

## ENHANCED WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE (EWQA) PROGRAM

Drinking water testing is regulated in each province. Environmental laboratories performing microbiological tests on drinking water samples from small to large water systems for public health purposes, must meet the requirements set out by the British Columbia Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation (and/or similar Acts, Regulations and Guidelines for laboratories in other provinces).

EWQA acts on behalf of the province of British Columbia, and in partnership with Clinical Microbiology Proficiency Testing (CMPT), to recommend laboratory approval for drinking water testing. EWQA reports to the Ministry of Health Provincial Health Officer.

EWQA serves other provincial public health jurisdictions through appropriate channels.

### Program Contact

#### Enhanced Water Quality Assurance (EWQA)

Director, Laboratory Quality and Process  
Improvement  
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[www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab](http://www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab)

#### Next Steps?

If you are interested in enrolling, please contact the Director, Laboratory Quality and Process Improvement (above).

ENHANCED WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE



#### Enhanced Water Quality Assurance (EWQA)

Provincial Health Services  
Authority

BCCDC Public Health  
Microbiology & Reference  
Laboratory  
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## Program Goal

To ensure that microbiological testing of drinking water in British Columbia is accurately performed in accordance with the established standards and that the results are reported in a timely manner for the protection of the residents of British Columbia.

## Program Objectives

1. To provide leadership in a Quality Management Framework for drinking water testing.
2. To enhance the system for approval of laboratories and a system for regular monitoring of laboratories performing microbiological testing of drinking water for public health purposes.
3. To provide training, ongoing educational opportunities and consultation to approved laboratories.
4. To conduct public health audits to determine the quality of reported results.
5. To advance the science of microbiological testing of drinking water through research, development and networking at a province-wide, national and international level.
6. To partner with the private and public sector on innovative approaches to issues of public health.

## Program Services

- ❖ Leadership for water testing laboratories
- ❖ Applications and submission review
- ❖ On-site inspections
- ❖ Recommendations to British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer
- ❖ Educational and update bulletins
- ❖ Audits of microbiological water quality
- ❖ Quality Assurance and a Quality Management System approach to waterborne infectious diseases



## Steps Towards Laboratory Approval

1. Enroll in and provide evidence of satisfactory performance in an approved proficiency testing program (CMPT is an approved program).
2. Complete and submit a Questionnaire.
3. Pass an on-site inspection.
4. Receive a certificate of approval (valid for three years) from the BC Provincial Health Officer.