

Governance for Resilient, Sustainable Cities

A workshop October 21st 2-4pm at the Resilient Cities Conference
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Vancouver, BC

Stratos is pleased to present an innovative workshop entitled **Governance for Resilient, Sustainable Cities: A practical, interactive workshop on transforming governance and decision-making** on October 21st from 2-4pm in Vancouver, BC. This workshop is part of the **Resilient Cities** conference in Vancouver being held from October 20-22nd 2009. For details and registration please visit <http://www.gaininggroundsummit.com/program.htm>

Our premise is that we already have all the strategies and tools we need to implement sustainability: the challenge lies in bridging the gap between planning and implementation. Our workshop will engage participants in identifying practical strategies for shifting our focus from simply developing sustainability plans to also transforming our governance and decision-making systems.

The workshop will focus on answering three broad questions:

- What is it about current governance and decision-making systems that make them so resistant to change and act as barriers to implementing sustainability?
- What are the attributes of governance and decision-making systems that support sustainability?
- What are the leverage points, actions, processes, and tools that can help us shift to governance and decision-making systems that create and support resilient, sustainable cities?

This workshop will be collaborative and participatory and will combine small group discussions, expert commentary and interactive facilitation strategies. Participants will leave with practical ideas and tools to integrate into their organizations.

The workshop draws on Stratos's experience working with governments and businesses across Canada as well as recent research conducted by workshop facilitator Chris Lindberg and the SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development on sustainability planning and implementation in Canadian communities. This research has led to the development of an integrated community decision-making model which will be used to structure the workshop discussions (see below for details).

The workshop will be delivered by **Chris Lindberg**. Chris is a Senior Consultant with Stratos (www.stratos-sts.com) and an Associate of the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University (www.sfu.ca/cscd). Chris provides policy, strategy and management services to municipalities and public and private sector clients across North America. His research and practice focuses on practical tools and strategies for bridging the "planning-implementation gap" and making sustainability happen in communities and organizations. Chris has an MA in Sustainable Community Development and a BSc in Environmental Science and Biology with training in stakeholder engagement, facilitation, community economic development and green building.

The workshop will also feature commentary and insight from a number of invited guest expert interveners:

- Rob Abbot, Director of Sustainability, Stratos;
- Dr. Mark Roseland, Director, SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development;
- Dr. Sean Connelly, Post-doctoral fellow with the BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance;
- Kim Fowler, Director of Sustainability, City of Victoria;
- Rob Bennett, Executive Director, Portland + Oregon Sustainability Institute;
- Tom Osdoba, Director, Center for Sustainable Business Practices, University of Oregon;
- Cheeying Ho, Executive Director, Whistler Centre for Sustainability;
- Pong Leung, Principal Advisor, The Natural Step Canada