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Exploring Innovative Ways to Communicate Geoscience Information to Stakeholders; Transitioning From Geostatistical Research to Multi-disciplinary Stakeholder Engagement



I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have had an amazing opportunity to work with a fabulous research group while doing my graduate work in 3D modelling and theoretical geostatistics at McMaster University, followed by a post-doc at the University of Guelph. There were many bumps and twists along the way, but I very much enjoyed academia and having the opportunity to push the edge of innovation and development. However, during the last year of my post-doc I thought it would be a good idea to explore the outside world and gain some experience in the private or public sectors. In 2012, I joined the Alberta Geological Survey and Alberta Energy Regulator as a geomodeller responsible for developing the Alberta Geological Framework, a provincial-scale 3D model designed facilitate the integration of geospatial

information to more accurately and efficiently evaluate relationships between surface/subsurface properties and interactions. Ultimately allowing for improved characterization of geospatial data and information to support evidence-based decision making and facilitate stakeholder communication of complex geological concepts. This was the perfect marriage of my research interests with public sector needs. However, in 2014 I decided to try something new and take on a leadership role as the Manager of the Bedrock Geologic Framework Team, and in 2016 became the Director of the Modelling and Resources Group, leading a group of 52 diverse subject matter experts on 4 multi-disciplinary teams.

When envisioning my career as a graduate student, this is certainly not what I thought I would be doing. However, I absolutely love that I have the opportunity to learn something new everyday from the diverse group of subject matter experts on my team, as we work to enhance our understanding of Alberta's geoscience in the areas where we can have the greatest impact and benefit to the public. My current position requires looking for new and innovative ways to enhance subsurface geological understanding and access to geological information and data through collaboration with colleagues in academia, government, industry, public, and around the globe – a skill I was fortunate to have learned and carried with me from my time as a graduate student and researcher.