



# Become a Conservation Officer

## What is a Conservation Officer?

Conservation Officers (COs) are uniformed field staff who are responsible for protecting our environment and making sure natural resources such as fish and wildlife are used wisely. While their primary role is environmental law enforcement – they have the authority of police officers – COs are also kept busy doing public relations, resource management work (e.g. wildlife surveys) and promoting healthy environments and ecosystems. COs often work outdoors, frequently in isolated and wilderness locations.

## How do I become a Conservation Officer?

- Grade 12 is required
- High School students should take Biology 30, English Language Arts A30 and B30, Chemistry 20, Social Studies 30 and Foundations of Math 30. (Entrance standards and minimum averages vary among different post-secondary institutes; some require a minimum average of 65 per cent in the above subjects). Basic Computer Science is also recommended.
- A clear Criminal Record check
- English Language Requirement
- Pass the Physical Abilities Requirement Evaluation (P.A.R.E. test)
- Complete a defensive driving program
- Minimum post-secondary education requirements include completing a two-year integrated resource management diploma program that includes a law enforcement component. This is available from:
  - Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Prince Albert Campus, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
  - Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge, Alberta
  - Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, British Columbia
  - Keewatin College, The Pas, Manitoba, and
  - Sir Sanford Fleming School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Lindsay, Ontario
- The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Prince Albert Campus has a very good Resource and Environmental Law

diploma program that can provide you with the educational background you need to apply for a job as a Conservation Officer. This program is also linked to the First Nations University of Canada/University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan degree programs, allowing Sask Polytech graduates the opportunity to use their diploma as a credit toward the university degree.

## Other requirements for employment are:

- Psychological compatibility with the law enforcement
- Physically fit and able to meet defensive tactics and firearms qualification standards

## Typical employers include:

- Provincial government departments, e.g., Saskatchewan Environment
- The federal government, e.g., Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada
- First Nations

## Further information:

For further information ask to speak with the Conservation Officer in your local Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment office or contact:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment  
 Compliance and Field Services  
 Box 3003  
 Prince Albert SK S6V 6G1  
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