

CAREER PROFILE: BIOLOGIST ALAIN FONTAINE



Alain has a Master of Science in Wildlife Biology from McGill University. Alain has 22 years of experience working as a wildlife biologist in the fields of wildlife population management, habitat management, and environmental assessment in Arctic and boreal Canada. His knowledge of ecosystems and natural resources allows him to provide a balanced perspective on the wildlife and ecology information needs required to address the environmental risks of development projects. Given his extensive background in government, Alain seeks to improve government-industry relations by fostering collaborative working relationships and partnerships between industry and government regulators.

Biologists study living organisms. They conduct studies of the environment, population, distribution, structure, and behaviour of plants and animals. These studies can help determine the environmental effects of the use of land and water in, and around, mines. Biologists are required to stay up-to-date on environmental regulations and legislation as well as technological changes. They conduct environmental impact studies and prepare reports and plans for the management of renewable resources. They may supervise Biological Technologists and Technicians and other scientists.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, & SKILLS

- Interest in living things
- Ability to imagine, plan, and conduct experiments
- Analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making skills
- Attention to detail
- Oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team

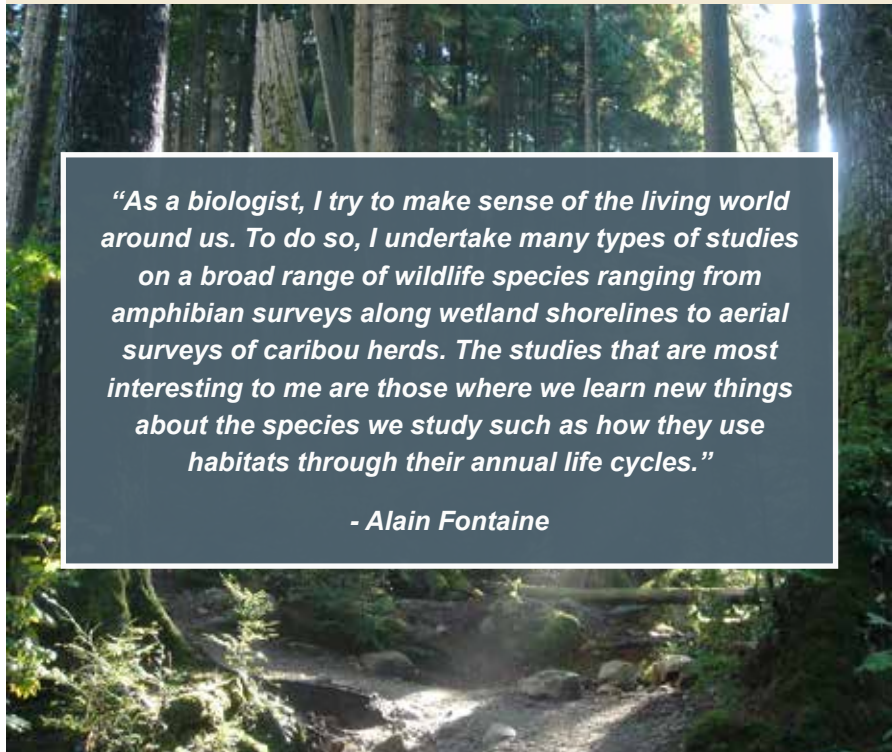
EDUCATION, TRAINING, & CERTIFICATION

A university bachelor's degree in Biology or in a related discipline is required to become a Biologist. Completion of a two year college program in a field related to agriculture, biology, microbiology, wildlife or resource management is usually required for employment as a Biological Technologist. Experience from these positions can help you obtain a registered professional designation (RP Bio) later in your career.

SALARY RANGE*

Biological Technician: \$48,000 - \$56,000/year
Biologists: \$50,000 - \$105,000/year

*Wage average as of July 2022.



"As a biologist, I try to make sense of the living world around us. To do so, I undertake many types of studies on a broad range of wildlife species ranging from amphibian surveys along wetland shorelines to aerial surveys of caribou herds. The studies that are most interesting to me are those where we learn new things about the species we study such as how they use habitats through their annual life cycles."

- Alain Fontaine