

## **Where Can UVic English Take You? An Interview with Emily Scott (BA 2016, MA 2018)**

### **What is your job?**

I am working as an Archivist and Curator for the BC Conservation Officer Service through my participation in the Youth Employment Program. They have over 100 years of history, so I am documenting their historical objects and creating a historical display in their office space.

### **What led you to pursue an interest in museum and archival studies?**

In my English Studies, I was interested in cultural heritage in the sense that culture and historical knowledge could be passed on through generations. I loved exploring this through Indigenous literature and multicultural stories. I also did a couple of classes at UVic that were in Special Collections, so I was very interested in those areas. Once I realized that I could adapt my love of Special Collections and cultural history through objects, I decided archival studies and museums was the place for me.



Emily Scott

### **What does a typical professional day look like for you?**

Most of my days are spent in the office. The display area is there, as well as my desk. A typical day is usually updating the historical documents spreadsheet with photos and object locations, and responding to historical questions from Conservation Officers. I am also spending time researching, making sure the displays and written text are historically accurate, and speaking with the contacts I have for various aspects of display construction.

### **What's your favourite part of your work?**

I love the freedom and responsibility I have in my work. As I work with trained officers who are busy across B.C. protecting the environment, fish, and wildlife resources, my work duties are very different from theirs. I'm proud to be a specialist in this area and a point of contact for historical questions.

### **How did UVic English help prepare you for this work?**

I credit Uvic English for so much. I spent seven years in the department through my masters and undergrad. When I first started studying at UVic I wasn't declared yet, but it was a Modernist literature class that got me interested in majoring in English. I was able to take my passion for reading and turn it into a professional qualification. The feedback and support that I got from the department helped me develop my writing skills. And lastly, when it was time to move on from

UVic, I gained support from those same professors when they helped me with my applications for studying abroad in Aberdeen, Scotland. UVic English left a great impact on me.