



Erica Garnier - Director of Weights and Measures | Measurement Canada

Erica began her career 20 years ago as a weights and measures Inspector for Measurement Canada in Calgary, AB. She applied for the job while waiting for my application for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to be processed. By the time she had completed her technical training and was in the field conducting examinations on her own, the RCMP called to offer her a job and she turned it down. She was really enjoying the work she was doing. She was the only female W&M inspector in the Region at the time. Her male colleagues laughed when she remarked how interested the public was in the examinations they did. She always had people coming up to her while examining fuel dispensers, asking about what she was doing. Apparently, they didn't have the same experience! She also used to get a lot of help from traders with loading and unloading hand weights. Again, apparently this was not their experience! In her first few years as an Inspector, she recalls travelling to a remote location to conduct an examination of a truck mounted meter. After backing up the prover trailer (flawlessly of course) the trader asked her what she was doing there. She began explaining Measurement Canada's mandate and how our marketplace monitoring was unbiased and random. The trader stopped her and said "No, what are YOU doing here? A woman doing this work". She remembers just laughing because she was 25 and wasn't sure what to say. Now she is so happy to see the number of female inspectors working at Measurement Canada. It is no longer unusual to see a woman in the field.