

# Department of Economics Alumni Testimonials

## Patrick Withey

I began my undergraduate studies at Memorial University in 2000, before ultimately completing my BA in Economics at Concordia University in 2004. I returned and completed my MA in Economics at Memorial University in 2007. After completing graduate studies, I worked for a year at the Natural Resources Department of the NL Provincial Government in St. John's, before moving across the country to begin a PhD in Environmental and Resource Economics at the University of Victoria. In my four years in Victoria, I worked several jobs in the BC Provincial Government, and also as a consultant, and completed my PhD in 2012. I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at St. Francis Xavier University, where I have worked since 2012.



My experiences at Memorial University have helped to shape my current career in a variety of ways. It was at Memorial University that I was inspired to major in Economics. I took several courses in Economics and transferred from my previous degree path (math and political science), as I immediately saw the importance of the economic way of thinking, and its relevance to public policy and the world around us. I gained a strong foundational background in economics based on my graduate training in the Department of Economics, which led to a position within the Provincial Government. This opportunity opened many doors for me as I moved across the country and took on new academic and career challenges. The skills and knowledge that I acquired in the Department of Economics at Memorial University have played a crucial role in my career success, and I valued the hands on approach in the department and the attention that you receive as a student.

For students that are thinking about Economics as a degree choice, my only recommendation would be: do it! Despite its label as the 'dismal science', Economics is an exciting discipline, and offers a good career path working on interesting, topical issues. The quantitative tools that you learn in a BA in Economics, such as econometrics or cost-benefit analysis, are valuable, marketable skills. Further, the economic way of thinking, which ultimately aims to find the best way to allocate scarce resources in the face of unlimited wants and needs, is relevant across a variety of fields, whether you want to study Monetary Policy, Health Care, Climate Change, Natural Resource Management, or even more abstract concepts like "Happiness".