

JASON RAPPS – Director at Large

1. What professional designations do you have and what school and city did you attend for your lab education?
I have my MLT designation through CSMLS, a diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology from SAIT and a BSc in Medical Laboratory Science from the University of Alberta
2. After you graduated and started working, what surprised you most about your profession?
How small the world of the lab really is. I'm always amazed by how often I run into a familiar face at conventions or congress, even when far from home.
3. In 4 sentences or less, please describe what your current role is?
I am an instructor with the MLTS program at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. I teach microbiology and immunology to students in the first three semesters of their education as MLTs. I work as a part of a small but wonderful team of folks dedicated to providing our students the foundation they need to succeed in their practicum and beyond.
4. What does a typical day look like for you?
Prior to COVID my typical day involved a couple hours of theory lectures with students, 2-4 hours of lab time, and then a mixture of meetings, projects and prep for future classes. With COVID I have adapted to channel my inner YouTube star and my day now involves a lot more zoom and video editing, and a lot less face time.
5. What do you like most about your current position?
Without a doubt, the students. I am passionate about what I teach and getting to share that and watching students grow and discover it is an incredible privilege. Nothing makes me happier than a student excited to share with me some article they found about a horrible disease somewhere.
6. What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I love to get out and explore the beautiful nature in and around Prince George, I'm also a music lover and try to play my guitar on the regular.
7. If you could go back 20 years to visit yourself, what advice would you give?
Don't be afraid to be different. The most interesting people in life are.
8. If you could live anywhere, where would that be?
I spent a summer working in Tofino and I'm convinced it is the greatest place on earth. My dream would be to live on a small houseboat near town and just eat tacofino until I literally explode.
9. What is the funniest thing that has happened to you at work?
I was working night shift and a req came in for a collection from emerg. I went down in my white coat with my phlebotomy tray in hand and entered the patient's room. He saw my coat, and assuming I was a doctor immediately stood up out of bed, turned around, and whipped down his pants. I had to gently explain that would not be the optimal specimen source for what I was trying to accomplish that evening.
10. What is your favourite holiday and why?
Halloween. I teach microbiology so naturally I have a soft spot for the creepy crawlies.