

Braeden Larson, MPP 2017

**Research Assistant, Extractive Resource Governance Program (ERGP) and Urban Policy Program,
School of Public Policy, University of Calgary**

Prior education: Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Politics, Acadia University

Current role and description of a typical work week: As a Research Assistant with the ERGP, I provide research support to our roster of technical experts, helping formulate research plans, creating models and collecting data for projects conducted around the world. Since beginning work with the ERGP, I have continued the work of the “Where in the World are Canadian Oil and Gas Companies?” project and have assisted with a collaborative project between the ERGP and Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico.

How the MPP program has furthered my career: The MPP program provided me with theoretical skills, such as economic theory and game theory, and applicable skills, such as government engagement and writing policy documents. The Capstone Project, where I addressed natural gas and natural gas liquid royalty regimes in BC, was my first opportunity to display all the skills I learned in the program, which are skills that are now essential to the day-to-day operations of my current role.

Advice for someone entering the MPP program: Get to know your MPP cohort. The most invaluable lesson from the program is learning how to work with a team of individuals with diverse academic and career backgrounds. Learning to use your classmates’ backgrounds will show you how to look at one issue through several lenses. You will find out quickly that there is just as much to learn from your classmates, as there is to learn from the lectures.