

Field Technician, Wastewater Surveillance Project

7.5-MONTH CONTRACT, FULL TIME, AUG 15, 2021 TO MAR 30, 2022

OVERALL REQUIREMENTS

The project team is looking for a full-time field technician to assist with collection of wastewater samples from the sanitary sewer system in the City of Toronto. While technically skilled, the individual should also have strong data management, leadership, organization, and coordination skills and be able to support meetings related to data interpretation.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Wastewater surveillance is a novel and alternative strategy for tracking pathogens and chemicals of interest that have been shed into the sewer system by human populations. Over the past year, there has been growing global interest in using wastewater surveillance to investigate the transmission of COVID-19. This approach complements COVID-19 clinical data for community assessments and decision making. Wastewater surveillance data can be used to assess the presence of community infection, monitor the trends and changes in infections and correlate detection levels with infection prevalence data.

A group of researchers from the Urban Water Research Centre at Ryerson University is conducting wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 in the City of Toronto in partnership with the Province of Ontario, Toronto Public Health and Toronto Water. Both wastewater treatment plants and 'upstream' samples from the sanitary sewer system are being collected and analyzed for SARS-CoV-2 RNA (a genetic indicator of the virus). Data generated from the study is being used to support a coordinated wastewater surveillance program across the Province of Ontario.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate would be responsible for the following tasks:

- Conduct field monitoring of wastewater from the City of Toronto collection system, including the installation, operation, and maintenance of sampling and monitoring equipment such as automatic water samplers, flow meters, and water quality probes.
- Transport wastewater samples to the analytical laboratory at Ryerson University.
- Manage and QA/QC sample collection data, including maintenance of data reports for the Province of Ontario.
- Participate in regular project meetings.
- Liaise with laboratory staff and project partners when necessary.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Post-secondary education in water resources, environmental sciences, civil engineering, or related discipline.
- Field experience in wastewater, stormwater and/or groundwater quantity/quality monitoring (including sample collection).
 - Experience with different types of monitoring equipment (e.g., automatic samplers, water quality sensors, flow gauging equipment) considered an asset.
 - Experience working in urban systems, especially in relation to wastewater infrastructure, considered an asset.
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

- Available to work occasional weekends when required.
- Valid G Driver's License is required.
 - Individual can use their own vehicle or have access to a University research vehicle.
- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
 - Geographic information system skills considered an asset.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Strong written and oral communication skills to convey technical data in reports, summaries, and oral presentations.
- Ability to lead a small field team and prioritize tasks in a fast-paced environment while maintaining strict health and safety standards.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The RA position will be from August 15, 2021 to March 30, 2022
- The RA salary is \$24 per hour (not including vacation and benefit amount)
- The RA position is full-time (36.25 hours per week)
- The RA will be reimbursed for mileage if using their own vehicle for fieldwork

Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Forward a cover letter and resume (a single PDF or .docx) to Dr. Claire Oswald (coswald@ryerson.ca). Please use "**Field Technician**" in the subject line of the email.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and the position will remain open until filled. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

Proudly diverse and intentionally inclusive, Ryerson University is committed to community engagement, action, inclusion, respect for Aboriginal perspectives, equity, diversity and putting people first. Ryerson was named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers in 2019.