

## Activity 4: NPRI Staff: Education Paths

<p><b>Summary</b></p>	<p>This activity is designed to illustrate non-conventional jobs within Environment and Climate Change Canada’s NPRI team that represent a variety of educational trajectories. Students may be surprised by the many different types of people hired by the NPRI, including artists, communication specialists, writers and engineers.</p>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that scientific institutions require contributions from people with a variety of backgrounds and interests.</li> <li>• Discover various entry points into employment in the science and technology field, contributing to their job search skills development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What You Need</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky notes (3-4 per student)</li> <li>• Sharpie markers</li> <li>• One set of NPRI Employee Profiles to post around the room</li> </ul>
<p><b>What to do</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With the class, brainstorm what kinds of jobs might be available at the NPRI. Write these on individual sticky notes and post on the board. Sort them into general categories.</li> <li>2. Split students into groups representing the general categories above. What education or experience would be required for that type of job? Write these on individual sticky notes and post on the board under the job titles generated by students in step 1.</li> <li>3. Do the profiles created represent the abilities and interests of everyone in the room? Which kinds of jobs are represented? Which are absent? Note the absent ones on sticky notes.</li> <li>4. Post the large print profiles around the room and ask students to roam and read. Do they see some of the “absent” categories from Step 3? Did anything surprise them?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Extension Activities</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find the Careers page of Environment and Climate Change Canada (<a href="#">Canada.ca &gt; Environment and Climate Change Canada &gt; Careers at Environment and Climate Change Canada</a>)</li> <li>2. Are you eligible for the Federal Student Work Experience Program? Optional: give students some time to create an account with the FSWEP or negotiate with your school’s career counseling program.</li> <li>3. When applying for jobs with the Federal government, they want you to include your formal education and your professional development in your CV. What is the difference between formal education and professional development? Formal education represents a degree-granting program such as high school and college diplomas, as well as university degrees. Professional development represents workshops, individual courses and institutes you have attended to develop skills and abilities related to the position. It includes personal development workshops such as teambuilding and communication skills development.</li> </ol>

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



MEET: **Brigitte**

**JOB TITLE:** Officer Physical Sciences, Office of Strategic Analysis, National Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

History and visual arts

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** I worked for the Jean Coutu Group as a cosmetician.

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I would like to further improve my English, and eventually go to graduate school, for example, a master's degree in animal science.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?**

During my last year of undergraduate study, I participated in the federal student work experience program. I obtained a job opportunity in the field of human resources. My first job was as a Human Resources Officer for Shared Services Canada

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** I enjoy the diversity of the projects we work on. While we work primarily with National Pollutant Release Inventory data, we also collaborate with different groups and integrate other types of data to create interesting and timely online products. This is exciting and rewarding work, as it directly affects the field of science and the environment.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

Advanced Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the University of Ottawa.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

I have been working for the Government of Canada for six years. I started in the field of human resources, however, since I had studied geography, I wanted to find a position related to science and the environment. I first accepted a position as a data analyst for the Canadian Coast Guard. This experience led to a promotion within the Office of Strategic Analysis of the National Pollutant Release Inventory. The environment has always been at the heart of my concerns, which is why I wanted to work in a field that would allow me to raise public awareness about environmental protection.

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



**MEET: Clarisse**

**JOB TITLE:** Strategic Analysis Intern,  
Office of Strategic Analysis, National  
Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Math

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Cashier

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

Biology and Ecology

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?**

I haven't finished my studies yet

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

The most interesting aspect is conducting projects that integrate NPRI data with other types of data, as this involves learning more about various topics and coming into contact with many experts and stakeholders in the field.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH ((EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

I am currently completing a Bachelor's degree in Ecology and Environment. I will soon begin a Master's degree in biology.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

I obtained an internship with the Office of Strategic Analysis at the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) as part of my academic career.

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



MEET: **John**

**JOB TITLE:** Strategic Analyst,  
Strategic Analysis Bureau National  
Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Physical Education

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Lobster Fisherman

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

There is always more for me to learn about mapping applications. In particular, I want to be more proficient when using various mapping applications to be able to perform more analyses.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?**

Sport Chek Sales Associate

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

I think the most interesting thing about my job is working with mapping software applications. I really enjoy using geospatial programs and creating interactive maps to display NPRI data.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Recreation Management from Acadia University, Graduate degree in Sports Business Management from Algonquin College

**Work experience:** I worked for Basketball Nova Scotia as a Provincial Team Program Coordinator. I also worked for Sport Canada as a Grants Officer and Strategic Analyst. I currently work at Environment and Climate Change Canada as a Strategic Analyst

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

I first came to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) from Sport Canada as a contract employee given my experience as a strategic analyst. After my contract with the NPRI, I was hired on full-time and have been here for about five years now.

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



**MEET: Danica**

**JOB TITLE:** Science Officer, Strategic Analysis Bureau, National Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Geography and environmental science

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** I was a cashier at a second-hand clothing store.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?**

My current job.

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I would like to continue exploring science communication, and learn new ways to visualize data.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Collaborating with stakeholders to communicate the impacts of pollution on the environment and communities. Each project is different, reflecting the diverse regions, priorities and people across the country.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

- Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Geography and Environmental Management), University of Waterloo
- Master of Climate Change, University of Waterloo

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

My undergraduate program included five co-op terms, three of which I completed with the federal government. During the final term of my graduate program, I reconnected with colleagues from my co-op placements and began working with the Strategic Analysis Bureau of the NPRI.

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



**MEET: François**

**JOB TITLE:** Senior Science Officer,  
Strategic Analysis Bureau, National  
Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Ecology

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Grocery store clerk

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

There is always more for me to learn about mapping applications. In particular, I want to be more proficient when using various mapping applications to be able to perform more analyses.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?**

Remediation of contaminated sites.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Nuclear energy

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH ((EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

- Bachelor's degree in Bioresource Engineering
- Master's degree in Environmental Management

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



**MEET: Joliane**

**JOB TITLE:** Manager, Strategic Analysis Bureau, National Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

French and economics

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Bartender

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I think it is essential to continually educate yourself. I like to learn more about fundamental subjects like personal finance, but also about subjects that simply fascinate me like architecture and homeopathy.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?** At the end of my undergraduate studies, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) hired me. Having started as an intern, I left CIDA a few years later as a Manager. This environment has given me the opportunity to represent Canada and work in many countries, as well as to develop lasting friendships.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** How many people can visit museums and see exhibits they have designed? How often do you talk to young people about science and perhaps play a decisive role in their career path? It is interesting and rewarding to see the results of the hard work of my team and me in real life. Plus, I find it exciting that my team is always ready to take up the challenges that I throw at them. My employees adapt easily, always with a smile. We like to challenge the status quo and be pioneers to bring about real, innovative change. Encouraging employees to think outside the box is, I believe, something that enables success, real sustainable growth and an engaging workplace.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?** I obtained a Bachelor's degree in administration, with a specialization in finance. Subsequently, I completed a Master in Business Administration for Executives, with a specialization in international management and finance leadership. After working for CIDA for a few years, I decided to change jobs to work on negotiating free trade agreements. Therefore, I traveled the world for five more years, but this time for the Global Trade and Market Access Bureau of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Subsequently, I accepted a position as Manager of Policy and Regulatory Initiatives within the same department. I led many initiatives there under the Canadian aquaculture legislative reform. Then, came the opportunity to contribute as Manager to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) within Environment and Climate Change Canada.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?** By joining the NPRI, I wanted to develop other professional skills, as well as manage new interesting and stimulating files.

# Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



MEET: **Tristan**

**JOB TITLE:** Environmental Officer,  
Strategic Analysis Bureau, National  
Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

History

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Mover at Déménagement Outaouais

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I am interested in animation and game design. I have been trying to learn how to use Blender and Unity.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?** Environmental Officer at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in the Implementation Section of the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI).

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** I find my most

interesting role is in the promotion of the use of the database through the NPRI Academic Challenge. Through this initiative, university students conduct research using pollution data and they come up with innovative and interesting projects that I certainly would not have had the time or perhaps the creativity to produce.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

I studied in biology at the University of Ottawa and worked at ECCC and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency during my Co-op program. After graduating, I took a position at ECCC at the National Pollutant Release Inventory. I later worked a two-year assignment at the International Joint Commission before returning to the National Pollutant Release Inventory in the Strategic Analysis Bureau.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

I joined the NPRI after graduating university, expanding upon the work I had done as a student.



## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



MEET: **Lexy**

**JOB TITLE:** Student Intern, Strategic Analysis Bureau, National Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Math and science in high school, Philosophy in CEGEP

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Swim coach

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I would like to continue exploring how our analyses can continue to inform policies, help Indigenous reconciliation, and fight climate change.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?** I haven't graduated from university yet!

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** Relating important and valuable datasets to communities' lived experiences and coming up with ways to spread this information to increase awareness of the impacts of pollutants on the environment and health.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

- Bachelor of Arts and Science (Sustainability, Science and Society - Honours), McGill University
- Research assistant (local food systems) at McGill University

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?**

I was offered a summer student internship position through the Federal Student Work Experience Program with the NPRI in the Strategic Analysis Bureau.

## Meet the NPRI Staff: Education Paths



**MEET:** Phil

**JOB TITLE:** Strategic Analyst,  
Strategic Analysis Bureau, National  
Pollutant Release Inventory

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Geography

**WHAT WAS YOUR VERY FIRST JOB EVER?** Cook at Pizza Pizza

**WHAT DO YOU STILL WANT TO LEARN ABOUT?**

I want to gain a better understanding of tools like Microsoft Excel and Access. Additionally, I would like to learn French as a 3<sup>rd</sup> language.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING?** Analyst for the Enforcement Branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** Analyzing and understanding the data is one of the most interesting and rewarding things about my job.

Even as a student on a coop term, it was fascinating seeing real world data and seeing how it impacted people in real life.

**WHAT WAS YOUR EDUCATIONAL PATH (EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCES)?**

I studied at the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo, gaining a Bachelor of Environmental Studies, and a Minor in Geography.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK FOR THE NPRI?** While working at the Enforcement Branch, I was approached by my now manager with an opportunity for a 1-year assignment with the NPRI team. It is a great way to try a different role, where you can learn new skills and gain first-hand experience with how different groups within your department work. It also allows you to see how diverse the mandate for a department can be.