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Born in Edmonton, Canada, I spent most of my childhood in Prince George, a small city focused on forestry in the province of British Columbia, which piqued my interest in the relationship between natural resources and the community. I completed my BA in 2008 and my MA in 2010, both in political studies, at the University of Saskatchewan. My BA emphasized studies in international relations and public policy, while my master's thesis investigated the change in uranium policy in Saskatchewan between 1970 and 2010. As part of my master's studies, I travelled to Bodø, Norway to participate in a course on Arctic governance. I also had the opportunity to work on a provincial government task force, providing recommendations for a new governance model at First Nations University of Canada. Most recently, I worked as the Senior Ministerial Assistant for the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, and Immigration for the Province of Saskatchewan from 2010–2012.

Currently, I work as a PhD student in Political Science at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden. I started my PhD research in September 2012 to study the socio-economic impact of mining, a project sponsored by the *Hjalmar Lundbohm Research Center* (HLRC). More specifically, my research focuses on the policy process and the extent to which social and environmental considerations have an impact on decision-making: whether changes in mine licensing and approval reflect the increasingly diverse, and growing, interests. This includes identifying the important and influential actors and institutions to determine whether these new interests transform the roles and responsibilities of the state. These issues remain particularly pertinent for northern communities where new mining development and expansion is currently underway. The shared concerns about environmental protection, indigenous land rights, and the social and cultural sensitivity of northern communities makes my research relevant to the growing interest in the Barents region. In addition to examining the policy process, I also aim to investigate stakeholder influence on the mining development process, factors impacting the formation of public opinion, and the administrative capacity for incorporating change into the development process. Finally, I hope to draw international



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comparisons on the policy challenges associated with mining between the Nordic states and other countries facing similar issues, such as Canada and Australia. My research goals include providing new perspectives on the mining and land use policy process and developing conclusions and findings that are useful to policy makers, the corporate sector, and communities.

In January 2013, I became involved in the Sustainable Mining, Local Communities and Environmental Regulation (SUMILCERE) Kolarctic Project. The University of Lapland in Finland partnered with the Luleå University of Technology in Sweden, the Northern Research Institute in Norway, and the Institute of the Industrial Ecology Problems of the North of the Kola in Russia to conduct this work. The project aims to mitigate risks related to mining investment in the Euro-Arctic Barents region by providing advice for public-private collaboration on issues of sustainable development, social licensing, and environmental regulation. My participation in the project focuses largely on social licensing in the mining sector and its impact on mine development and relationships between stakeholders. My work includes outlining the origins and history of social licensing, identifying the intended outcomes, and assessing what occurs in practice.