



PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN BC

OVERVIEW

The work of an International Development professional (IDP) focuses on discrepancies that exist between developed and developing nations and looks at the complex social issues and developmental challenges facing many contemporary nation states. International development professionals work to reduce or eliminate poverty in developing countries.

International development professionals work as activists, community workers, and union reps; or in politics, as a lobbyist, policy analyst, or administrator. They may work as correspondents, journalists, and editors for the mainstream press as well as global affairs journals. Others work with any organization that concerns itself with alleviating global poverty, inequality, and suffering. A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit, unaffiliated agency, usually occupied with a particular social or political issue (E.g. Oxfam or international agencies such as Global Affairs Canada, Amnesty International or United Nations bodies).

CAREER OPTIONS

Some of the job titles in international development include advocacy, communications, consulting, fundraising, policy, and research in the following areas:

- Government (Federal, Provincial, Regional, Municipal)
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
- International Organizations
- Environment and Sustainability
- International Business Management & Sales
- Education
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Law / Legal Services

Possible careers include (but are not limited to):

Consumer Advocate
Event Coordinator
Health Policy Planner
Historical Researcher

Legislative Aid
Lobbyist
Media Correspondent
Non-profit Organization Administrator

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Human Rights Advocate
Institutional Researcher
Labour Relations Specialist
Labour Union Representative

Policy Researcher
Population Studies Analyst
Public Affairs Consultant
Public Policy Analyst

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's in economics, human rights, or social policy is a foundation to completing a master's in international development.

A combination of work experience, volunteering, and a master's degree in international development (or a related field) are crucial to working in this sector. Traveling to developing areas to work within the communities you wish to help will provide valuable insight.

Skills required include problem-solving, communication, cultural sensitivity, and socio-political awareness.

Employers may look for 2 - 3 years of 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).

RELATED ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The International Development Resource Center ([IRDC](#)) works on, and funds projects aimed at having the greatest impact on reducing the effects of climate change and addressing inequality.

Economic Development Association of Canada ([EDAC](#)) is a national not for profit organization of professional economic developers working in federal, provincial, municipal, and private sections. The association offers a nationally recognized [Ec.D designation](#) and [career opportunities](#).

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The Canadian Association for the Study of International Development ([CASID](#)) promotes new knowledge in the field of international development. Membership is open to anyone working or studying in the field, worldwide. CASID provides the opportunity to network with academics, researchers and policymakers and access to job opportunities.

[Cooperation Canada](#) (formerly the Canadian Council for International Cooperation) brings together civil society organizations working in international development and humanitarian sector to advocate for these groups, influence policy and build capacity and works with partners both within and outside Canada. (No individual membership option).

[Community Social Planning Council](#) (Victoria) (CSPC) focuses on transit and economic security in the Victoria area.

[Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) promotes research and teaching for the advancement of an inclusive, democratic, and prosperous society. Over 160 universities, colleges and scholarly associations representing a diverse community of researchers and graduate students across Canada constitutes the federations membership.

RESOURCES

Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID)
<https://casid-acedi.ca/>

Career Paths of IDS graduates in Canada (June 2017) -
<https://www.masterstudies.com/article/what-careers-can-international-development-graduates-go-into/>

Cooperation Canada - <https://cooperation.ca/>

Economic Development Association of Canada (EDAC) - <https://edac.ca/>

Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences - <https://www.federationhss.ca/en>

Government of Canada Job Bank - https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/report_educational-eng.do;JSESSIONID_IMNAV=51AE31992B8A67D6F3E59E841F86A31A.imnav75?cip=44.05&mid=22327&lang=eng&backid=6571&fos1=FOS21009&los1=LOS07

Humanitarian Careers - <https://humanitariancareers.com/international-development-degree-worth-it/>

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International Development Resource Center - <https://www.idrc.ca/en>

Keystone Masters studies - <https://www.masterstudies.com/article/what-careers-can-international-development-graduates-go-into/>

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (UBC) - <https://sppga.ubc.ca/master-public-policy-global-affairs/professional-development/> or https://sppga.ubc.ca/master-public-policy-global-affairs/?qclid=CjwKCAjw2bmLBhBREiwAZ6ugo849gVHDWDO7iITpbM4JhTn3-ZVckHEhS9Y1eMAIEJQJrSa-o-efoBoCAkkQAvD_BwE

University of Toronto - <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/career-options-after-international-development-studies-0>

JOB BOARDS

Community Social Planning Council (Victoria) - <https://communitycouncil.ca/employment-opportunities/>

Economic Development Association of Canada (Careers) - <https://edac.ca/member-services/opportunities-resources/>

Indeed (Public Policy jobs) - <https://ca.indeed.com/jobs?q=public%20policy&l=Vancouver%2C%20BC&vjk=e3449491b1574952>

Natural and applied science policy researchers, consultants, and program officers (NOC 4161) - <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/summary-occupation/3855/ca>

Social Services Program Officer (NOC 4164) - <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/summary-occupation/4908/ca>

Tribunal Officer (NOC 4168) - <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/summary-occupation/5047/ca>