

Heather Dorries



Heather has extensive experience in the fields of environmental and First Nations planning, and has worked in both academic and professional contexts. She holds a BA from McGill University, and MSc and PhD in Planning from the University of Toronto.

Heather's research interests arise from the dilemmas that confront planners in light of the field's commitment to social justice on the one hand, and the ways that planning processes have been shaped by structural racism on the other. Her graduate research examined the role of land-use planning in the erosion of Indigenous sovereignty and the creation of conflicts over urban land use and development in Canada. Her current research interests concern the development of consultation policies stemming from the duty to consult mandated by the Supreme Court of Canada.

While completing her graduate studies, Heather also worked as a researcher for the Chiefs of Ontario where she collaborated with a team of practitioners and community members to research and write a handbook on environmental assessment from an Indigenous perspective. She has also worked as a consultant, completing reports on source water protection planning and Traditional Environment Knowledge (TEK).

After completing graduate studies, Heather worked as an Assistant Professor in Geography at McMaster University, and was as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia. She is currently working as a Research Associate for the City of Toronto.

Heather grew up in Winnipeg. She is of Anishnaabe and European descent, and a member of Sakgeeng First Nation in Manitoba.