

SCYP Profiles An Interview with **Andrea Coulling**

Former SCYP Program Officer, now working at the Canadian Wheat Board

Name? Andrea Coulling

Where do you live? Winnipeg, Manitoba

What do you do for work? I am just starting a new job at the Canadian Wheat Board at the beginning of October. My current job is Policy Analyst for the Government of Manitoba.

What kinds of skills and knowledge do you use in the work that you do? I've had a number of jobs in a number of different places, and in all of them I've used the same set of skills and knowledge: the ability to write well, analyze information and make decisions quickly and effectively, and most of all, work well with people.

How were you involved in SCYP? I was a participant many years ago (in the '80s... shocking, I know!). I then worked as Program Officer for 3 years, from 2000-2003. I also participated in Youth Experience International through the Canadian Co-operative Association in 1997, which enabled me to spend 6 months in the Philippines working on co-operative development.

How did your involvement in SCYP influence you? In many ways. As a participant, it taught me self-confidence and independence. As Program Officer it taught me many skills like facilitation, supervising staff and volunteers, and managing a budget. And it also taught me that it's possible to love your job and look forward to going to work every day!

What influenced/led you to do the work that you are doing now? My career has taken a pretty winding path, and I've had the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of topics. Lately, I've been interested in agriculture and rural policy, and that's what led me to go work for the Canadian Wheat Board.



What do you find inspiring in your work? I love learning new things and meeting new people.

What else inspires you? My family and friends. Travelling.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? I've always wanted to go to Africa and India.

Favourite summer activity? Co-op youth seminars were my favourite summer activity of all time. These days, I also enjoy camping, bike riding and mosquito avoidance (I do live in Winnipeg after all...!).

Last book you read? *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? My memories of SCYP are some of the best of my life, and I'm very happy to see that the program is still going strong. I encourage all of you to make the very most of your involvement with the program. You never know what kinds of opportunities, and lifelong friendships, can come from SCYP!