



INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (PHI/EHO) IN BC

OVERVIEW

A Public Health Inspector (PHI) or Environmental Health Officer (EHO) inspects premises to ensure compliance with current legislation and ascertain that there are no health and safety issues. More specifically they –

- Inspect the sanitary conditions of restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals, long term care facilities, hair salons, tattoo parlors, swimming pools and other public facilities.
- Measure physical, biological and chemical workplace hazards and review safety and environmental conditions.
- Investigate health and safety related complaints, spills of hazardous chemicals, disease outbreaks, poisonings or workplace accidents.
- Inspect workplaces to ensure equipment, materials and processes are safe.
- Develop, implement and evaluate health and safety programs and strategies.
- Fine or close an establishment that breaks municipal, provincial or federal rules.
- Train employers, employees and the general public about public health, environmental protection or workplace safety.

Most public health inspectors are employed by local public health authorities. Other employment areas include:

- regional, provincial and national health departments
- environmental and pollution control departments
- sewage and water treatment plants
- agencies interested in industrial health and hygiene or food sanitation
- solid waste management agencies
- private industry
- other government agencies at the municipal, provincial, or federal level in various capacities

Certification with Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) is required to work as a PHI in all provinces (except Quebec). Qualified candidates apply to sit the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors Board of Certification (BOC) exam.



EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

In Canada, candidates must first complete a bachelor's degree, preferably with a heavy concentration of courses within the natural sciences, including biology, geology, chemistry, physics and hydrology. Typical degrees include those in food science, environmental studies, chemistry or health and safety. Candidates can then go on to two years of further study at a CIPHI approved academic institution of which there are six across Canada.

In BC, BCIT offers the only CIPHI approved program – a two-year full time Bachelor of Technology degree.

STEPS TO BECOMING CERTIFIED

There are three steps in the process of becoming a certified PHI:

1. Satisfactorily complete the educational requirements set by the Board of Certification (BOC)
2. Successfully complete a 12-week practicum at an agency acceptable to the Board of Certification (BOC)
3. Pass the BOC certification exam that consists of an oral exam and two written reports. based on their 12 weeks practicum. Oral examinations take place on the third Tuesday of April and October each year.

PRACTICAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT

To be eligible to sit the Examination to obtain the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), every candidate must satisfactorily complete a twelve (12) week minimum practicum in the basic inspection program. This practicum must be coordinated by a qualified person who holds the CPHI(C) at the supervisory level of the agency where the practicum is to take place.



CERTIFICATION

The Certificate in Public Health Inspection, or CPHI(C), is granted by Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and is recognized throughout Canada by boards of health and other local, provincial and federal agencies. It demonstrates that an individual in possession of this certification has fulfilled the requirements set forth in both the Regulations Respecting the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) and Governing the Board of Certification of Public Health Inspectors.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS (CIPHI) MEMBERSHIPS

The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) has numerous types of membership: regular, student, retired, fraternal and international. The regular and student memberships are most applicable:

- **Regular:** Persons may be eligible for Regular Membership if they hold the Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada), the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), or if they possess those qualifications acceptable to a three-fourths vote of the entire Executive Council of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. A continuing competence program is in place for members in this category.
- **Student:** Student Members are those persons studying for the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) in an approved academic program. One must be a student member to be eligible to write the CIHIP Certification exams.

BCIT PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applying to the 2-year [Bachelor of Technology \(Environmental Health\)](#) degree at BCIT is a two-step process.

- Proof of two years of education in English in an English-speaking country with 3.0 credits of post-secondary English, Social Sciences or Humanities (67%) from a recognized Canadian academic institution



- 60 Post-secondary credits that include a minimum 18.0 credits at the second-year level in at least two subject areas (minimum grade 67%); Biology, Chemistry, and a minimum 6.0 additional credits of science
- Completion of the self-assessment document which includes commenting on a mandatory discussion with a PHI/EHO regarding the Environmental Health profession. https://www.bcit.ca/files/admission/pdf/selfassessment_envh.pdf

Applicants must have a valid driver's license (Class 5 (full)) for the practicum placement.

Applicants who completed post-secondary studies outside of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia or New Zealand require a comprehensive evaluation of their credentials by ICES. These reports must include course-by-course evaluations and GPA calculations.

If accepted into the program, applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check.

REFERENCES

BCIT Environmental Health Degree program -

<https://www.bcit.ca/programs/environmental-health-public-health-inspection-bachelor-of-technology-full-time-8500dbtech/>

BCIT Admission Requirements - <https://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/8500dbtech#entry>

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors: <http://www.ciphi.ca/home>

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) Board of Certification (BOC) - <http://www.ciphi.ca/careers/board-of-certification/>

Environmental Health Foundation of Canada: <http://www.ehfc.ca/>

Health Match BC - <https://www.healthmatchbc.org/Jobs-in-BC/Health-Career-Directory/Career-Description.aspx?careerId=15>

WorkBC - <https://www.workbc.ca/careers/2263#about-this-job>

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JOB BOARDS

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) job board -
<http://www.ciphi.ca/careers/position-place/>

Eluta (BC) - <https://www.eluta.ca/Public-Health-Inspector-jobs-in-British-Columbia>

Indeed (BC) - <https://ca.indeed.com/Public-Health-Inspector-jobs-in-British-Columbia?vjk=ca0fd8fd4f6d8ac4>

WOW Jobs -

<https://www.wowjobs.ca/BrowseResults.aspx?q=public+health+inspector&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&job=qAoMaUzoS64gbIHluY8ylhDDrXN9Njv0ridjidZzJptqEc3d0CDUxQ>