

Profiles of Professional Geographers

To learn more about geography careers and
resources, visit our website:

<https://www.cag-acg.ca/profiles-of-geographers>

Slides compiled and designed by Chelsea Chen & Niem Huynh
Interviews and text by Daniel Bartlett & Chelsea Chen



Canadian Association of Geographers
Association Canadienne des Géographes

FELICITAS EGUNYU

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

College of Agriculture and Bio-resources

University of Saskatchewan | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Felicitas examines the sustainability of development in Chile's protected areas.

“Contact people at companies you want to work for and find out what a typical career path looks like there.”





UYTAE LEE

President and Executive Director
PLANifax Productions | Halifax, Nova Scotia

Uytae creates educational videos on urban planning concepts that are easy to understand and fun to watch.

“We use maps and spatial knowledge to report on events, very effective tools to communicate a compelling story.”



BARB

CARRA



Chief Operating Officer
Cybera | Calgary, Alberta

Barb focuses on strategic initiatives that move ICT policy forward in Alberta.

"Geography can be found anywhere. You can be in regulation or intervention and geography still plays a major role."

ROGER PALMINI

GIS Technician | Town of Kingsville | Kingsville, Ontario



Roger uses GIS to analyze spatial patterns and to create visual representations for decision making.

“Make connections, go to conferences, get to know your professors and involve yourself in as many different initiatives as you can.”



YVONNE HUNG

Graduate Program Coordinator
McGill Writing Centre | Montreal, Quebec

Yvonne coordinates a writing and communication program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

“Do not be button-holed into an idea of what geographers can or should do.”

DOMINIK PAPINSKI

Head of Statistics and Data Management

Centre for Contact Lens Research at University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario

Dominik oversees the statistical & data management requirements for studies.

“Automation is key to making yourself more marketable and productive. You can either create a map from scratch or you can program it once and rapidly replicate your work.”



TRACEE NEMETH

Crime Analyst | Durham Regional Police Service | Whitby, Ontario

Tracee creates maps that can be used to support different crime theories.

“Get out there and do the field camps. Develop your verbal communication and presentation Skills.”



Photo credit: kaboompics



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Photo: Jeff Shatford / ©Parks Canada / Wood Buffalo National Park

Wanli performs ecological monitoring of parks on the coast of British Columbia.

Ecologist
Parks Canada

WANLI WU

Vancouver,
British Columbia

**"Geography helped me get this job.
More than 60 scientists applied for the
position but it requires a scientist with a
broad knowledge base. Only geography
provides that type of training."**



Photo: Melissa Gibbons / ©Parks Canada / Wapusk National Park

KAMILLA MILLIGAN

Manager | Equity and Human Rights Office
University of Victoria | Victoria, British Columbia

Kamilla works
with stakeholders
to advance
equity and human
rights issues.



“The things
you disagree
with the most
might be where
you are most
able to learn.”

STEPHAN NIEWELER

Ph.D. Candidate in Geography

Simon Fraser University Burnaby | British Columbia

Stephan's research examines how economic development and planning principles create a vibrant downtown.

“Employers like geographers because of our broad skills, our sense of the lay of the land and our flexibility.”



LAURA BEAZLEY

GeoNOVA Program Administrator | Government of Nova Scotia | Amherst, Nova Scotia



Laura administrates a governmental program that develops and promotes collaborative geomatics initiatives.

“Have confidence in what you can offer and set your mind to realize your value. It will help you to present your unique skill set as an asset that fits the needs of the employer.”



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JASON MAY

Associate Lawyer | Lee Cohen & Associates | Halifax, Nova Scotia



Jason works with clients to solve legal, regulatory, technical and administrative issues that arise from immigration.

“If you are a geographer at heart, if you have a natural interest in the world — be it cultural geography, physical geography or geomatics — then the career will find you.”

SHIRLEY ZHANG

Orderly Room Second-in-Command

Canadian Forces - Department of National Defence
Montreal, Quebec

Shirley administrates
a Primary Reserve unit
within the Canadian
Forces.



“The most valuable takeaway from my geography studies was the ability to break down a complex issue into distinct parts and examine each piece through multiple perspectives.”

AFOLABI SALAMI

Leasing Agent | Block1 Premiere Rental Properties | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Before pursuing a diploma in Mining Engineering Technology, Afolabi conducted market research on regional housing markets.



“I would actively seek out ways to apply my knowledge while in university and not be content with merely accumulating knowledge.”

AMELIA PERES

McGill Food & Dining Sustainability Coordinator | Compass Group Canada | Montreal, Quebec

Amelia oversees all initiatives on environmental and social sustainability at Compass Group's McGill division.



“Someone with a well-written resume but who lacks experiences will do much better than someone with a disorganized resume who has more experiences.”

Tristan writes a weekly column on urban planning issues in Halifax.



You are not going to get a job by sitting in your room, emailing resumes. Shake people's hands, talk to planners, go to public consultations."

TRISTAN

CLEVELAND

Urban Affairs Columnist
Metro Halifax | Halifax, Nova Scotia

CATHY CHAN

Marketing Manager
Integral Group Canada
Vancouver, British Columbia



Cathy resolves company needs by drawing on problem-solving techniques that she developed while studying geography.

“Be open to where your career takes you because it can bring you anywhere.”

KEN BEARDSALL

Nunavusiutit Curriculum Coordinator
Government of Nunavut
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

Ken's work brings together Inuit knowledge and geography, integrating First Nations perspectives into the Nunavut high school curriculum.

"I deeply want to help Nunavut produce more geography students at the university level. It would [...] help the entire discipline of geography."





Caroline reviews spatial data to optimize project sites for large-scale renewable resources in locations around the globe.

CAROLINE DONOHUE

GIS Analyst | DNV GL | Montreal, Quebec

“From early on in your degree, take note of the career opportunities that you encounter, and ask people questions about how they got to where they are now.”

JOSEPH ARIWI

Geospatial Health Research Specialist, Toronto Public Health
Freelance Photographer
Toronto, Ontario

Joseph analyzes and displays spatial data to communicate patterns that are salient to a given research question.

“A photographer will site a location or take a photograph to draw attention to specific elements; geographers do the same with maps.”



KARI JOHNSTON

Wholesale Baking and Catering, Co-Owner
14 Acre Farm
Haines Junction, Yukon Territory

Kari co-owns and operates
a baking and catering company
that sources local ingredients.



Kari Johnston (right)
with business partner, Courtney Quinn

**“As a business owner on traditional
First Nations land, my background in
geography reminds me to consider the
responsibilities I have because I am here.”**

MARK SQUIRES

GIS Research Analyst II

Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Health Information | St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

Mark provides GIS support for the Department of Health Analytics and Evaluation Services (HAES).



“Many great people want to help, but they will not know that you need help unless you ask.”

LARA HOSHIZAKI

Regional Monitoring System Coordinator
Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative
Vancouver, British Columbia

Lara coordinates all aspects of a regional monitoring system that protects British Columbia's Haida Gwaii and Northern and Central Coasts to improve the quality of life in those communities.



“Develop ideas of the different streams that you can go into within geography and expose yourself to other possibilities outside of academia.”

MATTHEW KING

Freelance Photographer and Research Assistant
Indigenous Health Adaption to Climate Change (IHACC) Laboratory
Montreal, Quebec



“Respond to job opportunities even if you think you are under-qualified. You can always learn during the process.”

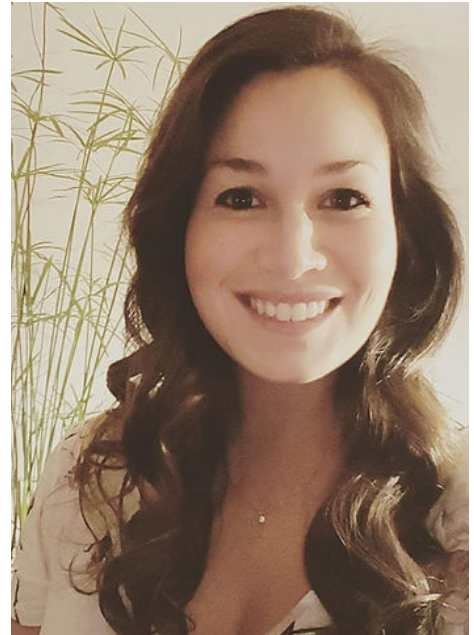
Matthew uses photography to highlight his lab's work and creatively engages a non-academic audience.

MAUDE-ÉLAINE LEVERT MARTIN

Building and Environment Inspector
Municipality of Blue Sea
Blue Sea, Quebec

Maude-Élaine issues permits and certificates that regulates urban planning within the Municipality of Blue Sea.

“For anyone who is interested in a career in urban planning and environment, I highly recommend doing a technical program at the CEGEP or college level before your undergraduate studies.”



DARREN PLATAKIS

Planning, Data & GIS Administrator, Regional Municipality of Niagara
Founder and Executive Director of Geospatial Niagara Thorold, Ontario



Darren promotes geo-literacy
and community participation
through geography.

**“As educators, do not ask students
what they want to be but what problems
they want to solve. [Most] of those
problems are geography-based or have
an associated location.”**

Kristi Leora's research explores how invigorating Anishinaabeg laws can positively affect the environmental health of Indigenous communities.

KRISTI LEORA GANSWORTH

Anishinaabe Poet, Ph.D. Candidate in Geography
York University | Toronto, Ontario

“[Poetry] is my way of preserving a whole other layer of historical context, especially when I am looking at social theories related to geography.”



SERGE OLIVER KOTCHI

Medical geographer, National Microbiology Laboratory
Public Health Agency of Canada | Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec

Serge works on projects that assist the Public Health Agency of Canada to establish appropriate climate change adaptation measures.

“When I applied for the job, I did not have any work experience in public health. However, I knew that I could utilize my geography studies in this profession.”





KATIE BULLICK

**Owner, Environmental Scientist,
and Wetland Specialist**

Pintail Environmental Consulting Inc. | Erskine, Alberta

Katie offers a range of biophysical, environmental, and wetland assessment and management services through Pintail Environmental Consulting Inc.

“Find an area of study that both intrigues and challenges you. You would not want to succeed at something that you might end up hating.”

ROB MEYERS

Co-Founder, UAV Pilot and Geomatics Specialist, Map Hawks UAV Aerial Surveys
Owner and Senior Medical Geographer, Spatial Health Analytics
Guelph, Ontario

Rob uses unmanned aerial vehicle drones to provide high precision and high resolution 3-D geospatial data and imagery.



“Since geography naturally crosses many subject matters, geographers are well-suited to combine different elements and to be innovative.”

MAYUMI SATO

Program Staff | The Life Skills Development Foundation
Chiang Mai, Thailand (based in Montreal, Quebec)



Mayumi develops and facilitates workshops that center around public health and social justice, specifically for migrant workers, vulnerable children, and stateless people in Northern Thailand.

“To students who feel rushed to graduate, [...] if you are interested in something and you are working proactively towards that goal, time should not be a concern.”



JOHN LOPES

Director of Transaction Management
Banking Industry | Toronto, Ontario

John oversees all Canadian real estate transactions for a major banking institution.

“Always show interest to learn and take on new challenges. The most basic tasks can sometimes lead to the most interesting opportunities.”



ANDREW DAVIDSON

Manager, Earth Observation | Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Ottawa, Ontario



Andrew manages a team responsible for the space-based mapping of Canada's agricultural lands.

“I meet students who think they are going to make a lot of money immediately upon graduation. Generally, you start in junior positions and work your way up.”



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MAREN LUCIANI

Principal/Senior Planner | LUCIANI Urban Planning and Design | Kamloops, British Columbia



long-range planning,
community
engagement and
healthy, sustainable
built environments.

**“I encourage
students to pursue a
Master’s degree,
which focuses on
training one to think
critically and it opens
doors career-wise.”**

MARTIN HAEFELE

MANAGER, WHITEHORSE DESIGNATED OFFICE | Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board | Whitehorse, Yukon Territory



Martin completes environmental assessments from oil and gas exploration projects to infrastructures such as power lines and roads.

“Do not worry too much about future employment at the beginning of your studies. If you genuinely enjoy something and are good at it, you will find a good job.”



AARON BUCKLEY

Water Design Specialist

Jacobs Engineering | Vancouver, British Columbia

Aaron works as a Water Design Specialist on topics including water resources, water infrastructure, and contaminated sites.

“Get involved in different aspects of the field. Geography is such a wide-ranging field that it can be hard to know what you want to do without gaining first-hand experiences.”