



Research & Development / Recherche & développement

SUE CALHOUN

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Objective:

- To provide quality professional services that assist clients in solving problems and achieving their objectives.

Career profile:

- Spent 10 years as a journalist, writing extensively for newspapers, magazines, radio and television. Won Top Award given by the Atlantic Journalist Awards in 1991; also won Honourable Mention for Outstanding Investigation Reporting in Canada, The Canadian Association of Journalists, 1990.
- Spent another decade as a researcher and consultant in the fisheries, which included research and writing, survey and questionnaire design, interviews and focus groups, feasibility and market studies, administration on international projects (Guyana, Sao Tomé et Príncipe).
- Since 1997, have owned and operated my own company, Calhoun Research & Development/Recherche & développement, which specializes in program evaluation, labour market analysis including surveys, business and community economic development, and research and writing.
- Author of two books and co-author of a third.
- During past 20+ years, have provided the research, analysis and writing for approximately 150 studies and reports that have enabled clients to make key strategic decisions.

Detailed work experience:

- Owner/operator, Calhoun Research & Development/Recherche & développement, Moncton, NB (1997-present)
- Associate/consultant, GTA Consultants Inc., Shédiac, NB (1987-1996). During 1993-96, was also Office/Financial Manager, responsible for overseeing three offices in two provinces, and managing several international projects.
- Freelance journalist and writer, based in Shédiac, NB (1983-1987). Clients included Atlantic Insight, Globe and Mail, Canadian Geographic, Macleans, CBC radio and television.
- Researcher, CBC-TV program Harris-Lorimer (later called Inquiry), Halifax, NS (1981-1983)
- Between 1976 and 1981, wrote for newspapers in Ontario, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Areas of Company Specialization:

- Community Economic Development (CED)
- Business and community economic development for women
- Program evaluation
- Labour market analysis
- Surveys
- Statistical analysis
- Solid and thorough research
- Plain language writing
- Group facilitation including focus groups

Education/Training:

- Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Université de Moncton, NB (2001)
- Diploma, Community Economic Development (CED), St. Mary's University, Halifax NS (2000)
- Certificate in Survey Methods and Questionnaire Design, Statistics Canada (1993)
- French Immersion four weeks, Université de Moncton, Shippegan, NB (1982)
- French Immersion six weeks, University of Western Ontario, Trois Pistoles, PQ (1976)
- Masters of Social Work program (completed one year), Waterloo Lutheran University, ON (1972)
- Bachelor of Arts: Sociology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON (1970)

Appointments, voluntary commitments:

- Partners for Youth, Board of Directors member (2010 – present)
- Employment Insurance Board of Referees (2006 – present)
- Canadian Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, President (2008-2010); 1st Vice-President (2006-08); NB Provincial President (2004-06); BPW Moncton President (2002-04)
- Atlantic Innovation Fund Advisory Committee (2002-04)
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Issues (2002-05)
- New Brunswick Judicial Council (1996-1999)
- Shédiac Daycare Co-operative/Garderie coopérative de Shédiac inc., founding President (1992-96, 1997-98)
- Dialogue New Brunswick (1990-93)
- Atlantic Board of Directors of OXFAM-Canada (1979-1989)
- Member, Canadian Evaluation Society
- Member, The Writers' Union of Canada www.writersunion.ca/c/calhoun.htm
- Member, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

Awards, nominations:

- 2009, YWCA Women of Distinction award, Women in Public and Community Service
- 2009, Phenomenal Woman Award (one of six nominated). NB Association of Community Business Development Corporations, sponsored by the Business Development Bank of Canada
- 1995, Volunteer of the year. Acadian Cooperative Movement
- Atlantic Journalism Award: Top award for Best magazine/feature writing, 1991
- Canadian Association of Journalists: Honourable Mention – Magazines, 1990

Other facts:

- Languages: English, French
- Computer skills include Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Internet research

Examples of program and project evaluations:

CLIENT – NB Department of Health, 2010

External Review of the Needle Distribution Service in New Brunswick. The purpose of the review was to evaluate whether the NDS offered by the AIDS Service Organizations in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John was meeting the needs of clients, and whether the service should be expanded to other parts of the province. Work included 35 interviews with injection drug users; 29 interviews with Key Informants and other stakeholders.

CLIENT – NB Department of Education, 2010

External Review of the Work Skills and Career Opportunities in Trades program. The purpose of the review was to evaluate how successful the program had been in meeting its objectives, and to make recommendations for the future of the program. Work included 38 interviews with Technology Supervisors/Learning Specialists, teachers, students and industry partners.

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CLIENTS – AIDS Moncton Inc., AIDS Saint John Inc. and AIDS New Brunswick Inc., since 2007
On-going evaluations for three AIDS groups in New Brunswick, as required by clients.

CLIENT – Barrington Group Inc., Calgary, AB, 2008
Evaluation of Regional Centres for Youth, Science, Teaching and Learning (CRYSTAL) at UNB Fredericton and University of Sherbrooke. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

CLIENT – Barrington Group Inc., Calgary, AB, 2007
Senior Researcher for the evaluation of the Research Management Funds component of the Networks of Centres of Excellence Program, established by the Government of Canada to promote university-industry excellence in research. Work involved reviewing and summarizing project reports, conducting interviews in both official languages, and having input into the re-design of data collection instruments and final report.

CLIENT – Barrington Group Inc., Calgary, AB, 2006
Evaluation of the Canadian Council for Organ Donation and Transplantation. Work involved reviewing and summarizing project reports, interviews, and having input into the re-design of data collection instruments and final reports.

CLIENT – Making Waves/Vague par vague inc, 2005-06
Carried out an evaluation of this 10-year-old Dating Violence Prevention Program. Project funded by Status of Women Canada.

CLIENT – Barrington Group Inc., Calgary, AB, 2005
Involved in evaluation of Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) projects funded in 2003 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Work involved reviewing and summarizing project reports and having input into the re-design of data collection instruments.

CLIENT – Human Resource Development Canada, 2001
With Goss Gilroy of Newfoundland and Labrador, part of a team that carried out an evaluation of the Fisheries Restructuring and Adjustment Measures program (FRAM), the follow-up to The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS). Role included conducting interviews and focus groups in French in New Brunswick and Quebec, and preparation of a case study on a community in the Gaspé.

CLIENT – Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1998
With GTA Consultants Inc. was involved in the evaluation of DFO Science Branch's communications with clients, internally and externally. Role included questionnaire design and testing, and telephone interviews and focus groups in both French and English. This was a national study.

CLIENT - Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1998
With GTA Consultants Inc., was involved in the evaluation of DFO's Integrated Fisheries Management Plan process. Role included questionnaire design and testing, and telephone interviews in both French and English. This study was carried out on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

CLIENT – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), 1997
With Andy Rowe Consultants of St. John's, NFLD, worked on the evaluation of ACOA's Pan-Atlantic Entrepreneurship Development Program. Role included questionnaire design and testing, face-to-face interviews in both French and English in three Maritime provinces and involvement in writing the final report.

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CLIENT – Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1995

With GTA Consultants Inc., involved in the evaluation of the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program. Role involved conducting interviews in French and English.

CLIENT – NB Mental Health Commission, 1994

With PGF Consultants Inc. of Ottawa, was involved in the evaluation of the NB Mental Health Commission. Role included conducting focus groups throughout English New Brunswick, and writing the final report.

CLIENT – Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1991

With GTA Consultants Inc., was involved in the evaluation of the Canadian Sealing Industry Revitalization Program. Role included questionnaire design, face-to-face and telephone interviews in Newfoundland, and involvement in writing the final report.

See also Labour Market Analysis bio for evaluations carried out for NB Training and Employment Development (now Post-Secondary Education and Training)