

# “It’s not a geeky profession...”

## Bio-economy Career Profile

**Position:** Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Management

**Name:** Arthur Kawasaki

**Company:** Becton Dickinson Canada Inc.

**Salary Range:** \$100,000 and up per year



## What I do:

I have overall responsibility for negotiating the regulatory affairs and quality compliance requirements for the products and services my company offers. My average workday is comprised of meetings - approximately 10 to 60 per cent of my time – that are primarily associated with product launch and sales, and operations-related issues.

The rest of my time is spent responding to and drafting e-mails, reviewing documents associated with product submissions, field actions and adverse-event reporting. A significant portion of the desktop work is responding to questions from the sales and marketing teams, such as the product sales and marketing strategies and promotional campaigns.

Ten to 50 per cent of my job is traveling, in Canada and around the world.

## What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

At a minimum, you require a Bachelor of Science degree. Post-graduate or college training in regulatory affairs and quality management is an asset, as are advanced degrees in the life sciences (i.e. M.Sc. or Ph.D.) and business (i.e. MBA).

The big skills required for the position are dealing with ambiguity, strong written and oral communication skills, the ability to negotiate and read technical documentation, and a willingness to take educated risks. In this job, there are never clear-cut indications of “right versus wrong” or the implications of a particular situation.

Before coming to work at my current position, I graduated with a science degree; I was a Quality Control/R&D lab manager for a biotechnology firm; and I worked for a large pharmaceutical company, where I transitioned into regulatory affairs.

## What are the best parts of your job?

The best part of my job is the exposure I get to other departments within the organization. I deal with every department and every aspect of the company.

It’s a very interesting and needed position. It’s not a geeky profession - you’re able to apply your science background in business to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for stakeholders.

When I talk to friends about my job, they are most intrigued by the fact that I deal with Health Canada and the government on a regular basis.