

Alissa is a Master of Planning student at Dalhousie University; she will graduate in the spring of 2022. Alissa received her Bachelors in Global Development Studies with a minor in Sociology at the University of the Fraser Valley in December 2018. She chose to pursue planning as a profession due to her interests in a community's access to health resources, housing, and food security. Alissa's focus of study in the program has been planning and designing healthy and sustainable communities. Upon graduating, she plans to apply to work with a consulting agency in Kelowna and be a planner in small and medium-size communities throughout the Okanagan in British. Alissa believes small and medium-size communities offer the opportunity to connect more closely to the community and provide the opportunity to connect people to healthier lifestyles with more open space and community connection.



Within health and sustainability, Alissa is interested in the health inequities faced by marginalized populations and how well communities can access nutritious whole foods, communities' ability to access adequate housing and transportation systems, and climate change. She believes an essential gauge for how healthy and sustainable our communities are is to consider children's views in planning and designing them. Their physical and emotional health and well-being throughout various stages of their lives are intrinsically linked to their environment, and children will feel the decisions we make as planners today as they enter into adulthood. Alissa is passionate about this topic and has chosen to study child participation and child-friendly planning and design for her independent project in the second year of her Master of Planning program.