



# geoconvention

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## Reinventing Your Career

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### Summary

In today's tough economic times, many professionals have been challenged with low job counts. Geoscientist specifically, are unemployed and underemployed in one of Alberta's worst recessions that started in Dec 2014. With no real change ahead, unemployment rates are at an all-time high since the fall of 1984 when unemployment was at 12% (Alberta Government). In October 2017, Calgary was at 8.3% unemployed, higher than Edmonton at 8.2%; and many other western cities (Regina 7.9%; Saskatoon, 7.6%; Winnipeg 5.6%;) (Labour Market 2017). With an unknown future for the oil and gas industry, it's time to reevaluate your career. A simple approach includes innovative thinking that addressing your unique skills and experiences alongside underlying passions.

Often we are not taught to think deeper about our deemed failures. However, when you explore how your professional experiences have shaped you and you start to recognize the value of your failed experiences, you can reconnect with your strong skills. By reconnecting, you will push the boundaries of what you deem as failures to understand the value of these experiences. Understanding the transferability of your skills and work experiences allows you to create an innovative look at your previous career exposures. This then leads you to uncover your uniqueness and specialty attributes. The clarity around your strengths will open up communicating in a new and different manner about what you do best.

As geoscientist, your skills are vastly diverse and unique. You have the ability to sift through large data, understand micro details within a macro setting, and above all think creatively and outside the box. Throughout the geotechnical training, whether formally or informally, you've been given many different models and variation of data manipulation techniques to work with. All that training is lacking in one immensely important factor: you are not taught to consider your personal WHY. Why are you doing what you are doing? Why are you a geoscientist? (Sinek). It's time to understand what excites you, what fuels your purpose and what drives your passion.

When you understand what you bring to the table and you know your passion, the outcome will be seeing new possibilities and new opportunities.

Let's get excited about your career again!!

## **Introduction**

Numerous job or career options are available for geoscientists within and outside the oil and gas industry. Although the opportunities are not always the traditional jobs we've been accustomed to, these opportunities are out there but require an new approach.

## **Theory and/or Method**

Firstly, innovation happens through transformation. To create the necessary innovation, you must learn to transform how you view your experience and knowledge into a new wholistic and more general perspective. Much like horizontal drill technology transformed and revolutionized the gas industry into a liquids rich gas industry. It's through recognizing failures and asking questions that you can truly transform and be innovative about career opportunities.

Secondly, your expertise and knowledge are unique to each individual and become the differentiators. By recognizing your expertise and knowledge, they become your assets. The understanding of your assets creates an opening to see the potential and the transferability of those assets. We must know what we own. For example, geologically speaking, once knowledge is gained about a particular formation owned (or one wishes to own) decisions can be made to set the individual or company up for economic success, but the unknown can result missed and lost opportunities.

Lastly, it's important to couple passion with demand. Understanding what your passions are, what gets you excited and what drives you each day is fundamental in being engaged and fulfilled. Bringing the passion and drive into an area that has demand will increase the COS (chance of success) of finding satisfying employment.

## **Conclusions**

In summary, there are options available. Three factors differentiate those who recognize these opportunities from those who don't: 1) innovation through transformation, 2) owning your expertise and 3) understanding where passion meets demand.

## **Acknowledgements**

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