ENVIROMENNTAL HEALTH OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY
The Environmental Health Officer carries out inspections and regulatory duties within the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) including both urban and rural areas. Duties and responsibilities include investigating complaints and inspecting eating and food handling establishments, sewage disposal systems, water supplies and public services premises. The Environmental Health Officer enforces compliance with municipal by-laws, government acts and regulations. (Additional details below)

QUICK FACTS
The Wage
- 2008 - 2009 $26.39-$32.89 per hour ($27.32-$34.07 sole charge)
- 2009 - 2010 $27.18-33.88 per hour ($28.14-$35.10 sole charge)

SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to work independently, organize workload and establish priorities.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment, decision-making and problem solving.
- Ability to establish relationships with internal and external contacts.
- Physical ability to perform the duties of the position.
- Ability to obtain cooperation and coordinate the work of a variety of government representatives, non-profit agencies, landlords and business owners and families.
- Ability to operate related equipment.

TRAINING / EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Health or equivalent recognized by the Board of Certification, Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada).
- Eligible for registration with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, B.C. Branch.
- Valid BC Driver's Licence.
- Three (3) years of recent related experience or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

TRAINING FACILITY
- Concordia University College of Alberta (link) – for the 15-month Environmental Health (after degree) program
- BCIT Environmental Health / Public Health Inspection http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/8500dbtech

PROGRAM LENGTH
At Concordia:
- 3-4 years for a baccalaureate degree in science from a recognized university or college
- 15 months for the Environmental Health (after degree) program
At BCIT:
- 2 years with the appropriate prior 2 years of post-secondary course work, an appropriate credential, or BCIT’s Degree Transfer in Science & Technology

Have a question regarding a career in this catalogue? Email jobs@viha.ca

The job catalogue contains general information only and is not intended to be used as an official VIHA job description. Job information and requirements are subject to change without notice.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Concordia University College of Alberta Bachelor of Environmental Health (After Degree)
Requirements

- A three- or four-year baccalaureate degree in science from a recognized university or college.
- An admission grade point average (AGPA) of at least 2.3 (on Concordia's 4-point scale) or equivalent on the most recently attempted 30 credits.
- Successful completion of 12 senior-level credits as listed below. Please note that while candidates with senior-level credit in these subjects are given preference, those with junior-level credits may also be considered.
  - 3 credits in chemistry (analytical chemistry preferred)
  - 3 credits in microbiology (with laboratory hrs pref)
  - 3 credits in human or mammalian physiology
  - 3 credits in statistics
  - Successful completion of 3 credits of English or writing.
- Evidence of proficiency in computer knowledge/use.
- A resume including a statement of career objectives and the names and contact information of two appropriate references (normally an academic and a professional reference). The resume should highlight employment and volunteer experience relating to environmental, public and community health.
- Demonstrated fulfillment of Concordia's English Language Requirement, section 3.1.3.
- Following the initial review of applications, qualified applicants are invited for interviews. The interview is designed to assess applicants' non-academic qualifications, such as their degree of maturity and motivation, initiative, ability to communicate, personal qualities and interests, and overall suitability for the profession.

BCIT Entrance Requirements

- A. Two years of post-secondary course work, OR
- B. An appropriate credential, OR
- C. BCIT's Degree Transfer in Science and Technology

SEE: http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/8500dbtech for details regarding the above

Additional Criteria

Applicants must be in good health with adequate hearing and vision. We suggest an up-to-date immunization program for applicants accepted into the program. The nature of the work in this program and career is physically demanding. If you have questions regarding the physical demands, please contact the program head. Student applicants with disabilities should also contact the Disability Resource Centre at 604-451-6963. Applicants should be able to show evidence of maturity, have a positive outlook and an interest in serving the public.

International students who are applying for student authorization should request a work permit to cover the practicum course at the same time as they apply for their student authorization.

Preparation

BCIT suggests that people interested in this program contact a health agency in their area to speak to a PHI/EHO about the job. Note that workloads in some agencies will limit the available time for such inquiries. If possible, both a rural and an urban agency should be approached as the role of the PHI/EHO can vary considerably in these two settings. Alternatively, contact the program head to speak to PHIs on faculty about the profession. BCIT also recommends acquiring keyboarding (typing) skills in preparation for computer use.
JOB TASKS - A SAMPLE

- Performs a variety of duties to minimize the occurrence of disease and public exposure to environmental health hazards through methods such as performing epidemiological investigations into food borne illness outbreaks and epidemics of waterborne and zoonotic diseases, identifying conditions and initiating investigations into areas which are injurious or potentially hazardous to human health, initiating and conducting health assessments.

- Provides technical assessments for a variety of clients including the general public, private industry and licensed professionals such as engineers, surveyors and architects, government agencies and municipalities. Responsibilities include reviewing and assessing plans or proposals for the operation or construction of a variety of facilities, reviewing on-site sewerage system filings, assessing, evaluating and recommending approval or rejection of bare land subdivision applications.

- Provides consultation and education to others including the general public, government agencies, local and authority officials, architects and engineers. Responsibilities include evaluating and documenting critical health and safety hazards, advising on necessary corrective actions and preventative measures to be in compliance with the current Federal, Provincial and regional requirements and interpreting and providing advice, guidance and direction on legislation, policies and procedures.

- Ensures compliance with Environmental Health Legislation and standards through methods such as issuing operating permits for food facilities, and water systems, issuing orders and withdrawing operating permits from non-compliant premises, initiating other legal action and participating in prosecutions by preparing briefs, gathering evidence, and appearing in court as an expert witness.

- Collects fees for Health Operating Permits in the field and delivers to field office for processing.

- Represents the Health Protection program on various community based and in-house committees such as the Food Safety and Drinking Water Committees.

- Documents and accesses a wide variety of information utilizing computerized information/management systems.

- Contributes to the practicum experience of students by performing duties such as providing supervision, clinical education and guidance to students and providing feedback on performance.

- Maintains and updates knowledge in environmental health issues through methods such as reviewing literature, consultation with other professionals and attendance at relevant education programs as requested and approved in order to contribute to the continuing improvement of services.

- Participates in continuous quality improvement/quality assurance activities through methods such as evaluation and measurement of outcomes of programs, follow-up of unusual occurrences, identification and participation in research studies and contribution to the identification of new policies and best practices for the profession and the organization.

- Performs other related duties as assigned.