

Summer 2021

Success Stories

Green Jobs Initiative

CPRA  ACPL

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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CPRA ACPL

GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Green Job Connects Indigenous Youth to BC Trails

A S AN INDIGENOUS YOUNG ADULT, Damyn Libby has always been passionate about working with, for, and alongside other Indigenous people.

When he learned the Trails Society of British Columbia was hiring an Indigenous Youth Engagement Coordinator, he jumped at the chance to apply.

“It means a lot (to have this opportunity). It’s huge for me,” says Damyn, who was hired for the position that was created thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.



TRAILS SOCIETY, VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Damyn Libby, Indigenous Youth Engagement Coordinator

“There’s so much to learn about the lands, about Indigenous people, and the problems that have been caused as a result of colonization.”

Richard Campbell, development manager for the Trails Society of British Columbia

Based in central Okanagan, Damyn coordinates the Trails BC Indigenous Youth Engagement Project. This project helps connect youth to cultural supports – such as Elders and knowledge keepers – within the Syilx community who help them re-connect to their culture while accessing trails.

“I did my BA in Indigenous Studies and history, so it’s really applying a lot of what I’ve learned,” Damyn says. “It’s really great to learn a lot more and just offer my voice as well. I think that’s a huge privilege.”

Damyn has also been given many other responsibilities including coordinating trail tours with Indigenous youth, Elders and community members, planning outreach at public events, and serving as a mentor to the organization’s Indigenous Youth Engagement Assistant – which is another CPRA Green Jobs Initiative-funded position.

“I’ve always been the mentee, not the mentor. So it’s great to be on this side, and just being able to help someone else out,” he says. “I think being a mentee and a mentor both teach you about what you need to build a professional relationship.”

The job has also given the 25 year-old his first experience in project management. He would like to work for the provincial government someday, and says the skills he learned through this opportunity will be beneficial when he starts applying for full-time employment.

“Just being in this environment is teaching me a lot about what professional environments are like, and allowing me to diversify my skill set. I think it will help me reach that end goal,” Damyn says.

Richard Campbell, development manager for the Trails Society of British Columbia, worked alongside Damyn and served as his mentor. But Richard says he has also learned a lot from Damyn.

“There’s so much to learn about the lands, about Indigenous people, and the problems that have been caused as a result of colonization,” says Campbell. “We have much to learn from (Indigenous people). They have used trails forever, and for different purposes and reasons than we would consider. So it’s a different perspective and a really valuable, more holistic kind of perspective that we as an organization and as a society need to move towards.”

Richard adds that Damyn’s role brought a positive energy to the organization.

“Having young people involved certainly brings a lot of excitement and ideas to the organization which is super, super valuable,” he says.

Richard also says the funding has allowed the Trails Society of BC to offer this program for the first time, and he hopes to see it extended to other areas of the province. 🍁



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Green Jobs Funding Benefits Yukon Community and Youth

WATSON LAKE IS CONSIDERED,
Canada's gateway to the Yukon.

The tight knit community of 800 people is surrounded by untouched wilderness, and is nestled along the Alaska Highway. Every year, tourists and residents enjoy the town's many outdoor activities including days on the beach at Lucky Lake, hiking trails and community events at Wye Lake Park, and numerous community playgrounds.



TOWN OF WATSON LAKE,
YUKON



“Some of the kids here in town are looking for work in the summer months. And being far north, with funds not readily available for them for schooling, (these jobs allow them to) save for school. I always feel like it’s good for me to have them, but it’s good for them too.”

Alyssa Magun, town’s manager of Parks and Recreation

As the town’s manager of Parks and Recreation, Alyssa Magun looks after all these well-loved spaces. But she can’t do it by herself, and often needs extra staff and funding to keep these areas maintained and clean for all to enjoy.

During the summer of 2021, she finally got the help she needed and was able to hire three parks caretakers – all jobs supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.

“We may be a small town, but we have lots of outdoor spaces,” says Alyssa. “It’s very time consuming to try to get it all (maintained) and if we didn’t have the kids, I don’t know what I would have done. It was imperative, and it meant a lot for me. I honestly needed them.”

Alyssa says the students who were hired did a great job maintaining the town’s playgrounds, equipment and structures, as well as cleaning up areas within Watson Lake such as its trails and parks.

“We have a lot of playgrounds, a lot of green space, and a lot of trails,” she says. “You have to worry about broken glass, you have to worry about trees down. And we just don’t have the time, the manpower or the funds to get everything done that needs to be done.”

Alyssa says that residents also took notice, and she received many compliments on the town’s cleanliness and beauty.

She adds that the funding was also beneficial for the students.

In their roles, she says local youth learned many skills to help them with future employment – including the importance of a safe and healthy community, recycling, and lawn maintenance.

The jobs also taught the students responsibility, and the importance of working independently.

Alyssa adds that the opportunity also helped students who were having trouble looking for summer employment.

“There’s a lot of these young guys who are looking for jobs, but they’re hard to find or they don’t have the qualifications,” Alyssa says, adding that the jobs also gave students the opportunity to save for post secondary school. “Some of the kids here in town are looking for work in the summer months. And being far north, with funds not readily available for them for schooling, (these jobs allow them to) save for school. I always feel like it’s good for me to have them, but it’s good for them too.”

Alyssa says she is grateful for the funding, and hopes she can apply again next year.

“I try to find as much funding anywhere that I can, so that we can hire youth every season for various jobs, in various buildings, with Parks and Recreation,” she says. “So, a lot of the time if I didn’t have the funding, I wouldn’t be able to hire them.” 🍁



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

This project is funded by
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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.” 🍁



The Bengough & District Regional Park walking trail

Saskatchewan Green Jobs Benefit Youth, Parks and Community

THE TOWN OF BENGOUGH,

Saskatchewan is known for its natural beauty and amazing scenery. Within the town located just 20 minutes from the Montana border, the Bengough & District Regional Park Authority offers many outdoor adventures for residents and visitors to enjoy.

In the summer of 2021, the park also included outdoor, nature-based programming for children that taught them the importance of taking care of the park and the environment.



BENGOUGH,
SASKATCHEWAN

Canada

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Preschool Class decorating mini pumpkins at their Halloween Party!



Bengough After-school Program Grades K-5 at the Bengough Park.

“This program gets people realizing the importance of a park and green spaces, and how important it is to a community”

Debra Ashby, Recreation Director and Park Manager

“Working here felt like being part of a family,” says Hayley Mooney, who was worked as a park programmer/interpreter for Bengough & District Regional Park Authority. “We’re pretty close, and it was a lot of fun.”

In Hayley’s role – a job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program – she carried out children’s programming that had an environmental focus and utilized the organization’s parks and green spaces.

Hayley says the job offered something different every day, and included community garden education, swimming, nature walks, outdoor fitness activities and leading craft activities with recycled materials.

“I’ve learned just how much goes actually into programming, and making sure everything is organized and everybody’s on the same page,” she says. “I’ve also learned the importance of communication, and how to work with the public and people of all ages.”

Debra Ashby, Bengough Parks & Recreation’s recreation director and park manager, says the funding gave the organization the ability to offer exceptional programming to young children and the community.

“It’s definitely helped us out, because we couldn’t afford to do it if we didn’t have the funding,” Debra says. “It helped us

do a lot more programming than we normally would be able to do.”

She adds that the CPRA funding allowed them to also hire two students to maintain the parks and help clear an area to create a new nature trail.

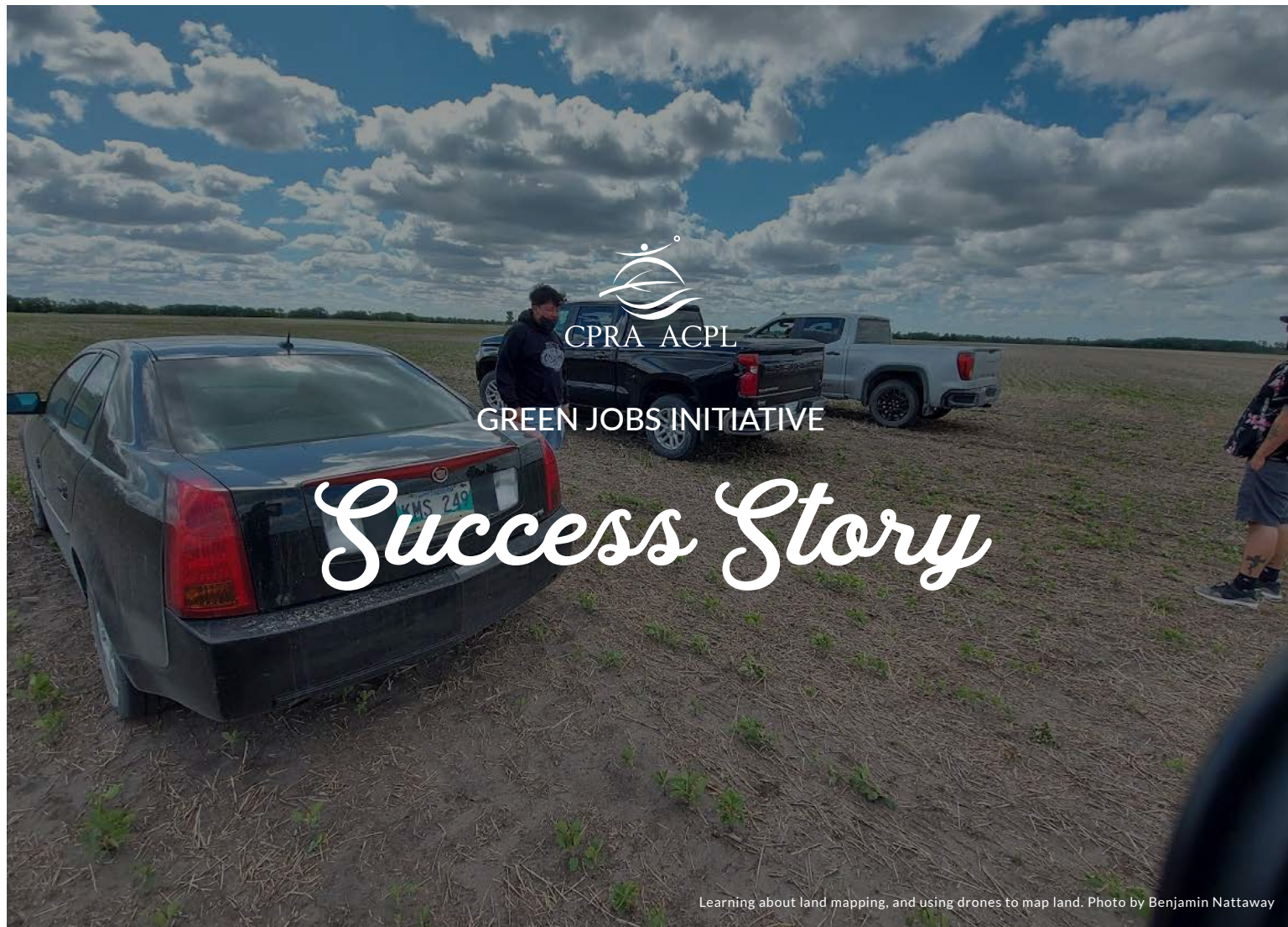
“The whole program was great, and it’s helped us get a lot of things done that wouldn’t have happened,” Debra says. “We get so many comments about the trail, and how great it is.”

Debra adds that the program also helped the organization employ local youth like Hayley, who brought a lot of positive energy to her role.

“Hayley was very enthusiastic, and she’s a hard worker,” she says. “We love to be able to hire students and give them jobs, and keep them in the community. The program is great for somebody like Hayley who graduated, and then wasn’t sure what she wanted to do. We were able to offer employment to her and she could make some money in the interim, while she tried to decide what she wanted to do next.”

Debra says the organization appreciated the funding, and hopes they can apply for it again next year.

“It gets people realizing the importance of a park and green spaces, and how important it is to a community,” she says. “If we have the kids and help with the programming, that helps us highlight that more.” 🍁



Green Jobs Student Helps Bridge Isolated Communities and Manitoba Uske

FOR BENJAMIN NATTAWAY, TRYING TO find work in an isolated, Northern Manitoba community hasn't been an easy task.

But his ability to create contacts from within his community, Island Lake region, as well as his fresh ideas and willingness to learn made him the perfect addition to the Manitoba Uske Land Managers Association.

"He was at a disadvantage when he joined our team — coming from an isolated community and being an Indigenous youth trying to access really meaningful employment," says Patricia Mitchell, executive director of Manitoba Uske who was also Benjamin's manager. "I'd like to think it opened up some doors for him. He was just a good asset to the team."



ISLAND LAKE,
MANITOBA

Canada

This project is funded by
the Government of Canada



Benjamin introducing and describing how USKE works. The purpose is for First Nation peoples to be able to uphold their traditions, culture, and values through land management and the wisdom of the elders.



Benjamin Nattaway, Land Environment Intern

“It means a lot to me as an Indigenous person looking to create change for our people and our lands — to promote decolonization, enhance Indigenous culture, and build a better community.”

Benjamin Nattaway

Manitoba Uske is a technical land management body that helps the province’s First Nations train people who can help manage land development — including resource development like mines, fishing lodges, shopping malls and office complexes.

Benjamin says he wanted to apply for the job to gain new skills and experience.

“Learning about land management and Indigenous culture at the same time is definitely something that piqued my interest,” he says.

Manitoba Uske was able to hire Benjamin as a Land Environment Intern through the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.

As a Land Environment Intern, Benjamin played a critical role in creating connections between the organization and isolated communities in the Island Lake region.

“There are four communities around his home community that are all under the same tribal council, and the only way you can access his community is via air or winter road,” Patricia explains. “It’s quite far, and he was really helpful in getting those contacts for that area. So now we have representatives coming in from that region.”

Benjamin also assisted with planning the organization’s annual general meeting in the summer of 2021 — which was a huge success and saw 42 First Nations in attendance. He

provided a youth perspective that Manitoba Uske wouldn’t have otherwise had, and his ideas helped Manitoba Uske look at land management through a fresh lens.

“His role showed the importance of us involving the younger generation in the work that we do, and showed that we need to put more emphasis and focus on that.”

Benjamin’s direct supervisor, Shawn Peters, adds that Benjamin was also eager to learn many of the organization’s behind-the-scenes tasks.

“He was great at formatting and proofreading documents,” he says. “He was very, very proficient.”

Benjamin brought much-needed help and resources to the small Indigenous organization, and the funding made a very positive impact on the work they do.

“Just having him there, and being able to rely on him and his own experience and skills, was really beneficial to us.”

Benjamin adds that the role also meant very much to him — both personally and professionally.

“Looking at our lands and government, I was able to understand the cultural factors that are at play when dealing with the government and Indigenous peoples. It means a lot to me as an Indigenous person looking to create change for our people and our lands — to promote decolonization, enhance Indigenous culture, and build a better community.” 🍁



Town of Niverville Summer Camps Give Youth, Children Outdoor Learning Experiences

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE NOELLE MERKEL worked directly with children and youth.

In her early 20s, she wanted to become a physical education teacher and worked directly with children in summer camps. But over the years, her career goals shifted towards work in games development and sports administration.

When her hours started to get reduced in the summer while working for the Manitoba Winter Games, she found herself looking for her next opportunity – and found it as a program leader for the Town of Niverville's summer camps.



NIVERVILLE,
MANITOBA

Canada

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Noelle and campers at the Amazing Race Camp



Olympics Camp at Hespeler Park

“...funding gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped train and give meaningful work experience to youth - as well inspire them to pursue a career in the green sector.”

Warren Britton, recreation facility manager for the Town of Niverville

“It was almost like a tribute to where I had come from,” says Noelle, whose position was made possible thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program. “It was nice to go back into a role where I got to work with young people in the youth recreation field again.”

In her role, she organized outdoor, climate-friendly activities for summer camps being held in the Manitoba town’s Hespeler Park. These activities gave children the opportunity to explore and learn more about the outdoors, and gain an overall appreciation towards green spaces and nature.

As an experienced group leader, Noelle shared her passion of the great outdoors, and appreciation of green spaces with her fellow instructors and campers.

“It was great getting a chance to just be there as a mentor, and help them. I know for a lot of my co-workers, that was their first job and it felt good to be a part of helping them develop their skills in plan organization and leadership,” she says. “It was cool to go back into the field and be there with them, teaching them skills that I’ve learned.”

She also had the chance to work directly with children and introduce them to new games and activities.

“It reaffirmed my leadership skills helped me practice my communication. And honestly, it was just a nice little break from being in front of a laptop all the time,” she says.

Noelle adds that these leadership and communications skills have helped her in her current role with Sport Manitoba, where she now works full-time.

Warren Britton, the recreation facility manager for the Town of Niverville, was Noelle’s manager and says the extra funding allowed the town to hire more staff for summer programs.

“The more people we have on staff, the more we’re able to get done,” he says.

Warren adds that this funding gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped train and give meaningful work experience to youth - as well inspire them to pursue a career in the green sector.

He adds that the funding also gave youth in the community more job opportunities, and helped children at the camp who have been living with COVID-19 restrictions.

“It gives youth the opportunity to work and get work experience . . . and give kids something to be excited about over the summer during a difficult time for them. (These camps) allow them to make new friend and have new experiences. This funding has been really, really great for us,” Warren says. 🍁



Mackenzie measuring an ash tree, part of the ash tree inventory project.

Green Job Establishes Roots in City of Cornwall

ANGELA PARKER'S POSITION AS Sustainability Project Coordinator may be a new role for the City of Cornwall, but it's a busy one that will have lasting impacts.

"I basically ensure that current projects and future projects mitigate greenhouses gases, and are resilient to extreme weather events and adaptable to climate change," she explains. "It encompasses working with every department – everywhere from Emergency Services, to Infrastructure Planning, to Environmental Services."



Canada

This project is funded by the Government of Canada



Mackenzie collecting donated clothing during the City's Give a Shirt Day



Mackenzie helping to plant trees at a city park

"It was really good opportunity for the City to have this, and it gave me an opportunity to show senior management that there's a need for more green jobs"

Angela Parker, Sustainability Project Coordinator for the City of Cornwall

As the only employee in the City's Environmental Services Department that focuses solely on sustainability, she needed an assistant to help her further the community's environmental and sustainability goals.

In the fall of 2021, she was able to obtain that job support thanks the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.

"It was really good opportunity for the City to have this, and it gave me an opportunity to just show senior management that there's a need for more green jobs," she says. "We're so grateful for the funding that was provided by CPRA. It is a great initiative."

Mackenzie Nelson, who was hired through the grant as a Sustainability Research Assistant, spent much of her time taking inventory of the ash trees on City property using GPS and GIS. She also created a map of the municipality's ash trees as well as their current conditions – helping the municipality flag which ones to remove, and which are suitable to maintain and treat.

"It was busy, but very rewarding," says Mackenzie, who had recently completed a forestry technician program at Algonquin College in nearby Pembroke. "The land here is different than Pembroke, so it gave me an opportunity to learn what the soil types are here."

Angela adds that Mackenzie's work has also been made available to the public on the City's website, so residents can

be more informed about why certain trees may have been removed.

Additionally, Mackenzie also scouted out areas in need of green space, led presentations at community outreach events, and assisted with tree planting events in September.

"I wanted to give her lots of opportunities," Angela says. "I knew she was very talented in a lot of different areas with outreach, public engagement, as well as tree knowledge. So, I wanted her to be able to utilize all her skills, and see how they can be used in a municipal setting."

Mackenzie says the role was a great transition from student life to work life, and gave her opportunities in the workplace she would not have otherwise had.

"I was able to build connections with people," she says. "It was really nice to have the opportunity to meet people from the forestry and environmental field – and other fields as well."

The grant was also a positive experience for Angela, and allowed her to fulfill some of her goals as a sustainability project coordinator.

"I always say I need another Mackenzie," Angela says. "It was a really good opportunity for the City to have this grant, and it encouraged the community to be more in tune with the trees around them and helped them understand how climate change and extreme weather events affect our natural assets such as trees, and our parks." 🍁



Green Job Protects Parry Sound's Species at Risk

ANGELA VANDER EYKEN'S DREAM JOB IS TO help species at risk.

Now, as the Landscape and Wildlife Technician for the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere, she is well on her way to achieving that goal.

"I've always wanted to work with wildlife. This opportunity is going to be really integral in getting me more exposure to different wildlife surveys, different techniques and different practices that can be used to help recover species at risk populations or protect their populations," Angela says.

The CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program, gave Angela the unique opportunity to work with the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere this winter.



GEORGIAN BAY MNIDOO GAMII
BIOSPHERE, ONTARIO

Canada

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Angela in the GBB turtle hatchery room



Angela stands with a bilingual road sign that is in English and Anishinaabemowin

Angela says she wanted to apply because she heard about the organization's wildlife and environmental projects - including work in road mitigation that aims to reduce wildlife mortality on roads, as well as projects that are based on wildlife and environmental science.

"It aligned well with my personal interests and my goals for myself," Angela explains, adding that she was also excited for the opportunity to work in Parry Sound, Ontario. "The Parry Sound area is beautiful, so I definitely wanted to see the area, explore it and also get a chance to work in this area as well."

As a Landscape and Wildlife Technician, part of Angela's work is developing wildlife fencing and working in partnership with other townships to develop ecopassages that help wildlife cross roads safely. She also focuses on developing best management practices for roads, which road crews can reference to help reduce impacts to wildlife and species at risk.

During her work experience, Angela had the opportunity to participate in different training experiences - for example Wilderness First Aid, as well as a workshop on Wildlife, Fencing and Roads with Eco-Kare International and other partners.

Angela says the opportunity has also helped her explore her passion for helping wildlife, particularly reptiles and amphibians that live near wetlands.

"I get to learn more about road ecology. I get to work in a beautiful landscape with amazing like-minded people. And I

get to do things that really matter," she says. "Whatever I do, whether that be at work or my own personal life, I want to do things that matter. So I definitely feel like that's aligned really well."

Angela's supervisor Tianna Burke, a Conservation Biologist with the Georgian Bay Mniidoo Gamii Biosphere, says the funding from CPRA made it possible for the organization to help further inform, educate, facilitate and provide leadership for more sustainable communities - including continuing to collaborate on an important Species at Risk Conservation project called Maamwi Anjiakiziwin.

"Being able to put this funding towards hiring Angela has been a huge help for me in the work that I'm doing, because I have an increased capacity now to be able to meet objectives, especially with the Maamwi Anjiakiziwin project," says Tianna, adding that as a non-profit charity organization, the Biosphere's work is completely reliant on grants, donations and memberships. "Any of the funding that we are able to receive increases our ability to do work all along the coast - creating connections, fostering relationships, and working towards sustainable communities and ecological mindsets. The funding allows us to take on more ideas, expand our projects, work with more partners, and have more support for the outreach we do!"

To learn more about the Georgian Bay Mniidoo Gamii Biosphere, visit: gbbr.ca.

For more information on the Maamwi Anjiakiziwin project, visit: <https://maamwigeorgianbay.ca/>. 🍁



Urban Ranger Helps City Park Thrive

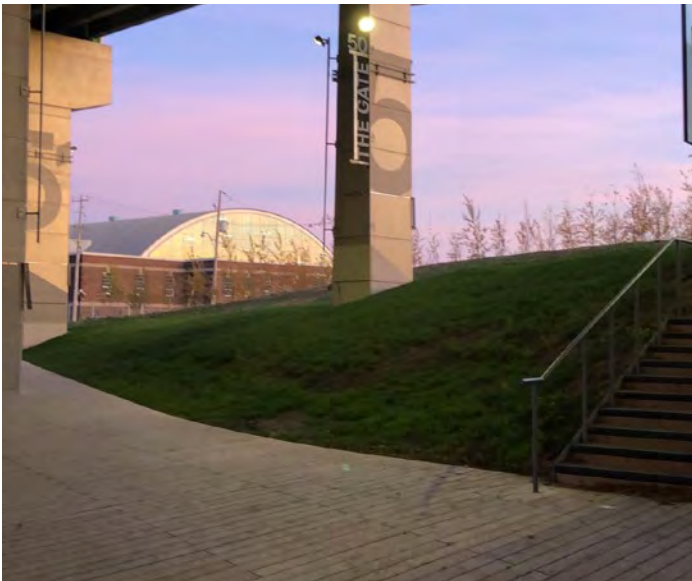
THE SPACE UNDER A MAJOR HIGHWAY.
in Canada's largest city may not seem to be a likely place for a park

But The Bentway Conservancy saw the unused, unkempt land and imagined the possibilities. In 2018, the organization transformed the area under Toronto's elevated Gardiner Expressway and re-named it The Bentway – which has since served as a year-round outdoor public space for residents and visitors to enjoy. It includes interactive art installations, seasonal and special exhibitions, theatre, performances and festivals.



Canada

This project is funded by
the Government of Canada



The Bentway Conservancy's greenery for visitors to enjoy in the summer months



The Bentway Conservancy's skate way in the winter

*“Jacquiline has contributed to sharing our values and keeping
The Bentway a safe, clean environment for all to enjoy.”*

Stephan Lamoureux, a facility supervisor at The Bentway

The group even maintains the park's Bentway Skate Trail - a 220-metre community ice rink in the winter.

The space is located on the lands of Fort York National Historic Site, and creates a gateway to the Waterfront of Lake Ontario. It also provides residents and visitors access to popular attractions and destinations including Ontario Place, Exhibition Place, Harbourfront Centre and the CN Tower.

But it takes many people to keep this space thriving, and in the summer and fall of 2021, the The Bentway Conservancy was able to add one more staff member thanks to funding from the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.

“We always relish the opportunity to share our knowledge and bring new friends into our workplace, and we are grateful to work hand-in-hand with the CPRA to make it all work,” says Stephan Lamoureux, a facility supervisor at The Bentway who maintains the site and its facilities, as well as assists visitors to the city park.

The grant helped the organization hire Jacqueline Hargreaves, who worked as an Urban Ranger and was instrumental in helping Stephan keep the area maintained – as well as helping visitors feel welcome.

In her role, Jacqueline's duties included landscaping, gardening, groundskeeping, and collecting waste to ensure

The Bentway remained a clean and welcoming open park space for its users.

Additionally, she had the opportunity to work as a front-line customer service representative for the park's visitors, as well as the general public. She also educated the public on The Bentway's unique history, and helped execute programs and events that took place at the site.

“As an Urban Ranger, Jacqueline was one of our main assets on-site for any patrons to bring issues or questions to,” Stephan says, adding that the job gave the student the opportunity to learn real-world skills that are essential in many fields.

As a customer service representative, Stephan says Jacqueline also interacted with The Bentway's visitors who often come from a variety of socioeconomic, racial and cultural backgrounds – allowing her to learn diverse perspectives and develop high-level communication skills.

“Through at least hundreds of interactions, she's been a friendly face to all, and has done a great job of facilitating a pleasant experience for those visiting The Bentway,” says Stephan, adding that the grant helped further The Bentway's mission to provide an outdoor urban space that serves many communities. “Jacquiline has contributed to sharing our values and keeping The Bentway a safe, clean environment for all to enjoy.” 🍁



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Garlic harvest with the kids

Green Job Connects Quebec Youth to Farming, Food and Nature

ANA CASTILLO WAS WORKING AS A cook in a restaurant when the COVID-19 pandemic shut its doors, leaving her out of a job.

She was looking for work options, and fondly remembered her time working at Camp Amy Molson's Young Roots Farm in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Quebec years ago. She heard the camp was hiring a farm apprentice and immediately applied for the job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.

The experience was life changing.



GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE,
QUEBEC

Canada

This project is funded by
the Government of Canada



Chicken wedding



Lachute farmers market

“Farming, education and food sovereignty is just what I want to do forever. It really awakened a love for the land that I hadn’t known before ”

Ana Castillo, Farm Apprentice

“After I started working at this farm, I’ve realized it’s just what I want to do for the rest of my life,” says Ana. “Farming, education and food sovereignty is just what I want to do forever. It really awakened a love for the land that I hadn’t known before.”

Camp Amy Molson’s Young Roots Farm helps make nature more accessible to local communities, and teaches lessons about composting, carbon neutrality and over-consumption in ways that are innovative and interactive.

The farm also works with children who live below the poverty line, and wouldn’t otherwise have access to ecological farming programs.

As a farm apprentice, Ana worked throughout the spring of 2021 helping run the farm – including seeding, harvesting, and building composting system. In the summer, the farm opened up to children as a summer camp. Ana worked directly with campers and developed lessons and programs that taught them about cooking, harvesting and the environment.

“It was just a mix of everything,” Ana says. “Whatever there is to do, you do it.”

While she had learned to farm there years earlier, she said the job gave her new experiences – such as working with children, construction skills and gaining an appreciation for the land.

“This is a unique space because you get to learn, and you get to connect with the land without the rush,” Ana says. “We still harvest, but a lot of it is for the kids and with the kids, so it’s very different.”

Lynea Aboumrad, who was Ana’s manager, was the Young Roots Farm coordinator at the time and said the grant gave the organization the opportunity to hire youth like Ana who had a passion for the work.

“She played a huge role in developing the curriculum and introducing new kinds of programming,” Lynea says, adding that Ana’s talent for developing the lessons helped the organization offer enriched programs that make connections between nature and food.

Lynea considers the grant to be a “really big deal” – and that the funding gave the farm the opportunity to fill a position that wouldn’t have existed.

“We are a non-profit, and we try and keep our farm productive to support us – but really it is a tiny fraction of what we need to run the programming,” Lynea says.

“We really do run on grants, and we couldn’t actually have the program without that. It wouldn’t be possible to run a program with one person, and it is a really special program.” 🍁



PROGRAMME D'EMPLOIS VERTS

Modèles de Réussites

Atelier sur les animaux exotiques

Faire rayonner tout un quartier grâce à Go Jeunesse

L'ORGANISME GO JEUNESSE PROPOSE DES services aux jeunes et aux familles de milieux défavorisés et en situation de vulnérabilité. Grâce à un encadrement sécurisant et favorable, la communauté est invitée à découvrir et à expérimenter de nouvelles activités qui contribuent au maintien ou à l'amélioration des habitudes de vie.

Situé en plein cœur du centre-ville de Montréal, Go Jeunesse concentre ses efforts au sein des Habitations Jeanne-Mance, un quartier d'habitations à loyer modique situé en plein centre-ville de Montréal, et auprès des institutions scolaires du secteur comme l'école primaire Garneau. Sa portée locale permet à l'organisme de poser des gestes concrets qui font une réelle différence dans la vie des habitants du quartier.



MONTRÉAL,
QUÉBEC

Canada

Ce projet est financé par
le gouvernement du Canada



Josée Belisle, animatrice de parc plein air responsable

Grâce au soutien du programme d'emplois verts de l'ACPL, Go Jeunesse a pu offrir une programmation riche, diversifiée et en grande partie gratuite aux jeunes et aux familles de milieux défavorisés et en situation de vulnérabilité de son quartier.

Un réseau de partenaires inestimable

Grâce à un solide réseau de partenaires tels que l'Association sportive et communautaire du Centre-Sud, l'aréna Camillien-Houde et le cégep du Vieux Montréal, les éducateurs et animateurs chez Go Jeunesse sont en mesure d'offrir une programmation riche, diversifiée et gratuite (ou presque).

C'est d'ailleurs pour soutenir les services de l'organisme que celle-ci bénéficie de l'aide de programmes comme les emplois verts, dispensés par l'Association canadienne des parcs et loisirs (ACPL). Cela permet, entre autres, d'accueillir de nouveaux talents dans l'équipe et d'apporter une dimension environnementale à la programmation déjà offerte.

Faire la différence chez les jeunes

Animatrice de camps de jour l'été et éducatrice à l'aide au devoir pendant l'année scolaire, Josée Bélisle connaît parfaitement la clientèle qui bénéficie des installations et du soutien de l'organisme Go Jeunesse.

Bachelière en développement de carrière, elle entretient depuis toujours un fort désir de travailler auprès des jeunes. Accompagnant les enfants de niveau primaire (6 à 12 ans) à l'aide au devoir, elle contribue, à sa manière, à l'avenir des jeunes dont elle s'occupe.

Les tâches liées à son emploi chez Go Jeunesse sont grandement variées. De fait, la jeune femme accueille les enfants après l'école et assure une présence et du soutien à ceux-ci pendant la séance de devoirs et leçons. Le reste de la période est consacré à des activités à saveur environnementale, selon la saison, la disponibilité des locaux et la planification. C'est à elle que revient la responsabilité d'organiser et de mettre en œuvre les ateliers, les jeux, les sorties et autres.

À la découverte de la faune et la flore

Le volet écologique et environnemental occupe une grande importance pour l'organisme qui ne lésine pas les efforts de trouver des activités enrichissantes et variées pour initier sa jeune clientèle aux merveilles de la nature.

D'ailleurs, au cours de la saison estivale 2021, les enfants ont participé à la création d'un jardin à l'école Garneau, suivi d'une chasse au trésor et d'une dégustation de fines herbes afin d'identifier les aromates comme le basilic, le persil, la menthe, etc.

Différents ateliers ont aussi été offerts, notamment celui sur les insectes pollinisateurs et les ravageurs. Les jeunes étaient amenés à les reconnaître sur des images cachées à même le potager.

L'exploration et le respect de la faune ont également été mis de l'avant avec l'atelier sur les animaux exotiques présenté par Éducazoo, en plus de la semaine thématique sur les animaux d'Afrique comportant des jeux-questionnaires et des chasses au trésor.

Enfin, c'est toujours dans un contexte ludique que les apprentissages sont proposés. Le bingo-chasse au trésor dans le parc La Fontaine permettant de trouver les plantes et les animaux de la carte de bingo est un exemple parmi tant d'autres. 🍁



PROGRAMME D'EMPLOIS VERTS

Modèles de Réussites

Quand la création d'emplois est au service de l'environnement

L A PANDÉMIE QUI SECOUE LE MONDE depuis la fin du premier trimestre de l'année 2020 a créé bien des déséquilibres. Alors que les aéroports se sont vus désertés par les voyageurs, nos sentiers du Québec, eux, n'ont jamais vu autant de pieds les fouler.

Pour le Parc d'environnement naturel de Sutton (PENS) qui offre près d'une dizaine de parcours, cette recrudescence de l'achalandage a posé un beau défi, soit celui d'engager la main-d'œuvre nécessaire pour recevoir les nombreux visiteurs. Heureusement, le programme d'emplois verts de l'Association canadienne des parcs et loisir (ACPL), financé en partie par le gouvernement du Canada, a permis d'offrir aux jeunes de nouveaux emplois à saveur environnementale.



PARC SUTTON,
QUÉBEC



Aménager les sentiers selon les règles de l'art

Au total, c'est cinq nouveaux employés qui se joignent à l'équipe du Parc Sutton au début du mois de mai 2021 grâce au programme d'emplois verts. De ce nombre, trois des jeunes recrues se voient affectées à l'aménagement de sentiers dont les tâches sont aussi variées qu'exigeantes physiquement.

En effet, l'aménagement de sentiers se fait presque entièrement à la main. La machinerie est pratiquement inexistante, car les responsables du parc veulent à tout prix limiter les émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES). Les chemins sont parfois abrupts et les équipes, qui travaillent par section, doivent se rendre chaque jour au lieu donné à pied, car aucun véhicule motorisé n'est présent sur le site.

De plus, l'emploi exige une rigueur et un souci de préservation de la faune et de la flore sans faille, car au Parc, on mise sur la qualité de l'aménagement des circuits pédestres pour réduire l'érosion des sentiers et la sédimentation des ruisseaux.

Sur le territoire couvert par le PENS, deux types de sentiers sont à aménager ; les sentiers existants créés originalement par des bénévoles ayant peu de connaissances en matière d'érosion et les nouveaux sentiers à élaborer. Dans les deux cas, les étapes d'aménagement suivent un processus méticuleux qui respecte les écosystèmes et la nature. Par exemple, on prendra le soin de s'assurer du bon écoulement des eaux pluviales, de niveler les sentiers de sorte qu'ils soient au même plan que le terrain avoisinant, etc. Même les infrastructures à ajouter sont puisées à même le site ; les roches se transforment en escalier naturel et les arbres font d'excellentes passerelles ou mains courantes.

Accueillir, animer et sensibiliser

Pendant la saison estivale, c'est-à-dire pour l'été et l'automne principalement, deux autres jeunes gens ont été embauchés grâce au programme d'emplois verts. L'un pour combler un emploi à l'accueil des visiteurs et l'autre, pour l'animation des sentiers.

À l'instar des emplois d'aménagement de sentiers, ceux qui sont en contact direct avec les touristes ont également une grande portée environnementale. De fait, ils permettent d'informer les usagers, un par un, sur les consignes entourant la randonnée pédestre. Par exemple, les employés expliquent comment respecter au mieux les sentiers empruntés, pourquoi il est important de ne pas nourrir les animaux sauvages, etc. Autant de détails qui permettent de responsabiliser les visiteurs et de préserver le site autant que possible.

Plus il y a de promeneurs, plus la demande en personnel augmente afin de poursuivre l'importante mission de sensibilisation du Parc.

Le programme pour soutenir la cause

Patricia Lefèvre est directrice générale au PENS et architecte paysagiste depuis plus de 10 ans. Pour elle, la préservation de l'environnement est une véritable vocation et rejoint la mission de l'organisme pour lequel elle œuvre.

Pour la directrice, la communication de personne à personne est le moyen le plus efficace pour divulguer l'information et pour sensibiliser les visiteurs à la cause environnementale. Et pour faire « passer le message », rien de tel que des humains qualifiés, motivés et accueillants.

Bien heureuse d'avoir découvert le programme d'emplois verts par hasard, Mme Lefèvre a trouvé les démarches faciles pour mettre en branle le recrutement des jeunes, mentionnant que l'ACPL avait un réel désir de collaborer avec le Parc. 🍁



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Old Pool Area - After

Green Jobs Rejuvenate Newfoundland Community

TOWN OF POUCH COVE, NEWFOUNDLAND has a lot to be proud of.

Its residents are the first in North America to see the sun rise every morning. Its peaceful community, settled along the northern tip of the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland and Labrador, has stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean. And, thanks to Brianna Hynes and her fellow student co-workers, its residents can now enjoy a renaturalized Stiles Cove Park.

The CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program, gave the Town of Pouch Cove the opportunity to hire Brianna as a green engineering student. In her role, the Process Engineering student at Memorial University developed a modernization and beautification plan for parks and fields around the town – including Stiles Cove Park – which needed revitalization.



TOWN OF POUCH COVE,
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Canada

This project is funded by
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Old Pool Area - Before



Old Pool Area - Before

“I was able to explore a different field that I hadn’t been exposed to before.”

Brianna Hynes, Green Engineering Student

“There was a pool area that was abandoned years ago, with old playground equipment left behind and a lot of trees that have been overgrown and a bridge that had lost its structural integrity,” Brianna explains. “That (park) was the main priority for this job.”

Brianna led the student team who got to work clearing out overgrown trees to create more open spaces for families to enjoy the park, and remove the old bridge structure.

She also planned where more trees should be planted, which locations would require sod, and designed a new bridge for the location.

“I learned a lot about using computer programs, and even coming up with ideas for landscaping that I’ve never dealt with before,” Brianna says. “That was a new experience for me as well.”

She says she wanted to apply for the job because she wanted to gain experience working for a municipality, and was excited to learn that the green engineering student position would allow her to work with the naturalization of parks and fields in Pouch Cove.

She adds that the experience exceeded her expectations.

“I was able to explore a different field that I hadn’t been exposed to before,” Brianna says. “And I was given a lot

of flexibility and responsibility in order to come up with whatever plans I wanted for each of the areas here. Having all that responsibility and freedom to go wherever I wanted with my ideas was pretty cool.”

Susan Arns, the town clerk and program coordinator with the Town of Pouch Cove, says being able to hire Brianna and four other students through the Green Jobs Initiative made a significant impact on the community.

“Brianna was the engineering student who kind of spearheaded the community development programs,” Susan says. “I gave her my list of what I wanted to do, and she made (the plans) blossom. She gave the students ideas, and she got the kids working. They did so many little community development ideas that just made the community prettier, more beautiful, more functional, and just overall made the community better.”

Susan adds that the CPRA funding is very valuable to smaller communities like Pouch Cove, and allows these towns to reach their goals.

“The ability to have funding for engineering students gives us the opportunity to get base-level projects (completed),” she says. “To have students be able to do that, and do it properly, is amazing.” 🍁



Village of McAdam Green Jobs Benefit Community and Workers

THE VILLAGE OF MCADAM IS A SMALL rural community nestled along the New Brunswick/Maine border. It offers campgrounds along Lake Waukehegan, nature trails where hikers can venture out from the town's historic train station to nearby Spednic Lake, and is home to a variety of wildlife – including birds, ducks, deer and moose.

But it takes hard work to maintain the village's natural beauty, and thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative - which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program - the town has been able to hire youth like Isaac Young to help keep it green and picturesque for residents and visitors to enjoy.



VILLAGE OF MCADAM,
NEW BRUNSWICK

Canada

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Isaac Young, Community Outdoor Ambassador

“...it was exciting to see somebody who was unemployed now get into the workforce full time. (The green job) helped give them that opportunity.”

Taylor Gallant,
Village of McAdam's Deputy Mayor

“No day is ever the same as the last,” says Isaac. “This opportunity has been really good, and I’ve learned quite a bit.”

Isaac was hired to work as the town's Community Outdoor Ambassador, where he oversees the management of parks, green spaces and nature trails. As part of his role, he is also responsible for landscaping, lawn mowing, and watering and planting flowers — ensuring the town's public spaces are maintained, clean and improved.

He says he worked for the village in the past in similar roles, and enjoyed the work so much that he applied for the job when he was living as a student in Halifax.

“I thought it would be a great job to get while I’m waiting for my career to kick off,” he says.

Isaac adds that he sees first-hand the impact his job has made on the community – but it has also been valuable experience for him personally.

“I’m currently in the application process for the military. I’m going into the infantry as an infanteer, and this job will help me in being able to do more manual labour,” he says.

Taylor Gallant, who is the Village of McAdam's deputy mayor, says it is the third time the community had applied for and received the funding.

“Every time, we try and raise the bar a little higher, and Isaac's done that,” he says, adding that the funding has helped provide resources the town wouldn't otherwise have.

“It's really a game-changer for us because being as small community, our public works would be three or four employees,” Taylor explains. “So having this additional staff has allowed us to tie up a few loose ends that we never have the time to do. Normally we're in catch-up mode, so with a green job, it really helps us get projects done.”

Taylor adds that while the funding has helped improve the town, it also provides great opportunities for youth like Isaac.

“We had another individual with a green job seek full time employment, and it was exciting to see somebody who was unemployed now get into the workforce full time. (The green job) helped give them that opportunity,” Taylor says. “It means a lot for us as a community, but also for the workers.” 🍁



Green Job Helps Grow Town of Sussex

JASON THORNE REMEMBERS HOW THE Town of Sussex looked only a few years ago.

“We were surviving, but we definitely weren’t thriving when it came to landscape in the community,” says Jason, the community services director for the New Brunswick town of roughly 4,000 people. “We were really fortunate for a number of years to have a Communities in Bloom committee doing a lot of the manual labour to maintain our green spaces, but that’s only sustainable for so long.”



TOWN OF SUSSEX,
NEW BRUNSWICK



O'Connell Park - Before



O'Connell Park - After

“You can draw a line between the Green Jobs funding in 2018 to the enhanced appearance in the community today.”

Jason Thorne, the community services director for the New Brunswick town of roughly 4,000 people

In 2018 he heard about the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program, and applied for the grant to hire a student landscaper. Residents and visitors saw instant results, and the experience showed town council the need to hire a dedicated professional to help beautify the community’s outdoor spaces.

“It greased the wheels for a lot of people to see and realize that if we dedicate more focused resources to this area, then you will start to see some of the improvements that people are expecting. It started the process,” Jason remembers. “You can draw a line between the Green Jobs funding in 2018 to the enhanced appearance in the community today. It gave us really tangible, visible results.”

The following year, Jason got the green light to hire a professional landscape horticulturist – the town’s first newly created position in at least 25 years.

He didn’t have to look far to fill the role. The community connected with a nearby school that trains students to become professional landscape horticulturalists, and from there he met Michael Haines – a Red Seal Landscape Horticulturist who has been beautifying the town ever since.

“There’s a lot of work,” says Michael. “I look after the town’s plants, trees, flowerbeds and sports turf. And there’s a number of hanging baskets that need to be watered and fed. But it makes the community look a whole lot better.”

The same year he was hired, the town applied for and received another Green Jobs student who worked with Michael in the field – which gave him the opportunity to work as a mentor.

Since that student’s initial hiring through the Green Jobs Initiative, he returns to the town every year to work as a summer student.

“It’s a pretty rewarding experience, working with someone who had very little experience in this area and seeing them grow over the years,” Michael says.

Jason adds that the town is now looking to hire an apprentice to work with Michael as a Red Seal, as well as a student from University of New Brunswick Fredericton’s forestry program to help with the next steps on the town’s recent urban forest management plan.

“We’re at a stage now where people are excited by what they see,” Jason says, adding that the initial funding has spiralled into more green initiatives for the community, including plans for the establishment of permanent greenhouses in the town. “When you run a small community, there’s not a lot of wiggle room. Sometimes you need some initial funding to get some of these important initiatives off the ground.” 🍁



Raena carrying waste during a beach cleanup in Tracadie Bay.

Green Job Inspires Student to Pursue a Career in Environmental Studies

R AENA PARENT'S GREEN JOB AS A watershed technician at the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed taught her many things – from pruning trees to working as a team.

But it also inspired her to change her career path and pursue a master's degree in environmental studies.

“Thanks to working here, I’m hoping to do more environmental work,” says Raena, who graduated with a B.Sc. Honours in Psychology. “I’m working on trying to get into a master’s program in environmental studies and keep studying that connection between the natural environment and people. The watershed really helped me find that love, and has given me more learning opportunities.”



SUFFOLK,
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Canada

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Raena pruning a tree that was planted during a previous project.



Raena preparing tree guards for deciduous trees at a planting site.

“I feel so grateful for the opportunity. I didn’t know I could have the skills that I’ve gained. It’s definitely given me a lot of confidence”

Raena Parent, Watershed Technician

Throughout her studies in psychology, Raena started to take some biology classes which inspired her to find a job working with the outdoors, where she could make an impact on the environment.

When she saw the Winter River–Tracadie Bay Watershed Association was hiring a watershed technician – a job that was made possible thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative – she instantly applied.

“I just went looking and was lucky enough to find this one,” says Raena.

As a watershed technician for the PEI-based organization, Raena planted and pruned trees, ensured a healthy fish habitat, cleaned up shorelines and roads, and maintained hiking trails.

Many of the jobs were new to her, but she enjoyed every minute of it.

“I actually had never dealt with trees before,” she says, adding that she learned a lot about trees and where best to plant them. “I learned how to identify the different kinds of trees we have on the island, and knowing where they are best suited depending on sun, shade, and moisture.”

Raena also says the job gave her the opportunity to work both independently and as a team.

“I feel so grateful for the opportunity. I didn’t know I could have the skills that I’ve gained. It’s given me a lot of confidence, but also so much gratitude,” she says.

Sarah Wheatley, the organization’s watershed coordinator, worked with Raena as both a mentor and manager.

She says that Raena’s background in psychology, as well as supervisory experience in the restaurant industry, stood out to her as great qualities for the job.

“I do make an effort to try to get people with a diverse range of skills. If you have five people out there and they all went through the same school program, they all have the same way of thinking about something. Whereas if they all went through different programs and have different backgrounds, then they’ll all bring a different perspective. So it’s better for problem solving and coming up with unique solutions,” Sarah says, adding that watershed work often involves thinking of unique solutions with limited resources.

In her role, she says she is always looking for funding sources and the Green Jobs funding helped the organization hire a passionate student like Raena.

It also gives them the opportunity to introduce their important work to young people, and provide them with some of the skills they need for a career in the green jobs sector.

“Mentoring young people is really key for our organization,” Sarah says. “Having funding opportunities like this allows us to hire more young people and mentor them along in their career.” 🍁



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Wood boardwalk at Inverness Beach

Green Job Lays Foundation for Town's Trails Strategy

KARLEE MACNEIL LOVES BEING outdoors and exploring different trails to walk or hike. But she never fully realized how much work went into maintaining them.

When she started her role as a Trails Programmer for the County of Inverness in Nova Scotia, the experience completely transformed the way she looks at trail systems - and made her appreciate the effort goes into them.



INVERNESS,
NOVA SCOTIA

Canada

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Karlee MacNeil enjoying the outdoors in Glencoe, Nova Scotia

“It was nice to see that this sort of position was open not just for students, but for younger people like me... it’s been really hard to find opportunities like this to get into the workforce.”

Karlee MacNeil,
Trails Programmer for the
County of Inverness in Nova Scotia

“There’s actually a lot going on behind the scenes,” says Karlee, whose job was supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program. “There are a lot of little organizations that are doing their part, and a lot of people who are passionate about keeping these trails usable and making sure they’re sustainable.”

In her role, Karlee has created a survey for the trails’ users and management groups to help the town learn more about how the trails are being managed, in addition to what is working well and improvements that need to be made.

“It’s definitely given me a chance to work on my communication skills, and making sure everybody’s on the same page because we’re working with a lot of different individual groups,” says Karlee, who also has an Environmental Engineering Technology degree as well as a diploma in Environmental Applied Science.

Karlee initially applied for the job because she is an active trail user, and with her educational background, she felt it would be the perfect fit.

“The main thing that drew me to this job was the ‘trails’ part in the title,” she says, adding that it’s particularly difficult finding similar jobs for recent graduates. “It was nice to see that this sort of position was open not just for students, but for younger people like me. I just graduated, and it’s been really hard to find opportunities like this to get into the workforce.”

Charlotte MacDonald, manager of the County of Inverness’s recreation department, says Karlee’s work has provided the basis for the municipality’s formalized trails strategy.

She adds that this work will help the community improve its trails, and trail experiences, for the County of Inverness’s residents and visitors.

“This survey is going to give us the data we need to support our trail strategy, and to support departmental programming out on the trails, as well as our trail users in the county,” she says. “The stronger the connection we have with our trail development groups, the better product and the better service we will be able to offer. Without Karlee, we wouldn’t have created the survey, and we wouldn’t have this step done.”

MacDonald says that the funding has also allowed the small rural municipality to fill a role that may not have otherwise existed, and supported the hiring of a recent graduate who has new ideas and perspectives.

“Without the green jobs program, I’d have to wait for budget development and get approval - and maybe not even get it,” she explains. “We’re a small municipality so if the money isn’t there, it’s not there. Karlee’s work will definitely have a positive impact to the whole community, and especially its trails.” 🍁



Green Job Brings Life to Pictou County

WHEN CHLOE MARSHALL SAW THAT THE Pictou County Forest School was hiring a Forest School and Farm Assistant, she felt it was her dream job

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, but I’ve always had a strong connection with the outdoors,” Chloe explains. “After getting my degree and coming back to Pictou County, and seeing this job opportunity, it seemed like a perfect fit for me.”

Chloe, who majored in Tourism and Outdoor Leadership at Mount Royal University in Calgary, is originally from Pictou County and applied for the job supported by the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment Skills Strategy program.



PICTOU COUNTY,
NOVA SCOTIA

Canada

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Chloe helping students with Master Forest School Chef



Chloe back left with Foxes (8 to 11 year olds)

“For this forest school to be started, it gave me a lot of hope. And having this opportunity to be a part of it was really awesome, and it meant a lot that it’s happening here in my home community.”

Chloe Marshall, majored in Tourism and Outdoor Leadership at Mount Royal University in Calgary

The Pictou County Forest School sits on 25 acres of woodland called Fiddlewood Farm in Meadowville, Nova Scotia and offers outdoor educational programs for children ages four to 14 including animal tracking, plant identification, shelter building, fire setting and other survival skills.

As the Forest School and Farm Assistant, Chloe leads these programs with children and youth - and is grateful that the community’s children can participate in the school’s programs.

“Growing up, I didn’t have an opportunity like this for school. I was the kid that was always begging to go outside with the teachers, or my babysitter, and I didn’t have a place to explore the outdoors,” Chloe says.

Although she hasn’t decided on her future career yet, Chloe says the skills she is learning as a Forest School and Farm Assistant will help her wherever she goes next.

She adds that the position had taught her how to be more adaptable when things change last minute, and to understand the needs of the children she is working with.

“I think this definitely helps me because this is a really good place to explore and learn, and to continue to learn,” she says. “A lot of the skills that I’m learning here are skills that can be applied everywhere.”

Scott Ross, who started the Forest School and is Chloe’s manager and mentor, says he started the school because he felt it would greatly benefit the children in his community.

He says the funding from the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative “made all the difference,” and allowed the school to operate programs throughout the fall – including for children whose families might not be able to afford it.

“(The funding has) given us a little wiggle room to help to make our program accessible,” Scott says. “I think this was super valuable to the community.”

Chloe agrees that the Pictou County Forest School – and the funding from the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative – has made a huge difference in her hometown.

“I left the small town of Pictou to go out west, to have that those opportunities where the outdoor industry is very rich and alive and well. I came back here thinking that there is no opportunities like I had out west,” she says. “For this forest school to be started, it gave me a lot of hope. And having this opportunity to be a part of it was really awesome, and it meant a lot that it’s happening here in my home community.” 🍁