



## NCC's next generation of conservation champions

*Story by Kyla Cassandra Cortez, internal communications & culture intern*

Interns at the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) have many stories to tell. As the Internal Communications and Culture intern, I've had the honour of connecting with my fellow conservation champions to talk about their work, passion for nature experiences interning with NCC this summer.

Carmen Hamel, a conservation intern based in Edmonton, first learned about NCC while studying biological sciences at MacEwan University.



Kyla Cassandra Cortez (Photo courtesy Kyla Cassandra Cortez)

"I was really intrigued by how they were the largest non-profit land trust in Canada," Carmen shares. "I thought that was interesting, and [as I was] clicking through their website before applying, I thought to myself: 'Oh wow, this company actually seems really good compared to other non-profits. They are organized, structured and do a lot for nature and landscapes in Canada.'"

Quaid Muskovitch, GIS intern for NCC's Saskatchewan science team, learned about NCC through his local news when members from the organization were being interviewed and sharing their stories.

"I have always wanted to combine my knowledge from my environmental stewardship diploma and my ongoing GIS degree so I could contribute to an organization that works to protect Canada's resources, such as the land and water and the animals that call it home," he shares.

While most interns are working for NCC for the first time, Saba Mozaffari — a communications intern for NCC in Atlantic Canada — has been working for the organization for three summers now.

"I knew the job would initially be out of my comfort zone, but I enjoy a good challenge!" says Saba. "I valued NCC's mission to care for nature and could see a great fit between my skills and values and NCC's mission and positive work environment."

Throughout their internships, these interns have acquired many skills and have documented their experiences working for NCC through pictures and blog posts on [Land Lines](#).



Carmen Hamel (Photo courtesy Carmen Hamel)



Saba Mozaffari (Photo courtesy Saba Mozaffari)

Carmen shares with me that her work consists of both field work and remote work. Her role is setting up materials for summer volunteer events, such as creating posters and event web pages.

"Being a part of the team that helps perform quality control (making sure the spatial data is free of topology errors) has been a very valuable thing for me to learn," he says.

As a communications intern, Saba's responsibilities include managing emails and Teams messages, reviewing and completing weekly task lists, setting daily goals and crafting website stories. She also conducts interviews with staff, partners and supporters to develop digital profiles and content for our website, social media, and communication materials.

"My experiences at NCC over the years have all been positive and helpful," she explains. "I've learned to be more open to opportunities, be more creative, ask for help, and to not be afraid of failure."

Based on their experiences here, Saba, Carmen and Quaid share their advice for NCC's upcoming conservation champions.

"Take advantage of this amazing opportunity and say yes!" says Saba. "You'll have a great support system to guide you anywhere you feel stuck. Let your creativity flow and ask for help."

Carmen says that it helps to be familiar with NCC's work and values. Her personal advice for interns is to "keep trying [to apply]" since "[working at NCC] is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Lastly, Quaid believes that "all [interns] should take the opportunity to get outside in nature and get involved."

It takes a village to move conservation mountains. Both in the field and working from home offices, all 80 of our interns this summer are directly contributing to our ambitious goals to double our conservation outcomes and protect the land and all it sustains for the future.



Quaid Muskovitch (Photo courtest Quaid Muskovitch)