

SUMMER 2019



CPRA ACPL

GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# *Student Success Stories*











# CPRA IS THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION SECTOR

## CPRA

**The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA)** is a national organization dedicated to realizing the full potential of parks and recreation as a major contributor to individual and community health and vibrancy. Membership includes the 13 provincial and territorial parks and recreation associations and their extensive networks of service providers in over 90% of Canadian communities.

CPRA collaborates with a host of other national organizations operating in the recreation, physical activity, environmental, facilities, sport, public health, crime prevention and social services arenas.

Over the course of its 60-year history, CPRA has become a strong and credible national leader in our sector. We provide our members with the information, resources and the professional development they can use to make a difference in their own communities. Through broad-based community involvement, we find solutions to social challenges, impact policy direction and generate momentum towards community quality of life.









The CPRA Green Jobs Initiative is part of the overall Government of Canada commitment outlined in the 2017 Federal Budget that committed to creating 15,000 new green jobs for young Canadians. Funding for this program is provided by Employment and Social Development Canada via the Green Jobs in Green Spaces program. The CPRA Green Jobs Initiative is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program.

Canada









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## SUMMER 2019 STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



Castor, AB >



Madden, AB >



Capital Regional District, BC >



Central Okanagan, BC >



East St. Paul, MB >



Caraquet, NB >



Sackville, NB >



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Charlottetown, PE >



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Kerrobert, SK >



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Whitehorse, YK >





## INTRODUCTION

CJ Noble,  
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**T**HE CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (CPRA) is thrilled to partner with the Government of Canada to support their Green Jobs in Green Spaces program. Thanks to this partnership, much needed financial support has been provided to municipalities, Indigenous communities and other sector organizations, allowing them to develop green initiatives, advance existing green priorities and create new green jobs for youth.

Since 2018, CPRA has directly supported the creation of over 1,400 meaningful youth green jobs in communities across Canada. Together, this support will build a generation of youth that will value nature close to home and potentially pursue an opportunity to build a career in the green jobs sector, and generate much needed support to municipalities, Indigenous communities and other sector organizations to hire additional youth to advance their green priorities.

This document was created to highlight some of the fantastic jobs that were created in the summer of 2019 as a result of this Initiative. CPRA thanks: all the organizations who participated in the Initiative; all the students who worked diligently via their green jobs; the provincial and territorial members of CPRA who oversaw this effort; and the Government of Canada for their support in making this happen.





CASTOR ALBERTA

## Town Benefits from Green Jobs Initiative

**T**HE TOWN OF CASTOR, ALBERTA OFFERS MANY outdoor spaces – including the community’s walking trails, fish pond, and creek. This summer, these spaces were maintained and beautified for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Summer Work Experience program, the Town of Castor was able to hire university student Shaelyn Hewitt as a Green Initiatives Coordinator.

“My job allows me to beautify green spaces and turn them into something people can enjoy,” says Shaelyn, adding that people feel encouraged to go outside and appreciate nature more when everything is well maintained.

“Our town has many trails, parks and sitting areas outdoors we take care of for everyone to enjoy.”

As Green Initiatives Coordinator, Shaelyn kept the town looking its best. Among many of her tasks, she watered plants, cut the grass, and trimmed trees.



**TO READ ALL SUCCESS STORIES** go to:  
<https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>



*“My job allows me to beautify green spaces and turn them into something people can enjoy”*

Shaelyn Hewitt, student



Shaelyn Hewitt, student

But Natasha Bozek, the Town of Castor’s Recreation Director, says that there was much more to Shaelyn’s job.

“While many of our summer positions are focused on grass cutting, tree trimming and garbage collection, this job also focused on a recycling program, tree planting program planning, organic weed control, waste reduction strategies and green space beautification,” says Natasha.

She adds that Shaelyn’s green job enabled the Town to move its green initiatives forward, and showed residents that its green spaces are valued.

“It shows our residents that we are working on making our community a better place to live, work and play,” says Natasha.

The funding also allowed the Town to dedicate resources to green initiatives, which Natasha says may otherwise not have been prioritized.

If given the opportunity, Natasha says the Town would definitely apply for the funding again.

“It is always of great help to a small town to have additional student support, and renewed funding would allow us to continue to work on green initiatives in the future,” she says.

Shaelyn adds that this is the third year she has worked a summer job in the town’s public works department, and she feels like she is making a difference in the community. Through her work, she has gained a new perspective of what goes into public works and how it helps people enjoy the outdoors and appreciate nature.

“It’s much more than just ‘keeping the town pretty’. There are many aspects of my job that I enjoy. I work alongside incredible staff which makes my job a lot of fun,” she says, noting that she would love the opportunity to work for the town again. “I love having a job that keeps me active and outside all summer. Having an opportunity to have so much control over what our town looks like is an honour. I love being able to create a nice space for our citizens to enjoy.”

The CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative supports Goal 3 ‘Connecting People & Nature’ and Goal 5 ‘Recreation Capacity’ within the Framework for Recreation in Canada. The Framework serves as a foundation for the work of the parks and recreation sector. 🌲





MADDEN ALBERTA

## Alberta Student Helps Wild Life

**T**HIS SUMMER, JAYCEE REIMER HELPED GIVE animals a second chance at life. “There is no field of work quite like wildlife rehabilitation,” says Jaycee, an environmental science student. “It is so far from your average job, and every day is exciting in a different way.”

Thanks to funding from the CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Summer Work Experience program, the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) was able to hire Jaycee as a Wildlife Hotline and Rescue Assistant.

The organization is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. It provides expert advice and education that fosters an appreciation of wildlife.

As the Wildlife Hotline and Rescue Assistant, Jaycee managed the AIWC’s wildlife hotline, which Albertans can call 365 days a year to ask questions about wildlife or report an animal in need. She also performed rescues for animals in need of care, and transported injured and orphaned wildlife to the AIWC’s animal hospital.

“Every day brings new calls and new patients,” says Jaycee.



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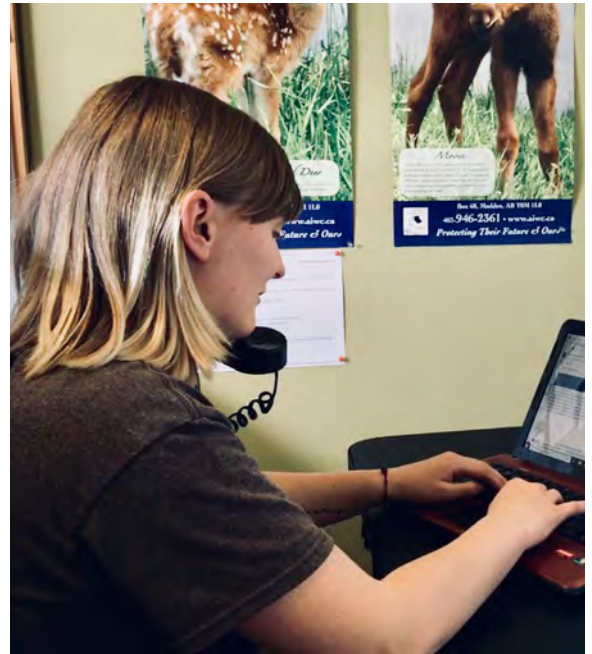


*“Thanks to this funding, we were able to respond faster to rescuing and collecting animals in need”*

Jaycee Reimer, student



Jaycee Reimer, student



Holly Lillie, the AIWC’s executive director, says that the organization was able to hire one student through the Green Jobs Initiative and that it made a big difference to the organization. She says AIWC would definitely apply for the grant again if given the opportunity.

“Wildlife health is an important indicator of the health of our environment, and as urban expansion continues, we expect the demand for our services to increase,” says Holly. “We encourage Albertans to respect the environment around them by inspiring a passion for conservation and sustainability.”

She adds that Jaycee’s summer job was a newly-created position to meet increased demand for the organization’s services.

“Spring and summer are our peak seasons,” says Holly. “On any given day, we can receive 30 to 70 calls to our Wildlife Hotline, admit up to and above 30 new patients, and have up to 200 animals in care. In June, the hotline took more than 1,000 calls. Thanks to this funding, we were able to respond faster to rescuing and collecting animals in need.”

The vast majority of animals that are admitted into the AIWC’s care are injured or orphaned due to human conflict, says Holly – whether they hit a window, a car collision, or get attacked by a pet cat or dog.

Jaycee’s summer job also provided wildlife education to the public, and helped Albertans understand how their actions can impact the environment and its wildlife.

“We educate people on wildlife topics such as normal behaviors, habitats, and health,” Jaycee explains. “We provide wildlife conflict solutions that allow humans to co-exist with wildlife.”

Jaycee adds that she would apply for a similar job again, because every day she felt like she was making a difference.

“It is unique in the sense that it is unlike any other job in the wildlife field, and unlike any other job in the animal health field,” she says.

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story



CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Green Jobs Initiative Helps Student Follow Passion

**JULIA ONDERWATER WANTS TO HAVE A CAREER** centred on her greatest passion - conserving nature, and protecting parks. Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the university student got a great head start in her career as a Social Science Research Assistant with the Capital Regional District (CRD) in British Columbia.

"Users have a responsibility for the conservation of nature in our regional parks and trails systems," says Julia.

The CRD encompasses the southern tip of Vancouver Island and southern Gulf Islands in British Columbia, and establishes and manages an interconnected system of natural lands. It protects and restores the region's biodiversity, offers compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities and accessible, nourishing, joyful connection with the natural world and the area's cultural heritage.

In her summer job, Julia interacted with the regional parks' many users - including walkers, joggers, swimmers and cyclists.



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<https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>



*“This job has taught me to appreciate that nature is not purely physical or natural. It always contains a human element, especially in recreational spaces”*

Julia Onderwater, student



Julia Onderwater, student

She distributed surveys to gain public feedback, and entered this information into a database which helped the CRD manage its parks and trails.

“My job allows the CRD to understand if there are issues in parks and trails that need to be addressed, such as garbage, dog waste, incompatible recreational usage, and habitat destruction,” says Julia. “It is often those who use the parks and trails who are able to tell us the most valuable information about how the CRD can improve its management of those spaces, which is what makes the surveys so important. The surveys allow people to have their voice heard in the management of parks and trails.”

She adds that when visitors fill out the surveys, they also reflect on what they value about the region’s parks and trails.

“This job has taught me to appreciate that nature is not purely physical or natural. It always contains a human element, especially in recreational spaces,” says Julia. “This makes managing parks and trails more complex, especially

when considering the balance between recreational demands and the conservation of nature.”

Beatrice Frank, who supervised Julia and one other student hired under the Green Jobs Initiative, says the CRD’s regional parks and trails system is situated in and around large population centres, and gives many people the opportunity to access, experience, enjoy and learn about the area’s natural environments and species.

Julia’s job helped document how important regional parks are for CRD residents, she says, and how connected people are to the regional parks.

“Visiting protected areas can trigger positive emotions, attitudes and behaviours toward nature and build the necessary public support for nature conservation,” says Beatrice. “Our job is making sure that our visitors have respectful and positive experiences in our parks system, and enable them to connect to and cherish the incredible natural landscape we have on Southern Vancouver Island.” 🌲





GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

CENTRAL OKANAGAN BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Okanagan Summer Park Interpreter Brings Nature to the Community



**W**HETHER IT'S A ROCK, LEAF, ANIMAL OR BUG, Abby Matheson says everything in nature has a fascinating story. This summer, the university student was able to share these amazing stories with Okanagan's regional parks' visitors - thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program.

"This job has opened my eyes to all of the interesting things in nature that people often take for granted," says Abby, who spent her summer working as a Student Park Interpreter with the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

As part of her job, Abby ran environmental educational programs for park users and was able to learn about and teach many interesting topics - including bear biology and participating in a late night guided meteor shower event.

"Every day is exciting," she says, adding that she felt her summer job helped visitors have more enjoyable, meaningful



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Abby Matheson, student

and complete experiences at regional parks. “When I educate visitors about what makes a park special, it opens a conversation about conservation, and encourages park users to help protect these places for generations to come.”

Isabella Hodson, the Regional District of Central Okanagan’s supervisor for Community Relations and Visitor Services, says the Parks Visitor Services department hired a total of five students this summer - four through the Green Jobs Initiative, and one through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The Parks Operations team also hired one additional student through the Green Jobs Initiative.

These were more job placements than ever before, she says, adding that the positions had a tremendous impact on the community – connecting visitors of all ages with nature.

For example, “Point Duties” were set up around the parks and included tents, tables, or activity stations with touch-and-feel nature artifacts and pictures, staffed by an engaged and knowledgeable interpreter.

“They encourage and invite the public to get their hands dirty, to feel the fur on a black bear pelt or lift up a moose antler and feel its mighty weight in their hands,” she describes. “To very gently push one finger into an owl mount to discover that the bird is mostly feathers with only a small skeleton beneath. To listen to the sounds of a hoary marmot or a red squirrel and what each of

*“Employing youth, with the passion and energy and charisma that they bring, invigorates our organization and our community”*

Isabella Hodson, supervisor



those sounds means... It’s making these connections. Making nature real, not just an abstract concept. It’s understanding the pulse of the earth – how each insect, animal, plant, fungi, rock is connected, and understanding our relationship with our biodome.”

Isabella adds that all of the staff benefitted from employing youth like Abby.

“Employing youth, with the passion and energy and charisma that they bring, invigorates our organization and our community,” Isabella says. “Not only do these green jobs help us get out into our parks system with public programs, but the youth we employ revitalize our permanent staff and bring a real zest for life and passion for nature interpretation with them, which in turn ignites everyone in the organization and puts a smile on their face at work each and every day.”

Abby says she would definitely apply for this job or a similar one again if given the opportunity. She made lifelong friends and connections in Geography, her field of study, and says she had unforgettable experiences.

“Explore your local parks,” Abby says. “You never know what you will discover.”

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

EAST ST. PAUL MANITOBA

## Summer Student Helps Manitoba Community Take Action on Climate Change

**EVERY DAY ON THE JOB IS DIFFERENT FOR TIANNA**

Mighty. One day, she might be collecting water samples at the community pond. The next day, she might be writing pieces for the community newsletter about the importance of recycling and composting.

Whether she's working inside or outside the office, the environmental science student is bringing attention to environmental issues as a Climate Change Adaptation Assistant for the Rural Municipality (RM) of East St. Paul, Manitoba.

"I think it's really important that we begin thinking of the impacts of climate change, not only so we can plan for the future of our communities, but also so we can adapt our current practices to make sure we are being as sustainable as possible," says Tianna. "I have learned a lot about how individual actions can have a big impact on the community scale, and how important it is to be conscious when making decisions that ultimately impact our natural environment."



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<https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>



*“I feel like this job has given me valuable work experience in the environmental sector which will be beneficial in future employment endeavors”*

Tianna Mighty, student



Tianna Mighty, Student



Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the RM of East St. Paul was able to hire Tianna - along with two other summer students - to help advance its green projects and initiatives, including community engagement.

“The position has helped the community better understand how all of our actions influence the health of the environment and what measures we can take to protect the natural assets we have while planning for a changing climate,” says Leanne Shewchuk, the RM's Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator who also supervised Tianna.

One of Tianna's tasks was to look at active transportation within the community. She conducted a community bike rack audit to identify improvement opportunities, and also supported a review of bike path connections to help provide better active transportation options for residents and visitors.

She also headed out to the community pond to collect water samples, where she used a portable meter to look at water quality readings.

“I like that I get a lot of freedom and the ability to be creative,” says Tianna. “I feel like my input is valued and considered.”

While she's out in the community, Tianna says she frequently runs into residents who are interested in the municipality's environmental efforts.

“There is a big sense of community and the people that

live here really care about what is happening and how they can contribute to a healthy and sustainable environment,” says Tianna.

She adds that if given the opportunity, she would “definitely” apply for a similar job again.

“I feel like it has given me valuable work experience in the environmental sector which will be beneficial in future employment endeavors,” Tianna says. “I have learned a lot in a short amount of time, and it's great to be able to use the knowledge I've gained from the job in combination with what I've learned during my degree and apply it professionally.”

Leanne also says that this grant will help students like Tianna move forward in their careers.

“This grant has allowed the RM to provide a valuable learning and development opportunity for our students,” she says, adding that the RM of East St. Paul successfully applied for a fall grant through CPRA, which will allow them to hire three more students.

“Thanks to the Green Jobs Initiative, the RM of East St. Paul has been able to better support green projects and initiatives throughout our community,” she says.

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story



CARAQUET NEW BRUNSWICK

## Caraquet Has An Undeniable Charm and Green Spaces As Far As the Eye Can See



**A** WARM AND WELCOMING ACADIAN TOWN, Caraquet has an undeniable charm and green spaces as far as the eye can see. In an effort to increase the use of trails in the community, the Caraquet Plein Air Club, created a new landscaping position this summer. This was made possible thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience Program

Caraquet Plein Air Club hired Vincent-Luc Lanteigne, a 16-year-old student wishing to gain experience in the job market. He was looking for a job that would allow him to be outside and work with his hands. "During my 10 weeks of work, I created a garden path for the community," said Vincent-Luc. "I planted fruit trees and flowers so that visitors could grab a snack on their treks." Since Club Plein Air already had a mountain bike and pedestrian trail measuring more than 12 km long, it goes without saying that Vincent-Luc had his work cut out for him!



TO READ ALL SUCCESS STORIES go to:  
<https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>



*“I really liked my experience, it makes me want to pursue my future studies in a green field”*

Vincent-Luc Lanteigne, student



Vincent-Luc Lanteigne, student

“People will be able to ride a bike and feed themselves thanks to the fruit trees planted on the path”.

This initiative is an excellent example of sustainable development. However, Vincent-Luc’s involvement does not stop there. He also widened the trail for fatbike followers. “For those who don’t know, a fatbike is an all terrain bike with very wide tires and good grip for difficult terrain like snow, sand or mud,” explains Luc Robichaud, General Manager of the Caraquet Plein Air Club. “With fatbikes, riders can use the trail during the summer or winter.” When we asked Mr. Robichaud where his inspiration for this project came from, he explained that similar feeder path projects are present in several

cities. They have taken the initiative to plant trees and fruit plants on their territory to offer citizens a fun opportunity to feast. “The young people who contribute to this project will quickly understand the green impact that it has on the communities”.

Mr. Robichaud and Vincent-Luc would both jump at the opportunity to re-apply to the program. “I really liked my experience, it makes me want to pursue my future studies in a green field,” explained Vincent-Luc. The Green Jobs Initiative has provided the necessary boost to the create of new green initiatives within communities across Canada. 🌲





## GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

SACKVILLE NEW BRUNSWICK

## Green Job ‘Educational, Rewarding, and Fun’ for Waterfowl Park Guide

**K**RISTIN ESTABROOKS SPENT HER SUMMER HELPING people appreciate nature – and, personally learned a thing or two about the town of Sackville, New Brunswick’s wildlife.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Summer Work Experience program, the Sackville Waterfowl Park was able to hire Kristin and one other student to work as Guides/Interpreters.

“Being able to work outside daily, learn about the different birds in the park, and improve my birding skills has definitely increased my appreciation for nature,” says Kristin. “Working closely with other people who share similar interests and also have a strong appreciation for nature has had such a positive impact on me as well. Before this job I had very little knowledge when it came to birds in the park, but after this summer it is a hobby I hope to continue!”



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Kristin Estabrooks, student

*“Taking a walk through the park usually led to another bird being spotted, or gave me the chance to help other patrons in the park identify a bird they spotted”*

Kristin Estabrooks, student

As part of her job, Kristin interpreted the Sackville Waterfowl Park and its flora and fauna, gave tours to the public and to school groups and camps, and assisted customers inside the Sackville Visitor Information Centre.

As she led tours with visitors around the park, she often spotted new birds and added them to the park’s updated list.

“Taking a walk through the park usually led to another bird being spotted, or gave me the chance to help other patrons in the park identify a bird they spotted,” Kristin explains.

She also worked with young children in the park’s summer day camps – educating the next generation to appreciate and preserve nature.

The Waterfowl Wednesdays day camp, which Kristin created, helped visitors and children connect with nature.

“Every Wednesday in the month of July, myself and the other guides worked with a group of kids, and taught them about the wildlife in the park and tried to foster a strong interest in and appreciation for nature,” she says. “Every week we had a strong turnout and lots of interest from the community, and the kids seemed to really enjoy themselves!”

Kristin adds that she also did research on different Wetlands preservation practices, and hopes to integrate

some of these practices into future camps.

Ron Kelly Spurles, manager of Tourism and Business Development for the Town of Sackville, says that Kristin’s summer job helped visitors fully experience the Town of Sackville’s great outdoors.

“Kristin’s job gave visitors the opportunity to learn more about the park, and encouraged them spend time outdoors immersed in it,” says Ron. “Through speaking with visitors in our park, working with children in day camps, and interacting with tourists visiting our Centre, Kristin was able to promote the park and the outdoor experience to them.”

Kristin describes her summer work experience as both rewarding and educational. She has also had the opportunity to learn from experts in the area, as well as other nature enthusiasts, on flora and fauna.

She also says the job was fun, and would apply for a similar job again.

“This job has allowed me to meet so many new people - it has been really fun to interact with tourists and other people visiting Sackville and the Waterfowl Park,” she says.

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

SALISBURY NEW BRUNSWICK

## Village of Salisbury Summer Students Pass on Knowledge to the Next Generation



**R**ESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE OF SALISBURY GET TO experience all the beauty, trails and gardens that the community has to offer.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the New Brunswick town was able to hire two parks assistants who taught school children the importance of nature – all while keeping the community looking its best.

"This summer job has allowed me to appreciate what the village has to offer and has increased my appreciation for nature," says Abigail Thornton, one of two summer students who were hired as assistants for the Salisbury Parks and Leisure Program. "This job has opened my eyes and increased my appreciation for nature as it influences everything, and encourages me to appreciate the simple things in life."



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*“The job has greatly impacted our community because it brought a focus to our wetland trail and learning opportunities to protect our environment to over 200 students”*

Holly McNeil, director

Throughout the summer, Abigail cleaned up the community’s various parks and trails, planted new additions to local flower beds and community orchards, and took care of the Salisbury food bank garden.

But she also engaged with residents – young and old.

“I got the opportunity to incorporate our local daycares in a garden club, in an attempt to engage them in a variety of activities that allow them to take part in caring for the gardens,” Abigail says. “We also organized a walking club around the community wetland trails to encourage the community to get outdoors and embrace nature.”

The two garden clubs per week, which Abigail helped plan and facilitate, included about 50 children. Abigail taught the children about gardening, including how to plant and maintain a garden bed, and about the importance of gardens to support other animal life (including monarch butterflies). Abigail encouraged the children to enjoy in the village’s beautiful parks through play-based learning.

She also helped plan and organize five elementary and middle school field trips around its Highland Park Wetland Trail.

Here, the students researched wetland life, pond life and waterfowl at its wetland trail.

Holly McNeil, Director of Salisbury Parks and Leisure, says these green jobs allowed youth to lead projects that made the village more inviting.



Abigail Thornton, student

It got residents outside and enjoying their community, she says, adding that the next generation learned about the importance of nature and the outdoors.

“The job has greatly impacted our community because it brought a focus to our wetland trail and learning opportunities to protect our environment to over 200 students,” Holly says.

She adds that students have also brought their families to the wetland trail and taught them what they learned – bringing further attention to the importance of protecting wildlife and natural environments.

Abigail says she enjoyed her job so much that she would apply for it, or something similar, again.

“One factor that I love about my job is that we are outside and continuously active, and you get the satisfaction of seeing residents enjoying the gardens and parks you have worked on,” she says, adding that she felt like she gave back to the community this summer. “Our job strives to enhance the environment of the community and create a greener area for locals to enjoy. The funding from this program has had a large, positive impact on our community and continuing to improve it.”

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ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

## Summer Students Work for Cleaner Water in Newfoundland

**C**ATHERINE DUCEY WAS ON A MISSION TO FIND contaminants in Newfoundland's waterways this summer. But she didn't stop there.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience Program, Catherine and her Green Team members from Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador (CCNL) were able to take their conclusions and help towns learn what should be tested further. And, recommend ways to fix problems.

"I believe if we don't ensure we're taking care of our environment adequately, the future of our earth will be in jeopardy," says Catherine, who is studying for her Masters of Marine Studies (Marine Spatial Planning). "With jobs such as this, it allows for even the smallest improvements for our environment, and if more little things are done, they can add up to much more substantial changes."



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*“It is important to educate people and empower them to positively impact their local environment”*

Catherine Ducey, student



Catherine Ducey, student



The CCNL seeks to provide meaningful skill development, training and employment to youth aged 16 to 30 in the areas of environmental and cultural conservation while supporting non-profit organizations, educational institutions and communities throughout the province to advance local conservation priorities.

As part of her job for the CCNL, Catherine and her Green Team members traveled to different waterways and water systems to collect data and samples for chemical and biological testing. The samples taken back for chemical analysis were evaluated for nutrient content, pH, and caffeine content, which provided valuable information on possible sources of contamination and over-enrichment.

She says that once they had the results, they were able to provide their conclusions to community leaders.

“This allows for current and future preservation of our freshwater sources and identifies ways to reduce pollution in these areas, which in turn is one way of ensuring the continuation of a healthy environment,” she says, adding that the team also delivered educational presentations to community groups about the environment, water quality issues, and what people can do to help reduce the effects of climate change. “It is important to educate people and empower them to positively impact their local environment.”

Megan Stuckless, CCNL’s program manager, says the organization hired 34 young people to work on environmental and cultural conservation projects across Newfoundland and Labrador through funding from CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative.

She says Catherine’s position as a green team member directly impacted municipal planning around conservation of local waterways.

“The data being collected will be used by community leadership to mitigate sources of pollution and contamination, while actively protecting pristine areas as the community continues to grow and change,” says Megan.

The job also engaged residents, she adds, and the Green Team’s community presentations sparked conversations about how people can protect local water systems – all while empowering young people like Catherine to use their skills and education to help protect natural areas.

“The Green Jobs Initiative is truly an impactful and powerful tool for the advancement of youth and the betterment of natural spaces throughout our country,” Megan says.

Catherine believes that the hands-on experience in the field will help her future career, and she would “absolutely” apply for a similar job again.

“Throughout our testing and analysis, it gives you a wake-up call when you do see irregularities, and makes you want to do whatever you can to help mitigate these issues and do your part in conserving our environment in any way possible,” Catherine says.

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

YELLOWKNIFE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Yellowknife Green Jobs Student Shows ‘Fruits’ of Local Agriculture



**RYAN WALLACE SPENT HIS SUMMER SHOWING** Yellowknife residents that great food can be grown locally in the Northwest Territories.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Summer Work Experience program, the Yellowknife Farmers Market was able to hire Ryan to work as a Harvesters Table Assistant.

In his role, Ryan “talked gardening” with visitors at a stand that also included local gardeners’ excess harvest. He educated visitors on gardening techniques, and spread awareness on what can be grown in their northern climate.

“People often seemed surprised at what could be grown in Yellowknife,” says Ryan. “They asked questions about how they could see the same results in their own gardens. Hopefully, this resulted in them spending more time outside in their garden.”



**TO READ ALL SUCCESS STORIES** go to:  
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*“Realizing the value of growing your own food directly translates into a connection between people and nature”*

Ryan Wallace, student



Ryan Wallace, student

While visitors learned how to start up their own gardens, Ryan’s work at the Harvesters Table also encouraged gardeners to maximize the amount of food they grew.

“The vast majority of produce consumed in the north has to be shipped in from down south, so there’s a pretty large carbon footprint attached to that,” Ryan explains. “Increasing the amount of local produce consumed by the public helps to mitigate this issue.”

Tom Money, vice-president of the Yellowknife Farmers Market, says that Ryan’s job made a positive impact on the community, and got people interested in growing their own food.

“Realizing the value of growing your own food directly translates into a connection between people and nature,” Tom says.

He adds that the Northwest Territories is not typically viewed as an agricultural area, and Ryan was able to connect people with healthy, locally grown food. He says that Ryan also demonstrated the “fruits” of local and sustainable agriculture to the public.

“It is important to support our growers and wild

harvesters, and to help build interest and capacity in the sector through this kind of green jobs skills training,” he says. “Without the funding support received through the Green Jobs Initiative, we would not have been able to operate the Harvesters Table at the same scale.”

Ryan adds that he would “absolutely” apply for a similar job again, and that the experience renewed his personal passion for gardening.

“I used to keep a garden for a long time, but it had kind of fallen flat,” he said. “I have big plans for next summer!”

Ryan adds that his summer job was incredibly rewarding, and he enjoyed interacting with people every week.

“People got excited about local produce,” he says. “You can easily see the effect it had in the community. I felt like it had a very tangible impact.”

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INVERNESS NOVA SCOTIA

## Trail Ambassador Enjoys Nova Scotia's Great Outdoors

**E**VERY MORNING THIS SUMMER, REGYN MACDONALD hopped on the local Strait Area Transit and headed out for a day's work. Some days, it was helping at an outdoor event. Other days, it was leading a guided hike for children.

But no matter what the task was, Regyn was able to experience the Municipality of the County of Inverness's great outdoors. And, she showed visitors the importance of enjoying the environment while also preserving it.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, Regyn and one other student were hired to work as Trail Ambassadors for the municipality.

"Being able to soak up the fresh air and summer sun every day, while staying physically active at work, made this job so awesome," says Regyn. "Everything I did for this job involved all the aspects of life that I love."

As a Trail Ambassador, Regyn facilitated and attended outdoor activities, such as cycling and hiking, for both children and adults. She also taught participants the "leave no trace principles."



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*“This summer, we worked to preserve the environment and remind our community do the same”*

Regyn MacDonald, student

Regyn MacDonald , student

“This summer, we worked to preserve the environment and remind our community do the same,” she says. “Being able to show others how to appreciate our lands without negatively affecting the environment around us helps connect people and nature.”

Regyn also assisted with the municipality’s outdoor events – including the community’s geocaching event, beach volleyball and sandcastle building day, and festivals.

“I loved being able to experience the different outdoor festivals, events and activities in our municipality - all while connecting with people from all around the globe,” she says.

Charlotte MacDonald, Recreation Manager for the municipality, says that Regyn was an environmental steward and that the green jobs helped provide a focus on the community’s greatest local assets.

“Outdoor recreation is one of our main tourism draws,” Charlotte explains. “The county is a tourism destination. Our natural environments and outdoor recreation facilities are key to what Inverness County is all about.”

She adds that she was grateful for the funding, since it

allowed the municipality to create two important positions that promoted its outdoor activities to all – including rural children - and taught visitors the importance of preserving the environment.

Regyn says that the job also taught her more about the environment. She learned how to make a positive impact on the environment while still being able to enjoy it.

Regyn says she would apply for the position again “in a heartbeat.” The high school student’s summer job even influenced her career path.

“This job has provided me with an idea of how a municipality’s recreation/tourism department works, and will influence my decision for my future in school and work,” she says. “I am so grateful to have had this amazing job!”

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

ST. MARY'S NOVA SCOTIA

## High School Student Beautifies Nova Scotia Town

**C**ALEB MAILMAN IS THE GREEN SUMMER STUDENT behind colourful flowers and perfectly maintained trails in the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, Nova Scotia. Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the municipality was able to hire the high school student to work as a Green Project Leader.

If it is green, I have probably had a hand in keeping it that way," says Caleb. "This is my first official summer job other than mowing lawns in my spare time. I really enjoy the work, the people I work with, and most of all I really love to spend time outdoors."

Throughout the summer, Caleb improved and maintained public spaces around the district, with a focus on the community of Sherbrooke. These spaces included the local trail system, public parks, and green spaces. Caleb also led guided public hikes throughout the municipality.



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*“I made sure the places and spaces that gave people access to the natural environment were well kept, and beautiful”*

Caleb Mailman, student



Caleb Mailman, student

“My work allowed people in my community to explore nature in safe settings,” he says. “I made sure the places and spaces that gave people access to the natural environment were well kept, and beautiful.”

Kerri Penney, Director of Community Development and Recreation for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary’s, says Caleb’s summer job was very important to the municipality.

The community is made up of a lot of green and natural spaces, she says, and it is important to get residents and visitors out to experience all that the municipality has to offer.

“I like to call the natural environment our largest ‘facility!’” she says. “If the settings are welcoming and safe for residents to enjoy, they will be attracted to spend time in them. Spending time in the outdoors will allow people to fall in love with nature and care more about nature. Caleb is helping us make that happen.”

She adds that Caleb’s hard work this summer will have a lasting effect on the community – especially his work to remove an aging and dangerous boardwalk in the town’s

Stonewall Park, where he also helped improve the look of the popular hiking spot.

Kerri says that the CPRA’S Green Jobs Initiative helped a small, rural municipality get a boost and focus on areas that deserve to be well cared for.

“This program has allowed us to really make a lot of changes in our green and natural settings,” she says.

She also noticed that the funding made a personal impact on a summer student who worked his first real job.

“It was a joy to work with Caleb and watch him grow in the position, both in ability and confidence,” she says.

Caleb says he would love the opportunity to have a green job again, and that the experience was unforgettable.

“I had so much fun working in this position,” he says.

“I got to be outdoors for the most of my time, and in the summer, that is where I love to be.”

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

IQALUIT NUNAVUT

## WWF-Canada Summer Job Opens Student's Eyes to a “Green” Career

**L**ERENA ASHEVAK WASN'T SURE IF SHE WANTED A career in the environment. But, the high school student thought she would give a green job a try. Now, after working as a summer student for WWF-Canada's Iqaluit office, she is more confident than ever that a career in the green sector is in her future.

“What I love most about my job is how I get to gain some experience working in an office environment, and work on projects that I find interesting,” says Lerena. “I also get a feeling that I'm contributing to a cause that I believe in.”

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, WWF-Canada's Iqaluit office was able to hire Lerena to support a variety of projects – including in the community, and within the organization – and further its work on environmental issues of importance to the Arctic.

In her summer student role, Lerena worked on plastic reduction within the company, organized community cleanups, and helped to collect data on Iqaluit's freshwater.



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Lerena Ashevak, student

*“Environmental science is the study I want to pursue after school, and this job fits in line with that goal”*

Lerena Ashevak, student

“Lerena has been extremely helpful in improving some of the learning resources we’ve been working on for educating people about plastics, as well as educating people about energy,” explains Martha Lenio, her supervisor and Specialist, Renewable Energy, Arctic for WWF-Canada. “The shoreline cleanup was a great opportunity to interact directly with the community on a waste management initiative as well.”

As part of the shoreline cleanup, Lerena says she gained experience in contacting companies and recruiting residents to join the cleanup.

In the end, the group collected at least 15 bags of garbage and significantly improved the state of the creek next to their office.

Martha adds that Lerena has also improved a number of WWF-Canada’s educational materials by making them more accessible to Northern youth, and helped improve WWF’s internal business practices to bring down its own carbon footprint.

“She’s also done a wonderful job on an internal WWF plastics reduction project that we wanted to do, but didn’t have funding for. So hopefully her work will have enabled WWF as a whole in reducing the amount of plastics we’re responsible for putting into the environment,” Martha says, adding that she would “definitely” apply for funding

again if given the opportunity. “As WWF is an ENGO, I have a very limited budget to support my project. Without the CPRA support, I would not have been able to hire a student. Having Lerena has helped move a number of projects forward that otherwise I would have struggled to complete this summer.”

Lerena says that the job has also made her personally appreciate nature more.

Every day, she says she had the opportunity to work with people who know the environmental issues the facing the Arctic, and how to best preserve it.

But since she had the opportunity to work for an international company, Lerena says she also had a chance to learn about environmental projects around the world.

“This has made me a lot more aware of exactly how important conservation work is,” she says. “I would definitely apply for jobs like this again. Environmental science is the study I want to pursue after school, and this job fits in line with that goal.”

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CPRA ACPL

GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

MISSISSAUGA ONTARIO

## Summer Job Helps Mississauga Residents Think Greener



**T**HE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA IS HOME TO MORE THAN 800,000 people, and as Canada's sixth largest city, its municipal leaders feel they have an important responsibility to leave a legacy of a clean and healthy natural environment.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the City of Mississauga was able to hire a university student to help spread its green message across communities.

"This role makes me feel like I'm part of the solution to work towards addressing climate change, and other environmental issues, through greater awareness and action," says Geena Richards, who was hired to work as the City's Environmental Outreach Student.

Within the last five years, the city has experienced more intense weather events – such as heat waves, rain, flooding and winter storms. The trend is expected to continue in the future.



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Geena Richards, student

*“This role makes me feel like I’m part of the solution to work towards addressing climate change”*

Geena Richards, student

As a member of the City’s environmental outreach team, Geena worked on a climate change engagement and outreach campaign to educate residents about the effects of climate change, and helped spread awareness of the City’s first Climate Change Action Plan.

The Plan’s goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prepare Mississauga for the impacts of a changing global climate.

She attended community events, where she spoke to residents about the City’s environmental initiatives – and, how they can do their part to contribute to a greener Mississauga.

“I provided resources that helped residents live more environmentally, such as shopping at local farmers’ markets. I also encouraged them to participate in outdoor activities that the City of Mississauga has to offer such as cycling, or even gardening in their own backyard,” Geena says.

Diana Suzuki Bracewell, the City’s Supervisor of Environmental Outreach, says that Geena’s role made an impact on community residents and leaders.

The City of Mississauga supports a more responsible and sustainable approach to the environment, she says, and change must start with citizens.

“Geena helped people to see how their actions can collectively help in the city’s efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change,” says Diana. “Engagement

in sustainability, and changing behaviour, are integral elements of minimizing our impact on the environment. This contributes to reversing climate change.”

She adds that Geena’s role has helped Mississauga continue to be a green leader.

“The City of Mississauga works to be a responsible steward of the land by conserving, enhancing and connecting natural environments,” Diana says. “We have really benefitted from the Green Jobs Initiative.”

As a Master’s in Environmental Studies student, Geena has a passion for the environment and says she gained great experience in her field of study.

She says she learned a lot about the City of Mississauga’s environmental initiatives, but also how cities operate and how plans come to fruition at the municipal level.

Geena adds that she enjoyed working with colleagues who want to create a healthier environment for future Mississauga residents.

“The experience of this job has been extremely beneficial and memorable to my learning as a student in the environmental field, and my work colleagues made the experience even more enjoyable,” Geena says.

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## Summer Students Make Charlottetown Greener

**T** HIS SUMMER, CHAD QUIGLEY MADE THE CITY OF Charlottetown greener – and, he did it all in a sustainable way.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the City of Charlottetown was able to hire three students for Green Jobs, including Chad who worked as a Sustainable Horticulture Assistant.

"This job has given me perspective on the importance of natural areas within urban centers," says Chad, who is studying Wildlife Conservation.

Throughout the summer, Chad helped design, plant, and maintain the city's parks and community vegetable planters for the residents to use.

"It is truly a good feeling to plant and maintain these gardens for the people of Charlottetown," says Chad. "The flowers and plants will hopefully brighten their days."



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*“This job has given me perspective on the importance of natural areas within urban centers”*

Chad Quigley, student



Chad Quigley, student

Chad used sustainable practices when maintaining the city’s gardens. For example, he watered plants with rain water collected from several building roofs – lowering the city’s potable water use. He also became more aware of the effects of invasive species, and how they affect native species.

Chad feels his job helped inspire citizens to establish their own gardens at home, and pursue a greener, more sustainable lifestyle.

But he also feels proud that his work helped bring nature to the city.

“The gardens give people a green space in the city. It can give people a break from the busy city lifestyle and a place to relax and take in some beautiful nature,” he says. “City gardens and green spaces give wildlife a home within the city boundaries, and this gives people an opportunity to connect with wildlife without having to leave Charlottetown.”

Nancy McMinn, Parks Superintendent for the City of Charlottetown, says Chad’s horticulture position introduced him to a number of horticultural green initiatives in parks.

Among many tasks, she says Chad worked with volunteer groups to plant large native trees, learned how to plant drought-resistant plants, weeded and learned about pollinator plants, and even introduced new Canadians to new plants in the city’s vegetable planters.

“The Green Jobs Initiative helped us spread the concepts of sustainable horticulture,” says Nancy, adding that it also helped students like Chad get hands-on experience in growing food, sustainability, and making communities look better.

Shelly Gallant, Chad’s Crew Chief, adds that these green jobs are important because they introduce students to future employment with municipal parks and sustainability.

“It is very nice to see a young person having such an interest in nature and horticulture,” she says. “It makes the seasoned staff appreciate passing on their knowledge, and gives us hope that the future will be better because of the students’ interests.”

Chad enjoyed his work so much that he would like to have a career in sustainability and conservation.

“Working with plants and in the conservation field is the kind of work I would like to build a career around,” he says. “This job or a similar position would allow me to expand my knowledge in the field and continue to make a positive impact in the environmental field.”

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story

CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## Summer Student Feels 'Lucky' to Study Underwater Habitats



**T**HIS SUMMER, LUCAS SHERRY DELVED underwater to learn how the environment is affecting aquatic life. And, his research will help restore the habitats impacted by climate change.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (Coalition-SGSL) was able to hire Lucas and one other student to work as Environmental Technicians.

The Coalition-SGSL works with federal government departments and local watershed groups to carry out environmental research.

Lucas focused his work on mapping and restoring eelgrass - an ecologically significant species that is an important habitat for a variety of species including Atlantic salmon.

"Eelgrass is an ecologically significant species and our research provides insights on the effects of changing ocean climates,"



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*“I’ve been able to see first-hand the contrast between a healthy and an unhealthy ecosystem”*

Lucas Sherry, student

explains Lucas, an environmental studies and political science student. “We will better understand what activities can impact eelgrass, as well as understand seasonal variation to give a more accurate understanding of eelgrass in these habitats.”

Specifically, Lucas used sonar to monitor eelgrass in ecosystems in the Southern Gulf Region - which includes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI - to understand the density and distribution of eelgrass in these ecosystems.

“The monitoring we are conducting will give us a more realistic picture of the aspects impacting the density and distribution of eelgrass,” he explains.

For Lucas, every day on the job was different. Each day he was in a different province, conducting research in an estuary that he had never sailed before.

Each estuary also had its own unique activities happening, he says – caused by both nature and humans.

“I’ve been able to see first-hand the contrast between a healthy and an unhealthy ecosystem,” Lucas explains. “There are various contributing factors to ecosystem health, and our job is to identify these factors, understand them and work to improve these ailing ecosystems. Although some may be ailing, they’re still resilient and deserve our attention.”

Angela Douglas, executive director of SGSL, says that Lucas gained great experience working with environmental organizations such as non-profits, watershed groups, and federal and provincial governments.

“We partner with local groups to train them in monitoring techniques and share our results,” Angela says.

She adds that the coalition hosted “mapping days” in Port Mouton, Nova Scotia over the summer. This included a community beach event with the local watershed group, Parks Canada, the Ecology Action Centre and others.

This family-friendly, educational event helped residents and visitors learn more about underwater habitats.

Angela says she would “absolutely” apply for the funding again, and that hiring Lucas helped the coalition further pursue its research which will have a positive impact on the aquatic life in the Southern Gulf Region for generations to come.

“This funding has enabled us to hire an experienced student, thus requiring less time training and more time doing research,” she says.

Lucas says the green job with Coalition-SGSL allowed him to work in picturesque areas, network with wonderful people, and constantly learn.

“Each of these habitats have their own unique beauty and makeup, which make conducting research within them both fascinating and serene,” he says. “I consider myself lucky to do what I do.”

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GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story



LONGUE-POINTE-DE-MINGAN, QUEBEC

## A Student Discovers How to Grow Crops in the North

**E**RIKA LALIBERTE IS AN AGRICULTURE STUDENT AT the Victoriaville Cégep. This summer, she was hired by Le Grenier Boréal Coop, a non-profit environmental organization located in Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, Québec to work as a gardening assistant and agritourism facilitator. This job was made possible thanks to the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience Program.

"As a biology student, I wanted to learn more about the reality of growing crops in the north," said Erika. "I wanted to learn about its advantages and its challenges, and learn the basics of working on a farm." Erika's daily routine included various tasks like harvesting fruits and vegetables, weeding and soil conditioning. "I really enjoyed guiding tours through the fields and speaking with visitors about the Coop's developments," she said. These daily interactions allowed Erika to inform the



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*“I really enjoyed guiding tours through  
the fields and speaking with visitors  
about the Coop’s developments”*

Erika Laliberte, student



visitors about the new vegetables and to build awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity. “When we deliver our fresh produce, I take the time to tell people about their vegetables. We also send them new recipes they can discover. It strengthens what we taught them before.”

In addition to her daily tasks, one of Erika’s favourite tasks was planting a raspberry field. “There’s a lot to do in a very short amount of time,” she says. “You need to mark off a space in the sand, create earth mounds, enrich the soil, plant more than 650 raspberry bushes, nurture them all season long and pick the fruit for harvest.”

Josee Belanger, General Manager of the Coop is really

proud of the work Erika did. “Thanks to this funding, we were able to hire students to do daily tasks and raise awareness about growing crops in the north with the visitors.” It boosted the popularity of the program within the community, and also with tourists who visited the Côte-Nord region. “The north is often believed to be arid, but in reality it is abundant and generous. It’s important that visitors get to experience it first hand.”

Next year, the Coop wants to build a greenhouse. “This program gave Erika the opportunity to be a part of exciting horticultural improvements,” said Josee. “We will absolutely apply again for future funding.” 🌲





GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

# Student Success Story



TERREBONNE, QUEBEC

## A Rowing Club Gets to Reduce Its Carbon Footprint

**A**FTER SEVERAL YEARS OF COLLECTING GARBAGE around the Milles-Îles River and the River Park, the Terrebonne Rowing Club was ready to improve its environmental impact. That's where Emile Parent, a young student involved with the Club and a fervent advocate for the environment, comes in. Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience Program, Emile created a carpooling project, which aimed to reduce the club's carbon footprint. "I have a passion for progressive change," said Emile. "I wanted to see some greener initiatives at the Club."

Over the course of Emile's work term, he was able to make concrete changes on the members' habits, which will have a long-term impact on the environment. This is something Emile has been pushing for for some time. "For a long time, I have been interested in the car pooling issue," said Emile. "I realized that several Club members arrived individually by car, even though they lived close to each other." He got to work pairing the participants and drafting a code of ethics for the Club members.



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*“Thanks to this project, the amount of trash you can see on the river bank is already reduced”*

Emile Parent, student



Emile Parent, Student

Given the environmental appeal of the program, Emile's proposal gained the full support of the membership, and the program was adopted quickly.

Another simple but important change that Emile facilitated at the club was shifting to reusable water bottles. Daniel Aucoin, the Manager of the Club, expressed his relief following the elimination of disposable plastic bottles, which were everywhere. “We now have an aqueduct water dispenser in the hangar,” said Daniel. “Everyone is encouraged to bring their own reusable bottles. Thanks to this project, the amount of trash you can see on the river bank is already reduced.”

The last major initiative that Emile worked on was reducing the amount of waste the club produces. Historically, social events at the club generated a huge

amount of waste from disposable dishes and utensils for guests. Emile sourced proper dishes and utensils that the Rowing Club could reuse at future events. “Thanks to this project, the Club hosted its first waste-free event,” said Emile. “Anything that wasn't consumed was composted or recycled after the social. For the first time, we didn't throw anything in the trash.”

Securing funding through the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative was really the spark to open the Environmental Coordinator position which Mr. Aucoin wants to see become a permanent job. He would like to start more initiatives in the coming years to clean the park, the river, and explore other environmentally sustainable projects on the surrounding lands. 🌲





KERROBERT SASKATCHEWAN

## Town of Kerrobert Takes Pride in Green Spaces

**IT WAS A DRY SPRING IN SASKATCHEWAN THIS YEAR.**

But in the Town of Kerrobert, fresh flowers bloomed. Parks were green. Residents and tourists enjoyed bird watching at the town's Interpretive Nature Trail, and fishing at the local Reservoir.

Thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program, the Town of Kerrobert Recreation Board was able to hire a summer student to maintain these outdoor spaces for all to enjoy.

"By bettering our green spaces we know that our community members will take the time to enjoy the outdoors more," says Bobbi Hebron, Kerrobert Recreation Director. "We know the importance of preserving the environment and promoting green spaces, as they contribute to the health and wellbeing of our people."

Jonathan Chase, who was hired as the Parks Summer Student, was responsible for tree care, lawn maintenance, flower care, maintaining and improving the Interpretive Nature Trail and local Reservoir, and other green spaces.



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*“By bettering our green spaces  
we know that our community  
members will take the time to  
enjoy the outdoors more”*

Jonathan Chase, student



Jonathan Chase, student

While the job had its fun and unique moments for the high school graduate – like riding a lawn mower and working outside all day – he also learned a lot about the importance of caring for all green spaces.

“By working outdoors, I have learned to appreciate what nature naturally provides us with – such as animals, water and trees,” he says.

Jonathan adds that the job was very rewarding, and he felt like he was making a difference in the community.

“By bettering the green spaces in this community, people enjoy spending their time in the parks and other green spaces that I work to improve,” he says. “I have had people from the community thank me for the work I have been doing in the local parks. They tell me that they sit in the park more because it looks really good.”

The job was so rewarding that if given the opportunity, he says he would apply for a similar job again.

Hebron says she would “absolutely” apply for the grant again, and adds that it offered a great work opportunity for a summer student.

“Small communities such as ours do not offer many

opportunities for youth to return for full time work. This job allowed our student to remain at home throughout the summer and work at a job that he learned from, enjoyed, and he was able to save money doing it,” she says, adding that the grant was also beneficial for the entire town. “This job allowed the Town of Kerrobert the opportunity to have one student focus entirely on our green spaces. This is unique as we typically do not have the funds to devote one student to anything.”

Hebron says that having the summer job grant also showed the community that its green spaces are a priority, and that Jonathan was seen as a leader for other youth.

“He provided leadership to other youth that “green jobs” are good jobs,” she says. “It has made our community better!”

The CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative supports Goal 3 ‘Connecting People & Nature’ and Goal 5 ‘Recreation Capacity’ within the Framework for Recreation in Canada. The Framework serves as a foundation for the work of parks and recreation sector. 🌲





NORTH BATTLEFORD SASKATCHEWAN

## Garden Assistants Help Community Connect With Nature



**C**LAIRE LEGASPI BELIEVES THAT A COMMUNITY garden is more than just a place to grow healthy food. It also serves as a classroom for children and adults, she says, and it teaches people sustainable, healthy and affordable food growing practices.

This summer, the executive director of Midwest Food Resource Project Inc. was able to hire two students to keep its North Battleford community garden thriving - thanks to funding from the CPRA's Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Summer Work Experience program.

The Saskatchewan-based non-profit organization offers programs that enhance food security and better nutrition in the Battlefords, Meadow Lake, Lloydminster and surrounding areas. It runs the only fresh food box program in the communities, where residents have access to a variety of in-season fresh vegetables and fruits at an affordable cost.



**TO READ ALL SUCCESS STORIES** go to:  
<https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>

*“This job has given me a deeper appreciation for nature, and I believe that if more people had jobs like mine, they would come to appreciate nature more as well ”*

Claire Legaspi, student



Claire Legaspi, student

“The Green Jobs Initiative’s funding support makes it possible to have garden assistants regularly helping with gardening duties (instead of simply relying on volunteers during their free time) and making our community garden more productive with abundant vegetable harvests,” says Claire. “This helps our organization make fresh, organic vegetables more affordable and accessible to people in our community through our fresh food boxes and farmer’s market stall.”

Athena Payette was one of the summer students hired to look after the community garden.

As a garden assistant, Athena spent her days outdoors cleaning the garden in preparation for planting, planting and growing seeds, transplanting seedlings into the garden, watering plants, weeding the garden, harvesting, composting, and preparing the soil for the next planting season.

“I am surrounded by plant life everywhere I go at work,” Athena says, adding that the job allowed her to spend time in nature. “There are many things I love about my job, but the thing I love most about it is the wildlife I often get to see.”

While Athena loved the opportunity to connect with nature over the summer, her hard work also opened the door for residents to better connect with the outdoors – and, learn a thing or two about growing their own produce.

“Through our garden, we also offer gardening opportunities and skills training to individuals or families who do not have the space to grow their own food,” says

Claire. “We do not provide feeding programs, but rather focus on self-reliant programs that build knowledge and skills to allow people to feed themselves. Our Garden Assistants play an important role in making sure that the garden is a conducive place for working with and learning about nature.”

Aside from learning how to grow food, Athena also learned sustainable agricultural practices. She says that the skills and experience she learned this summer will help her pursue a career in conservation someday.

“This job has given me a deeper appreciation for nature, and I believe that if more people had jobs like mine, they would come to appreciate nature more as well,” she says.

Claire says the organization would love to hire summer students again, if given the opportunity. She says that the Green Jobs Initiative is a win-win for both organizations and students.

“The Green Jobs Initiative is a great way to help organizations like ours give students an opportunity to learn about what we do and become part of our programs,” she says. “It helps them see social issues from a practical perspective, and hopefully makes them want to continue helping with initiatives to address these issues in the future.”

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WHITEHORSE YUKON

## Back to Basics For Le Petit Cheval Blanc Daycare

**G**IVING TODAY'S YOUTH THE TOOLS THEY NEED to enjoy their environment and maintain it; that's the mission of a daycare of Whitehorse, Yukon called Garderie du petit cheval blanc. Thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, David Rivard-Cartier shared his passion for the outdoors with the community's younger generation. Together, they discovered Yukon's natural wealth through educative excursions and activities.

David is studying to become a physical education teacher, and put his capacity to lead kids to the test throughout the summer thanks to many exciting activities. "My favourite activity was a two day camping trip with the older children," says David. "Whether young or old, everyone really liked it." David shared his passion for the outdoors and physical activities with the children, and he helped them push their limits and develop good social bonds. As he says, the caregivers not only teach a subject, they also play a role in building the child's identity and healthy habits.



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*“My favourite activity was a two day camping trip with the older children”*

David Rivard-Cartier, student



Thanks to the proximity of untamed wilderness of the Yukon, these activities were not only fun, but the children also learned some useful skills. “The children learned several survival techniques like how to filter water to make it drinkable, how to alert the emergency services if needed, and how to build a shelter and keep themselves warm,” explained Leslie Larbalestrier, Executive Assistant at the Garderie. “They also learned how to react if they encounter a bear, since there are quite a few species in the surrounding area.”

Respect for nature is an every day consideration at the Garderie du petit cheval blanc. Composting, reducing, reusing and recycling are common themes throughout programming, and in addition to teaching children how to save water and other resources, crafts focus on using recycled materials. One of the most exciting activities of the summer was building small motorized vehicles

using recycled materials. According to Leslie, one of the strongest values shared in the community is the idea that objects should be used and preserved as long as possible, and that it’s better to reuse than to throw away.

This camp was made possible thanks to funding from the CPRA’s Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Summer Work Experience Program. Without the help provided by this program, it would have been impossible for David Rivard-Cartier to fly to the Yukon, and he never would have benefited from this work experience and the cultural immersion it provided. The organization wishes that the Green Jobs Initiative be renewed for years to come. Due to the growing number of youth wishing to discover the many possibilities nature has to offer, they would benefit from it like their ancestors before them. 🌲





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