

# Volunteer Highlights

Natasha De Sandi



Natasha De Sandi's first contact with APPI occurred while beginning her Master's degree in Planning at the University of Calgary in 2013. During her years at university, she attended an APPI conference, as well as seminars and other gatherings that help students connect with and collaborate with professionals. These events helped her build ideas about her future career, as well as connections with people working in the field of planning.

Fast forward to October 2021 and Natasha co-chaired APPI's virtual conference called EVOLUTION. Previously, Natasha had experienced the annual 'live' conference through volunteering on sub-committees, but 2021 was her first experience in a virtual setting, which she describes as "a great experience", and just as demanding workwise as the live conference.

Years of volunteering for APPI has given Natasha insight into the diversity of the profession and allowed her to see its evolution, as well as allowing her to make new friends and spend time with other professionals. Her involvement with APPI has brought her some of the most important people in her life. Friends, mentors and fun – what more could you ask?

Natasha is passionate about building communities and bringing people together, and she recognizes APPI as an organization that is genuine. For people who are thinking of getting more involved with APPI, Natasha says just "do it" - the experiences and people you meet will be incredible. She notes that volunteering allows members to give back to the profession by supporting and influencing younger planners.

Natasha brings her enthusiasm and passion for life to her personal life after work, as she loves being outside, exploring the countryside, towns and cities of Alberta, and often can be found in her garden coaxing her tomato plants.