



INFORMATION ON A CAREER AS A SOCIAL POLICY ANALYST / RESEARCHER IN BC

OVERVIEW

Social policy researchers/analysts do research, develop policy and set up or manage programs in areas such as consumer affairs, employment, home economics, immigration, law enforcement, corrections, human rights, housing, labour, family services, foreign aid and international development.

Social policy analysts ensure that the policies intended to counter hunger, poverty, disease, and many other aspects, are running efficiently and as intended. They study these social problems by collecting data, and then propose plans to fix them. They specialize in researching social issues and finding solutions to problems, such as hunger, crime, discrimination, poverty, disease, violence, and unemployment.

Some social policy analysts work for government departments and agencies, while others work for consulting firms, universities, research and other educational institutions, or think tanks. Positions are also found hospitals, industry, community agencies, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations, depending on the individual's area of interest. Economists, urban planners, political scientists, lawyers, and sociologists often work as social policy analysts

Position titles include policy analyst in employment equity, family and child welfare, integration, labour market.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary function of a social policy analyst is to study social problems and develop policies to solve them. Such researchers develop social programs, legislation or proposals based on population makeup. They undertake social and economic analysis and evaluate pilot projects. These researchers develop questionnaires, coordinate, and conduct surveys, analyze data, compile, and interpret statistics on social issues and policy areas.

Social policy analysts are involved in one or more of four general stages of policy analysis. First, they gather data, using either existing information or generating new



data through research. Next, they uncover problem origins or study how well current policies are working and recommend changes. After identifying solutions, the social policy analyst examines the results of a new policy, determining whether or not the solution worked and at what cost. Finally, analysts communicate their findings and promote their solutions through newsletters, speeches, reports, or books.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum bachelor's degree in social science or related discipline (Criminal Justice/Criminology, History, Social Work, Women's and Gender studies, economics, sociology, or law) or business administration. A post-graduate degree in one of these disciplines may be required.

Certified immigration consultants must be registered members of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants.

ORGANIZATIONS IN BC

[Charity Village](#) website provides links to professional organizations across Canada, many of which support members working in non-profit sectors.

[BC Council for International Cooperation](#) (BCCIC) is a coalition of international development organizations that works toward the goal of achieving sustainable global development with social justice, human dignity, and participation for all, through its network of other agencies. The Council's focus is on community development, economic development, human rights and civil liberties (social justice), poverty, and women.

A non-profit organization, group, private entity, or individual person based in BC who supports overseas projects and/or sustainable development and global citizenship through related work in BC may become a member. The list of agencies and partner organization [members](#) is considerable.



RESOURCES

BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) - <https://www.bccic.ca/>

Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) - <https://cahspr.ca/>

Charity Village (directory of professional organizations)- <https://charityvillage.com/organizations/directory/professional-associations/#canad>

Study.com - https://study.com/articles/Social_Policy_Analyst_Job_Description_Salary_and_Outlook.html

WorkBC - <https://www.workbc.ca/careers/4164#about-this-job>

JOB BOARDS

Government of Canada Job Bank (BC, Lower Mainland) - <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/jobsearch/jobsearch?fgeo=25565&fn=4164&sort=M#results-list-content>

Indeed.ca - <https://ca.indeed.com/jobs?q=Social+Policy+Analyst&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&radius=50>

UN Job Net - <https://www.unjobnet.org/jobs/detail/12414261>

WorkBC - <https://www.workbc.ca/careers/4164#career-paths-and-resources>

Workopolis - https://www.workopolis.com/jobsearch/find-jobs?ak=social+policy+analyst&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&job=X6saC9m05EJnkRTEtFJ4pog2QCfV6XTX093jppqIhus7_9JCL12_-Q

Wowjobs - <https://www.wowjobs.ca/BrowseResults.aspx?q=social+policy+analyst&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&job=vqjaSExpOEFq4ZPDNVIGYMs4A3GV8fHZLm6kBZtJN8CdTRfDtU3NAw>