

# Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

## Code of Ethics

### CIPHI Vision

*Personal Growth... Professional Success*

### CIPHI Mission Statement

*CIPHI represents and unites Environmental Public Health professionals across Canada. We advance the profession and field of Environmental Public Health through certification, advocacy, education and professional competencies. Through this we protect the health of all Canadians.*

### Preamble

All members of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) have moral obligations relating to their professional practice in return for the trust given to them by society. They are obliged to uphold the law and to act to protect the public's health. Members are required to follow the Bylaws, and the Standards of Practice of CIPHI. All members must conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the environmental public health profession.

### Principles

CIPHI Members must promote and maintain these seven fundamental principles of conduct and ethics.

#### Principle 1: Justice

Environmental Public Health Professionals (EPHPs) are dedicated in their career and commitment to the public. Each member respects that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or social distinction. EPHPs shall uphold the principles of justice by safeguarding human rights, equity, and fairness by promoting the public good.

Justice is defined as "the quality of being righteous, equitable and moral" EPHP's must always consider the concept of justice while performing their duties. EPHP's shall:

- Perform the duties of the profession in a moral and righteous manner
- Always strive to behave in an honourable fashion
- Identify and take action to mitigate any conflicts of interest
- Refrain from any criminal activity in the practice of the job including substance abuse or, sexual misconduct
- Not use the influence of their position for personal gain or to harm others
- Refrain from knowingly accepting gifts or any form of remuneration from clients
- Ensure that all records are accurate and shall not falsify any documents
- Maintain the confidentiality of clients, colleagues, their employer and CIPHI
- Always maintain the integrity of the profession and report the indiscretions of others

## Principle 2: Inclusion

CIPHI members are unique individuals who are united by our dedication to environmental public health. It is important to CIPHI as a professional organization to do our part to ensure that all members have equal opportunities regardless of ethnicity, race, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, ability, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, and parental status; and that they are free from harassment and discrimination. CIPHI encourages the inclusion of all people in its operations and events.

Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines Diversity as "the condition of having or being composed of differing elements: The inclusion of different types of people in a group or organization" and defines Inclusion as "The act of including: the state of being included".

Our inherent diversity is an important part of what makes our professional organization so rich and robust. Our differences mirror the diversity of our client base and bring us the skills and talents of a knowledgeable profession that is in touch with the people we work so hard to keep healthy.

EHPs believe that no person shall be discriminated against, regardless of ethnicity, race, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, ability, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, and parental status.

CIPHI will make every effort to ensure that its structure, policies and systems promote an inclusive atmosphere and provide equal access to all its members. CIPHI encourages individuals to participate fully in all CIPHI operations and events that they wish to. Discriminatory or oppressive behaviour will not be tolerated.

## Principle 3: Accountability

EHPs are accountable for their actions and answerable for their practice. As a member, an individual must practice with integrity, honesty and loyalty to CIPHI and the profession. Collectively, members have an obligation to the public - whose trust they hold - and to safeguard these interests honestly and wisely. Each member practices under conditions that neither compromise professional standards, nor impose such conditions on others. Members shall:

- Be accountable for their actions to both their employer and CIPHI
- Work to identify their limitations and seek help when needed
- Ensure that personal issues do not compromise professional performance
- Seek assistance and support when needed for personal and professional matters
- Conform to and cooperate with any disciplinary measures as imposed by CIPHI such as education, suspension or expulsion
- Not interfere with investigations into their conduct or the conduct of others
- Report any known violations of the code of ethics

## Principle 4: Privacy & Confidentiality

EHPs recognize the importance of privacy and confidentiality. They safeguard personal, health, family, corporate, and community information obtained in the context of a professional relationship. Members are aware and respectful of privacy laws designed to protect and preserve people's right to privacy. Members shall:

- Follow all employer policies regarding information and privacy
- Take all necessary precautions when accessing, collecting, storing, disclosing or using information
- Only disclose personal or sensitive information in accordance with any and all provincial and federal privacy legislation
- Not use the information gained through their employment for personal gain

### **Principle 5: Evidence-Informed Decision Making**

Members have an obligation to the sciences and arts for the advancement of the field of environmental public health. They shall continuously search for truths; refine their professional practice through ongoing inquiry, dialogue and reflection; and disseminate their findings for the benefit of all. Members are committed to basing their practice and policy work on reliable sources of health evidence. In the absence of conclusive health evidence and in the face of uncertain risk, EPHP's will follow the precautionary principle to safeguard the public they serve and will uphold a high degree of health protection. Members shall:

- Strive to advance the field through research and evaluation
- Ensure that all opinions and advice given are within their area of expertise

### **Principle 6: Health, Well-Being & Collaboration**

Each member collaborates with other health professionals and stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcomes for clients and communities by understanding and placing value on the individual roles and contributions of others. Members shall:

- Act for the safety and welfare of the public and of CIPHI
- Work collaboratively and respectfully with other agencies and health professionals to provide the best possible outcomes for the population of their communities

### **Principle 7: Competent Practice**

EPHPs strive to be current in their professional knowledge and recognize its relationship to practice. Members apply the knowledge, skills and experience needed in carrying out their duties in the field. Practitioners actively participate in and adhere to the objectives and requirements of the Continuing Professional Competencies (CPC) program as it relates to their respective scope of practice. They strive to keep themselves fully informed of the broader advancements in the field of public health. Professional practice and self-directed learning are informed by experience, research, collaboration and knowledge. Members shall:

- Complete their required professional development hours
- Take responsibility for their own professional development
- Share knowledge with others and assist students and colleagues to fill knowledge gaps
- Identify their own knowledge gaps through self-evaluation or with the assistance of others and work to fill those gaps