved with municipal issues, both urban and rural, as Chief Commissioner for the Specialized Municipality of Strathcona County and since 2007 in working with municipalities and inter-jurisdictional regions 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 intermunicipal and inter-governmental relationships. An award-winning and respected former senior public servant who believes in the value of such service and contributes to the success of Municipal, regional and Provincial Governments.

Related Experience

Strategic Advisor, Mediator, Facilitator (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 intermunicipal 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 intermunicipal 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 intermunicipal 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 improved relationships, intermunicipal operational and/or capital cost-sharing

agreements, Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) and self-determined approaches to multi-jurisdictional/regional governance.

Experienced in mediating/facilitating complex and large-scale intermunicipal annexations to assist the parties to move from confrontation to collaborative solutions.

Assisted in the recovery of the Slave Lake Region as the Recovery's Strategic Governance Advisor. Acted as a Strategic Advisor to municipalities and the Government of Alberta in the post-flood recovery phase of the 2013 Southern Alberta floods.

Recent Clients and References: City of Edmonton, Leduc County, City of Leduc, Edmonton Regional Airports Authority, Parkland County, City of Spruce Grove, City of Lloydminster, County of Vermilion River, Woodlands County, Town of Whitecourt, Mountain View County, Mountain View Seniors Housing, City of Pitt Meadows, Saddlehills County.

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. 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 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

2016 – Commissionaires Award of Merit for outstanding service.

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 distinguished volunteer service.