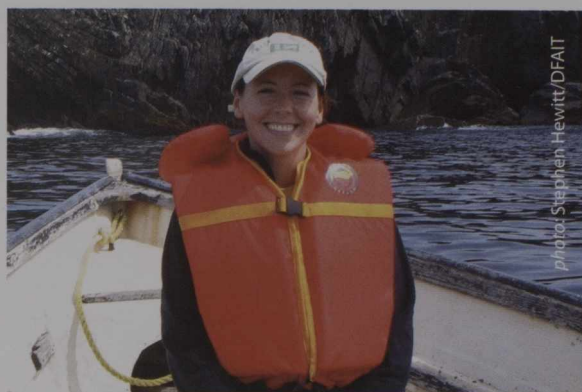


From the Edges of Canada

By Campbell Morrison



Lynn Hartery, a desk officer in Mexico City, is comfortable at sea off Newfoundland.



Laura Dalby, Trade Commissioner for Central America and Cuba, having after-hours fun with her dog.



Lauren MacLennan, a trade commissioner with GSC, grew up in the Cree village of Peerless Lake, Alta.

Though headquartered in Ottawa, our department benefits from the unique perspectives of employees who come from all over Canada—from villages in Nunavut to small towns in Newfoundland, to northern Alberta, the B.C. interior and everywhere in between.

Lauren MacLennan, Trade Commissioner for Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and the Pacific Islands, recalls the Cree village of her childhood—Peerless Lake, Alta., 300 km north of Edmonton—where horse-drawn wagons took children to school. As a child, she learned the importance of moose-hunting and fishing for survival, and how the success of the community depended on the cooperation and support of all its members.

MacLennan later lived in Widewater, Alta., on the shore of Lesser Slave Lake, before moving south to Cochrane and then to Calgary. “I am proud of my western heritage and rural roots,” she says. “As an Albertan, I grew to appreciate and understand the western spirit of helping your neighbour, living courageously and honestly, appreciating the natural environment, taking pride in hard work, and being dedicated to the things you care about—a perspective I try to bring to my job every day.”

In a similar way, Laura Dalby, who hails from 100 Mile House, nestled on a plateau between the Coast and Rocky mountain ranges in central British Columbia, feels the experiences of her youth serve her well in her current position as trade commissioner for Central America and Cuba.

Given its name by gold prospectors because of its distance from Lillooet, B.C., 100 Mile House’s local economy is driven by ranching, mining and forestry, the mainstays of many Central American economies.

“Growing up near mining operations gives you insight into the great benefits and great risks involved in removing minerals from the ground, and I bring that profound understanding to my files,” she says.

From the East Coast is Lynn Hartery, a desk officer in the Canadian embassy in Mexico. Her home town is Portugal Cove South, a tiny inshore fishing community of roughly 200 souls near Mistaken