

PROFILE

Consultant with 15+ years of experience working with international organizations and the Government of Canada in the fields of international affairs and development, Indigenous issues, and sustainability, with a focus on the LAC region. Skilled researcher, communicator, and collaborator. Driven by personal core values of integrity, excellence, and making a positive impact.

Languages: English (native), Spanish (full professional fluency), French (upper intermediate), Portuguese (basic)

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

Consultant 2024 - present
Aarin Shapiro Consulting
Ottawa, Canada (remote)

- Professional consulting services for projects with international organizations, NGOs, communities and other groups
- Editing services for master's and PhD-level academic works; edited materials submitted to Geneva Graduate Institute, Columbia University, University of Oxford, Yale University Press, U.S. Fulbright Commission, Routledge, MIT Press, etc.

Policy Advisor 2022 – 2024
Government of Canada, Department of Environment and Climate Change, International Affairs Branch, Americas Region
Ottawa, Canada

- Provided strategic guidance on the effective implementation of North American trade and environment mechanisms, in close collaboration with Global Affairs Canada and other implicated departments
- Led analysis and drafted recommendations for Canada's involvement in the environmental law enforcement mechanism under the Canada-US-Mexico Trade Agreement (CUSMA)
- Supported preparation of briefing and engagement materials for Canada's delegation at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 (Montreal, 2022) and negotiations on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

International Affairs Advisor 2021 – 2022
Government of Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate
Ottawa, Canada

- Responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in Canada, including providing recommendations to senior officials and Canada's Ambassador to UNESCO on key policy questions
- Provided guidance and strategic advice to Indigenous communities and provincial/territorial jurisdictions on UNESCO reporting requirements and the nomination process for inclusion on the World Heritage List

Cultural Heritage Policy Officer 2020 – 2021
Government of Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate
Ottawa, Canada

- Supported planning and delivery of engagement activities and policy analysis for a long-term project on the stewardship of cultural heritage resources and places under federal administration
- Led the revision of the approach to heritage designation of federally owned buildings; organized and facilitated monthly consultation workshops with other government departments, experts, and an Indigenous advisory board

Consultant (full-time), Latin America and Caribbean Unit 2017 – 2020
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Heritage Centre
Paris, France

- Led research and analysis on diverse issues affecting World Heritage sites in the LAC region, and prepared recommendations from UNESCO to States Parties on conservation and management
- Coordinated the design, implementation, and evaluation of a portfolio of international assistance projects (up to 450,000 USD) on topics including capacity-building, participatory management, and conservation activities
- Supported the organization and facilitation of bilingual (EN/SP) participatory workshops (Zacatecas 2018, Havana 2019) on strategic regional action plans for World Heritage in the LAC region
- Prepared background materials for 10+ field missions to World Heritage sites, in cooperation with national governments and experts
- Coordinated and copy-edited the UNESCO publication (EN/SP) on the *Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System*, in collaboration with six countries; organized a side event on the project at the World Heritage Committee (Baku 2019)

WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- English Language Instructor** 2013 – 2014
 Universidad Industrial de Santander
 Bucaramanga, Colombia
- Planned and delivered engaging and relevant lessons to classrooms of nine different language-learning levels at one of Colombia's top public universities; received highest rating from student satisfaction surveys
- Internships - 'Cooperative Education' Program through the University of Victoria** 2011
 Government of Chile, Ministry of Mining, International Affairs Unit
 Santiago, Chile
- Government of Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Litigation Management and Resolution Branch
 Calgary and Vancouver, Canada

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Editing Essentials Certification** 2025
 Editors Canada
- Completion of editing examination demonstrating proficiency in applying the *Professional Editorial Standards* and understanding of editing workflows for diverse projects; Member of the Editors Canada professional association
- Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Policy and Administration (partial)** 2020 – 2021
 Carleton University
 Ottawa, Canada
- Three Masters-level courses focused on the historic and contemporary realities of Indigenous communities in Canada as related to economic and community development, governance, and policymaking
- Master of Development Studies (MDev)** 2015 – 2017
 Geneva Graduate Institute (formerly Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies – IHEID)
 Geneva, Switzerland
- Two-year interdisciplinary program; specialization in sustainability and the environment, Indigenous rights and territorial conflicts, development models and theories, regional focus on Latin America
 - Thesis focused on the intersection of Indigenous Knowledge and Western science in the context of socio-environmental conflicts; received 'highest recommendation' evaluation by supervisors
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Science, Political Science Major (with Distinction)** 2007 – 2012
 University of Victoria
 Victoria, Canada
- Specialization in international relations and development, Indigenous issues, gender studies; completed four semesters of 'cooperative education' internship placements with the Governments of Canada and Chile related to field of study
- Associate Diploma in Teaching Speech Arts & Drama (ATCL) (with Distinction)** 2011
 Trinity College London (distance)
- Expertise in public speaking, verbal and non-verbal communication, improvisation, writing, dramatic performance, and linguistics; culmination of 10 years of training, performances, and formal examinations

KEY SKILLS

- Experience designing and facilitating virtual and in-person meetings and workshops in organizational settings; confident public speaker with linguistic and speech training
- Excellent interpersonal skills working with people of different cultures and with diverse stakeholders, including government entities, senior-ranking officials, NGOs, subject-matter experts, and local communities
- Extensive experience developing written materials in institutional contexts, such as reports and briefing materials, by clearly and effectively conveying essential information, context, and key considerations
- Strong interdisciplinary research skills using a wide variety of sources to produce high quality policy conclusions and strategic recommendations
- Demonstrated ability to manage diverse projects, involving working under pressure, meeting deadlines, balancing changing priorities, and producing high-quality deliverables
- Collaborative team player comfortable taking initiative, brainstorming, problem solving, and developing practical solutions
- Keen sensitivity to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) topics, with experience leading initiatives in organizational settings

SELECT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Translator (EN/SP)

2017 - present

Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DOCIP)
Geneva, Switzerland (remote)

- Translate diverse materials (statements, resolutions, reports, meeting notes, etc.) to facilitate the participation of Indigenous delegates at key UN meetings and conferences

Expert Reviewer

2025

IUCN World Conservation Congress (Abu Dhabi, 2025)
Remote

- Evaluated the quality and relevance of event proposals for the 2025 Congress Forum according to established criteria, with a focus on submissions from the Latin America and Caribbean region and Indigenous organizations

Family Partner

2022 - 2024

Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada

- Provided ongoing support and guidance to a local family selected for the affordable home ownership program

Mentor and Mentee

2021 - 2023

Canadian International Council Mentorship Program
Ottawa, Canada

- Exchanged personal experience and guidance with graduate students and senior professionals in the areas of global affairs, diplomacy, and working within international organizations

President, Alumni and Career Services Committee

2015 - 2016

Geneva Graduate Institute Students' Association
Geneva, Switzerland

- Designed and implemented new initiatives including a photography competition and exhibition, and the first 'Master's Thesis Share' conference for graduating students to present their research

Recreation Coordinator

2013 - 2014

Goles por la Paz Foundation
Bucaramanga, Colombia

- Planned and facilitated weekly athletic and educational activities with children in the city's most underserved neighbourhood, with a focus on learning some basic English

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

WORK OR STUDIES

Paris, France (3 years)
Geneva, Switzerland, (2 years)
Bucaramanga, Colombia (1.5 years)
Mexico City, Mexico (5 months)
Santiago, Chile (3 months)

TRAVEL

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile
Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic,
Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, Israel
Italy, Jordan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Peru,
Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA



AARIN SHAPIRO

FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
TESTIMONIALS...

Please visit my website
aarinshapiro.com.