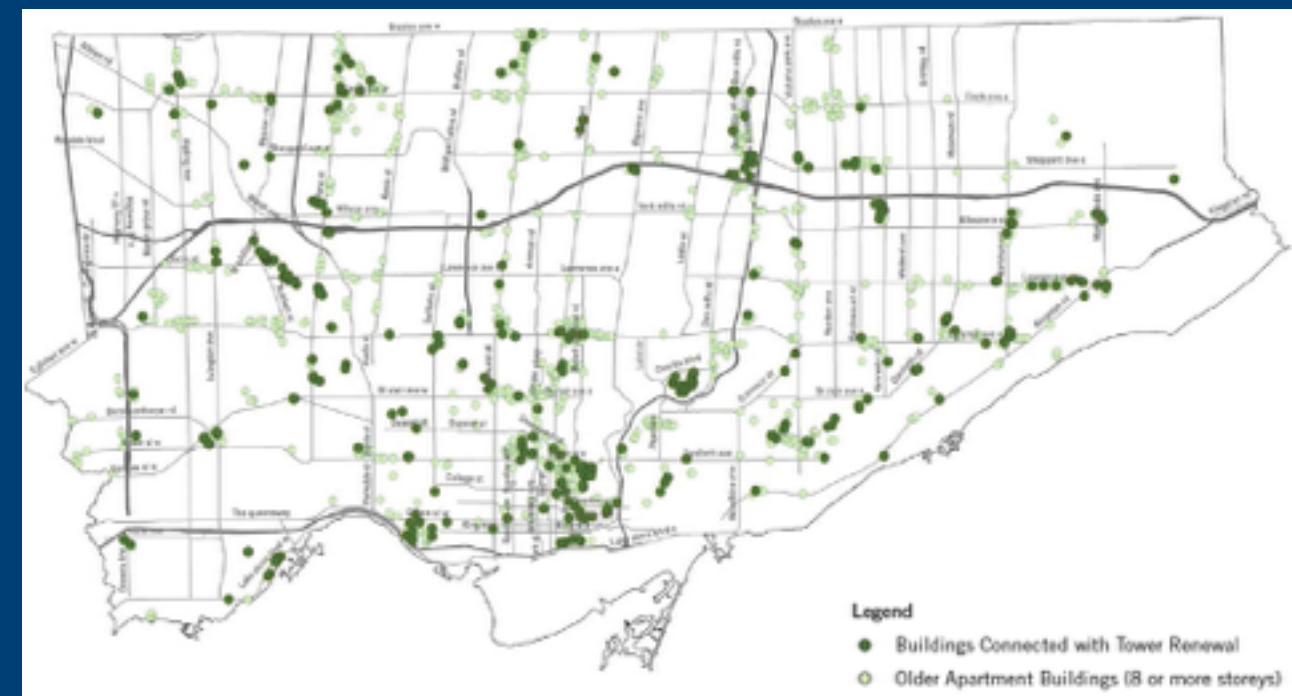




# Research Analyst and Data Collector

## Tower Renewal Unit in the Social Development and Finance Administration Department at the City of Toronto

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### Tower Renewal

A program that focuses on improving Toronto's apartment towers and neighbourhoods that surround them. It focuses on the implementation of key initiatives including:

- High-Rise Retrofit Improvement Support (Hi-RIS) program
- Residential Apartment Commercial (RAC) Zoning
- Benchmarking of building energy performance
- Community engagement projects



### Sustainable Towers, Engaged People (STEP) Program

A program designed to build the capacity of property owners to undertake Tower Renewal programs and to outline the various types of support available to owners by the City of Toronto and other Tower Renewal partners.

Similar to LEED, the STEP program acts as a performance rating system and will allow City staff, property owners and other stakeholders to understand how the performance and amenities of a particular apartment building compares with other apartment buildings in Toronto.



### Before going in...

I believed that the purpose of sustainability was to achieve utopianism; therefore, I was excited for this opportunity at the Tower Renewal Unit. I thought to myself that this would open my eyes to the world of community revitalization and the ways to tackle socioeconomic problems from a bureaucratic level. Overall, I thought this opportunity would teach me how to save the world from a local level.

*While I faced a few challenges, I became passionate about a certain issue within our neck of the woods...*

*Eventually my time came to an end and I had to move forward...*

My **career path changed**. As opposed to pursuing community revitalization on a bureaucratic level, I decided pursue a career in property investment.

### Duties Assigned ...

**Research and report** on methods to keep city staff with busy schedules engaged in projects once their task is complete. Methods include project update emails and

**Skills developed:**

- Strategic thinking



### It was a whole new world and I faced a few challenges...

**Breaking free from the concept of "utopianism"** through the PMT research and updating the STEP program

**Organization** due to working on various projects at the same time in a fast pace atmosphere

**Communication** due to conflicting schedules

Implementing **sustainability tools** in an office full of bureaucrats due to busy schedules

### I learned that...

Toronto is trying to be a "sustainable city"



**Sustainability is a process and is more than the triple bottom line**

### To the future MScSM students...

You are at the age where there are endless opportunities, take advantage of them. This is the time to explore, take chances and learn. You may not know what these opportunities could land you in the future. Believe in yourself and never lose hope.

**Organizing and participating in events** such as the community garden at Scarborough Village, Tower Renewal meetings, Community Revitalization meetings and Pan Am community events .

**Skills developed:**

- Event planner
- Community engagement



**Update STEP program** by researching and reporting methods that tower owners and managers can use to become more energy efficient.

**Skills developed:**

- Critical analysis
- Reporting

