



Sunny Uppal, MPH '10

Term: 2013-Present

Sunny joined the Government of Canada in 2011 and recently started his new role as Senior Advisor for International Bilateral Affairs at Environment Canada, where he will support Canada's relations and cooperation with key countries on environmental issues.

From 2012-2015, Sunny worked for the Climate Change International Directorate at the International Affairs Branch of Environment Canada where his group was responsible for representing Canada at international climate change negotiations under numerous bodies, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNEP's Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). His role focused on building international partnerships (with a view of fostering Canada's bilateral relations with countries) and serving on the Canadian delegation to UNEP's Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a global initiative to address short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and methane, around the world. Under the CCAC, Sunny also served as the international chair for the Coalition's initiatives in agriculture and communications, where he works with representatives from several countries in addition to international organizations and NGOs to develop concrete actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, namely in developing countries.

From 2011-2012, Sunny's role focused on the international management of persistent organic pollutants, harmful substances which are known for their negative effects on the environment and human health. Sunny was responsible for contributing to Canada's positions and obligations in international agreements, such as the United Nations Environment Program's Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Prior to joining the public service, Sunny was a special advisor with the United Nations Office in Geneva. In this role, he worked on international environmental policy and negotiations for the UN Economic Commission for Europe's regional environmental agreements, namely the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP). His responsibilities included facilitating discussions between countries and travelling to developing countries to convince them to join our different international agreements - this role took him to some interesting places, including Belarus, Russia, Albania and Montenegro.

Sunny obtained his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Western Ontario and his Masters in Public Health in Environmental Health Policy from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. He is the recipient of the TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Outstanding Community Leadership (Canada's largest scholarship for undergraduate education) and the Canada Millennium Excellence Award. He was nominated by the Globe and Mail (Canada's national newspaper) as a Transformational Canadian, a feature they ran in 2011 to highlight Canadians making significant contributions to the global community. Sunny was also a former Senator representing the Mailman School at the Columbia University Senate.