



CASE STUDY: Algonquin College Assists Environment Canada in Ensuring Compliance to Protect the Canadian Environment

The need

The role of environmental enforcement officers and wildlife officers is to enforce laws administered by Environment Canada. The department's Enforcement Branch needed a re-design of its Basic Enforcement Training Program to ensure that new enforcement officers had the requisite knowledge and skills needed to receive their designation as enforcement officers.

Through a competitive process the Police and Public Safety Institute of Algonquin College was awarded the work and has since redeveloped the program as the Applied Enforcement Training (AET) program. The program is typically delivered once per year to new enforcement recruits as required in French and English over six weeks.

The solution

The challenge was to develop content that integrated peace officer training with the existing training required by environmental enforcement and wildlife officers. The training needed to provide new recruits with further knowledge and skills that would enable their designation as enforcement and wildlife officers under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, and the Fisheries Act.

Algonquin College drew from its substantial knowledge base and access to law enforcement expertise to work closely with Environment Canada and devise a learning solution that met the needs of the Enforcement Branch.

In collaboration with Environment Canada, the College used a systems approach to training to form the basis of its instructional design methodology—analyzing, designing, developing, implementing, validating and evaluating the program's activities.

The approach linked content already developed by Environment Canada with redesigned and updated peace officer law enforcement components, and newly developed instructional materials for the academic and use-of-force portions of the content. The College involved its extensive law enforcement resources to assist and consult on developing and vetting case studies and scenarios to be used during the program and is delivered by industry, Environment Canada and Enforcement Branch subject-matter experts

The implementation

This six-week program has been successfully delivered, with recruits housed in Algonquin College Residence for the duration. The program incorporates self-study materials, e-learning modules, classroom modules, simulations, sampling sessions and approximately 40 hours of intense defensive tactics training and classroom instruction. The program is taken by emergency, intelligence and environmental enforcement and wildlife officers.

The outcome

Whether a violation involves a product or substance such as hazardous waste or effluent, or an activity involving the manufacture, transfer or disposal of a substance or product, the environmental enforcement or wildlife officer needs to be able to identify the problem, investigate, coordinate action, and engage with the appropriate organizations or authorities to bring offenders into compliance with the law. The Enforcement Branch Applied Enforcement Training (AET) program provides new environmental and wildlife officers with the tools they need to take on their role in accordance with legislation and in securing a safe and clean environment for all Canadians.

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE CORPORATE TRAINING CENTRE specializes in industry-focused training solutions that equip employees with the knowledge, skills and expertise needed to succeed in their day-to-day work, to advance in their careers and to build organizational capacity.

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