

EHFC Continuing Education Award
By: Martha Hodge

"How further education will benefit you in the field of public health inspection."

I'm a passionate Public Health Inspector with over 2+ years of field work experience, including responding to health hazards, inspecting food premises, conducting infection control inspections and rabies investigations.

Striving to be the best practitioner in my field, I'm a continuous learner and have completed case and contact management training and my certificate in Infection Prevention and Control at Queens University with the intent to one day sit the CIC exam. As a General Area Inspector during COVID-19, I have conducted infection control audits of health unit regulated premises and complaint inspections to ensure compliance with the Reopening Ontario Act. My professional experience has allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge gained from my past and present studies into practice locally which I would like to continue to do.

My undergraduate degree, BAsC in Public Health which included epidemiology, aetiology, communicable disease control, health promotion and parasitology courses, have prepared me with foundational knowledge to apply in the field. Completing the MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will provide a global learning experience and in-depth education from experts as I work to become a well-rounded Public Health professional. It's prestigious MSc Public Health program has always been part of my journey at the right time in my career, which is now. The courses I will be completing pertain to work I will be conducting in the field and will provide an international perspective to equip me with the emerging issues in public health.

This semester I have enrolled in health economics, issues in public health and epidemiology. Courses such as health economics, will provide an understanding of economic techniques, evaluation of interventions and how to improve performance to promote public health initiatives in the community. I am looking forward to benefiting further from this education over these next few years and implementing it in the field of public health inspection.