

# GORDON HARRIS, FCIP

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## PROFILE

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A nationally-recognized urban planner, real estate market analyst, and developer with 25+ years of experience guiding organizations and projects. Direct corporate and board leadership experience with emphasis on strategic planning, governance, operations, and human resources management.

Currently leading the development team building UniverCity, a model sustainable community on Burnaby Mountain on lands owned by Simon Fraser University.

Founder and Principal of Harris Consulting Inc., providing domestic and international clients with market intelligence and strategic planning advice since 1988. Clients include many of Canada's most successful land developers, investors, and retailers as well as some of Canada's largest municipalities, senior government departments and agencies. International work includes assignments in Australia, China, the Middle East, the Balkans, and Central America.

Completed Institute of Corporate Directors director education program in 2008. Holds a BA in Urban Geography from the University of Alberta. In 2012 received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for lifetime contributions to community-building in Canada.

## EXPERIENCE

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### **2007 – present ▪ SFU Community Trust** ***President and CEO***

**Burnaby**

As chief executive, reporting to an independent Board of Directors, provides leadership in setting Trust strategies, policies, and programs. Responsible for all aspects of the development of UniverCity, including planning and development, corporate governance, government relations, municipal approvals, and community liaison:

- Recognized globally as a leader in profitable sustainability
- Creating endowment wealth for SFU (\$39 million to date – target is \$90 + million by 2021)
- Regional and national firsts in green building and community sustainability successes including district energy system and low-cost high energy performance buildings
- National leader in stormwater management
- More than a dozen international, national and regional awards in past decade

### **1988 – present ▪ Harris Consulting Inc.** ***Principal***

**Vancouver**

As a professional urban planner and development consultant, responsible for leadership, administration, business development, client relations, and project management.

Harris Consulting Inc. provides domestic and international clients with the best available market intelligence and analysis, and with planning strategies that are creative, considered and pragmatic. The firm promotes sustainable development principles and strategies that minimize costs (both environmental and financial) and maximize profit and other benefits.

Representative project work includes:

UniverCity – a 160 acre low-carbon affordable, livable, and sustainable community on Burnaby Mountain in Metro Vancouver. Current population is 5,000 with buildout of nearly 10,000 expected by 2021.

Australian National University – Urban design framework for Union Court/University Avenue gateway precinct in Canberra (led by Civitas Design)

Canada Line – design and implementation of business liaison program during construction of 19 kilometre light rail linking downtown Vancouver and Vancouver International Airport

Toronto Office Coalition – major business competitiveness study for Greater Toronto Area examining property tax inequities across the region and their impacts on development and investment patterns (with Canadian Urban Institute)

Grosvenor Ambleside – retail and community use strategy for 98-suite mixed-use infill waterfront development in West Vancouver (with Catalytico)

Powell Street/Clark Drive – comprehensive study of one of the most diverse port-related industrial employment areas in Canada designed to preserve valuable city-serving land and businesses (with CitySpaces)

City to the Lake – urban renewal initiative of the Australian Capital Territory government to urbanize the downtown core of Canberra and create strong connections to Lake Burley Griffin (with Beasley & Associates).

**2000 – 2001 • University of British Columbia**

**Vancouver**

***Director, Business Operations***

Responsible for ancillary business units including the UBC Bookstore, Food Services, and Parking, a portfolio with annual revenue of \$60 million. Also provided UBC's executive committee with land use and strategic planning advice with respect to projects including development of the downtown campus at Robson Square and the Great Northern Way Campus.

**EDUCATION**

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Directors Education Program – Institute of Corporate Directors

Bachelor of Arts (Geography/Economics) – University of Alberta

Certificate in Cartography – Nova Scotia Land Survey Institute

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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### Canadian Institute of Planners

Member since 1986

Elected to the College of Fellows in 2009

Member, Fellows Selection Committee 2012

Member, 2013 CIP Conference Leadership Committee

### Royal Canadian Geographical Society

Elected to the College of Fellows in 2015

### National Capital Commission

Member, Advisory Committee on Planning, Design, and Realty 2011 – present

### Urban Development Institute – Pacific Region

Member since 2007

Past Director 2011 – 2013

Past Vice Chair 2013 – 2016

### Lambda Alpha International – Vancouver Chapter

Member since 1998

Member, Executive Committee since 2012

### Planning Institute of British Columbia

Past member, Membership Committee

Past member of Governing Council

Past Chair, Membership Committee

Past Chair, Professional Practices Review Committee

### Urban Land Institute – British Columbia

Past member, BC Chapter Executive Committee 2007 – 2009

Past member, Advisory Council 2009 – present

### Canadian Urban Institute

Senior Associate since 2005

### Presentation House Cultural Society

Past Chair

### Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver

Past Director

### BC Arts Council

Member, 2010 – present

Chair, Governance Committee