

## AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Climate Change Adaptation  
Environmental Planning  
Strategic Land Use Planning  
Community Consultation & Facilitation

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Institute of Planners  
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Fellow



## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Environmental Studies, University of Manitoba, 1980-1983  
Master of Landscape Architecture, University of Manitoba, 1985-1989

## INTRODUCTION

Gordon has over 38 years of consulting and government experience, having completed over 150 planning and design projects for a variety of clients including municipal, provincial and federal governments, schools, universities and other institutions, and a range of developers and other private clients throughout Canada, Alaska, and Botswana, Africa. He is a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects. He has won numerous of academic and professional awards on a diverse range of projects.

His international experience has taught him to be highly sensitive to the context in which he is working and to be able to design and manage projects effectively in a variety of situations. Gordon has skills and experience in working at a wide range of scales ranging policy development for an entire province and regional plans covering areas of tens of thousands of square kilometres to detailed site design and construction monitoring on residential projects. This range of experience has allowed him to understand how decisions at a macro-scale can influence decisions on a site and vice versa. Gordon is able to work within and manage large and diverse teams of consultants and has always developed highly effective relationships with clients, regulators, and staff.

Within the government of Nova Scotia, Gordon led the introduction of mandatory minimum planning requirements for municipalities, which is considered the most significant change to planning legislation in over 20 years. He has also led the development of the province's Coastal Action Plan. In addition, he developed and led the Municipal Flood Line Mapping Project which is completing flood line maps for the entire province. All this work incorporated significant climate change considerations.

As a climate adaptation generalist, Gordon has the ability to organize information from a wide variety of sources to create solutions to multi-faceted issues and he has been integrating concepts of community resilience into his planning and design work throughout his career. He has a broad view of the environmental conditions affecting communities and feels that social, economic and natural contexts must be considered in a holistic manner. Based on his experience working with dozens of communities in many different situations, he has honed a realistic and practical approach to assisting organizations to integrate climate change thinking into their plans.

Gordon is particularly interested in multi-disciplinary work and how the successful interaction of different professions can add value to projects by creating solutions and opportunities on a variety of levels. Throughout his career, Gordon has consistently promoted meaningful inter-disciplinary work.

## KEY RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2024-present**, pLAnsmith.ca, Principal

Coastal Land Use Planning Coordinator for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities  
Regional Director for North America for the Practitioner Exchange for Effective Response to Sea Level Rise (PEERS)

**2015-2024**, Nova Scotia Government,

Department of Municipal Affairs, Director of Planning  
Department of Environment and Climate Change, Strategic Lead, Community Climate Action and Coastal Action Plan

**2004-2015**, CBCL Limited, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Employee-Owner, Group Leader – Planning and Landscape Architecture

**2002-2004**, EDM • Environmental Design and Management, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Senior Project Manager

**1994-2004**, Canadian Consulting International (Pty) Limited, Gaborone, Botswana, began as a contract employee, moved to permanent in 1995, took over as Managing Director in 1996, and purchased the firm in 1999.

## KEY RELATED PROJECTS

Gordon has developed a carefully tuned process for discerning and solving problems. The effectiveness of this process is demonstrated by the highly successful completion of an extremely wide range of policy development, planning and design projects.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The Future of Nova Scotia's Coastline (Coastal Protection Action Plan), Province of Nova Scotia
- Global Leading Practices to Advance Coastal Adaptation in Canadian Communities, NRCan
- Professions Advancing Adaptation Competencies, Climate Risk Institute
- Municipal Flood Line Mapping Program, Province of Nova Scotia
- Valdez Alaska Comprehensive Plan Revision, Resilience and Climate Change Expert
- State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report, NS
- Municipal Sustainability Toolkit, Federation of PEI Municipalities, PE
- A Guide for Incorporating Adaptation to Climate Change into Land-Use Planning
- A Vulnerability Assessment Tool for Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure, Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions Association
- Cape Breton Regional Municipality Municipal Climate Change Action Plan, NS
- Climate Change Analysis of the Halifax Regional Municipality Municipal Planning Strategy, Halifax, NS
- Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Middleton, NS
- Integrated Community Sustainability Plan 2013 Update, Middleton, NS
- Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Phase 1, Kings County, NS
- Middleton Municipal Climate Change Action Plan, NS
- Town of Lunenburg Municipal Climate Change Action Plan, NS
- Victoria County, Inverness County and Port Hawkesbury Municipal Climate Change Action Plan, NS
- Baille Ard Sustainable Subdivision Design, Sydney, NS
- Cossitt Heights Sustainable Subdivision Design, Sydney NS

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DESIGN

- Greenbelt Ecological Analysis, National Capital Commission, Ottawa, ON
- Plan for the Environment, Markham, ON
- Bennery Lake Water Extraction Permit Renewal, Enfield, NS
- Bringing Back the Don River, Toronto, ON
- Cornwall Wellfield Protection Plan, Cornwall PE

- Development of an Information Database for the Don River, Toronto, ON
- Devil's Glen Visual Impact Assessment, Singhampton, ON
- Dickey Brook Restoration, Amherst, NS
- Georgetown Wellfield Protection Plan, Georgetown, PE
- Greenwood Wellhead Protection Plan, Greenwood, NS
- LaPlanche River Aboiteau Study, Public Consultations, Amherst, NS
- Middleton Wellhead Protection Plan, Middleton, NS
- Naturalization/Reforestation of Parks and Open Spaces, City of Kitchener, ON
- Pine Valley Stormwater Management Pond Renaturalization, Woodbridge, ON
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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- Shell Offshore Seismic Testing Socio-economic and Health Impact Assessment, South Shore, NS
- Gabane Quarry Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Gaborone-Rasesa Road Borrow Pits Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Gaborone-Rasesa Road Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Jwaneng Mine Recovery Plant and Sorthouse Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Lobatse and Kanye Bypass Roads Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Maitengwe Bridge Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Mmathethe-Magojogojwe Road Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Mochudi-Malotwana Road Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Orapa 2000 Mine Expansion Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Rasesa Quarry Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Sebele Ferricrete Borrow Pit Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Serule Quarry Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Serule-Tonota Road Environmental Impact Assessment, Botswana
- Shinde Camp Environmental Impact Assessment and Proposal Assistance, Botswana

### ***In addition, Gordon has completed numerous projects related to:***

- regional planning
- strategic/master planning
- transportation
- municipal planning
- landscape development
- business park feasibility studies and planning
- solid waste management
- the development of training manuals

### **RELATED ARTICLES / ACTIVITIES / PRESENTATIONS**

- *Landscape Architecture & Nature-based Solutions for Canada's Coasts*. Coastal Zone Canada Conference (2025)
- CoastAdapt Workshop Facilitator with Climate Risk Institute. Coastal Zone Canada Conference (2025)
- Hirschfeld, D., Boyle, R., Nicholls, R. J., Behar, D., Esteban, M., Hinkel, J., Smith, G., & Hanslow, D. J. (2024). Practitioner needs to adapt to Sea-Level Rise: Distilling information from global workshops. *Climate Services*, 34, [100452]. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cliser.2024.100452>
- Inaugural Member of Leadership Team establishing the Practitioners Exchange for Effective Response to Sea Level Rise (PEERS) (2022)
- *Adaptation to Climate Change, When is it Worth It?* Nova Scotia Planning Directors Association, Planning Pays! Conference, Halifax NS (2013)
- External Examiner on *Improving Resources to Assess Climate Change Coastal Vulnerability: A Pre-Assessment Criteria of the Socio-Economic Values of Working Waterfront Infrastructures in Nova Scotia*, a final paper submitted by Paola B. Cisneros Linares in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Marine Management at Dalhousie University (2012)
- *A Vulnerability Assessment Tool for Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure*, at Climate Change: Getting Ready: Results of the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions (ACAS) Program in Nova Scotia, Halifax NS (2012)