

David Riiks, B.Sc.

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Candidate for:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT INTERN

➤ ***“protecting Ontario’s natural resources and the environment”***

Recent graduate of University of Guelph’s multi-disciplinary Honours Environmental Biology degree. Keen interest in environmental issues, political processes, and policy development, exemplified by volunteer experience. Well developed ability to investigate an issue, identify its complexities and economical ramifications, and develop a sustainable, progressive plan for change. Active participant in social and environmental initiatives. Related coursework:

➤ Natural Resources Policy	➤ Fish & Wildlife Management	➤ Water Quality & Management
➤ Environmental Stewardship	➤ Aquatic Environments	➤ Crop & Land Reclamation
➤ Chemistry/Physics/Biology	➤ Soil Science	➤ Population Ecology
➤ Microbial Processes & Environmental Management	➤ Problem Solving in Environmental Biology	

Additional coursework: Environmental Policy, U. of G., to be completed summer ‘08

Computer skills: Microsoft Office - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access; Visual Basic; Internet Research

Relevant presentations, papers:

1. Hedge Row Restoration - collaborated with colleague to research and report on topic. Highlighted the considerable benefits of this once-established practice, and acknowledged the initial economic cost of resurrecting effective ecological practice. Identified current related practices in Europe, and viable solutions to economic costs. Realized need for governmental policy to effect this change.
2. Working independently researched economic reasons that perpetuate the whaling industry in Japan, Iceland and Norway. Investigated economic, social and political implications of discontinuing the practice. Offered practical solutions currently being applied in response to ecological issues in other parts of the world.

Related volunteer experience:

1. Asociacion ANAI: A non-profit organization in Costa Rica that undertakes ecological conservation projects. Spent 10 days protecting endangered leatherback, green and hawk’s back turtles as they lay their eggs on Costa Rica’s beaches. Directed by group’s lead researcher, tagged turtles with International Reference tags to aid future research efforts.
2. Journey South: Volunteered with Asociacion ANAI at a Costa Rican sustainable village. Learned of village’s efforts to reclaim rainforest ravaged by eroded soil due to a failed cattle ranch, and of its small eco-friendly hydro electric energy source. Contributed to daily chores in banana harvest, coffee roasting, and sheep herding enterprises.
3. “I Believe in Kitchener”: Volunteered in this grass-roots initiative to encourage increased council numbers; believe this is crucial to further long-range goal for environmental change at the municipal level.

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WORK HISTORY

Big Carpet Mill Ltd., Waterloo ON (various terms) 2005 - 2007

Equipment Operator: Varichrome Superba Operator, Creel Hand Operator, Buggy Wheel Maintenance
Terms: May to September, 2007; January to July 2006; September 2005 to January 2006

Of note:

- Hand picked by Express Personnel out of 30 temporary staff as one of two chosen for assignment.; began at Big Carpet Mill with significant salary increase as temporary staff via Express Personnel Staffing, hired as full time permanent after 3 months.
- Reported to Night Supervisor, trusted to work night shift with minimal supervision.
- Monitored large (25 m in length) machinery that dies, steams, dries and rewinds yarn:
 - received 3 months' training and joined group of 3 operators on 2 machines;
 - demonstrated problem solving to address recurring problems, such as fraying and breaking yarn, colour variances, and jamming; recognized when to alert maintenance;
 - requested, by manager, to train 2 employees on use of this complex machinery.
- Recognized for ability to think through a problem and troubleshoot a solution.
- Demonstrated commitment to effective workplace contribution; helped out supervisor:
 - monitored yarn output to ensure that production did not exceed requirements by more than 1%;
 - redesigned outdated yarn tracking spreadsheet (Excel) to reflect changes in process.

Factory Ltd., Kitchener ON June to August, 2005

Assembly, Machine Sander, Press Punch Operator

Of note:

- Recognized for quick training and minimal supervision needs with various assignments.

Small Brewery Ltd., Guelph ON July to August, 2004

Quality Control, Packaging

CompX Waterloo , Waterloo ON June 2003 - March 2004

Slide Assembly, Plating, Packaging

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Provide microfinance loans, through kiva.org to citizens of developing nations.
- Served as "dog walker" at the Ontario Veterinary Clinic, University of Guelph.
- Participated in Guelph's Speed River cleanup.
- Assisted new students to adapt to the University as Orientation Volunteer.

AWARDS

Graduated High School as an Ontario Scholar.

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