
2016 Public Health Inspector Needs Assessment

Summary Results

In Fall 2016, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors – Ontario Branch (CIPHI- ON) conducted a needs assessment survey for certified public health inspectors (PHIs) working in Ontario, including those in supervisory or managerial roles. The survey was conducted to inform future professional development opportunities for PHIs.

Survey Respondents

- 526 surveys were submitted
- 93% of respondents are employed by municipal government/public health units (5% employed by provincial government)
- 65% identified their job title as PHI, 13% managers and 10% senior PHI
- 35% of respondents are currently working in the Central East region of Ontario (Toronto, Durham, Peel, York, HKPR, Peterborough, Simcoe Muskoka), 19% South West, 18% Central West, 12% Northern, 17% Eastern
- 23% of respondents have 5-9 years practicing as a PHI and 23% have 15-24 years practicing as a PHI

Professional Development

- 95% believe on-going professional development is important to career development
- The top three barriers for professional development are cost, time and distance
 - Directors/Managers identify time (47%) as their biggest barrier while other respondents felt cost (51%+) was the biggest barrier
- For method of delivery, 50% prefer workshops while 18% prefer webinar format

Top 10 Program Areas

Identified as 'definitely would like more training in:

1. New and emerging recreational water facilities (e.g. floatation tanks, complex designs of pools etc.)
2. Emerging infectious diseases
3. Gathering evidence (e.g. photos, physical evidence etc.)
4. Emerging services in personal service settings
5. Emerging food technology: fermentation, canning, curing, dehydration, smoking, sous vide
6. Foodborne illness investigations (as distinct from inspections) and determining root causes of illness/outbreaks (including procedures)
7. Vectorborne diseases
8. Environmentally transmitted diseases (including legionella)
9. Procedures involved in investigating waterborne illnesses and outbreaks
10. Emerging water treatment technology