

## Michelle Laurie

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### Key Strengths

- ✓ Twelve years professional experience in communications & management for sustainable development
- ✓ Top ranked graduate of Masters in Environment and Development: The London School of Economics
- ✓ Outstanding interpersonal, networking and diplomatic skills
- ✓ Strategic thinker with experience facilitating collaborative teams and cross-cultural networks
- ✓ Proven ability to excel and oversee others in unpredictable, deadline-driven environments

### Consulting and Employment Summary

#### Columbia Basin Trust ([www.cbt.org](http://www.cbt.org))

May 2007-present

- Coordinating and monitoring a project to increase Basin residents' knowledge of the international transboundary Columbia River Treaty and potential for renewal. My role is to design, deliver and monitor a region-wide knowledge sharing and engagement process along with dozens of knowledge products. (Jan 2011-June 2012)
- Coordinator of complex regional climate change adaptation planning initiative resulting in five community adaptation plans and a learning network of twenty-two local governments (October 2007-May 2011), ongoing advising and project support (June 2011-May 2012)
- Facilitator for two regional symposiums: *Shaping our Future Together* (2010) and *Change and Sustainability in the Columbia Basin* (2007)
- Participatory meeting design and facilitation for water and environment consultants (April 2009)
- Canadian Columbia River Forum organizational study and Forum reporting (2007&2008)
- Communications source book for CBT staff, board members and partners to communicate the essence of the Water Initiatives Strategy and related interventions taken by the organization (October 2007)

#### International Institute for Sustainable Development ([www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org))

June 2007-2012

- Writing on knowledge management including contributor to international paper on learning and knowledge sharing for local ecosystem development initiatives (IISD in collaboration with IIED and UNDP) and two IISD papers in development including co-authoring communities of practice paper and editor of network evaluation paper (to be published June 15, 2012).
- Consultant to the *Asian Development Bank (ADB)* to design guidelines for knowledge partnerships.
- Consultant to *United Nations Development Program*, Energy and Environment unit, New York (USA), to develop an online community for collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Consultant to the *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* based in Rome to evaluate a knowledge network they coordinate in West Africa. Field work in Senegal, Ghana and Benin
- Consultant to the *International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD)* based in London (UK) to contribute to a capacity assessment of their global transportation network. Focus on Asia and West and Central Africa with field work in Vietnam

#### Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

November 2011-February 2012

- Development of a detailed workplan and funding proposal template for undertaking a community values study to contribute to a future Lake Management Plan

#### Kootenay Association for Science and Technology

January-February 2012

- Design and facilitation of "Techtopia" a 1-day event for digital media and IT professionals in the Kootenays (using Open Space Technology and graphic facilitation methods)

#### Engineers Canada

January-November 2011

- Secretariat (including all logistics, agenda development, engagement and reporting) for climate change adaptation and mitigation of infrastructure special session at the World Engineers' Convention, September 2011 (Geneva, Switzerland), on behalf of the *World Federation of Engineering Organization Committee on Engineering and the Environment*

- Evalnet (South African Evaluation Consultancy)** November 2010, April-November 2011
- Technical assistance and online survey for external evaluation of *African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)*
  - Research on development organizations' use of evaluation impact assessments and methods
  - Chapter syntheses for book on Agriculture and Education in Africa (to be published 2011)
- Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative** November 2011
- Design and facilitation of a member session in November on strategic planning for youth
- ThinkBright** March 2011
- Design of interactive planning session for local governments on implementing water conservation in communities
- BC Hydro** November 2010
- Design and facilitation of public meeting for a boat launch on the Arrow Lakes reservoir.
- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program ([www.fwcp.ca](http://www.fwcp.ca))** October 2010
- Design and facilitation support for a scoping meeting on regional conservation
- District of Saanich & City of Nelson, B.C., Canada** January-October 2010
- Process advisor on development of a climate change adaptation plan for the *District of Saanich, B.C.* (sub-consultant to Stantec).
  - Local facilitator for *City of Nelson's* Sustainability Strategy development (sub-consultant to Stantec).
- Function d'Eva ([www.functiondeva.com](http://www.functiondeva.com))** July 2010
- Design of knowledge sharing fair for Columbia Basin Trust 2010 Symposium
- Teck Metals Ltd ([www.teck.com](http://www.teck.com))** July 2008-March 2009
- Knowledge management consultant in the Applied Research & Technology centre.
  - Design and implementation of six-month collaboration and knowledge sharing project
  - Advice on improving internal Communities of Practice
- First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group** February-March 2009
- Participatory design and facilitation of two-day Best Practices Forum (Vancouver, B.C.)
- Effective Communications and Facilitation Training** September 2007-ongoing
- Development and delivery of practical workshops and seminars focused on improving knowledge sharing, collaboration and networking for improved outcomes in our work
  - Techniques and tools using online collaboration tools (Web 2.0) and face to face formats including storytelling, effective participatory meetings, visual thinking, graphic facilitation and more.
  - Clients include Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, Alberta Ministry of Agriculture, Canadian Water Network, Teck, Geosoft, as well as individual participants from across Canada and the United States.
- FORREX ([www.forrex.org](http://www.forrex.org))** July-November 2007
- Design, delivery and reporting of a Southern Interior (British Columbia, Canada) watershed management needs assessment.
- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme, Environment Canada** April 2007
- Development of overall communications and network strategy for eight arctic countries collaborating to become the leading authority on arctic biodiversity knowledge.
  - Development of newsletter concept and IT/web strategy.
- Knowledge Management & Communications Officer** Geneva, Switzerland  
Forest Programme – International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Sept 2003-March 2007
- Designed and implemented first knowledge management and communications strategy
  - Developed and facilitated a system for remote collaboration and built capacity of the network to increase communications, knowledge sharing and learning
  - Fundraising including member of team which secured €16 million grant for rural poverty reduction
  - Comprehensive assessment of policy learning in small grants and design of decision support framework to increase learning from interventions (field work in West Africa and Southeast Asia)

- Managed strategic communications for the Health, Poverty and Conservation theme at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok (6000 participants) including press events, workshops and production of thematic film
- Developed, managed and contributed to several IUCN publications including books, two films, CD-ROMs, brochures, posters and websites on the topics of forest conservation and climate change
- Managing editor for the joint WWF/IUCN Forest newsletter published three times a year with a readership of 20,000 conservation and development professionals
- Conducted various other tasks: programme planning, project management, building networks, events and workshops, media relations, press releases, publishing, writing, editing, budgeting and reporting

**Member of Canada's Youth Summit Team**

United Nation's Association - Canada

Ottawa, Canada

March 2001-December 2002

- Two-year volunteer commitment to engage and coordinate Canada's youth input into the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 (provincial representative Ontario)
- Contributed to policy documents, position papers, guidebooks and public relations materials
- Organized and facilitated community and provincial level workshops, presentations, consultations
- Created and fostered national youth network on sustainable development
- Worked effectively in a remote team across Canada and Internationally

**Manager: Magazine Circulation, Corporate Social Responsibility, New Business Development**

Passion Inc.

Toronto, Canada

November 2000–September 2002

- Designed, marketed and implemented a new distribution strategy for *jobpostings* magazine, circulation of over one million across North America
- Author of monthly column on environmental careers in traditional employment sectors
- Creation and implementation of an environmental and social strategy including greening new office space, reducing paper impact, community relations and increasing employee satisfaction
- Project coordinator for new business development which contributed to *Profit Magazine* ranking Passion Inc as the 29th fastest growing company in Canada in 2003

**Various Field Postings**

NGO, Research, Government based work

Remote Canadian Locations & Developing Countries

1999-2002

- Rural community development and volunteer management, Amazon Jungle, Guyana, South America
- Alternative energy assessments and implementation (micro-hydro electricity) in Ecuador and Bolivia
- Data collection and research in Costa Rica and the Canadian High Arctic for GIS and mapping applications on land use cover change and climate change
- Meteorological station set-up and monitoring of mass-balance on Peyto Glacier, Canadian Rockies

<b>Education and Awards</b>
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**Art of Hosting Water Dialogues (2012)**

- 3-day participatory facilitation training focused on hosting conversations on water

**That Creative Space: An Intermediate Course on Graphic Facilitation (2011-2012)**

- Six-month online course with Alphachimp University, USA

**Graphic Facilitation, Michelle Laurie Consulting (2010)**

- Annual workshop co-host and participant (2010) of 2.5 day training course in B.C.

**The Alchemy of Group Facilitation, Hollyhock Leadership Institute (2008)**

- 3-day facilitation training course in Vancouver, B.C.

**Accredited Practitioner, Cognitive Edge (2007)**

- Cognitive Edge is an open source, global consultancy focused on methods and tools to assist organizations with complex problems and opportunities, [www.cognitive-edge.com](http://www.cognitive-edge.com)

**Masters of Science, Environment and Development, Graduated with Distinction (2003)**

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, U.K.

- Dissertation: *Participatory Projects: Toward Empowerment and Collective Action?*

- Other research topics: *Institutions, Governance, Political Ecology, Poverty and Natural Resources, Livelihood Security, Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment.*

### **Young Canadian Leaders for a Sustainable Future (2003)**

Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

- Foreign placement: Geneva, Switzerland

### **Bachelor of Science, Major in Geography, Graduated with Distinction (1999)**

University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

- A cross-section of courses were taken from both human and physical geography.

### **National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) (1999)**

- Undergraduate Summer Research Award, High Arctic, Canada

<b>Select Publications</b>
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- Asian Development Bank (2011) *Guidelines for Knowledge Partnerships*, co-author
- Cohen et al (2010) *Shared Learning on Adapting to Climate Change: Experiences from Columbia Basin Trust*. Poster presentation at 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference, Gold Coast Australia
- Numerous Columbia Basin Trust print and audio-visual publications (2008-2011) (available upon request)
- Laurie, M. (2009) *Toward Empowerment and Collective Action: Canada's Youth Summit Team* in *Young People, Education and Sustainable Development: Principles, Perspectives, and Praxis*, ed. Corcoran and Osano, Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- Fisher et al (2008) *Linking Conservation and Poverty Reduction: Landscapes, People and Power (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, Earthscan, London.
- Redding, T., S. Lepsoe, and M. Laurie (2008) *2007 Southern Interior needs assessment for watershed management*. Forrex Forest Research and Extension Partnership, Kamloops, B.C, File Report No. 08-02. <http://www.forrex.org/publications/other/FileReports/fr08-02.pdf>
- Laurie, M. (2007) Blogs: Lessons from a Rookie, *KM4D Journal* 1(3), [www.km4dev.org/journal](http://www.km4dev.org/journal)
- Sayer et al (2005) *Forests in Landscapes: Ecosystem Approaches to Sustainability*, Earthscan, London.
- Numerous IUCN print, audio-visual and Internet publications (2004-2007) (available upon request).
- Monthly column in the magazine *jobpostings* (2001-2002). [www.jobpostings.net](http://www.jobpostings.net)
- McCulloch, M. et al (2000) *Life Cycle Value Assessment of a Wind Turbine, Alberta, Canada*. The Pembina Institute. Drayton Valley, Alberta, Canada.

<b>Interests and Activities</b>
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#### Volunteer Committees:

- 2012 West Kootenay Friends of Refugees, supporting two Burmese families coming to Canada
- 2010-2012 Dining for Women, Local Chapter and formalizing Canadian DfW ([www.diningforwomen.org](http://www.diningforwomen.org))
- 2007- present
  - IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, Specialty Group on Learning and Leadership
- 2009 International Day of Climate Action organizing committee (Rossland, BC) ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org))
- 2007-9 Organizer of *Green Drinks Rossland*, monthly environmental and social discussion series
- 2008 Red Mountain Resorts complexity project consultative group
- 2007 Sustainability Task Force for City of Rossland Sustainability Planning Process

#### Outdoor Leadership and Activities:

- 2004-2007, backcountry ski guide in the European Alps for Geneva mountaineering club
- Hobbies: backcountry ski touring, mountaineering, canoeing, biking, gardening and yoga

Languages: English mother tongue, speaking ability in French and Spanish