

How further education will benefit me in the field of Public Health.

The Master of Public Health program at the University of Waterloo, from which I will be graduating from in October of 2022, has helped me develop skills in a range of areas including communication, policy development, report writing and critical analysis of research. These skills are applicable across a range of program areas in Environmental Public Health and will help me move forward in my career.

This program, and the capstone project in particular has helped develop my skills working as a team of multi-disciplinary professionals. Our project involved making recommendations towards a risk-based inspection model for tobacco control in the City of Hamilton. The group consists of 5 people from various disciplines in public health in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario working together to conduct a literature review and make recommendations that will suit the needs of Hamilton Public Health Services. After the project was completed, we presented it to our peers and professors in class for review and feedback before presenting the final product to the client. The class presentation went well and the project was well received with some useful feedback that we incorporated into the final product.

The skills learned and practiced in the course will be highly applicable to my career especially if I choose to move into policy and program development within Alberta Health Services. Being able to identify good evidence and apply it to a real-world situation and produce results that are useful to the program will be highly valuable to the organization and to my coworkers.

The two program evaluation courses I took will also be very helpful in the future as I am currently working for the Knowledge, Management and Learning group to develop Alberta's new tobacco enforcement program. Understanding the importance of good program implementation helps ensure the evaluation(s) down the road are easier to conduct and provide more useful information to improve the program itself.

The communications course helped me understand how to word documents in a way that is easy to comprehend and to tailor documents based on audience and intended reading levels. Being able to succinctly write a report or letter so that the message is accurate but not too lengthy is vital in public health where managers, directors and executives are inundated with multiple reports in a day.

The Master of Public Health program has been part of my personal bucket list since joining the field of Environmental Public Health. Even though stressful at times, I've enjoyed the journey and look forward to using the lessons learned in my career.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Teare