



For Immediate Release

Experience North Program – Meet Our Summer Placements!

June 1, 2020 – May was the start of another cohort of Experience North summer placements at Northern Policy Institute (NPI). This year, NPI is happy to welcome six bright young minds to its team!

Meet our placements!

Abby Shillinglaw lives in New Liskeard and has completed the first three years of her undergraduate B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Environmental Science at Queen's University. This summer Abby is a Research Analyst and will be working on indirect learners and post-secondary institutions.

Andrew Jalak is from Sault Ste. Marie and will be entering his third year of study at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, with a focus in communications studies. Andrew is working as a Communications Officer with NPI and will be working on website analytics and renewal.

Christina Fera resides in Sault Ste. Marie and is a recent graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University where she majored in Communication Studies with a specialization in the Cultural and Creative Industries. With NPI she is a Communications Officer working on marketing and social media strategies.

Maia Kvas is from Timmins. This will be her second summer with NPI as part of the Experience North program! Maia has completed her fourth year in the Medical Sciences program at Dalhousie University and for the next 16 weeks she will be a Research Analyst working on Healthcare asset mapping.

Mateo Orrantia is born and raised in Marathon. He is heading into his fourth year of Arts & Science at McMaster University. This summer, as a Research Analyst, Mateo will be focusing on First Nation and Métis asset mapping.

Mercedes Labelle was born in Spain, but her family is now located in North Bay. She graduated from McGill University in 2020 with an Honours Bachelor of Political Science and Urban Systems. During her time at NPI she will be working as a Research Analyst focusing on comparative transportation subsidization.

Experience North 2020 is made possible in part through the generous support of the RBC Foundation. NPI and our placements want to thank RBC for their commitment to the career development of young thinkers and leaders.

To accommodate current circumstances, summer placements will be working from home while keeping regular contact with their supervisors and other NPI staff. In fact, NPI will be hosting its first ever virtual staff week in the coming weeks!

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Media Interviews: NPI Research Manager Rachel Rizzuto is available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact:

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About Northern Policy Institute:

Northern Policy Institute is Northern Ontario's independent think tank. We perform research, collect and disseminate evidence, and identify policy opportunities to support the growth of sustainable Northern communities. Our operations are located in Thunder Bay and Sudbury. We seek to enhance Northern Ontario's capacity to take the lead position on socio-economic policy that impacts Northern Ontario, Ontario, and Canada as a whole.

About Experience North:

Every summer, Northern Policy Institute makes available up to ten four-month placements across Northern Ontario. Usually* housed with a partner organization in one of Ontario's Northern Regions, the placements learn first-hand about the cut and thrust of public policy debate, building human capital and experience in the North.



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