

Public Health Inspector



What do you like best about your job?

I like working in a program which involves all aspects of public health: food safety, infectious diseases and infection control, recreational and drinking water, health hazard and rabies prevention and control. Every day is filled with new learning experiences, there is rarely a 'dull moment'. I like using my knowledge and skills to conduct inspections, investigations, to assess health risks and to interact with people. I like to provide education to secure the health and well-being of the general public.

How would you describe your typical day?

My day begins with responding to email or telephone inquiries from operators and/or members of the general public. Fieldwork begins in the morning doing any of the following: inspection of a food premises, swimming pool/public spa (hot tub), hair salon, tattoo/body piercing shop; investigating an animal bite, an outbreak of an infectious disease or food complaint. The day continues after hours in response to any incident that requires immediate attention at the end of a working day.

How are you making the difference?

I am making a difference to secure the health and safety of the general public. I provide education during regular routine inspections and re-inspections of public facilities (residential, food, water and personal services settings) and investigations of public health issues. Enforcement is used when there is non-compliance to the relevant public health regulation under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

What do you like about working or living in Waterloo Region?

Waterloo Region is clean, healthy and safe. The people are friendly, respectful, supportive and willing to comply with public issues. The roads allow easy travel to all areas within the region. I live in Brampton, Ontario and because I like working in Waterloo Region, I have been commuting to and from work for the past 10 years. The Region of Waterloo is a great place to live and my dream is to reside within Waterloo Region in the future.



Why did you choose to work for the Region of Waterloo Public Health?

Region of Waterloo Public Health is a reputable organization. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Public Health in 2004, I completed a 16-week practicum. I am grateful for the knowledge and skills gained during the practicum and the opportunity to work in the field I am passionate about. I chose to continue to work for the Region of Waterloo to make a difference in the health and safety of the community.

What would you tell someone considering a career as a Public Health Inspector?

A career as a Public Health Inspector is very rewarding. You must have good knowledge of the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The health and safety of the public affects every decision made on the job. You must have good communication skills and be able to work independently and with a team in a fast-paced, multi-disciplinary and changing environment.

Areas you could work in:

- Air Quality
- Drinking Water Safety
- Food Safety
- Infection Control
- Health Hazard Investigation
- Rabies Control
- Recreational Water Safety
- Inspection and Licencing
- Tobacco Control
- West Nile Virus Control

Qualifications you need:

- Must complete a recognized environmental health program
- Certificate of Public Health Inspection (Canada) from the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (www.ciphi.ca)
- Valid driver's licence and own transportation

Schools you can attend:

- Ryerson University, School of Occupational and Public Health, www.ryerson.ca
- British Columbia Institute of Technology, School of Health Sciences, www.bcit.ca
- Concordia University College of Alberta, Faculty of Professional Education, www.concordia.ab.ca
- University College of Cape Breton, School of Science and Technology, www.cbu.ca
- First Nations University of Canada, Department of Science, www.fnuniv.ca

Wage/salary range:

- Approximately \$69,700 to \$79,200 annually (2015 rates)

Region of Waterloo Public Health

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www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph



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