



Canadian Water Network
Réseau canadien de l'eau



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases

Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

Wastewater-Based Surveillance (WBS) Program Manager

Are you passionate about public health and building collaborations to make a difference? Are you knowledgeable about the communication of data to inform public health decision-making? Canadian Water Network (CWN) is seeking a qualified Program Manager to lead an ongoing demonstration project through to March 31, 2024 that supports public health practitioners in interpreting the meaning of wastewater-based surveillance (WBS) data for their communities and effectively communicating these results to the public.

Consider joining us if you are motivated by:

- Connecting people to share knowledge and build collaborative capacity.
- Working with a diverse team to engage a pan-Canadian network of leaders in the public health and wastewater sectors.
- A strong desire to continuously learn while facilitating the learning and collaboration of others.
- Working in a dynamic, fast-paced and agile environment.

About Canadian Water Network

CWN is a national nonprofit with a 20-year track record as a trusted broker and accelerator of research knowledge into practice and policy. Our strategic plan charts a course for CWN as a catalyst for progress to help communities achieve a resilient, equitable and healthy future through water. CWN convenes cross-sector decision-makers who would not otherwise come together, brings research to the table to inform strategic dialogue on complex challenges, and fosters collaborations within and beyond the water sector to move Canada forward. Learn more about CWN at www.cwn-rce.ca.

About the demonstration project

Early in the pandemic, CWN established the COVID-19 Wastewater Coalition (<https://cwn-rce.ca/covid-19-wastewater-coalition/>) to catalyze knowledge sharing, collaboration and coordinated action to assess how WBS could be applied to inform public health decisions in communities across Canada. Building on this work, CWN and the [National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases](#) (NCCID) formed a strategic partnership to implement a one-year demonstration project that was launched in the Spring of 2023, with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The project ends March 31, 2024. The demonstration project supports public health practitioners undertaking WBS for



pathogens and other agents to effectively interpret the data's meaning and communicate with the public about risk.

Demonstration project participants include local public health practitioners serving cities and Indigenous communities in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec where WBS programs are underway. Through virtual meetings, the project facilitates knowledge sharing. The project also develops pilot materials to support data interpretation and communication of WBS findings and the ethical implementation of WBS with Indigenous communities. This demonstration project fills a critical gap by enabling effective collaboration and communication across all levels of the WBS ecosystem that is necessary to realize an expanded scope, application, and uptake of WBS, where desired, to achieve public health benefits for Canadians.

Job description

The Wastewater-Based Surveillance (WBS) Program Manager works closely with CWN's CEO, the WBS Engagement and Knowledge Mobilization Specialist, and strategic partners to lead the implementation of the CWN-NCCID WBS Program.

The WBS Program Manager supervises the Engagement and Knowledge Mobilisation Specialist; liaises closely with funders PHAC and ISC; develops and implements peer-sharing groups with WBS project participants and invites WBS and public health practitioners to share their experience with the participants; consults and leverages the expertise of an Experts Advisory Group; curates research, information and knowledge; leads the development of guidance materials for public health practitioners; oversees an external project evaluation.

This unique and exciting position reports to CWN's CEO and interacts with the entire CWN team.

Key responsibilities

- Provides oversight to ensure program objectives are met.
- Supervise the WBS Engagement and Knowledge Mobilization Specialist.
- Liaise with project funders PHAC and ISC, and complete contribution agreement reporting requirements.
- Liaise with CWN's strategic partners, including NCCID, throughout the project to provide regular updates and solicit input, leveraging partner perspectives and knowledge in the development of project approaches, materials, outputs, and resources.
- Support the facilitation of peer-sharing groups on key topics related to interpreting and communicating WBS data to public audiences.
- Lead the development of additional presentations at external events, including CWN's Blue Cities conference.



- Lead / supervise the development of high-quality project-related content including briefs, case studies, backgrounders, meeting agendas and summaries, webinars, conference presentations and reports.
- Scan the existing knowledge base and proactively monitor emerging pan-Canadian and regional discussions on wastewater-based surveillance topics and issues to inform demonstration project implementation. Regularly share updates, insights and knowledge with CWN leadership, the demonstration project team and NCCID.
- Collaborate with CWN's Communications Manager, WBS Engagement and Knowledge Mobilization Specialist, and NCCID staff to develop and disseminate communications content including key messages to ensure that appropriate stakeholders are engaged, aware and informed about the demonstration project.
- Develop a final report to be shared with demonstration project funders and participants.
- Oversee an evaluation consultant to complete an evaluation of the demonstration project.

Knowledge and skills

- Relevant public health background such as public data interpretation and communication; public health communication, risk assessment, program development and implementation; epidemiology; or development and implementation of local or regional wastewater-based surveillance programs.
- Prior experience working in, with or for Indigenous communities on public health program development and/or implementation is an asset.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate, engage and build rapport with local and regional public health authorities and practitioners.
- Superior verbal and written communication ability; engaging presentation and active listening skills are critical.
- Demonstrated experience communicating with, seeking, and receiving guidance from experts and knowledge-holders who are volunteers. Tact, good judgement and strong interpersonal skills are essential.
- Demonstrated ability to digest complex concepts, examine and incorporate diverse perspectives, and summarize key insights effectively for a range of expert and non-expert audiences.
- A strong sense of self-motivation and an ability to work independently and collaboratively within a cross-functional team structure and with external strategic partners while managing tight project timelines is essential.
- Strong technology skills, including MS Office 365 Suite, Dropbox, SharePoint, and various videoconferencing platforms.



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- Fluency in written and spoken French is an asset.
- A master's degree in public health or the health sciences.
- A minimum of three to five years of professional experience in the public health sector.
- Prior experience working with data interpretation and/or communication of public health data, particularly related to WBS programs is a strong asset.
- Professional training or certification in meeting facilitation, project management or program evaluation would be an asset.

Why Canadian Water Network

Canada has a wealth of water knowledge in our municipalities, utilities, academic institutions, and governments. In this role, you will join a well-respected nonprofit to connect knowledge with current and emerging water leaders across Canada to advance, accelerate and improve decision-making in the water and water-adjacent space.

Our flexible work policy – we recognize the importance of balance in our lives and encourage you to prioritize the balance in yours. We will support you on and off the job so you can be fully present in both your work and home lives.

We have a collaborative culture filled with genuinely good people.

Work environment

Although our home base is in Waterloo, Ontario, we are a pan-Canadian organization. Our team includes staff who work remotely or in a hybrid work environment. CWN will consider candidates from anywhere in Canada in support of our pan-Canadian network.

Terms of employment

The Wastewater-Based Surveillance Program Manager is a full-time, fixed-term contract position ending March 31, 2024. You must be based, and have the legal right to work, in Canada.

This position requires some domestic travel, including the ability to travel to the Greater Toronto Area for an in-person meeting in October 2023.

Application instructions

Please send your resume and cover letter sharing your interest in this position to careers@cwn-rce.ca as soon as possible. Our commitment is to support a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environment and hire the best candidate. To eliminate any bias in our application review process,



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please withhold all identifying information from your application's attachments (including your name, address, personal social media accounts, etc.). Your name and contact information should be included in the body of your email so we can contact interview candidates. The position will be posted until we have found the ideal candidate.