

CAREER PROFILE: SOCIAL SCIENTIST VILMA GAYOSO-HARO



Vilma has a Master of Science in Economics from University College London with a focus on research methods. For over eighteen years she has been managing projects and working as a Social Scientist evaluating the impacts of large-scale resource projects on communities and populations. She is passionate about responsible and sustainable development of resource projects and has worked for a variety of industry and government clients in Canada and abroad.

Social Scientists help to understand what the possible effects of a project might be on the community and help find ways to maximize the benefits and minimize the down sides. Social Scientists may lead community consultation such as community meetings or one-on-one interviews that help find out what people think about a project and what is important to them. They also research and document what communities are like before the project takes place in order to better understand any changes that occur. Some of the topics Social Scientists consider when assessing project effects on a community include the economy, population demographics, community infrastructure and health services, and culture.

Community-Based Researchers are usually members of the community being studied. They help organize meetings and community events/activities, assist with data collection and interpretation, and help provide the community's perspective.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, & SKILLS

- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Enjoy reading, writing and researching
- Ability to work well in teams and enjoy working with people
- Ability to write detailed reports and collect and analyze data

EDUCATION, TRAINING, & CERTIFICATION

Social Scientists have very diverse backgrounds. They study a range of topics including First Nations Studies, economics, anthropology, sociology, policy, and development studies. Social Scientists may have also taken additional training in project management, facilitation, statistics, and environmental assessment.

Community-Based Researchers typically have Grade 12 or equivalent work experience. Social Scientists usually have a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts and a Master's or PhD for advanced positions.

SALARY RANGE*

Community-Based Researcher: \$25 - \$50/hour
Social Scientist: \$55,000 - \$120,000/year

*Wage average as of July 2022.

"Every sector needs Social Scientists, and this field of work can take you places unforeseen. Our role in environmental and social impact assessment is important in crafting a sustainable future."

- Vilma Gayoso-Haro

