

Deborah has a H.Bsc. (Geology) from Lakehead University (1987) and a Masters of Management Science from University of Waterloo (2005). After graduation from Lakehead, Deborah spent ten years in the private sector working as an exploration geologist and mine geologist in the Yukon, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

After ten years, Deborah could not resist the temptation of the public sector and, in 1997, began her public sector career as a resource Assessment Geologist with the Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Deborah spent the next 20 years in positions of increasing responsibility - Senior Mining Advisor, Director - Minerals, Oil and Gas Division, Director - Policy, Legislation and Communications. In 2013, Deborah accepted the position of Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) - Devolution Implementation to facilitate the transfer of legislative responsibility for minerals and petroleum from the Government of Canada to the GNWT. After one year in this position, Deborah was appointed to the position of ADM - Mineral and Petroleum Resources to manage that portfolio once the responsibilities were devolved to the GNWT. Deborah feels honoured and privileged to be involved in a process that is fundamental to the NWT's continued political, social and economic development. Deborah's private and public sector experience in mineral and petroleum development has given her a unique view of the issues associated with development of these resources.

In April 2017, Deborah left the GNWT to establish her own consulting firm to provide strategic advice to all levels of government on the development of their mineral and petroleum resources. In November 2017, Deborah became the Director, Extractive Resource Government Program with the University of Calgary, School of Public Policy. She continues to do some consulting work.

Deborah divides her time between her homes in Yellowknife, NWT and Canmore, Alberta. She is married with two university-aged sons.