

Alex Hordal

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Recently graduated GIS and cartography student from the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) bringing over a decade of experience in emergency response, avalanche hazard mitigation, and complex mountain terrain operations. Founder of ULLR Maps, a terrain-focused mapping platform designed to improve spatial understanding of complex alpine environments. Combines real-world field experience with developing expertise in GIS, spatial analysis, and digital cartography.

Learn about my story and view my portfolio:

<https://arcg.is/0zL0ie>

Education

Cartography and Geovisualization Diploma

Nova Scotia Community College – Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS), Lawrencetown, NS • Expected Graduation: June 2026

B.A., Geography

Queen's University, Kingston, ON

Technical Profile

GIS Platforms:

ArcGIS Pro • ArcGIS Online • ArcGIS StoryMaps • QGIS

Web Mapping and Development:

ArcGIS Maps SDK for JavaScript • Mapbox GL JS • HTML • CSS • JavaScript • Mapbox Studio

Programming and Automation:

Python • ArcGIS ModelBuilder

Cartography & Spatial Analysis:

DEM processing • Terrain visualization • Shaded relief design • Thematic cartography • Map layout & composition • Typography • Colour design

Design & Visualization Tools:

Adobe Illustrator • Adobe Photoshop • Adobe InDesign • Avenza MAPublisher • Blender

Databases & Data Management:

PostgreSQL • pgAdmin • Relational database design

Professional Experience

2017 – Present

Director & Cartographer / ULLR Maps, Whistler, BC

- Founder and director of ULLR Maps, a terrain-focused mapping platform providing detailed ski terrain maps and geographic information about Whistler Blackcomb and the surrounding backcountry.
- Design and develop cartographic products using GIS and digital cartography tools, including field verification, data collection, and collaboration with local subject matter experts.
- Oversee the ongoing development of the ULLR Maps web platform, coordinating with developers and contributing to feature planning and technical implementation.
- Maintain the ULLR Maps website and digital presence while providing user support and responding to inquiries from the public and industry partners.
- Conduct field testing and terrain validation to ensure map accuracy and usability in complex alpine environments.

2023 – Present

Station Attendant / Air Canada, Goffs, NS

- Work within a coordinated ground operations team in a safety-critical airport environment, ensuring aircraft arrive and depart safely and on schedule.
- Load and secure baggage, cargo, dangerous goods, mobility aids, and specialized shipments in accordance with airline safety regulations.
- Assist passengers requiring additional support during boarding and deplaning, including persons with disabilities.
- Operate specialized ground service equipment and contribute to team coordination and problem-solving in dynamic operational conditions.

2014 – 2022

Professional Ski Patroller and Avalanche Technician / Whistler Mountain Ski Patrol – Whistler, BC

- Provided guest safety coverage across 1,925 hectares of alpine terrain as part of a professional ski patrol team.
- Responded to traumatic injuries, medical emergencies, and complex rescues in steep mountain environments.
- Conducted coordinated search operations and terrain sweeps during missing person incidents.
- Performed avalanche hazard mitigation using explosive charges and ski cutting while assessing snowpack and weather conditions.

2018 – 2022

Paid-On-Call Firefighter / Whistler Fire Rescue Service – Whistler, BC

- Responded to structural fires, motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, and technical rescues as part of a coordinated emergency response team.
- Operated in high-pressure environments requiring rapid decision-making and coordination with firefighters and partner emergency services.
- Provided pre-hospital emergency medical care and assisted with scene safety, hazard assessment, and incident management.

07/2020 – 11/2020

First Responder and Safety Support / Coastal Mountain Excavations, Wedge Power Project – Whistler, BC

- Supported site safety operations and provided pre-hospital emergency medical care for workplace injuries.
- Assisted with safety procedures, worker orientations, and emergency response planning.
- Produced operational site maps supporting emergency planning, including helicopter evacuation zones and hazard areas.

Certifications & Training

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 & 2 – Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Basic Military Officer Qualification (Land) – Canadian Armed Forces
- Avalanche Operations Level 1 – Canadian Avalanche Association
- Avalanche Skills Training (Level 1) – Avalanche Canada
- WorkSafeBC Blaster Certificate – Hand charge endorsement
- Restricted Operator Certificate – Aeronautical (ROC-A) – Transport Canada

Additional certifications can be found in my StoryMap: <https://arcg.is/0zL0ie>