

Federal Youth Network/Career Boot Camp/Career Boot Camp 2024/Speakers

< [Federal Youth Network](#) | [Career Boot Camp](#) | [Career Boot Camp 2024](#)



- [English](#)
- [Français](#)
- [GC Students](#)

Speakers - Career Boot Camp

Speakers will be updated in October 2023. Stay tuned for this year's selection of incredible panelists and moderators from across Canada and the GC!

January 16, 2024

15 Crucial Career Moments (English)

Marcela Popowich

Canada's Free Agent



Marcela Popowich

She / Her

- Marcela Popowich is a passionate learner who thrives on new experiences and challenges. Throughout her career in the Public Service, she has worn many hats - from starting as an entry level term to eventually becoming an HR Advisor, manager, virtual events lead, and most recently becoming one of Canada's Free Agents. Each role has taught her valuable lessons about leadership, empathy, and the power of collaboration.
- One of her proudest achievements is co-creating a platform where individuals can share their lived experiences. From discussions on issues of racism and inclusion to insightful career conversations, this space was a beacon for honest dialogue and growth.
- With a curious mind and an unwavering commitment to personal development, she is always seeking new ways to expand her knowledge base. Whether it's through attending workshops or signing up for University courses, she embraces every opportunity for growth with open arms.

Ali Khan

Indigenous Services Canada



Muhammed (Ali) Khan

He / Him

- Ali works with the Inclusion Diversity Equity and Accessibility Secretariat at Indigenous Services Canada. He is also a cofounder of the Anti Racism Ambassadors Network (ARAN).
- Ali maintains the Career Development In The Public Service site, providing resources on mentorship, networking and the Informal Learning Network for public servants across departments and levels to find project collaborators, mentors and/or guest speakers.
- Ali enjoys supporting employee driven networks across the GC particularly those with a focus on career development and health and wellness.

Adele Hewitt

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat



Adele Hewitt

She / Her

- As a Human Resources professional with over 18 years of dedicated service in the Government of Canada, Adele currently spearheads the Employee Experience initiative at the Treasury Board Secretariat as a Senior HR Strategic Analyst in the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer (OCHRO).
- Drawing upon her extensive operational HR background in the public service, Adele is committed to crafting an exceptional employee experience for Government of Canada employees while fostering a forward-thinking approach.
- Driven by passion for innovation and collaboration, Adele is dedicated to shaping the future of HR, actively driving positive change and continuous improvement. Her leadership continues to contribute to the ongoing evolution of human resources within the government.

Navigating the Path to Becoming Indeterminate (English)

Priyanka Sharma

Human Resources Advisor, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Priyanka Sharma

She / Her

- Priyanka Sharma, is a Human Resources Advisor for the Employee Experience Team at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and is also the co-chair of GC Students under the Federal Youth Network (FYN). At IRCC she works on the student initiatives file to support students with their onboarding, retention and advancement.
- Priyanka joined the Federal Public Service as a student in 2019 and bridged into a full time position in 2020. She began her career at National Defence (DND) where she had the opportunity to develop and support the Student Onboarding Program. In mid 2021 she moved over to ESDC and with her passion for recruitment and advancement of students, she has continued to work with student onboarding. As of June 2023 she continues to support students across the GC with her role in GC Students as well as continue supporting students at IRCC.

Jennifer MacPhee

Assistant Director, Public Service Commission of Canada



Jennifer MacPhee

She / Her

- Jennifer MacPhee has been a federal public servant since 2005.
- She has worked in several different departments in human resources in different areas of specialization.
- She is a passionate public servant who currently works in a role that plans and executes outreach and engagement with job seekers and employers to contribute to the building of the diverse and inclusive public service of the future.

Robert Armstrong

Manager, Public Services and Procurement Canada



Robert Armstrong

He / Him

- Based in Halifax, Robert Armstrong is the Manager of Human Resources Programs for Public Services and Procurement Canada in the Atlantic Region.
- Prior to returning to PSPC, he spent 11 years with the Canada School of Public Service, where he worked on employee and organizational development across all departments.
- Robert has years of experience working in virtual and dispersed teams prior to the current pandemic, and continues to adapt as the virtual workplace evolves.

January 18, 2024

From Rejection to Resilience: Mastering the Art of Turning Setbacks into Success(English)

Andrew Abela

Assistant Director, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Andrew Abela

He / Him

- Andrew Abela is a neuroscientist by training who is passionate about social impact research, equity, systems change, mentorship and community building.
- Andrew is currently Assistant Director of the Behavioural Insights and Experimentation team at IRCC, where he gets to work with a fabulous team of researchers who conduct research with clients to improve Canada's immigration system.

Jose Jimenez

Canadian Digital Services



Jose Jimenez

He / Him

- Jose Jimenez, is a young professional with a combined 5 years of experience across the Federal and Provincial governments. Jose currently serves as a Technical Marketer at the Canadian Digital Service within TBS.
- Jose's interests include digital service delivery, public service innovation, and making space for vulnerability in professional settings.
- Outside of work Jose is passionate about compassionate self-growth and the empowerment of youth through 1:1 mentoring programs.

Tayah Almond

Communications Specialist, Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Tayah Almond

She / Her

- Tayah Almond is a public servant with over 15 years experience working in government.
- She's currently a Communications Specialist for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and has been recognized for her work in the area of engagement, giving back to the community, innovation and helping to create a higher performing organization.
- Outside of work Tayah is passionate about community building, globe trotting and the colour turquoise

Social Media Mastery: Land Your Dream Job with Online Etiquette and Ethics (English)

Speaker Name and Biography

Ciara Pourjalali

Communications Officer, Communications Security Establishment



Ciara Pourjalali

She / Her

- Ciara is a dedicated, thoughtful, patient, and committed public servant. For more than a year, she has been working as a Communications Officer at the Communications Security Establishment (CSE). Her daily work includes writing bilingual cyber security advice and guidance that is easy for all Canadians to understand.
- Ciara has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Co-op) from the University of Ottawa. She is also the lead of the Young Professionals Network at CSE.

Dan Cox

Canada's Free Agents



Dan Cox

Him / Lui

- Daniel Cox is a proud federal public servant with nearly a decade of service. As one of Canada's Free Agents, his current Policy and Research Analyst within Natural Resources Canada is heavily centered around integration of Performance Measurement data in leadership's decision making - where communication is key.
- He previously held the position of Issues Manager/Advisor in the DGO within PSPC's Science and Parliamentary Infrastructure Branch and served as PSPC's Vanguard Network Departmental Chair.
- As leader of the Vanguard young professionals network, he lead the design, planning and delivery of the network's program of work which was heavily based around internal and external communication including social media. He co-created and collaborated in leading the Interdepartmental Language Interchange Program (ILIP) which garnered over 850 participants in its last uptake from 6 departments and agencies.

Philippe Blanchette

Assistant Director and Chief Human Resource Officer, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada



Philippe Blanchette

He / Him

- Philippe has a distinguished 17-year career within the federal public service, characterized by a progressive journey through a variety of roles such as human resources, including labour relations, compensation, reporting, and strategic planning.
- Philippe currently holds the position of Assistant Director and Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO) for the People, Culture, and Workplace Sector at the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC). Previously, he held key positions such as Director General (DG) within the Workplace Relations and Compensation Directorate at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). He also excelled as DG for People Strategies and Services at FINTRAC and DG of Workplace Services at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC).
- His professional journey has been marked by a steadfast commitment to prioritizing employee well-being, diversity and inclusion, as well as promoting and supporting a strong appreciation for work/life balance, further enhancing the overall work environment.
- In addition to his professional achievements, Philippe holds a Multidisciplinary Bachelor's degree of arts and social sciences, complemented by a certificate in personnel administration from University of Moncton.

January 23, 2024

Communicate for Success: Mastering Skills for Credibility and Career Growth (English)

Lucy Ellis

Speech Writer, Privy Council Office



Lucy Ellis

She/Her

- Lucy is a Speechwriter at the Privy Council Office.
- She started her career in digital communications at National Defence. She has worked as a Speechwriter at National Defence and Natural Resources Canada, and acted as Manager of National Defence's Speechwriting team. She also worked in Strategic Communications at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where she learned more about potatoes and swine than she ever thought she'd know.
- Throughout nearly a decade in public service, she has benefited from incredible learning and development opportunities, ranging from participating in a three week Arctic sovereignty exercise in Nunavut, to undergoing a 360 evaluation, to presenting at international conferences, to making the most of learning sessions on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Reconciliation offered by her various departments.

Sudipta Roy-Choudhury

Manager, Communications, Canada Revenue Agency



Sudipta Roy-Choudhury

She/Her

- Sudipta works as Manager, Communications at the Employment, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Division in the Human Resources Branch (HRB) at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Prior to her role with HRB she worked in the Public Affairs Branch at the CRA in the internal communications and evaluations area.
- Relatively new to public service, Sudipta's previous career was in Hospitality where she held progressive leadership roles with Marriott, Hilton and Fairmont hotels. Her passion in providing excellent service and relying on data driven decisions have helped her transition seamlessly from private to public sector.
- Sudipta holds a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Iowa State University and thinks of herself as a student for life. She loves reading, traveling, and creating new recipes with available local produce. She cherishes her different roles in life and as an immigrant is most grateful for the opportunity to live and raise her family in Canada.

Justine Reynolds

Senior Advisor, Federal Youth Network



Justine Reynolds

She/Her

- Justine Reynolds joined the Federal Youth Network as a Senior Advisor on secondment from Infrastructure Canada where she has worked as the Departmental Liaison in the Deputy Minister's Office for the last two years.
- Justine currently co-leads the interdepartmental Mentoring Community of Practice, launched in 2022.
- Justine joined the public service 11 years ago, originally as a Co-op student through the University of Ottawa. She has worked in a number of federal government departments including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Correctional Services Canada, and Statistics Canada.

The Key Digital Skills You Need to Succeed as a New Public Servant (English)

Anna Wong

Director, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat



Anna Wong

She / Her

- Anna is currently the Director of Digital Talent Development at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat where is focused on developing and upskilling digital talent across the Government of Canada.
- As a first generation Chinese Canadian, Anna is passionate about designing and delivering better government services so that more people can benefit from all that Canada has to offer. She lives for opportunities to build and empower teams to do good government – from scaling pilots to become products and services, simplifying systems and structures, to raising the bar on digital literacy and business acumen.

Gigi Chang

Product Manager, Employment and Social Development Canada



Gigi Chang

They / Them

- Gigi Chang is the Product Manager for the Integrated Channel – Client Interface at Service Canada, a team looking at what building a seamless client experience moving through phone, in-person, and online channels looks like.
- Previously, they were on the Digital Talent team, working to understand and identify the skills needed to deliver empathetic, human-centered services. A passionate public servant, they have worked at both the provincial (Ontario) and international (Malawi, South Africa, Nepal) levels before joining the Government of Canada.

Derek Alton

Community Insights Lead, Apolitical



Derek Alton

He / Him

- Derek is the Community Insights Lead for Apolitical, a global social learning platform for public servants. In this role he fosters connections and the sharing of best practices in public service around the world.
- Derek has spent the last 15 years studying how to foster public sector innovation and digital transformation. This passion has taken him from academia (BA - Political Science, Graduate Diploma - Social Innovation, and an MA - Community Psychology) to Government where he spent 6 years with the GC (PCO, TBS, and ISED). His core passion is building global communities of practice amongst public servants.

January 25, 2024

Mastering Video Recruiting Platforms (English)

Jennifer MacDougall



Jennifer MacDougall

She / Elle

- Jennifer MacDougall is a seasoned learning advisor with over a decade of expertise in spearheading cross-Canada interdepartmental learning initiatives. Throughout her career, Jennifer has consistently prioritized cultivating a culture of continuous learning. Her impactful leadership is evident in the development of hundreds of timely and transformative learning interventions for public servants, seamlessly delivered through both in-person and virtual platforms.
- Jennifer is driven by a mission to empower emerging talents by equipping them with the essential tools and resources necessary to excel in their careers. Through her innovative approaches and collaborative spirit, she champions a culture of timely learning that is accessible to all. Jennifer's commitment to culture of continuous learning has made a recognized force for positive transformation in the evolving realm of learning and development.

Natasha Agnew

Senior Human Resources Advisor, Public Service Commission



Natasha Agnew

She / Her

- Natasha Agnew is a Senior Human Resources Advisor with the Public Service Commission of Canada's Indigenous Centre of Expertise, her favorite role to date.
- Since 2007, her career has kept her busy in a field she is passionate about; Human Resources- staffing and recruitment.
- She has worked with many Federal departments as an HR Advisor such as, Canada Border Services Agency, Human Resources and Skills Development, Health Canada, Public Services and Procurement, Environment and Climate Change and now the PSC.
- Her current work is focused on increasing Indigenous representation by providing advice and guidance aimed at reducing and removing barriers to Indigenous recruitment and employment.

Embracing the Freedom to Choose Between Specialization and Generalization (English)

Kevin Lunianga

Deputy Director, Global Affairs Canada



Kevin Lunianga

He / Him

- Kevin Lunianga is Deputy Director in the Human Rights Division at Global Affairs Canada. He joined the federal government in November 2018 as a Case Management Officer with the Canada Student Loans Program at Employment and Social Development Canada. Prior to joining the public service, Kevin worked as a flight attendant for two years with WestJet Airlines and had the opportunity to travel the world.
- Born to a Rwandan mother and Congolese father, he spent his youth in Canada (Ottawa) and Zimbabwe. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys traveling, meeting new people and dancing (afrobeats, soca and hip-hop).

Awo Nuuh

Senior Advisor, Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Awo Nuuh

She / Her

- Awo Nuuh is Manager in the Anti-Racism Unit at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Previous to this role, she was a Manager in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion team at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and also served as a Senior Analyst at the Privy Council Office supporting the implementation of the Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion.
- Awo started her public service career with Employment and Social Development Canada before moving to Treasury Board Secretariat where she spent 9 years working on strategic policy, cabinet submissions, and union-management engagement on employee wellness. Awo was also a Senior Analyst in the Respectful and Inclusive Workplaces Branch within the Canada School of Public Service.
- Awo has an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Ottawa, and a Masters in Public Administration from Carleton University. Outside of work, Awo is a mother of two and is passionate about volunteering in her local community.

Moderators

Marcus Wong

Epidemiologist, Public Health Agency of Canada

Marcus Wong

Him/Il

- Marcus Wong currently works as an epidemiologist within the Centre for Communicable Disease and Infection Control in the STBBI Surveillance Division.
- Completing a Masters' of Science in Public Health at McGill University, Marcus has worked at the Public Health Agency for 2 years, on bio-behavioural surveys assessing health care access in key populations.
- Marcus has moderated previously for the Federal Youth Network, and commentates esports professionally.



Natale Dankotuwage

Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada

Natale Dankotuwage

She / Her

- Natale Dankotuwage has been with the Government of Canada for 6 years. She spent three years at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). Her latter three years have been with Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) in Digital Service Design/Innovation and Parliamentary Affairs.
- In 2020-2021 Natale was elected to Co-Chair Interconnex; ISED's young professionals network. She truly believes in the value of an engaged and strong network of Public Servants.
- Prior to joining Government, Natale was a fellow with the Asia Foundation, the largest development agency in Asia. She was also a fellow in social impact with the IDEX a global accelerator.



Julia Harvey

Policy Analyst, Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada

Julia Harvey

She / Her

- Julia is a policy analyst at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.
- She has been working in science policy since the beginning of her federal public service career in 2021.
- With an educational background in political sociology, Julia remains committed to using innovative and intersectional approaches to address complex sociopolitical issues.



Sequoia Richards

Learning Advisor, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Sequoia Richards

She/Elle

- Sequoia has been working in the Government for two years, she currently works as a Learning Advisor at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- She has a passion for education, completing her Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto. In her free time, she enjoys running, playing soccer, tennis and trying out new cooking recipes.



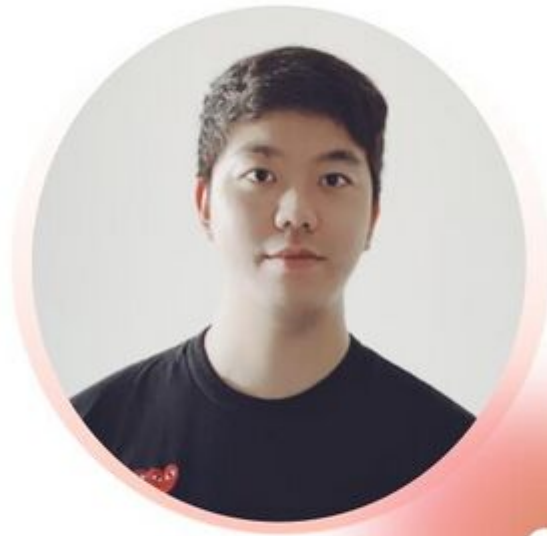
Justin Lai

Payments Officer, Indigenous Services Canada

Justin Lai

Him/Il

- Justin Lai is currently working at Jordan's Principle, Indigenous Services Canada, helping Indigenous children, families, and communities to gain access to products, services, and supports they need, when they need them.
- Last year, I had the pleasure of working at the Centre of Expertise for Diversity and Inclusion, Assistant Deputy Minister's Office, at Employment and Social Development Canada aligning with one of my passions.
- Outside of work, Justin is interested in books, lifelong learning and self-improvement, and wandering in Europe.



Christina Bondi

Writer, Canada School of Public Service

Christina Bondi

She / Her

- Christina started her career in the federal public service in 2020. She currently works as a Writer for the Public Sector Experimentation team at the Canada School of Public Service.
- She is passionate about storytelling, plain language, and public sector innovation.
- Christina holds a master's degree in Information (Culture & Technology) and an honours bachelor's degree in Arts (Classical Civilization) from the University of Toronto.



Trinity Choinière-Hamilton

Trinity Choinière-Hamilton

She / Her

- Trinity is a young professional currently serving as the Co-President of the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs-Indigenous Services Canada Young Professionals Network, I bring a passion for positive change to the departments and making room for the voices of new public servants.
- Trinity is also a junior social policy analyst working with the Modern Treaty Implementation Office within CIRNAC, and works towards advancing Crown-Indigenous relationships which is one of her many passions. Outside of work, she loves to hike, snowshoe, and spend lots of time with friends and family.



Makenzy Ricketts

Senior Project Officer, Correctional Services Canada

Makenzy Ricketts

She / Her

- Makenzy Ricketts is an acting Senior Project Officer for Correctional Service Canada's (CSC) EEDI team at National Headquarters. With an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Labour Studies from McMaster University and a certificate in Leadership and Management in the not-for-profit Sector from Mohawk College, one of her most honourable accomplishments was being chosen Valedictorian for the faculty of Social Sciences graduating class.
- Makenzy is excited to use her education to bring forward new ideas, tools and a modernized lens to her team. Makenzy has always had a passion for advocacy and advocating for marginalized groups of individuals and hopes to be able to use her work, education and life experience to promote the rights of others.
- Makenzy is a member of the Working Committee and the Planning and Logistics lead for CSC's the Black Employee Network (BEN) and a member of CSC's Ontario Employment Equity and Diversity Committee (EEDC). As a Black woman working in the federal Public Service, she is working to show the world that change is possible and to build a future free of systemic barriers for the next generation.



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