EP Certification: Recognizing Environmental Auditing Excellence

AAC Annual Conference
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Presentation Overview

I. Introduction to ECO Canada
II. Canada’s Environmental Workforce
III. Launch of the Environmental Certification Program
IV. Benefits of EP Certification for Auditors
Introduction to ECO Canada
Introduction to ECO Canada

ECO Canada is an industry-initiated and led not-for-profit organization that:

- Develops programs to help individuals build meaningful environmental careers
- Provides employers with resources to find and keep the best environmental professionals
- Informs educators and governments of environmental employment trends
Canada’s Environmental Workforce
Growth of the Environmental Workforce

# of Environmental Professionals Working in Canada, 1993 - 2013

Data sources:
CCHREI 1993 REPORT – Human Resources in the Environment Industry
CCHREI 1999 REPORT – Human Resources on the Canadian Environmental Sectors
CCHREI 2003 REPORT – Environmental Employment in Canada
ECO Canada 2007 Profile of Canadian Environmental Employment
ECO Canada 2010 Profile of Canadian Environmental Employment
ECO Canada 2013 Profile of Canadian Environmental Employment
Current Employment Numbers

Over 1.7 million Canadian workers spend at least some portion of their work time on environmental activities
(Represents 10.3% of the Canadian workforce)

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<th>730,000+* Environmental Professionals</th>
<th>460,000+ Employers</th>
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<td>(represents 4.0% of Canadian workforce)</td>
<td>(represents 19.6% of all Canadian organizations)</td>
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Interdisciplinary
Constantly evolving
Rapidly growing

* Represents professionals who spend 50% or more of their time on environmental work activities. Profile of Canadian Environmental Employment, ECO Canada, 2013.
Regional Distribution of Certified Environmental Auditors

Certified Environmental Auditors: EP(CEA) and EP(EMSLA)

- Alberta: 43.50%
- BC: 18%
- Manitoba: 2.50%
- New Brunswick: 3.50%
- Newfoundland: 5%
- Nova Scotia: 2%
- Ontario: 1.50%
- Québec: 1.50%
- Saskatchewan: 0.50%
- International: 5%
Launch of the Environmental Certification Program
The Need for Industry Regulation

15% of Canadian professions are regulated

Environmental work has a direct impact on public health and safety, making it essential for practitioners to follow established standards.

Understanding Foreign Credential Recognition, Think Talent. Think Global, 2014.
Program Background

ECO Canada developed the framework for national environmental certification in consultation with:

- Business leaders
- Governments
- Academia
- Individual professionals
Launch of CECAB

The Canadian Environmental Certification Approvals Board (CECAB) was established in 1997.
Creation of the NOS

National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- Serve as a “dictionary” of 350 technical and transferable competencies for environmental professionals
- Form the competency standards that practitioners must meet or exceed to qualify for EP Certification
- Reflect direct input and review from thousands of professionals and industry leaders across Canada
The NOS for Environmental Auditors encompass 66 competency statements in 3 categories:

- Technical Competencies
- Transferable Competencies
- Core Knowledge
Sub-Sector Model of Environmental Employment

- **Sector A** - Environmental Protection
  1. Air Quality
  2. Water Quality
  3. Site Assessment & Reclamation
  4. Waste Management
  5. Health & Safety

- **Sector B** - Resource Management
  1. Energy
  2. Fisheries & Wildlife
  3. Natural Resource Management

- **Sector C** - Environmental Sustainability
  1. Sustainability
  2. Education & Training
  3. Research & Development
  4. Policy and Legislation
  5. Communications & Public Awareness
Launch of the Certification Program

**2000:** Launch of ECO Canada’s first national environmental certification

**2004:** Transfer of the Auditor and Site Assessor certifications from AAC to ECO Canada

**Today:** EP(EMSLA) and EP(CEA)
ISO 17024 Accreditation

- ECO Canada’s certification is accredited to ISO 17024, the international standard for Personnel Certification Bodies by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

- This means that EP certification conforms to international standards in the areas of:
  - Quality Management
  - Prevention of Conflict of Interest
  - Best Practices for Certification Program Management
Profile of Certified Environmental Auditors

**148 EP(CEA)**
Environmental Professional – Compliance Auditor

- Work in accordance with national and international standards
- Perform auditing activities related to CSA Z773 and ISO 19011

**129 EP(EMSLA)**
Environmental Professional – Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor

- Specialize in two additional areas: Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM)
- Audit organizations against ISO 14001 **OR**
- Audit organizations against SFM standards (FSC, SFI, CSA-Z809)
Formal Training Areas

**EP(CEA) and EP(EMSLA) professionals complete at least 35 hours of formal training in these areas:**

- Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Standards
- Environmental Science and Technology
- Environmental Laws and Regulations, and Associated Documentation
- Environmental Audit Types, Procedures, Processes, Techniques and Guidelines
- Technical and Environmental Aspects of Business and Facility Operation
Benefits of EP Certification for Auditors
How EP Benefits the Auditing Profession

- Definition and recognition of environmental work
- Shared ethics
- *Increased credibility
“The EP designation is respected by peers, other professionals and other professional organizations. This respect and recognition provides an EP with level of confidence so that others will know that your work is competent”

Cecil Burns, EP
How EP Benefits Individual Auditors

- Professional development
- Networking
- Employer preference
EP Benefits for Individual Auditors

Certified EP(CEA) and EP(EMSLA) members receive exclusive discounts on PD, such as the ECO Academy
Thank You
Any Questions?
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