



My Career Story

The Story of a Late Bloomer

I often tell people that I am a late bloomer. Somehow I knew that from early on, or perhaps it was a way to explain my muddling through mundane jobs that I did not enjoy, that did not use my talents, and that left me wondering what the heck I was supposed to do with my life!

After completing my degree, I expected to be a teacher, and although I never did, I did supply teach, and I taught heritage language classes for years. (I am fully conversant in Ukrainian.)

Through a variety of circumstances, our family moved from our home town of Toronto to Sudbury, Edmonton, Oakville, and Kitchener. Along the way I held jobs such as counter help at a bagel bakery and in a deli; salesperson in a fabric store, at The Bay, and in a bead store; and I owned a bead store and managed gift and fabric stores. I provided clerical help as a receptionist, data entry clerk and administrative assistant at a long list of businesses, and held the position of Senior Teacher at a parent-run, Ukrainian bilingual pre-school. I have mopped floors, washed bathrooms, counted money, filed paperwork, provided customer service and handled troublesome accounting ... and none of the above were gratifying.

Finally, my instincts about blooming late proved to be true. A counselor mentioned on-line learning platforms. That one piece of information launched me on the path to where I am now. I began taking business writing courses through Ontario Learn.com and I was hooked! I was so pumped to write, and write well, that homework was a joy and I couldn't go fast enough.

Once I knew "what I wanted to be" I wanted to be it—NOW! No more wasting time. And yet, I had no history at all as a writer. No way to prove my abilities to a potential employer. I began volunteering to write and edit, and did so for a number of departments at work. Still, the transition was taking far longer than my eager little heart could stand. I added a resume writing certificate to my credentials, and then, with my husband's and daughters' encouragement, I quit a stable, benefit-rich, pay-equity compliant job, to launch my own, no-guarantee-of-success, resume writing business.

I felt like I had jumped off a precipice and had to learn to fly, pronto! (I am afraid of heights and not particularly a risk taker.) But I flew, simply because I was now working to innate talents, and using the knowledge that I had developed over the years.

So here I am, going into my fifth year of full-time self-employment. My "Pollyanna- style" positivity has come in handy for writing resumes and cover letters, which by nature must focus on the positive. Naturally service-oriented, my clients enjoy working with me. Naturally trusting, I attract good people who make my day!

Realizing these rewards late in life, I also realize that I wasted much time due to ignorance. The concept of "career management" was foreign to me, and thus I floundered. Now I am on a mission to help people land their own versions of dream jobs.

I believe that everyone has the need for, and right to, meaningful work, and I am absolutely thrilled to work in a profession that helps people achieve their career goals.