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Here are some of the jobs posted this month:



Environmental Technologist
Edmonton, AB
Deadline: October 07, 2011



Environmental Protection Officer
Prince George, BC
Deadline: October 13, 2011



Senior Project Engineer
Bracebridge, ON
Deadline: September 29, 2011

In This Issue

- [Profile of the Month](#)
- [How EPs Choose Professional Development](#)
- [Regional Chapter News](#)
- [Regulatory Updates](#)
- [The EP Mentorship Program](#)
- [Newly Certified Members](#)
- [Industry News & Events](#)

Industry Fast Fact

54% of environmental employers budget **\$1,000** or more per employee per year for **training and PD.**

[More >>](#)



Note from the Registrar

Upgrade Your Skills

Stay ahead of the game by keeping your skills current.

For many EPs, September represents new beginnings: adjusting from summer vacation, re-prioritizing at work, or returning to school. However, September also represents the ideal time to update your knowledge through a **Professional**

Development course, or to pursue new online **environmental education** options.

Looking for ways to increase your marketability and keep your skills current? **Check out these great resume-boosting resources:**

1. Online Program Directory - interested in returning to school, updating your knowledge, or reaching professional development goals? Use the **Program Directory** to search for degree, diploma or certificate environmental programs in your province.

2. EP Mentorship Program - Mentoring is a personal and rewarding way to expand your network, gain recognition, and contribute to the development of your professionals.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at ep@eco.ca or 403-233-7484.

Enjoy this edition of the EP News! Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bowman
Associate Registrar, ECO Canada



ECO News

[How Professional Development Can Impact Your Career](#)

[How to Write an Environmental Resume](#)

[5 "Soft Skills" They Didn't Teach You in University](#)

[SAIT Program Receives National Accreditation](#)

QUEST V

Integrated Community Energy Solutions:

Building Tomorrow's Communities

October 23-25, 2011
Calgary, Alberta

[Register Now](#) 

www.questcanada.org

Profile of the Month

The Value of Education & EPt Certification

Arlynn Poitras and Justin Robertson, **certified EPTs**, offer great advice for professionals beginning their careers or looking to go back to school.

This month, we had the pleasure of speaking with EPTs **Arlynn Poitras** and **Justin Robertson**, two young professionals who work with the **Summerhill Group** in Toronto. Both Arlynn and Justin have undergraduate degrees and post-graduate certificates in **Environmental Management**, and hold the **EPT designation** to demonstrate their credibility and commitment to environmental professionalism.



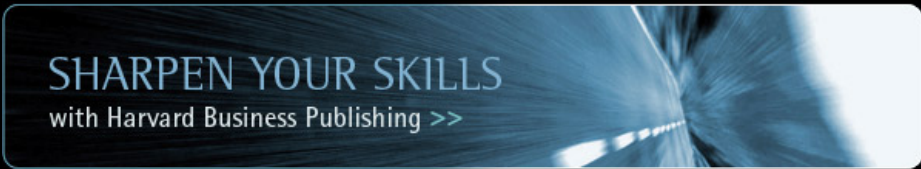
Having PD courses on your resume shows employers that you've kept your skills current.

Justin is a Program Director and manages the **Innovation for Sustainability program**. He supports Summerhill on issues relating to green products and product environmental impacts.

Arlynn is also a Program Director and works with retailers and utility companies to deliver a residential energy conservation program. Both are relatively new to working in the environmental sector and can relate to recent graduates, individuals seeking a career change or those trying to get that competitive edge.

Justin and Arlynn chose to pursue post-graduate education at the college level, and agree that it is **important to look for opportunities to upgrade your skills and education, regardless of years of experience** (or lack thereof).

[Continued below >>](#)



Reader Poll

We want the newsletter to be the best it can be to help you make the most of your career! [Tell us what you'd like to see changed.](#)

Q. What would you *most* like to see in this newsletter?

- Teaser-style articles
- More job postings
- Shorter length
- More industry news, trends & events
- I want it to stay the way that it is now

[Thanks for helping us improve your newsletter!](#)



Profile of the Month (continued)

Arlynn enrolled in a post-graduate certificate program at **Niagara College** after receiving a degree from the **University of Toronto**. The decision to continue with her education was beneficial and allowed for a smooth transition to the workforce. Arlynn explains, "I started out at Summerhill as a coordinator in the strategic management consultancy area of our company. I was immediately able to add value to the team I was working with because the **Environmental Management and Assessment** program prepared me extremely well."



...I would encourage graduates to not overlook college graduate programs or university certificate programs.

”

Despite summers working for a bioremediation company, Justin found it difficult to find employment upon graduating from **McMaster University** and became uncertain of his career path. He decided to pursue additional education, which he says provided him with "a well-balanced view of **the environment industry as a whole**," and helped define his career aspirations.

"It is common for university graduates to focus solely on Master's programs when heading back to school," said Justin. "I would encourage graduates to not overlook college graduate programs or university certificate programs. Each of these options has its pros and cons, but **they will add value during your job search and increase your marketability.**"

Justin and Arlynn place high importance on holding **experience-based credentials** that verify competency and prove environment-related skills. While working in the bioremediation business, Justin searched for an organization and certification to demonstrate his skills and increase his marketability. They both agree that having the EPT designation "**sets a standard for ethics and professionalism.**"

Both Justin and Arlynn enjoy their current projects and anticipate successful environmental careers from this point forward. Arlynn credits her outstanding project team and says that it is motivating knowing that her company is making a meaningful difference and enjoys working for an organization that values "creativity, innovation and fun."

Justin is thrilled he has been able to combine business knowledge and sustainability to develop and expand the Innovation for Sustainability program. "Working [on this program] has allowed me to learn about big-retail operations and to be a part of the solution to fundamental challenges faced by small businesses in commercializing their products."

When thinking of the future, Justin is excited and believes that he could potentially be in a role that does not currently exist. "I feel like anything can happen at the intersection of sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship, so I'm excited to see where it all leads me."



Never underestimate the value of additional credentials in proving your worth.

How EPs Choose Professional Development

With so many training and professional development options available, what factors should you consider before enrolling? We break down important considerations below so that you can make the most of new learning opportunities.



71% of environmental professionals enrolled in job-related courses in 2009.

What drives you?

The environment industry is very technical, and as a result, the need to keep up-to-date with the latest skills is often required by regulation. Many training decisions are also driven by personal interest. Regardless of the reasons for seeking professional development, it's clear that the environmental community is made up of highly motivated professionals.

In a 2009 report titled **Characteristics of Canadian Environmental Practitioners**, **71% of environmental professionals reported that they had taken at least one job-related course that year**. "Personal growth" topped the list as the main reason for taking training courses, followed by "employment-related needs."

Shawn Martin, B.Sc., P.Biol., a project director with **EBA, a Tetra Tech Company**, says personal interest is what drives him to pursue new learning opportunities. "I am interested in the topics offered through external professional development," Martin says. A board member for the **Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists** and a certified Environmental Professional (EP) specializing in **Fisheries and Wildlife**, Martin is a keen participant in many lectures, networking events, and social media discussions.

Always a major factor: cost

Cost influences many of our decisions and professional development is no exception. However, environmental employers are placing a greater importance on professional development for workers, recognizing the results of increased engagement and the reduced cost of recruitment. Many employers also offer in-house training or professional development funds.

Patrick Roelofsen, B.Admin., certified (EP) and **Air Services Manager** with **SNC-Lavalin Environment** says the projects he is involved with guide his training.

"Costs are always taken into account when contemplating the decision to undertake any professional development. **SNC-Lavalin offers in-house training programs** as well as support for education initiatives," says Roelofsen.

As a member of industry associations or certifying bodies, you may already have access to great discounts or chances to brush up on your skills. For example, **certified Environmental Professionals (EPs) receive discounts** to ECO Canada workshops and networking events, providing them with access to ongoing learning opportunities.

When time is of the essence

Employees in the environmental sector face unique time constraints. For many professionals, the annual field season places restrictions on how and when they can access training opportunities. **Self-paced options** can provide a flexible alternative for working professionals, allowing them to complete a course as quickly as their schedule allows.

For Dorn Ray, Dip., C.E.T., Area Manager of the Due Diligence Group in Environment at **GENIVAR**, timing is always an important consideration. "Schedule is the most important factor when I take on new training," says Ray. "Time is always something I seem to be short on. But if it is something I think I really need to attend, I will make the time."

An (EP) specializing in **Site Assessment & Reclamation**, Ray advises others to communicate with their peers in the industry, saying there are always courses, conferences, and seminars available that will be sure to peak their interest.

Location, location, location

Location can also add constraints. As many environmental professionals are required to work out in the field, or travel throughout Canada or overseas, in-class programs may not provide the flexibility they need.



Self-paced PD options can lessen time constraints and lead to a better experience.

Online learning and distance-based programs can provide the opportunity to develop new skills from wherever you happen to be, whether it's out in the field or working from home.



There is a gap between how much training employees say they need, and how much they receive.

Relevance and applicability

An important issue to consider when exploring potential learning opportunities is their relevance and applicability to your environmental career. In the 2009 report **Characteristics of Canadian Environmental Practitioners**, practitioners identified **relatively large gaps** between how much training they believed they needed and the actual amount of training received.

The largest gaps identified were in the areas of **environmental assessment** and **restoration, remediation and reclamation**, as well as in strategic partnering, planning, **monitoring, and reporting** for sustainable development. Gaps were also identified in the areas of **project management and business skills**.

Roelofsen suggests **taking a look at the future** to determine current development activities. "Gauging where the industry is heading and positioning your professional development to stay current or ahead of environmental developments can ultimately impact the decision to take on certain training or professional development opportunities," he says.

In the end, it all comes down to this: whether you seek new learning opportunities because of personal interest or career needs, online or in-class, at your own pace or in a classroom - a commitment to continuous learning and the desire to increase your own expertise are positive qualities for every professional.

“ **EP certification** brings a level of accountability & standards to the environmental sector. ”

(EP) Patrick Roelofsen, B.Admin., EP
Air Services Manager, Prairies
SNC-Lavalin Environment

Learn how top environmental employers are supporting EP certification >>



Regional Chapter News

The end of summer is bittersweet; however, at ECO Canada we anticipate fall as September marks the beginning of the next series of **EP Events** and the reconvening of the **regional chapters**.

The first EP Event kicks-off in Cambridge, Ontario on September 27, 2011 and we are pleased to have EP Diane Szoller train professionals on stakeholder engagement and EP Michael DeWit speak on environmental leadership.

The **Quebec Chapter** will co-host the 5th "Colloque Air et changements climatiques" on November 17th, 2011. The Chapter will join forces with Réseau Environnement to promote awareness regarding new GHG reporting obligations, particularly within the province of

Quebec. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Click on your province below for contact information and to learn about the most recent [chapter activities](#).

[British Columbia](#) | [Alberta](#) | [Saskatchewan](#) | [Manitoba](#) | [Ontario](#)
| [Quebec](#) | [Atlantic](#)

Regulatory Updates

[Canada's Environment Minister Announces Important Step Towards Reducing Electricity Sector Emissions](#)

[QC: Draft regulation respecting a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances](#)

[Canada's Environment Minister Takes Another Step Towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

The EP Mentorship Program

Facilitating Information Share

The recent launch of the [EP Mentorship Program](#) has catalyzed career development conversations across the country. Mentors and protégés - paired on geographic proximity, common specializations and areas of interests - have started to build professional relationships with curriculum, materials and guidance from a program coordinator.

More than 100 program applications were received over the spring and summer months, **with 36 mentorship matches made**. Some mentors are so invested in the program that they are mentoring more than one protégé!



A mentor discussing his work with two protégés.

The program will facilitate face-to-face and online information sharing and professional development opportunities **for both EPs and EPTs**.

Protégés see the program as an opportunity to learn more about the industry, to access a greater network and to seek career development advice. Mentor candidates are eager to share experience and expertise, to hone leadership skills, and to also expand professional networks.

Mentors share support for the program:

"We need to ensure that the next generation of environmental specialists are well versed in matters that are happening now in order to make sure that the programs can mature and move forward."

"I would like to share (with) fellow environmental professionals ... that there is hope in finding their dream job."

"I see it as a great opportunity to continue to grow the sector with passionate individuals wanting to make a difference."

For more information on mentorship or to apply for next year's sessions, call 403.476.1949 or visit www.eco.ca/mentorship

Newly Certified Members and 5% Off WestJet Flights

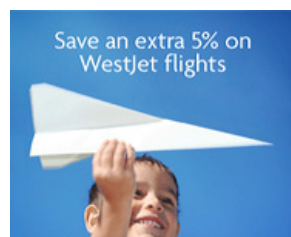
Welcome to Newly Certified Members

We are pleased to extend our warmest welcome to the [individuals who were awarded designations](#) in the months of **June, July and August**.

Elevating EP

ECO Canada is dedicated to elevating the environmental profession. To learn about the **actions taken in August to increase marketplace demand** for the Environmental Professional designation, [click here](#).

Member Benefits - 5% Off WestJet Flights



As a certified EP, you have **exclusive access** to [Volo](#)TM, a dedicated Travel Booking Website offering competitive rates with industry-leading travel deals and special offers.

Looking for great deals on flights? Book with Volo and get an additional **5% off the lowest available fares with WestJet**. Visit Volo.ca today, and register using the Company/Access Code found under "Member Services" in your [certified members' account](#). Start taking advantage

EPs receive an exclusive 5% discount on WestJet flights.

of these great travel deals today!

[Click here](#) for more exclusive EP member benefits.

Industry News

[Tools for Success: Key Skill Areas in the Green Sector](#)

[The Top 3 Trends in Environmental Education](#)

[The Green Economy: What's in a Name?](#)

[What Will it Take to Make Montreal an Eco-City?](#)

[Sucking CO2 from the Air: A Climate Solution Crazy Enough to Work?](#)

[Reaching Out - Finding a Foothold in the Environmental Business Marketplace](#)

[Why Employee Engagement is Critical to Sustaining Sustainability](#)

[Electric Car Hype Hiding a Quiet Revolution](#)

[A Moore's Law for Renewable Energy](#)

[Germany Sets New Renewable Energy Record in 2011](#)

Featured Events

[Greenbuild 2011 International Conference & Expo](#)

October 4-7, 2011 - Toronto, ON

[Water & Land Management Summit](#)

October 3-4, 2011 - Telus Convention Centre - Calgary, AB

Regional planning processes are underway and these plans promise to change the shape of the future in water and land management. Don't miss this opportunity to hear our distinguished faculty share their insights on new standards and policies for sustainable water and land management. This is your chance to learn about the long-term strategies that consider planning frameworks, raised stakeholder expectations and the requirement for sustainable development.

[Environmental Professional \(EP\) Event - Edmonton](#)

October 5, 2011 - Edmonton, AB

[Sustainability for Leaders Course](#)

October 13-14, 2011 - Edmonton, AB & Vancouver, BC

[RemTech](#)

October 19-21, 2011 - Banff, AB

[Integrated Community Energy Solutions: Building Tomorrow's Communities](#)

October 23-25, 2011 - Calgary, AB

[SmartGrid 2011 Conference](#)

October 24-26, 2011 - Toronto, ON

[Canadian Business as a Global Citizen: Social & Environmental Performance on the World Stage](#)

October 26, 2011 - Toronto, ON

[MBA Sustainability Leadership Bootcamp](#)

October 26-30, 2011 - Calgary, AB

[Global Clean Energy Congress](#)

November 1, 2011 - Calgary, AB

[Environmental Professional \(EP\) Event - Toronto](#)

November 1, 2011 - Toronto, ON

[International Sites and Spills Expo](#)

November 3-4, 2011 - International Centre - Toronto, ON

The International Sites and Spills Expo is the newest industry event dedicated to all elements of the HazMat and Site Remediation industries including a full conference program and trade show. The International Sites and Spills Expo will bring together engaging speakers, expert panelists and key suppliers of products, services, technologies and equipment to hundreds of daily practitioners in the fields of spill response, fire fighting, HazMat management, environmental protection, development, restoration, contaminated site cleanup and soil/groundwater remediation.

[PNWIS 2011: Cross-border Air and Waste Solutions](#)

Nov 8-11, 2011 - Fraser Valley, BC

PNWIS is the Pacific Northwest International Section of the Air and Waste Management association. This year's conference is being hosted by the BC/Yukon Chapter of the AWMA.

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