

# A DAY IN THE LIFE . . .



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One in four Canadians works in the transportation industry. With such a diversity of job opportunities, finding the right one is a challenge for all of us. My passion is working with people and developing individuals to reach their potential. I choose to specialize in developing commercial drivers for our roads.

My employment journey started in the insurance industry. Through the eyes of this industry, I observed for 20 years the cost of drivers not reaching their potential in crucial driving decisions on the road. The solution from the insurance world is better loss control. Loss control is preventing losses through education and training. This concept stayed with me over the years.

Dennis Lagrois, my husband, was a professional commercial tanker driver of 25 years and a senior driver trainer. He took pride in developing the skills of new tanker drivers. Dennis was unhappy with the lack of training available to new drivers. We often discussed the issues we both saw. Four years later, Ontario Truck Training Academy was formed. It required both our personal strengths woven together to form a quality entry-level driver training facility. We were not afraid to introduce new training methods and develop new programs. By 2002, state-of-the-art driving simulators (trucks with no wheels) were added to our equipment list as well as a variety of trucks to our fleet. We attracted quality trainers and adopted a co-op management style to encourage our trainers to share their passion with new drivers—transferring decades of over-the-road experiences to the next generation of professional drivers.

As truck training school owners, we could take the time to explain to future professional drivers that they need to make an investment in themselves if

they want fruitful, long-term employment. Adding a Professional Commercial Driving skill opens employment doors but also has financial and legal consequences, if the skill is not mastered. Driver ignorance of the law is no longer an acceptable defense. A student entering the industry must set goals, invest the time to train, and focus on the task of commercial driving in order to meet the industry expectation of a Professional Commercial Driver.



**My passion is working with people and developing individuals to reach their potential.**



In 2010, my advocate role expanded to include President of the Truck Training School Association of Ontario. Being elected by other truck training schools was a great honor. This experience has been an invaluable opportunity to work with government, industry, and other similar-minded truck training schools across the province to promote the next generation of driver training ideals. My lifelong goal is to leave a legacy of safe professional drivers. I want to be instrumental in scoping out new teaching material, new teaching methods, and staying true to the valuable skills required by the companies that hire entry-level drivers. Making a difference one new commercial driver at a time.