



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

Saskatchewan Environment  
Compliance and Field Services  
Box 3003  
Prince Albert SK S6V 6G1  
phone: (306) 953-2991, fax: 953-2999  
email: [gjohnson@serm.gov.sk.ca](mailto:gjohnson@serm.gov.sk.ca)

*We welcome your interest  
in a career as a Conservation Officer.*



## **Saskatchewan Environment Career Fact Sheet**

### **Conservation Officer**



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It's in your Nature.

# 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 like fish and wildlife are used wisely. While their primary role is law enforcement - they have the authority of police officers - COs are also kept busy doing public relations, resource management work (like wildlife surveys) and promoting healthy environments and ecosystems. COs often work outdoors, frequently in isolated and wilderness locations.

Conservation Officers have a complex and challenging task in balancing social and economic interests with the need to maintain healthy ecosystems. So much depends on protecting wilderness areas; they are both a precious legacy to future generations and the source of much of Saskatchewan's wealth and public recreation.

## How do I become a Conservation Officer?

- ▶ High School students should take Biology 30, English 30 (A & B), Chemistry 20, Social Studies 30 and Math 30 (A & B). (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. Contact the school for the required entrance standards.
- ▶ Minimum post secondary education requirements include completing a recognized Natural Resource Management diploma program (usually two years) that includes a law enforcement component. In Saskatchewan, SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert 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 Resource and Environment Studies Degree Program, allowing SIAST graduates the opportunity to use their diploma as credit toward the university degree. Colleges offering training include:
  - SIAST, Woodland Campus, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
  - Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge, Alberta
  - Lakeland College, Vermillion, Alberta
  - Malaspina University-College, Nanaimo, British Columbia
  - Keewatin College, The Pas, Manitoba, and
  - Sir Sanford Fleming School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Lindsay, Ontario

### **Other requirements for employment are:**

- ▶ psychological compatibility with the law enforcement role
- ▶ clear criminal record, and
- ▶ 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 Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, and
- ▶ First Nations

