Name: Rayna Volden, P.Eng.

Job Title: Vice President and Senior Program Manager

STEM field: ENGINEERING

1. **What does a typical day in your position look like?**

At this point in my career I spend the majority of my day managing people and their activities. I may deal with the financial requirements, schedule and deliverables of the program, review design drawings or a technical memorandum and attend a couple of meetings all in the same day.

 **2. How did you get to where you are today?**

I started working as a civil engineering for a consulting company that focused mostly on the design and planning of infrastructure (roads, sewers, watermains) as well as Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Based on my leadership skills I transitioned into Project Management and eventually into Program Management which is just Project Management on a really large scale.

 **3. Did you have to overcome any challenges or obstacles?**

When I started my career there were not a lot of women in the industry or in the office that were not support staff. It was hard to break the stereotypical gender roles and make people see me as an Engineer and not just support staff.

 **4. What inspired you to pursue this position?**

I started university with the aspiration to become an architect and figured that a degree in Engineering would be a good solid degree that would allow me to pursue architecture or a lot of other career opportunities. Once I was in Engineering I realized that I was quite interested in civil engineering and decided to try working as a civil engineering and never went back to school.

 **5. What advice would you give young girls who are interested in a STEM career?**

Any career is worth pursuing if you love what you are doing, and people should not be discourage from pursuing what they love based on their gender.

 **6. Did you have any role models growing up?**

Both my mother and father were role models, as both of them insisted that I was capable of doing any task or activity that I chose. Growing up there were only girls in our family so we did not have gender assigned tasks, everyone in the family was expected to help out with all task (mowing the lawn, painting the fence, cooking, cleaning, etc.)

**Favourite quote:**

Girls should never be afraid to be smart. – Emma Watson