

DIANA M SMITH...A PROFILE

always in progress

2020 and beyond

In this, the 'third act' of my life, I play, share and humbly engage with individual and collective meaning-making and social innovation - as an animateur*. I 'walk the talk' of being in and contributing to communities that create the 'structure of belonging' so vital to our future, serving as a mentor, a facilitator, a learning designer, a community member. I offer my experience with dialogue, planning, learning and inquiry to *build capacity, beyond our limiting beliefs*.

* Animation means, literally, to breathe life into some thing. A transformation is involved, what was still now moves. But what place does animation have in stimulating learning and change? What do animateurs do? Where are animateurs to be found? [Learn more!](#) Be in touch.

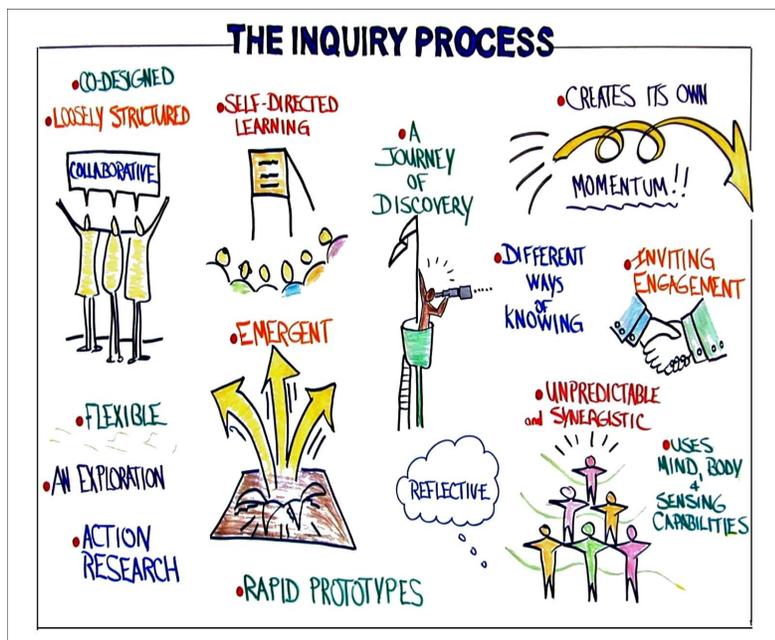
Contact: email: dianasmith55@gmail.com; ph: 519 - 803-1848

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/dianasmithfacilitator

website: www.dianasmith.ca

INQUIRY is my/our Way

- We use dialogue, creative media and reflective process.
- We stand beside you as mentors, guides and coaches, not as experts.
- We access multiple pathways and tools to support you in making meaningful change and transformation.
- We build trust and deepen commitment that generates results.
- We connect individual and global, inside and outside.



The question is more important than the answer in shifting patterns of thinking from what's wrong to what's possible, from impasse to action, from problem to opportunity. Those who work and live at the edge of change know this. Changemakers are seeking new ways of thinking/being, are open to other viewpoints, are willing to push their own boundaries and to nourish the dynamic tension that can accompany a shift in one's mindset and perspectives.

I have learned in twenty years of experience with inquiry and working with participatory

leadership approaches in many settings, that the design is adaptable to the presenting conditions and shared intention. It has lasting impact! It builds capacity!

Why This May Be Important for You

If you are like us, you are encountering multiple demands and pressures in the growing complexity of our times: rapidly evolving economic and social change shifts in our communities and organizations. *This calls upon each of us to be both facile and comfortable with the unpredictable—to recognize opportunity as it emerges and invite those with whom we are working to join in co-creation and learning of the moment.* It also requires a keen awareness of presenting conditions based on factual data and understanding the myriad of often, conflicting perspectives we each hold.

We see these times as requiring further development of capability, building capacities for and fostering creative and critical thinking—all potential transformational qualities—to deal with the quantum changes taking place in the world. We imagine that you do too. Two key questions arise in these times: 1) how might we inspire and impact our respective fields of work, life and play to pave the way for co-creative and life-affirming solutions to the challenges we face; and 2) in what ways might we tap into and deepen the collective wisdom of our peers and the wider circle of change-makers we may individually and collectively relate with?

Who I Am

Since moving to Guelph in Fall, 2018, I have been making connections, and building a sense of place and community here. I am not a bystander. I am actively engaged in initiatives intended to develop respectful, trusting relationships, deepen community, and build capacity, making possible the design of novel approaches to real life challenges in the workplace and our communities, all in service to the emerging future that we collectively strive for.

For twenty years, I have been engaged with a community of practice, the *Ginger Group Collaborative, helping collaborative ventures come alive*, working in many settings across Canada to create conditions for shared learning, building capacity for social change and transformation. We came from varied backgrounds and shared our experience in the field, learned from one another, and co-created ways to make a meaningful contribution to our world. As an associate faculty member at the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University for many years, I have nurtured a lifelong commitment to civil society, leadership development and community building.

Here I am, in service to building capacity for the future we aspire to in our community, in teams and in leading. May we talk about mentoring, design coaching and inquiry processes. If this sounds like your 'cup of tea' then please contact me. Let's talk!