

## SUMMARY

---

- Economics and data science consultant adept at strategy and research through to hands-on coding. Strong project and stakeholder management skills, with a focus on collaboration and tangible results.
- *Technical skills:* data wrangling and machine learning (primarily in R), econometrics, data visualization/mapping (R Shiny, Leaflet for R), basic natural language processing, and SQL.
- *Highlighted work:* built/managed government data science team; led 15+ person team to predict HS student outcomes; [won sponsor stream](#) at a [traffic hackathon](#); developed an interactive [map Canadian developer talent](#); Delivered a primer on [Government and Data](#) for [Code for Canada](#); [Sample code](#) for a [prediction course assignment](#).

## SELECTED EXPERIENCE

---

**Analytics Lead – Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship (BII+E)** Toronto, ON      Aug 2017 – Present

- Developed an interactive [map Canadian of developer talent](#) using data from StackOverflow (see [GitHub repo](#)).
- Leading a *State of Canada's Tech Sector* research report planned for public release in Spring 2018, including an interactive data visualization, and new data from StatCan, OECD, Crunchbase, Huawei and Oxford Economics.
- Leading a *Canadian Employment in 2030* project in partnership with [Nesta](#) to forecast demand for occupations and skills in 2030 using a unique combination of expert surveys and machine learning (Gaussian Process Regression).

**Economics and Data Science Consultant** Toronto, ON      Aug 2017 – Present

- Delivered a [Government and Data](#) onboarding session for the first [Code for Canada](#) fellowship cohort (2017).
- Developing predictive models for a start-up software firm focused on improving fundraising efficiency for non-profits. Aligned and transformed data for a non-profit implementing a new fundraising database.


**Manager, Funding Policy and System Planning – Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD)** Toronto, ON      Aug 2016 – Aug 2017

- Built and managed a new quantitative policy analysis team of 8 data scientists and policy advisors.
- *Analytics and Data Science:* Co-led a 15+ staff cross-ministry research team for a proof of concept linking K-12 and postsecondary administrative data. Predicted high school student outcomes with over 80% out of sample accuracy.
- Launched a decision support website with analytics and data visualizations tools built on [Shiny for R](#), Azure, and GitHub, and onboarded partners to scale use of these technologies in government.
- *Policy:* Led a Cabinet submission on the province's Tuition Fee Framework resulting in [its renewal](#), including policy analysis, advanced fiscal forecasting (rule-based optimization) and stakeholder consultations.
- Supported development of funding models and implementation for a new [French-language university](#), [indigenous education expansion](#), student financial aid extension, and university/college operating funding reform.
- *Culture:* Created and 'exported' an innovative culture in government by implementing agile management, starting a [Code Day](#) event series attracting hundreds of attendees, and sponsoring a [challenge](#) on International Open Data Day.
- Delivered presentations on talent needs in government for ~40 social science academics, and demographic risk for a ~100 participant enterprise risk management session.

**Senior Consultant, Public Sector Strategy – Deloitte Canada** Toronto, ON      Apr 2015 – Aug 2016

- *Projects:* 1) led team of analysts for government-wide review of regulatory burden for manufacturers, resulting in new modernization initiatives; 2) led performance review of regional economic development funds; 3) led strategy development for government-wide business data sharing tool, and; 4) facilitated over 30 digital transformation workshops for a regulator; Obtained Deloitte's highest annual performance rating.
- Developed data visualizations (R, Tableau) to 1) target accessibility regulation enforcement, 2) understand social services provider performance, and 3) understand government regulatory burden on the private sector.
- Won the Corporate Sponsor stream at the City of Toronto's [TrafficJam hackathon](#) as part of a Deloitte team [analyzing and visualizing traffic congestion data](#) (R, QGIS, Alteryx, CartoDB).
- Led or contributed to business development efforts (workshops, proposals) leading to over \$1.5M in revenue.

# ASHER ZAFAR, M.A.

ASHERZAFAR.GITHUB.IO   
GITHUB.COM/ASHERZAFAR   
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/ASHERZAFAR   
ASHER.ZAFAR@GMAIL.COM 

**Senior Policy and Planning Analyst** – Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) *Toronto, ON Feb 2014 – April 2015*

- Developed post-secondary funding policies, including enrolment forecasts (R), tuition fees, and graduate funding.
- Led decision-support work for a [policy framework](#) for new university campuses, including the evaluation process and analysis for a panel of Deputy Ministers leading to \$127M in funding for York University's [new Markham campus](#).

**Consultant** – Certified Management Accountants (CMA) of Ontario *Toronto, ON Jul 2013 – Feb 2014*

- Advised executives and developed automated decision support tools to support merger planning with another designation (SQL, Access, Excel). Delivered a “big data” session to ~150 conference attendees.

**Associate Consultant** – nD Insight *Toronto, ON Jun 2012 – Apr 2013*

- Developed health system policy proposals focused on ‘nudges’ intended to create \$100M+ in savings to facilitate government negotiations for a large healthcare professional association.
- Developed an econometric demand forecast, scenario model and interactive tool for a large healthcare industry association and its members (R, Excel, VBA) to support government negotiation

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

**Manager, Marketing**, CMA Ontario *Toronto, ON Mar 2010 – Aug 2011*

**Various technology marketing roles** (*details available on [LinkedIn](#)*) *Dec 2007 – Jan 2010*

## EDUCATION

**Master of Arts, Economics**, York University (*GPA 3.8/4.0*) *Toronto, ON Aug 2011 – Apr 2012*

**Bachelor of Arts, Economics**, University of Texas at Austin *Austin, TX Aug 2003 – Aug 2007*

### Continuing Education

- [Data Science Specialization](#) (*pending capstone course; [sample assignment](#)*) – Coursera and Johns Hopkins; [Strategic Analytics](#) – CMA Ontario; [Design Kit](#) – Acumen and Ideo.org.

## ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

- [Civic Tech TO](#): initiatives to apply design and technology to civic issues. Advised on a Toronto [Budgetpedia](#) project, and worked with a community organization to [map opportunities](#) for [social procurement](#) (R, CartoDB; 2015).
- [Better Budget TO \(2015\)](#): researched best practices for a [consultation paper](#) on reforming Toronto's budgeting process, and led a [civic tech and budgets workshop](#) as part of a 100 participant event for bureaucrats and citizens.
- [Alex Mazer for City Council \(2014\)](#): served on analytics and voter strategy team for a Toronto City Council candidate.