



### **Allison Habkirk – Instructor, Capilano University**

Allison has thirty years of experience in local government as a professional, elected official, and educator. Allison is a Registered Planner and former mayor and councillor for the District of Central Saanich. Allison’s consulting work focusses on helping elected officials and senior staff work through challenges and develop plans to make progress on difficult problems.

### **Linda Adams – former CAO, Islands Trust**

Linda Adams retired in mid-January as Chief Administrative Officer of the Islands Trust, a position she had held since 2003. The Islands Trust is responsible for land use planning on BC’s southern Gulf Islands, with a provincial mandate to preserve and protect the islands for all British Columbians. Prior to her appointment as CAO, Linda was on the Islands Trust’s senior management team, responsible for policy, communications and inter-governmental liaison. Before that, she was the planning manager for Salt Spring Island. Linda is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planning and the Local Government Management Association. Linda is on the faculty of Capilano University’s School of Public Administration, teaching courses in finance and decision-making. She participated in the development and delivery of the MATI Community Planning and Successful CAO programs. She has also worked with the Local Government Leadership Academy to deliver a seminar on community planning to newly-elected local government officials.

### **Christina Benty – former Mayor, Town of Golden**

Christina Benty, MA is the former Mayor of Golden. She retired after having served 12 years’ in local government. She has over 16 years’ experience on numerous policy governance boards spanning from health care, government, information technology, and community planning. In addition to her lived experience in the political arena, she completed her Masters of Arts in Leadership at Royal Roads University with an organizational leadership project on community engagement and asset management.

With a keen interest in high functioning organizational structures, Christina is passionate about cultivating boards and councils that lead by governing and not managing. She recently launched a new business Strategic Leadership Solutions to assist teams in building a culture of excellence in leadership and governance.

## **Gord Horth – General Manager, Capital Region Emergency Services Telecommunications**

Gord has worked for a number of local governments on the Island in a variety of administrative capacities (Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Victoria, & North Cowichan) over the past thirty years. He holds a B.Sc. and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Victoria. He is active in his community, serving on Town Council (2011-14), and in the field of youth soccer coaching & refereeing.