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Pursuing a PhD in business with a specialization in organizational analysis at the University of Alberta, Lianne is researching the Alberta oilsands to determine how engineers can motivate companies to adopt environmental initiatives and thus protect the public.

Lianne believes that professional engineers have the responsibility to manage risk, but are often challenged by conflicts of interest and difficulties in affecting corporate change. By determining how engineers and their companies can better manage risk, studying the efficiency of environmental regulations, and by studying the transnational regulation of offshore outsourcing of engineering, Lianne looks to find ways to further protect the public and benefit society.