

Point, about a two-hour drive south of St. John's, Newfoundland. "We had an inshore fishery, a garage, a church, a wharf, and two convenience stores when I was growing up," she recalls. The closing of the cod fishery hit Portugal Cove South hard, cutting its population in half.

"I feel very blessed to have grown up there: salt air, the great outdoors, the security of being surrounded by family and friends, the many cousins I had to play with and the fact that I could walk into any neighbour's house without knocking."

While living in a city of 20 million people is certainly different from rural Newfoundland, Hartery was pleased to note that the traditional Christmas dinner in Mexico is salt cod, a Newfoundland specialty.

"I am proud to represent my country, and I am delighted when people ask me where I'm from. I can describe the little piece of paradise that we call Newfoundland and Labrador."

Islands are also home for Christine Sutton, Consul and Finance / Human Resources Manager in the Consulate General of Canada in New York City. She grew up in Rice Point, P.E.I.—where you can watch the lobster fishers ply their trade in the Northumberland Strait—and later in the Magdalen Islands, a unique archipelago in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"My upbringing means I am quick to want to go and help others, whether during hurricanes, earthquakes or plane crashes," she says. "I am able to pick up and go wherever I'm needed, to help in whatever way I can."

Bev Young, a senior program manager with Circumpolar Affairs, is from Canada's north. She grew up in Cape Dorset and Iqaluit in Nunavut. Life in Nunavut is all about personal connections. With a population of about 30,000, the territory is similar to a small town spread out over a fifth of the area of Canada. "It is all about building relationships with people because you run into them all the time," she says. "It also helps me understand the Arctic and represent Canada's interests there."

Young's story, as well as the many others, underscores the great advantage we have as a department and as Canadians—direct access to a myriad of special perspectives, that enhance both our professional and personal lives.

Diversity in the Department at a Glance

