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

OVERVIEW

Public policy analysts advise governments, at all levels, on which new policies are needed and what's involved in launching those policies. Their work involves trying to change, adjust, or implement new public policies, regulations, and laws. They review, evaluate, and monitor policies and legislation to determine their benefits, flaws, and impacts. They liaise with stakeholders to understand and document needs, concerns, and viewpoints.

They work to influence public policy and the range of fields in which policy analysts can work is broad including science, education, law, sociology, and urban and regional planning. It is possible to work in this job as a generalist, but many policy analysts choose to specialize and build their expertise in a particular area.

A policy analyst can function within various levels of public sector agencies, such as provincial or federal levels of government, be employed by think tanks, special interest groups, consulting firms, or research organizations to research, analyze, and offer advice on a particular subject such as a scientific problem or policy issue. In some organizations policy analysts are known as scholars, fellows, or researchers. They are responsible for the research and analysis of information, consulting with stakeholders, government officials and internal staff, the development of options and preparation of recommendations on a wide range of policy projects. They also coordinate and implement operational policies, programs, and strategies necessary to support the organization's overall plans and objectives.

Some policy analysts assist in the decision-making process that decides which private sector organizations should be awarded publicly funded grants. They produce influential social and political change within their decision-making procedures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy analysts collect information, mainly statistical data, to assist with the investigation of issues and to explain the solutions that they suggest. They employ surveys, cost-benefit analysis, focus groups, and other tools to gauge potential outcomes of an intended policy. Analysts must evaluate results through the effectiveness of a policy, determining if it accomplished its intended objectives. Some analysts may take a

philosophical approach by examining the values behind the policy and specifying the standards that it is believed that should push suitable policy decisions.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's degree in political science, business administration, public administration, economics, or public policy is the minimum requirement to work as policy analyst. Most policy analysts have a graduate degree such as a Master's in Public Administration (MPA), J.D., or Ph.D. An MPA provides the critical thinking skills and expertise necessary to carry out the duties of a policy analyst effectively. Those who do not have a graduate degree may begin by establishing themselves in writing and publishing.

Employers also expect candidates to have experience in political or government areas, and to have developed a strong network of contacts before reaching this stage of profession. Many college campuses have student organizations focused on public policy topics, where great experience can be gained. Some policy analysts gain experience through working as college or university professors, as a lot of the work at think tanks is like academic work.

Employers may look for 2 years related experience that may include:

- developing, researching, and/or analyzing policy, regulation, and/or legislation.
- managing policy projects and/or project components in a multi-faceted stakeholder environment.
- writing for an executive/senior-level leadership audience (examples include reports, policy concept papers, presentations, briefing notes).

RESOURCES

ALIS - https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/policy-analyst/

Careers in Government - https://www.careersingovernment.com/tools/gov-talk/career-advice/on-the-job/public-policy-analyst-public-service-career-feature/

GlassDoor - https://www.glassdoor.com/Job-Descriptions/Policy-Analyst.htm

Government of BC (Job description - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/all-employees/pay-benefits/salaries/salarylookuptool/tma/policy-analyst-social-information-health

Job Hero - https://www.jobhero.com/job-description/examples/insurance/policy-analyst

The Johnson Group (NZ) - https://www.thejohnsongroup.co.nz/Resources/Job-Seekers/Post/1328/Wh https://www.glassdoor.com/Job-Descriptions/Policy-Analyst.htm at-does-a-policy-analyst-do

JOB BOARDS

BCjobs posting - https://www.bcjobs.ca/jobs/policy-analyst-population-public-health-initiatives-surrey-949800

City of Vancouver - https://jobs.vancouver.ca/key/policy-analyst.html

Glassdoor - https://www.glassdoor.ca/Job/vancouver-policy-analyst-jobs-SRCH_IL.0,9_IC2278756_KO10,24.htm

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

LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/policy-analyst-jobs-vancouver-bc/?originalSubdomain=ca

Workopolis - https://www.workopolis.com/jobsearch/policy-research-analyst-jobs/vancouver-british-columbia?job=UYR4BtmCmQVfG6iR-JBhWiI6Qi-RVZvQ1hTgHhk_-dRo3yV7nL8jQw

WowJobs - https://www.wowjobs.ca/BrowseResults.aspx?q=policy+analyst&l=&job=hw_22hYYGfOj hiZgr_YOHtkne0ZV4FnbyAr-afTEflE17uf6AOfC3g