



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Kaitlyn hiking in Banff National Park

Green Job Brings More Sustainability to Lethbridge

WHEN KAITLYN PHILIP MOVED FROM British Columbia to Lethbridge, Alberta, she knew she wanted to make an impact on her new home.

That's when she saw that the Environment Lethbridge was looking for an Environmental Programs Assistant – a job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative – and immediately wanted to apply.

“It sounded like a great opportunity to get to know more about the Lethbridge community, and do some work with them and get more experience with environmental communication,” says Kaitlyn.



CITY OF LETHBRIDGE,
ALBERTA

Canada

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Kaitlyn in her previous home of Fernie, B.C.



Kaitlyn volunteering to collect water samples for the local water monitoring program in the Elk Valley, B.C.

“Finding sources of funding for positions like this, especially through the winter, has been challenging. To have the funding at this time of year has just been really great”

Kathleen Sheppard, Executive Director, Environment Lethbridge

Environment Lethbridge was founded in 2012 by its citizens and business owners who wanted the community to take more action to be more environmentally sustainable. The organization offers many ways for community members to take action – including campaigns to help with waste reduction and producing materials like newsletters and guides to help give residents ideas on how to be more sustainable in their everyday lives.

Kaitlyn, who received her bachelor’s degree in environmental geography from the University of Toronto, felt the job was a perfect fit for her skills and passion for the environment.

In her role, Kaitlyn helped communicate the organization’s vision of creating a more sustainable community. Among many of her duties, Kaitlyn often researched and developed online content for the group’s social media and website, as well as created communications materials such as social media graphics, web content and online newsletters.

She says the experience taught her how to communicate more effectively with a wide range of audiences.

“I have an educational background in the environment, so I find sometimes I can talk a bit too technically about things,” Kaitlyn says, adding that she hopes to someday have a career in science communications. “It was really great for breaking the science down, and improving my environmental and science communications skills.”

She adds that she also gained experience in the non-profit world, and learned how they are run and organized.

“It was a great opportunity to get to know a local community a bit better and really have that experience, and take another step in my professional journey and professional development,” Kaitlyn says.

Kathleen Sheppard, the executive director of Environment Lethbridge, helped guide Kaitlyn in the role as her manager and mentor.

She says the organization is a very small team, and the funding helped them to further reach their sustainability goals.

“Even though it was a part time position, it really expanded our ability to keep on top of the ongoing communications,” Kathleen says. “It’s just been really great to have that extra set of hands.”

She adds that she was thrilled to see green jobs funding for over the winter months – especially since most funding is for summer jobs.

“Finding sources of funding for positions like this, especially through the winter, has been challenging,” she says. “To have the funding at this time of year has just been really great, and has taken so many things off of my plate. It’s been wonderful for us.” 🍁