

Anneliese Reckewitz enrolled in Algonquin College's fast-track Forestry Technician Program and had a job lined up before the 47-week long course was even up. "The Alberta Sustainable Resources Development



Recent Algonquin grad Anneliese Reckewitz is a Forest Officer for the Alberta dept. of sustainable development

offered me a job before I graduated," said Reckewitz, who now works as a forest officer with the Alberta Sustainable Resources Development based in the Lesser Slave Lake area.

"My duties include reviewing and approving or accepting the applications, maps and plans put forth by the oil, gas, forest and telecommunications industries before they commence operations on Crown land," she said. "I also make sure that consultation has taken place with affected groups before any plans go forward. Once an operation starts, I monitor activities and certify the reclamation of sites after that site is no longer being used."

Reckewitz is enjoying her new job.

"I get to use ATVs, snowmobiles and ride in helicopters."

Reckewitz's interest in forestry was stirred by a job she had when she was still residing in her hometown of Collingwood, Ontario.

"A nearby golf course hired me as their environmental technician, even though I did not have that background," recalled Reckewitz. "Seeing that I wanted to improve and upgrade my knowledge about ecosystems, forests

and the environment, I talked to friends, people in that work and also searched the web. Everything seemed to point towards the Forestry Technician Program at Algonquin College."

Her decision was influenced by the "good word from past graduates, the short turn-around time (one year) to receive my diploma, the good student-teacher ratio, the high retention and graduation rate, the towering employment rate, the lowest tuition and accommodation costs, the very positive image of Algonquin College within the industry and government, and finally the acceptance of this program by professional organizations in other provinces."

Reckewitz graduated with a very positive view of her training and the school itself.

"What stands out for me about Algonquin College was the friendly atmosphere and the very open door belief with the faculty. They were there for you whether it was early in the morning or late at night. The entire faculty was knowledgeable and experienced as they have previously worked in the profession. The instruction received was most practical and a large percentage of the hands-on learning were days in the field and forest, in all types of weather. This program was true to their word about being the most field-oriented program in Ontario."

About a third of the course is spent outside in a diversity of landscapes with access to Algonquin Park, the Petawawa Research Forest, county forests, Crown lands and private woodlots.

While several colleges offer a two-year program, Algonquin College doesn't short-change students by offering a one-year program.

It's a 47-week program which puts in the same hours as a two-year program, extending lessons throughout the summer.

The program offers basic knowledge, technical and entrepreneurial skills necessary to participate in the management of natural resources for timber and non-timber values by the forest industry, sustainable forest licence holders, private land owners and ministries. Safety and professionalism is emphasized. Students are trained to collect a variety of forest resources data, compile and analyze this data, and make recommendations for its use. They also gain experience in the planning, execution and monitoring of forest, environment, ecosystem and wildlife management activities.

Algonquin College has been offering a forestry technician program since 1969. It's one of the oldest forestry technician programs in Ontario.

The program was converted to a fast-track one-year format in 1998.

"Now that I am working, it can be said that this program is right on the money and relevant to future employment," said Reckewitz.



**EARN A
FORESTRY
DIPLOMA
IN LESS
THAN
ONE YEAR**

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley has been training forestry workers for over 35 years at our Pembroke Campus. Our fast-track program allows students to earn their Forestry Technician Diploma in just 47 weeks instead of two years.

Program features include:

- One-third of the classes are field trips including training in Algonquin Park
- Earn industry-recognized certifications such as tree marking, firefighting, chainsaw operator, log scaling, GIS
- Small class sizes with professors who are well-connected to forestry industry employers

For more information about Forestry training in Pembroke, Ontario, contact us at (613) 735-4700, ext. 2756 or visit us at: