



*Brittany Vis, BA English 2012*

### **What is your Job?**

I am the Executive Director of the Maritime Museum of BC (MMBC).

### **What led you to pursue this path?**

I got into museum work through libraries. I worked as a Student Assistant during my BA years at the UVic Libraries, and when I graduated, I started volunteering in the library at the MMBC. That eventually turned into a paid position, which I worked at for about a year and half before going to Ontario to complete my Master's of Library and Information Science degree. When I graduated from that program I worked as an Assistant Archivist and a Curator at another few sites in BC before returning as Archivist at the MMBC a year later. I was promoted several times and have been in my current position for three years.

### **What does a typical day on the job look like?**

It really varies! No two days are alike. My work changes seasonally depending on what activities we have going on, but in general I spend my time overseeing the administration and operations of the MMBC, writing grant applications, assisting the museum staff in their respective areas of work, working with a Board of Directors to ensure financial success of our activities, and building relationships in the community to enhance the mission and vision of the MMBC.

**What is your favourite part of your work?**

I love that I get to meet so many interesting people and am constantly hearing and learning new stories about our maritime heritage and culture! Museums are dynamic places to work so there's always something new to learn. Everyone involved in museums has a strong sense of curiosity and love for learning, so it's great to be around like minded people all working towards the same goals of heritage preservation and public engagement.

**How did UVIC English help prepare you for this work?**

The two main skills that I gained from my UVIC English degree are the ability to write and the ability to think critically. I would not be able to do this job without those skills.