



# ALBERNI CLAYOQUOT HEALTH NETWORK 2018 TABLE OF PARTNERS BIOGRAPHIES

**Penny Cote (Chair)** was elected in 2005 as the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Sproat Lake Director and is now serving in her 4th consecutive term. In 2015/2016 was re-elected as Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Hospital District, Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network, and sits on many other Regional Board Committees as an active participant in positive local government partnerships, including the inaugural 3 Treaty First Nations to the ACRD.



**Dan Schubart** is a retired teacher turned community activist whose activities have been centered on the Alberni Valley Transition Town Society, whose central theme is community resilience through awareness, reskilling, local food systems, housing, energy and enterprise. Resilience requires health, with the best outcomes seen through sustainable diet, activity and living situations.

**Marie Duperreault** is the Director for Port Alberni/West Coast Communities for Island Health. She started her career in Nursing in 2002 working in rural, remote Coastal BC communities. Marie completed her Master of Science in Nursing in October 2011 and became the director for Port Alberni/West Coast Communities in March 2015. Marie brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience from working within many different healthcare disciplines. Her responsibility as the director is to develop & implement the integrated community care team and to develop supportive Health resources for hospital and community programs guided by her desire to improve the health status for Port Alberni/West Coast population



**Laurie Bird** is a resident of Ucluelet, with 2 fabulous adult children, who has recently welcomed two grandsons to the family. Currently a board member of the Ucluelet Food Bank, and a devoted beach walker and gardener. Laurie has a Masters of Science in Nursing with an interest in health care education, and rural, family and population health. History of acute care practice in rural areas as well as community nursing in an urban environment. Instructor at North Island College for the last 12 plus years in health care programs.



**Josie Osborne** is the mayor of Tofino and vice chairperson of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. A self-described community builder and a strong advocate for local government communication and public engagement, Josie strives to build respectful and productive working relationships within and between communities, businesses, and governments.

**Susan Fox** is the Executive Director of Outreach Therapy, leading a team providing child and youth with special needs therapy services and infant-child mental health programs for the Alberni Valley and West Coast. She is also a Project Manager for the Doctors of BC, working with the Port Alberni Division of Family Practice mainly focused on the work of Primary Care Networks with local physicians. She brings over 17 years of experience with a background in social entrepreneurship, health programs, financial business management, project management and executive leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree (Royal Roads University), a Graduate Certificate in Project Management (UBC), and is working on an MBA (Royal Roads, expectant 2020) Susan currently sits at several community tables and she is enthusiastic about working with teams like the ACHN to help create strong, resilient, healthy communities. In her spare time, you can find her enjoying the great outdoors hiking with husband hiking up mountains on Vancouver Island.



**Margaret Morrison** has been a resident of Ucluelet since 1991 when she and husband Myles arrived with three children and a dog. Three more children were born in Tofino Hospital and all graduated from Ucluelet Secondary. Margaret wrote the "Our Towns" column for the local newspaper for 13 years and got to know Tofino and Ucluelet and areas very well. Volunteer activities when the family was young included La Leche League, Girl Guides, Recycling Association and the Westcoast Womens Resources Society. In 2001, the Society became paid work as the Women's Centre relief coordinator and continued through to present day as the executive director of the Westcoast Community Resources Society. Margaret is very proud of her family which now includes a teacher, a doctor, a nurse, a top shot and several plus-ones.

**Wes Hewitt** is the Executive Director of the Port Alberni Shelter Society, which is a non-profit organization that was started in 1972, to serve the housing needs of the community. He is also the Chair of the City of Port Alberni Advisory Planning Commission and an active member of the Alberni Valley Community Stake Holder Initiative to End Homelessness. He spends time working to improve the community and himself through Free Masons and in his spare time he enjoys sailing and family.



**Sandra Tate** (Se cuk'lt'uulth, pronounced Shechuktooth) is Ditidaht First Nation with roots up and down the island. Sandra currently holds one of two positions as the Nuu-chah-nulth Community Engagement Coordinator with First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) for the past 3 years. Sandra's health knowledge comes



**Anna Lewis** is the chair of the Alberni Air Quality Council which is overseen by a non-profit and works with various community partners to work on improving air quality in and around the Alberni airshed. Anna's main passion is agriculture and she works for the ACRD as an agricultural support worker as well as overseeing two farms, one for the Hupacasath First Nation and a therapeutic farm for Canadian Mental Health Association. When not working on farming projects or other initiatives to try and improve the health and wellbeing of her community she can be found playing music, spending time with family and traveling.

**Willa Thorpe** is currently the Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage with the City of Port Alberni, and has been fortunate to spend her entire career in sport and recreation throughout dry land, arenas, aquatics, fields and multi-sport complexes. She holds a Master's degree in Leadership from Royal Roads University, as well as a Bachelor of Kinesiology – Recreation and Sport Administration from the University of Regina. Willa is a strong proponent of “meeting people where they’re at”, and is always seeking opportunities to help facilitate programs and services that provide meaningful experiences throughout the community. In her spare time, Willa can be found volunteering throughout her community, with minor sport organizations, a variety of service groups/clubs, and at her daughters' school.



**Patty Edwards** has been a poverty law advocate in the Alberni Valley for the past thirty years. She served as the Director for Beaver Creek on the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District from 1996 to 2011. Her passion is creating Homefulness in the Alberni Valley and she works towards that goal as Chair of the Alberni Valley Community Stakeholders Initiative To End Homelessness. This is part of her duties as Constituency Assistant to Scott Fraser, MLA for Mid-Island Pacific Rim, a position she has held since 2005.

# ALBERNI CLAYOQUOT HEALTH NETWORK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



**Marcie DeWitt** assumed the role of Coordinator for the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network in January 2015 and was an active participant in the network since its inception in 2012. Marcie has been engaged in community development in the Alberni Clayoquot region for the past 7 years, leading multidisciplinary networks, community engagement, planning and advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing overall health of children, youth and families. Marcie has a passion for social justice, when combined with her background in psychology and project management these skills and attributes have led to a rewarding career building, leading and facilitating community driven process.

**Dr. Paul Hasselback** is the Medical Health Officer for Central Vancouver Island. Since 1990 he has held MHO positions across the 3 western provinces. A specialist in public health and preventive medicine trained in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. A family practitioner in rural Saskatchewan for four years. An MSc in epidemiology and now a Clinical Associate Professor at UBC and an Affiliate Clinical Professor at UVic. In 2000 he was bestowed the Canadian Public Health Association award for “an individual who has significantly advanced the cause, legitimized and stressed the responsibility for the state of the art of the public health”. In 2010 he was awarded the National Specialist Society for Community Medicine President’s Award for contributions to the specialty. He is a past chair of the Health Officer’s Council of British Columbia and remains active in provincial and national endeavours to improve the public’s health.

