

Making Meaningful Connections

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As we become busier and busier in our own work, the old adage ‘walk a mile in their shoes’ becomes more difficult to relate to every day. It is important to realize that it takes many people to ensure BC Transit, as an organization, can run efficiently throughout the province.

From mechanics, operators, planners and schedulers to our local government partners, many different individuals from departments all across the province help us connect people to communities.

Day in the Life is a monthly Q & A highlighting of one of these individuals that makes what we do possible. This month we are highlighting Hazelton's handyDART Operator Camilla Nyce on her day-to-day tasks and her motivations.

1. Can you tell us a little about yourself (interests, hobbies, etc.)? How did you end up in your current role?
 - a. I love the outdoors and spending my free time riding my ATV, picking huckleberries and occasionally harvesting seaweed.

I have a background as a school bus driver and I spent time in work camps. I was happy to get a job working close to home and to have a part in getting people safely home on Highway 16.

2. Can you tell us a little about your role here? What do your day-to-day tasks look like?
 - a. I play a vital role in giving residents who live in remote locations access to larger centers, so they can attend to their personal affairs. I travel northern highways safely through all sorts of inclement weather conditions.

On occasion, I serve the vulnerable community by ensuring they are brought home on cold nights by delivering them home personally or by phoning other community supports for assistance.

3. What is the most interesting aspect in your role? What excites you to come in and start your day?
 - a. The most interesting part of my job is that I get to meet a variety of interesting people and develop meaningful relationships with them.

I also enjoy seeing the wildlife. Recently I've seen deer, a bobcat, fox and a lot of bears. I'm still looking for the local Kermode bear – which is a black bear with recessive genes, so its pure white.

4. What is the most challenging aspect in your role? How do you overcome these challenges?
 - a. Although we have the option of cell phone or satellite texting when safely stopped, the remote nature of our routes leaves us isolated with no radio communication to other drivers or the office. This leaves me alone to make good judgment calls in challenging situations.

Safety meetings and discussions with fellow drivers prepares me ahead of time on how to deal with different scenarios. We frequently discuss current challenges and how to deal with them.

5. What is a common misconception about your role? What is it in actuality?
 - a. Driving transit buses is not as easy as people think. You aren't just driving. There are many other factors we are dealing with during our work day. Such as:
 - Dealing with all sorts of passengers
 - Inclement weather
 - Personal safety

6. Lastly, what gives you a sense of accomplishment on a regular basis in your role?
 - a. Many of my passengers have told me that I'm special to them. I also know that I'm playing an important role ensuring all residents, but especially women, travel the Highway of Tears safely. I've made great friends at work and my parents are very proud of the job that I do.