

## RESUME



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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Michelle is the Manager of the Technical Assistance Division with the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal (CCCR). Michelle has a varied background in education, the mental health field, theater and CED. She has been involved in entrepreneur development training and was for several years the general manager of a Community Futures Development Corporation on the west coast of B.C. Michelle has an extensive background in rural development projects and has been a key staff member in the development of the *Community Resilience Manual* that CCE has developed, a resource that is now being used in several parts of the world. Her skills as a facilitator and trainer are the basis for requests from diverse clients, ranging from Weyerhaeuser, where she facilitated their certification process in one region of B.C., to a range of resource based communities facing the challenges of adjusting to economic change.

## RECENT WORK

### **Current: Training for Transition workshop facilitator and Community Resilience research**

### **2006 - 2008: Co-manager and Facilitator, Development Wheel Project**

A three year applied research project designed to assess the impacts of a model (the Development Wheel Social Enterprise checklist) in strengthening social enterprise development in BC and francophone Ontario. Designed and delivered training and technical assistance to intermediary organizations.

### **2000- 2005: Facilitator, West Island Woodland Advisory Group**

Recruited by Weyerhaeuser to facilitate the development and ongoing efforts of a multi-stakeholder advisory group related to the CSA certification of TFL#44 on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Negotiate resolution to disagreements and build consensus. Provide analysis and support to the development of over 60 ecological, social and economic indicators to measure achievement of objectives and goals that reflect community interests.

### **2004/05: Management Review and Policy Development, several FN organizations**

2000-2003: *Workshops* delivered at various conferences on topics of Community Resilience, Comprehensive Community Planning, Using Indicators, Models for Collaboration, and related topics.

### **1998 - 2000; 2008 - present: Development of Community Resilience Manual**

Action research and documentation of indicators and a related community process that provide assessment and ranking of actions to strengthen the resilience, or ability to act, of rural, resource based communities. Community research lead and co-author. Worked with CBO's in Botswana to adapt and train facilitators in the model. Currently working on a revision that will strengthen the ecological aspects of the tool.

**1999: Organizational Review & Strategic Planning, Prince George Aboriginal Development Corporation**

Resulted in securing core funding for the organization.

**WORK EXPERIENCE****July 2000 - present: Manager, Technical Assistance Division; CCE**

Hired for my ability to meet the needs of a variety of clients, in a variety of settings, from corporate to rural marginalized groups and my project management skills. Have successfully worked with a number of First Nation and rural communities and organizations in order to increase their knowledge, skills or ability to respond to change proactively. Project examples available on request.

**March 1998 - 2000: Self-Employed as Transitions Training & Development****October 1997 - February 1998: Interchange Agreement with Western Economic Diversification (WED)**

Recruited for short-term placement in WED headquarters in Edmonton, Alberta. Worked under the Sr. Policy Analyst with responsibility for federal programs and services delivered by Western Canada Business Service Network member organizations. Developed program evaluations and new program guidelines.

**November 1995 - September 1997: Executive Director; Community Futures Development Corporation of Alberni-Clayoquot**

Hired to initiate a community economic development (CED) focus for the organization and manage all aspect of service. Successfully positioned the organization as a respected player in CED in the region, established new alliances, programs and community accountability strategies.

**October 1994 - October 1995: Clubhouse Coordinator; CMHA, Port Alberni**

Responsible for Clubhouse Program development. Successfully transitioned staff driven drop-in program to a member run club program. Part-time contract position.

October 1994 – October 1995; Small Business Training Coordinator; Community Futures Development Corporation of Alberni-Clayoquot.

Part time contract to coordinate and deliver small business training. Increased course offerings and client participation. Developed first annual Small Business Show.

**January - July 1993/1994: Coordinator, Consumer Outreach Program; Langley Stepping Stone Rehabilitation Society**

Contracted initially to develop, implement and evaluate a six month pilot project training consumers of the mental health system to outreach to isolated others.

**August 1991 - July 1994: Regional Coordinator; B.C. Schizophrenia Society**

Responsible for Branch Development and Partnership Education Program training and implementation.

**September 1989 – December 1990: Recreation Programmer; Port Alberni Parks and Recreation**

Supervision of eighteen part-time instructors, initiated a variety of new programs and planning/evaluation tools which increased program participation and staff morale.

**VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Current Vice-President, BC Schizophrenia Society

2001- 2003	<i>Founder, Greater Victoria Transition Initiative</i>
	<i>Director, Portal Players Dramatic Society</i>
1998 – 2002	<i>President, B.C. Schizophrenia Society</i>
1996 - 1998	<i>Chair, Canadian Mental Health Association, Port Alberni Branch.</i>
1988 - 1990	<i>President, Alberni Valley Community Arts Council</i>
	<i>Vice-President, Alberni - Clayoquot Development Society</i>
	<i>Founding Director, Huckleberry Theatre Co-op</i>
1987 - 1988	<i>Facilitator, Expressways Theatre Troupe</i>
	<i>Special Needs Division, Parks &amp; Recreation</i>

### FORMAL EDUCATION

1982	<i>Graduated, Professional Development Program</i> Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Received Teachers Certificate
1978 - 1980	University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

2008	<i>Transition Towns Training Trainers Course, Transition UK</i>
2000	<i>Conflict Resolution Certificate Program, Justice Institute of B.C.</i>
	Completed Mediation I & II, Negotiation I, Conflict in the Work Place, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution

### RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE LAST SIX YEARS

**Colussi, Michelle, Mulkey, Susan. "CED Leadership Programs in B.C.,"Centre for Community Enterprise, March 2005**

Research and documentation of community based, non-formal (non-accredited) programs for strengthening CED skills, knowledge and leadership including an examination and analysis of curriculum and management and delivery structures. Facilitated B.C. stakeholder forum to identify opportunities for collaboration.

**Lewis, Michael. "Sustainable Livelihoods: A Policy Paper for the National Rural Policy Framework." Centre for Community Enterprise, May 2004**

Provided research, analytical and some writing assistance to this paper commissioned by the Government of Canada, Rural Secretariat.

**Colussi, Michelle. "BC Benchmark & Indicator Activities & Lessons,"paper presented to the SPARC B.C. Community Development Conference, May 2002**

Research, documentation and analysis of the existing range, scope and type of indicator use in BC at the time, highlighting common approaches, lessons learned and implications for community information and learning.

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**Colussi, Michelle, Lewis, Michael, Rowcliffe, Philippa. *Community Resilience Manual; A Resource for Rural Recovery and Renewal*, Port Alberni, B.C.: Centre for Community Enterprise, 2000**

The Community Resilience Project was a major applied research project focused on developing an efficient tool for community assessment of resilience that could have direct impact on determining strategic community priorities. I was the lead for the field research team and one of two primary authors. The National Round Table on the Economy and the Environment has selected the Community Resilience Manual as one of the seven leading indicator based tools in North America and it has been used and adapted by organizations around the world.

**Other articles:**

- Colussi, Michelle. 2008. "An Experiment in Bottom-up, Systemic Change" and "The Prospects for Scale". *Making Waves* 19, No. 2: 9-11, 28-32
- Colussi, Michelle. 2003. "Indicators at Work: Big or Small, Indicator Systems Share the Same Five Key Tasks". *Making Waves*, Vol. 14, No. 4, p. 9-13
- Colussi, Michelle. 2003. "Out of the Development Box: How Small Towns Can Discover a New Approach to Local Development". *Making Waves*, Vol. 14, No.2, p. 6-10
- Colussi, Michelle, Perry Stewart with Lewis, Mike and Loewen, Garry. 2002. "From this Earth: NECRC and the evolution of a development system in Winnipeg's North End". *Making Waves*, Vol.13, No.1, p. 20-37

**Publications in Psychosocial Rehabilitation**

- Small, R. Dan, Sudar, Michelle. 1995. "Islands of Brilliance", *Psychosocial Rehabilitation Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 3, p.37-50
- Sudar, Michelle, Morrison, Andrew. 1994. "*Consumer Outreach Program, Instructors Manual & Volunteer Training Manual*". Langley Stepping Stone Rehab. Society