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How did you get your start in the Plumbing & Heating industry?

I spent the first 20 years of my career with Procter & Gamble in the fast-moving consumables industry. I was recruited to Masco after our family decided to relocate back to Canada from the USA.

What is your current job and what do you love about it/why have you stayed?

My job at Masco has changed quite a bit in the 5 years I have been here. I started as the VP of Retail Sales, which grew into a blended role that includes Retail Sales, Ecommerce, Product Management, and Marketing teams. I love my job because it has challenged me to grow in spaces where I have not previously had experiences. I have stayed with Masco because I love the entrepreneurial spirit combined with the heft of a multi-national company. The people here are wonderful and make my investment in time spent working very fulfilling.

What is the best career advice you ever received? Get comfortable operating outside of your comfort zone - stay agile, hungry, and willing to learn.

If you could go back in time and give your younger self career advice, what would it be? I am pretty happy with my career thus far, but if anything, I might have encouraged my younger self to get exposure outside of selling and market strategy earlier on.

What is the most unusual job you have ever had (in any industry)? Well, that would have been my first summer job working at the Calgary Stampede - yee ha!

What do you look forward to professionally/where do you see yourself going? I love what I am doing now - in the future all I can say is that I love challenge and learning.

What energizes you outside of work? Family - My husband and I have 2 daughters and a really big Newfoundland dog. We love the outdoors, traveling, and time at the cottage.

Do you have personal goals/dreams that you're working towards? My goal is to continue to learn, to help grow and develop others, and to make an impact in whatever I do.

What is the biggest obstacle you've had to overcome? Balancing dual careers while fiercely protecting time outside of work to do the things I love.

What is your "superpower"/what are you really good at? I like to think that I am a connector, bringing people together to deliver something better than the sum of the parts.

How do you challenge & inspire yourself to grow? I challenge myself by raising my hand to do things that seem interesting to me, even if I don't know how to get them done at first. I am really motivated by working and learning from others, I get my greatest inspiration from connecting with people.

How would you/what would you say to attract other women to join our industry? I would say that simply making the move from one industry to another myself - people are often curious about why I made the choice to come into the Plumbing industry. I talk to others about how core skills-sets transfer regardless of industry/product/company...the plumbing industry offers a lot of growth and opportunity for impact. There are a lot of challenges, and tremendous opportunity to drive change. If that lines up with a person's goals, then it starts an interesting conversation.

Are you willing to have readers connect with you? Yes: ekarch@mascocanada.com