

# Speaker Bios



Oct. 27-28th, 2009

Happy Valley Goose Bay

Northern Cross Church

## Innovation and Collaboration: Learning and Changing Together

*Working Together to Foster Resilient and Healthy Labrador Communities*

### Liz Weaver

Liz Weaver, Lead Coach, Vibrant Communities - Liz Weaver of the Vibrant Communities Canada team provides coaching, leadership and support to Ontario community partners, including Opportunities Waterloo Region and the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. As lead coach, she helps initiatives develop their frameworks of change, supports and guides their projects and helps connect them to Vibrant Communities and other comprehensive community collaborations.

Prior to this position, she was the Director for the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, which was recognized with the Canadian Urban Institute's David Crombie Leadership Award in 2009. In her career, Liz has held leadership positions with YWCA Hamilton, Volunteer Hamilton and Volunteer Canada. In 2002, Liz completed a Masters of Management for National Voluntary Sector Leaders through McGill University and her thesis 'Storytelling and the Voluntary Sector' was published. Liz was awarded a Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002 for her leadership in the voluntary sector, was an Athena Award finalist and in 2004 was awarded the Women in the Workplace award from the City of Hamilton.

### Eric Leviten-Reid

Eric is the Learning and Evaluation Coordinator for the national Vibrant Communities initiative. He has lead responsibility for the design and administration of the Pan-Canadian learning and evaluation process for Vibrant Communities Trail Builders, and is coordinating the development of a series of case studies on specific poverty reduction strategies undertaken by Vibrant Communities partners. He plays an active role in helping to discern trends, patterns and insights arising from the Vibrant Communities experience. Eric also serves as coach for Vibrant Communities initiatives in Atlantic Canada.

Eric has nearly 25 years experience as a researcher and practitioner in the field of community development with a special focus on comprehensive, collaborative approaches to complex issues. He began his career addressing issues of community economic development in his home town Cape Breton Island and later worked for eight years with the Caledon Institute of Social Policy. Eric has an academic background in social theory and anthropology, and holds a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from York University where he focussed his studies on participatory approaches to personal and social change.

### Stanley Oliver

Stanley Oliver has in excess of twenty years experience working with various levels of Government (Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal) and Non-profit organizations locally, provincially and nationally. Stan is currently the Executive Director of the Labrador Friendship Center, a Non-Profit organization that administers social/economic programs and services primarily to aboriginal people moving from a rural setting into a more urban setting. Stan joined the Labrador

Friendship Center after serving three years with the Nunatsiavut Government's Lands and Resources Department responsible for fisheries and wildlife negotiations. Previous to that Stan was the Executive Assistant to the Provincial Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs.

Mr. Oliver has a Diploma in Natural Resources Management from the Labrador Institute ( Memorial University) and is currently a Certified Engineering Technician. Stan volunteers for many organizations such as the Happy Valley United Church, Atlantic Salmon Foundation, Labrador Inuit Development Cooperation, Labrador Craft Agency, Labrador Winter Games, the Labrador Central Environmental Network and Happy Valley-Goose Bay Town Council.

## **Shaun MacLean**

Shaun MacLean has obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies and a Certificate in Social Services from Cape Breton University. Since graduating from University and being hired as the Housing Development Worker with the Labrador Friendship Centre (LFC), Shaun has participated in a number of conferences on housing development, homelessness and the voluntary and non-profit sector nationally and internationally. As the Housing Development Worker with the LFC, Shaun works with Community Partners in Happy Valley-Goose Bay developing housing options and wrap-around services for clients with multiple and complex needs to ensure their long-term stay in housing. Shaun is highly involved with various housing initiatives and projects in the community and has developed multiple positive working relationships with many supportive living and non-profit housing agencies in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and across Canada. Shaun is a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing and Homelessness Network, the Industrial Adjustment Services Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, a building committee member with the Mokami Status of Women Council, a Board member with the Melville Native Housing Association and a Board member with the Libra House Women's Shelter.

## **Heidi Ryan**

Heidi Ryan is a senior analyst with substantial experience with various data sources specifically Statistics Canada. Since June 2008 her focus has been on crime and safety data and the factors contributing to crime and safety. She received Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics from Memorial University and has worked with the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency for 9 years.

## **Peggy Matchim**

Peggy Matchim has extensive experience working in the field of community development, with a particular focus on citizen engagement and collaborative network building. Her work over the past decade has centred around youth development, literacy and essential skills building, and coordinating comprehensive approaches to poverty reduction, crime prevention, and neighbourhood development.

## **Michelle Kinney**

Michelle is currently the Deputy Minister of Health & Social Development, Nunatsiavut Government and has been in this role for approximately 5 years. She has lived and worked in Labrador for approximately 20 years, primarily with Inuit communities. In her professional career she has been a teacher, guidance counselor, psychologist and has experience in the fields of mental health, addictions, children & youth services and corrections.

## **Douglas Robbins**

Born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, Doug completed BA and MA degrees at Memorial University. From 1979-1990 he worked as an archaeologist at the Red Bay 16th century Basque whaling sites. In 1991 he accepted the position of Executive Director with the Labrador Straits Historical Development Corporation, a non-profit group dedicated to the development of heritage tourism. In 2001 Doug joined the SmartLabrador Initiative as Technologist, a position he holds today. He was directly involved in the deployment of SmartLabrador's hybrid network, which brought videoconference services and Internet access to Labrador communities. In recent years his work has focussed on web technologies. Doug has authored "MyWebMaker", a content management system for easy website maintenance (which SmartLabrador provides to clients), and the "CHE Resource Manager" -- a collaborative tool for building and maintaining a digital collection of heritage-related information.

Bio

## **Marsha Power Slade**

Marsha Power Slade has been the Executive Director of Hope Haven Transition House in Labrador City since 2003. She has spent most of her ten year career working with victims of violence and homelessness, spending three year in London ON working with female youth and a year in Yellowknife working with homeless men. Marsha sits on many regional, provincial and national boards and strongly believes that all sectors of society are affected by social concerns and collaboration and partnerships are the key to healthy communities.

## **Barbara Case**

Barbara Case is the Director of Regional Partnership Development with the Rural Secretariat. She previously worked with the Strategic Social Plan and the College of the North Atlantic. She has degrees in English, Education and Adult Education.

Barbara has worked in adult and community education for over twenty years. Her particular professional interest is working with the players in the community to find better solutions to complex issues. She has worked and presented nationally and internationally in England, Australia and New Zealand.

She has a life outside of work which includes travelling, reading, having fun with her three adult children and two grandchildren and husband, enjoying life generally and never, ever dusting!

## **Aisling Gogan**

Aisling Gogan is the Director of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Poverty Reduction Strategy. This is a Government-wide strategy overseen by a committee of 12 ministers and has a 10 year goal of transforming Newfoundland and Labrador into a province with the least poverty. Aisling has worked in a number of other positions within the provincial public service, including Director of Research and Planning with the Women's Policy Office and Manager of Research and Evaluation with the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. Prior to joining Newfoundland and Labrador's public service she worked as a self-employed social program evaluation consultant with a focus on training, labour market, and youth programs. This included work on the evaluation of many federal and provincial employment, training and fisheries adjustment programs across the country. Aisling also taught Political Science at Memorial University for 10 years.

## **Robert Parsons**

Project Lead for Governments Broadband Initiative.

## **Lisa Densmore**

Lisa Densmore was born and raised in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. She left to pursue her education and received a Bachelor of Sociology from Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia. Currently she is the Regional Partnership Planner for the Rural Secretariat, Labrador region.

Lisa has two wonderful children and a husband who puts up with her. She loves to read, exercise, laugh with her friends and nap! Enjoy the conference!