



## Blue-green algae blooms plague Canada's lakes this summer

Public health agencies across Canada have been working overtime this summer to educate the public about the proliferation of blue-green algae, otherwise known as cyanobacteria blooms, which can be toxic and highly resistant to treatment.

**Cyanobacteria**, which can rapidly increase in late summer and early fall to form a large mass or scum called a bloom, can cause skin irritation, rash, sore throat, sore red eyes, swollen lips, fever, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, and has been linked to neurological conditions, including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Alzheimer’s disease.

In summer 2017, cyanobacteria discovered in a popular Victoria-area lake in British Columbia was suspected in the deaths of several dogs on Vancouver Island. That same year, research by the University of Alberta indicated that the cyanobacterial toxin microcystin had been found in 246 water bodies in Canada.

Blue-green algae can sometimes be spotted for its foamy pea soup-like appearance, and its more mature blooms can smell like rotten eggs. It often forms during hot, sunny weather in calm waters, and has become more prevalent in freshwater lakes over the last decade. According to B.C. officials, the bacteria is

not a true algae but rather a photosynthetic bacteria.

The toxic algae has also been prevalent in the Prairies, where much of the soil has naturally high levels of phosphorus. This contributed to Lake Winnipeg being named the Threatened Lake of 2013 by the Global Nature Fund, largely as a result of the blue-green algae in its waters. Leaking septic tanks can also prove to be a source of phosphorus.

In November 2017, the federal government announced an investment of \$1 million to monitor northern Ontario waterways for cyanobacteria. The three-year “Remote Sensing: Waterway Algae Identification” project will help test the use of custom sensors and camera technology mounted on aircraft to produce real-time results on algae contamination in

... Continued on Page 3

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE. . .**

- 6** Update from NCCEH
- 9** Update from FNHA
- 13** Annual Education Conference—Saskatoon

## Branch Update

Looking back on the summer update, I had high hopes that it would be a quiet wildfire season after we made it through the year's flooding. Unfortunately, we had our second consecutive worst-ever wildfire season with more than 1.25 million hectares of land burnt, homes lost, people evacuated, and the entire province impacted by wildfire smoke and poor air quality. It's safe to say that emergency management work will continue to be a key component of the role of environmental public health professionals in coming years, as we face the impacts of changing climates.

In light of that emergency response, the CIPHI BC Branch still had a very productive past few months! We successfully transitioned our Branch email platform to the Google Suite, approved a new BOC Assistant Exam Coordinator, engaged with a number of municipalities to enact proclamations during Environmental Public Health Week, connected with members to identify a direction for our Education Committee, and participated actively in the 2018 CIPHI AEC in Saskatoon.

By the time you're reading this, we will also have our 2018 BC Branch AGM behind us, the timing of which allows us to file our updated Constitution and Bylaws to remain in compliance with the new BC *Society's Act*. Thanks to all the members who provided their input on these documents, and who made sure we continue to move in the right direction for the benefit of BC's environmental public health professionals.

As we move into winter, we're looking forward to introducing some educational initiatives guided by the survey. We'll also be looking to ramp up our Promotions and Membership Committee to engage with members and the profession at large, and ensure continued transparency with our work.

It's been a busy year so far, but a rewarding one for the Branch; we look forward to carrying that momentum into the remaining months of 2018, and beyond!

Yours Truly,



Casey Neathway  
BC Branch – President Elect



**Blue-green algae blooms plague Canada's lakes this summer, continued. . .**

water bodies through waterway flyovers.

Additionally, the ATRAPP Project – Algal Blooms, Treatment, Risk Assessment, Prediction and Prevention Through Genomics, organized through the EDDEC Institute at Université de Montréal, began a

\$12.3-million research project into blue-green algae in fall 2016.

“It will allow [us to define new biomarkers, to create a tool box combining chemistry and genomics to identify toxicity risks, and to facilitate prevention and treatment of

bloom episodes as well as toxic sludge treatment,” project organizers describe on their website.

Alberta Health Services has issued seven cyanobacteria advisories over the last month alone, the most recent pertaining to Moose Lake in Bonnyville.

Last week, Toronto Public Health issued a warning over algae discovered along the waterfront in Etobicoke, at the mouth of Mimico Creek and Humber Bay Park East.

In early July, warnings were also coming from the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, which states that as much as 60% of all blue-green algae blooms contain toxins. “The blooms typically last up to three weeks and can be pushed around the lake or reser-

voir by the wind,” the agency states in its public advisory.

The Ontario government has released a factsheet for residents who want to learn more about cyanobacteria, which occurs naturally. It notes that the blooms can be particularly difficult to treat if they end up near a water supply. “Home treatment systems may



not remove toxins and can get easily overwhelmed or clogged, so they should not be relied on,” the advisory warns. “Do not boil the water, or manually treat the water with chlorine or other disinfectants, as this could increase the toxin levels.”

Irena Creed, an ecosystems scientist from the University of Saskatchewan, has written about potential connections between climate change and the rise of cyanobacteria. Additional research on the subject from the University of Bristol has found evidence that blooms of all kinds may be a kind of cooling mechanism for the planet.

Cyanobacteria has also been found to deplete oxygen from the bottom of lakes, which can result in massive fish kills.

*Our thanks to Peter Davey, Managing & Online Editor of Environmental Science & Engineering Magazine for permission to reproduce this article.*

*Photo Credit: EDDEC Institute/Université de Montréal*



Hello CIPHI members and environmental health professionals alike! Welcome back again to Giardia's Corner with me, Giardia! Fall has settled with warm, dry weather...we're all anxiously awaiting the rain. Forget about the sun and the rain, though because it feels like education is in the air! After wrapping up their survey, the BC Branch Education committee is tweaking its provision of learning opportunities for you all (check out page 7). In addition, the Saskatoon AEC offered workshops & presentations packed with environmental public health material (see page 11 & 12). And lastly, we've highlighted our BOC Assistant Examination Coordinator in this quarter's interview! Say hello to VCH's Angela Whalen

## Fun Fact:

The BC Branch is looking for a new Recording Secretary and two Councilors. Check out page 12.



### Angela Whalen—BOC Assistant Examination Coordinator

**Q1: What school did you go to for the ENVH program? What year did you graduate?**

A1: I graduated from BCIT in 2009.

**Q2: Where have you worked and what roles have you been in throughout your career?**

A2: After high school I worked various jobs in food/beverage, tourism, and hospitality before going back to school in 2004. To help pay for tuition and rent, I applied for a job through the federal student work experience program. Over the next four years I earned my degree while working as a Border Services Officer for the Canada Border Services Agency. At the time CBSA offered a tempting permanent job opportunity for post-secondary grads, and I considered it. But in the end, the prospect of doing enforcement all day every day was not a good fit for me (and neither were the steel-toed boots). After my BCIT practicum ended, I took a full time position with VCH based in Whistler. Since then I've been working as an EHO and DWO throughout the sea to sky corridor, and briefly as a senior in North Vancouver. I'm currently based out of Squamish and I love my job.



... Continued on Page 5

**Q3: How have you seen the focus of Environmental Public Health change over the years?**

A3: Every year the environmental consequences of climate change are threatening the air we breathe, food security, access to safe drinking water, use of recreational spaces, commercial infrastructure, housing, and the list goes on. With expertise in so many of these areas, I believe the Environmental Public Health program and EHO's specifically should expect to devote more time and resources in these areas as we continue to be called in the aftermath of wildfires, floods, and other catastrophic events.

**Q4: What is one of the most memorable moments or situations in your career so far?**

A4: I was a brand new EHO in Whistler when the 2010 Winter Olympics came to town. Witnessing a global event of that magnitude and having a role to play was a privilege, and a once in a lifetime experience.

**Q5: As an EHO/PHI, one of your primary roles is to look for problems or issues; how have you stayed positive?**

A5: I think the key to staying positive in this job is to walk the line between empathy and objectivity with operators. Too much empathy for your operators and you risk feeling conflicted, frustrated, or dejected when the tough calls need to be made. Too much objectivity and you risk alienating your operators to the point where instead of engaging with you, they think you're just a bureaucrat checking boxes. But when you can achieve balance between empathy and objectivity, there's mutual respect, transparent communication, clear boundaries, and *everyone* is invested in the same outcome: safeguarding public health. For me, that's when the best work gets done and staying positive is a realistic goal.

**Q6: On a scale of Educator to Enforcer, where would you place your health inspector style?**

A6: If there is a choice, I'll always try education first. But sometimes enforcement is the only appropriate response to protect public health, and I do use those tools from time to time. I suppose that puts me somewhere in the middle of the spectrum.

**Q7: Legislative recognition for CIPHI passed in September 2013 and mandatory membership was implemented in January of 2017, what do you see as the next big goal for CIPHI's BC Branch?**

A7: Bring back the BC CIPHI conference.

**What's your favourite indoor activity?**

- Crossfit

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?**

- Drift a racecar.

**If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?**

- Open a sanctuary for homeless cats.

**When was the last time you had an amazing meal?**

- I have amazing meals all of the time, my husband is an excellent chef.

**WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER:**

**1. Drink a glass of Guinness or Fat Tire?**

- Neither. Deschutes Fresh Squeezed IPA will always be the beer of choice for me.

**2. Visit Europe or Mexico?**

- I've been to Italy, Greece, Turkey, and there's a lot of more Europe I still want to see including Iceland, which is next on the list. But I also love guacamole, I've been going to Mexico since I was a kid, and I still try to go at least once a year. For me this one is a tie.

**3. Have a night out or an evening in?**

- I would pick an evening in with my husband and four cats, a home-cooked meal, a cold beer, and a good two player videogame.

**4. Travel by sailboat or cruise ship?**

- My first experience cruising was the Mediterranean; the food was delicious, the service was excellent, and we didn't get Norovirus. My first experience "sailing" was on a Hobie Cat. I got stranded in the middle of the lake because the wind suddenly died down, and I ended up with terrible sunburn because it took us over an hour to paddle back to shore. For these reasons, I pick cruise ship.

## Engaging Public Health Inspectors in Healthy Built Environment Discussions



National Collaborating Centre  
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
en santé environnementale

*Tina Chen, Environmental Health and Knowledge Translation  
Scientist, NCCEH*

Across Canada, healthy built environment (HBE) is rapidly becoming a priority in many public health agencies as a result of increasing awareness of the physical, mental, and social health impacts of the built environment. The [2017 annual report](#) from Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, focused on how healthy, equitable, and supportive built environments can positively influence human behaviours, experiences, choices, and perceptions.<sup>1-3</sup>

Through consultations with public health professionals across Canada, we learned that public health approaches to promote and advocate for health considerations in built environment policies and decisions differ across Canada, and results and lessons learned are often siloed. One of the barriers to knowledge and information exchange could be attributed to the lack of a central platform for open discussions on how public health and professionals in other sectors could work together to support HBE in urban, suburban, and rural communities. An intersectoral collaborative approach is needed in order to advocate for health considerations in planning and policy decisions.

To help fill this challenging yet important gap, the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control worked together to develop the Healthy Built Environment in Canada online discussion forum.

### **How do public health inspectors advocate for a healthier built environment?**

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the sanitary movement spearheaded by public health inspectors (PHIs) and medical doctors utilized zoning and planning as tools to eliminate filth and infectious diseases from cities and towns. This effort gave rise to the land use planning profession.<sup>4,5</sup> While PHIs' roles and responsibilities vary in different jurisdictions and provinces, the core remains focused on reduction of infectious disease risks and hazards in food, water, indoor/outdoor air, wastewater disposal, and personal services settings and practices.

As the prevalence and burden of chronic diseases rise in Canada, the role of all public health professionals, including PHIs, need to evolve in response. PHIs may be the first point of contact in a regional or provincial health agency for municipal officials, land-use planners or food service operators. PHIs engage and interface with community partners and business operators in their jurisdictions as they conduct day-to-day business and inspections. Many opportunities exist for PHIs to raise awareness about the importance of HBE, and collaborate with municipal and community partners to advocate for positive changes in the built environment. Specifically, food environment is one aspect of the built environment in which PHIs may be best able to effect change, as outlined in the NCCEH [Food Deserts and Food Swamps: A Primer](#) document.

### **What are the benefits of joining the Healthy Built Environment in Canada online discussion forum?**

The primary functions of the forum are to enable learning and knowledge exchange among intersectoral participants, and to reduce duplication of efforts by facilitating a channel for participants to access a broader network of stakeholders and partners for networking and information exchange. The discussion forum also aims to strengthen the capacity of participants to address emerging practice issues and practice gaps, and to facilitate the identification of opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and knowledge translation toward new policy solutions.

While the forum promotes inter-provincial and pan-Canadian exchange, sub-forums for province-specific discussions pertaining to specific HBE topical areas will be available.

### **Who could benefit from joining the forum?**

Organized based on the five core HBE features identified in the BCCDC [Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit](#), the discussion forum brings together individuals who are interested and/or involved in HBE work. The target audiences for this forum include but

. . . Continued on Page 7

are not limited to the following sectors and stakeholders:

- Public health professionals (including PHIs/EHOs, population/community health teams, dietitians, medical officers of health, community health specialists)
- Health organizations
- Federal, provincial, and local governments (planning and design, administration, policy, knowledge translators/brokers)
- Academic institutions (researchers, students in masters, PhD, and urban design/urban planning programs)
- Private sector, including developers and consultants

### **How does the forum work?**

Membership in the forum is free and anyone with an interest or responsibility in HBE work can join at any time. Forum activities, including webinars and discussions, are online and on demand, thus allowing members flexibility to retrieve information, to participate in discussions, and to contribute content.

The forum will feature:

- Monthly live discussions on HBE topics (e.g. notable initiatives/projects/tools, emerging research, best practices, etc.) prefaced by short presentations given by content experts
- Provincial champions will provide regular content posts and will help promote the forum to their contacts and networks
- NCCEH and BCCDC PPH staff will moderate the forum, coordinate and host monthly expert webinars and discussions, help connect participants to relevant resources, and support the momentum of conversations by posting practice-related questions.

If you would like to learn more about the forum, to become a Champion, or to participate in the discussion forum, please visit [the NCCEH website](#) and fill out the form near the bottom of the page. We welcome your feedback to help improve our program implementation and evaluation.

### **References**

1. Tam T. The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2017: Designing Healthy Living. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2017. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/2017-designing-healthy-living.html>.
2. BC Centre for Disease Control. Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit: Making the links between design, planning and health, Version 2.0. Vancouver, B.C.: BC Provincial Health Services Authority; 2018. Available from: [http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/HBE\\_linkages\\_toolkit\\_2018.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/HBE_linkages_toolkit_2018.pdf).
3. My Health My Community. Social Connection and Health. 2018: Available from: [https://www.myhealthmycommunity.org/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/MHMC\\_SocialConnections\\_web.pdf](https://www.myhealthmycommunity.org/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/MHMC_SocialConnections_web.pdf).
4. Perdue W, Gostin L, Stone L. Public Health and the Built Environment: Historical, Empirical, and Theoretical Foundations for an Expanded Role. The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics. 2003;31(4).
5. Ashton J. Sanitarian becomes ecologist: the new environmental health. Br Med J. 1991;302:189-90. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1998752/>.

## CIPHI Education Survey – What we heard from you!

In August, a survey was circulated to EHOs across the province to seek input on what type of educational opportunities EHOs would like to see moving forward! In total, 45 respondents had taken the survey and here is a brief summary as to what we heard:

- Most respondents had participated in past webinars and overall satisfaction of those past webinars is mixed. Some of the positive feedback that we had received consisted of the webinar content was relevant to their job, gained new knowledge after each session and was able to apply what was learned, the variety of topics, ease of access, and many were interested in attending future webinars. We also received valuable constructive comments on how potential future webinars could be improved such as providing a recording of webinars, providing better information in advance of the webinar, improvements to the registration and payment process, timing of the presentations, hard to have meaningful discussion with the platform, and content depth.
- We also heard that the consensus was mixed for the preference for future education opportunities for in person workshops/seminars or continuing with webinars.
- Topic areas that are of interest for future training include: healthy built environments/communities, climate change, communicable disease, outbreak review, novel foods, ready to eat meats, enforcement, drinking water, cannabis, recreational water, novel PSEs, air quality, emergency response, and de-escalation training.

Based on the results, the CIPHI BC Education Committee will be coming up with proposal for some changes to the educational opportunities CIPHI BC offers. Thank you for taking the time to respond to our survey! We look forward to keeping you up-to-date with further developments.

**Stay Engaged! Please forward any ideas for education platforms or topics to [janelle.rimell@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:janelle.rimell@interiorhealth.ca) or [gethsemane.luttrell@fnha.ca](mailto:gethsemane.luttrell@fnha.ca).**

**Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health  
Joint EHO Educational Conference**

Location: Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre  
4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby

Date: November 13 & 14, 2018

**SAVE THE DATE**  
More Information to Come

If you have any suggestions or ideas  
Please Contact  
Claudia Kurzac or Timothy Millard



## FNHA EHOs participate in 42<sup>nd</sup> Elder's Gathering

July 10-12 saw Cowichan Tribes host the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elder's Gathering in Duncan, BC. The Gathering is an opportunity for Elders from First Nations around BC to share wisdom, culture, and history with one another, and to attend workshops and presentations. Nearly 5,000 Elders and their families gathered this year, and FNHA EHOs Keir Cordner, Peter Mazey, Karen Larson, and John Gibb staffed a booth at the event to provide information on food safety, tips on how to ensure a healthy home and prevent environmental health risks, and the role of environmental health officers.

FNHA provided four pressure canners to be raffled off at the event as a promotion for the safe canning of traditional foods. In order for attendees to be eligible to win one of the four prizes, they had to answer a skill-testing question related to pressure canning. But no Elders visiting the booth went home empty handed. There was also SWAG (Stuff We All Get) give-a-ways which included a very popular FNHA - Environmental Public Health Services key ring with flashlight, thanks to the efforts of Vancouver Island District Manager Gethsemane Luttrell who designed and produced this useful promotional tool.



FNHA EHOs, Karen Larson and John Gibb, show off one of the pressure canners to be raffled off

**Keep up to date on the latest news at the BC Branch website:**

[www.ciphi.bc.ca](http://www.ciphi.bc.ca)

The page also contains information on membership, conferences, career opportunities, documents, and much more. Check it out regularly.

**Did you know the BC Branch is on Facebook and Twitter?**



Click on the icon to find the BC Branch on Facebook and *Like* the page.



Click on the icon and *Follow* the BC Branch on Twitter.

## Staffing Update

Sophia Fantillo, Sammie Hwang, Laura Matthewson, and Kat Hansen (left to right) all got permanent full time employment working out of the Vancouver office this past September!



Jack Davidson, from the 2018 BCIT grad class, got permanent full time employment working up at the Powell River office.



Andrew Low, Brian Moore, and Vincent Man, from the BCIT grad class, got temporary, full time positions out of the Vancouver office in October.



Viktar Lazouski, from the BCIT grad class, was hired as a casual working out of the Vancouver office this past September.





Fiona Goorman, FNHA, accepting the City of Kamloops' Proclamation of Environmental Health Week from Mayor Ken Christian, CIPHI Life Member and retired EHO / Director of Health Protection for Interior Health.



**YOU KNOW WHAT  
REALLY GRINDS MY  
GEARS . . .**

“Oh, no...we don't have a rodent problem, those droppings are from 6 months ago....”

Please submit your “heard it a thousand time before one-liners” that you hear in the field over and over to [stacey.sowa@viha.ca](mailto:stacey.sowa@viha.ca). Let's all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.

---

# Interested in getting involved?

The BC Branch is currently looking to fill:

## **Recording Secretary**

Some of the roles and responsibilities, for this position, include: preparing agendas for Branch meetings, attend monthly meetings and maintain accurate minutes, circulates agendas and minutes to Branch Executive, and assisting in planning of branch activities through participation with a committee.

## **Councilor Position**

Some of the roles and responsibilities, for this position, include: actively participating in monthly branch meetings, supporting the promotion of the branch, and assisting in planning of branch activities through participating in a committee.

**Participation with the Branch is a great networking opportunity with colleagues near and afar. You will also be present as decisions are made and plans are devised to move the Branch forward through the changing world of environmental public health.**



If you are interested in getting involved with the Branch, please contact:

**[president@ciphi.bc.ca](mailto:president@ciphi.bc.ca)**

for more information.



## Congratulations Interior Health



Interior Health was recognized by EOCP, this past September, for its commendable drinking water program. Through advocacy, education and a number of meaningful initiatives, Interior Health has brought drinking water safety to the forefront for both the public and the local government. Take a moment to read about their success:

[EOCP Recognizes Interior Health at its Awards Gala](#)

## Annual Education Conference



Western Canadian CIPHI representatives enjoying the AEC. (Left to Right) Casey Neathway, BC Branch President Elect, Geoffrey Tonko, Alberta Branch President, and Kevin Kapell, Saskatchewan Branch President.

CIPHI National Executive Council (back left to right) Casey Neathway, BC, Geoffrey Tonko (AB), Kevin Kapell (SK), Ali Rana, MB, Raymond Ramdayal, ON, Shaun Crawley, NB, Sara Baird, NS, & Gregory Barrett, NL (front left to right) Kari Engele-Carter, President Elect & Ann Thomas, President.



[Check out more photos of the Saskatoon AEC!!](#)

## BC's Finest



Sion Shyng, BCCDC (left) and Daphne Sidaway-Wolf, Ministry of Health (right) representing FOODSAFE.

Gurinder Saini, VCH (left) taking in the exhibitors booths.



Tim Roark (right) representing the Environmental Health Foundation!



Keir Cordner, FNHA (left) and Casey Neathway, FNHA (right) enjoying the evening festivities.





## NEWS FLASH—BC Mayoralty Elections



The dust has now cleared from recent BC City and Municipal Elections and heartiest congratulations are due to **Ken Christian** (left) who has been re-elected as Mayor for the City of Kamloops in a landslide decision. It was also good news for **George Harvie (right)** who was just elected mayor for the City of Delta. George was the former Chief PHI for the City of Burnaby and subsequently the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Delta for many years. George defeated the former Chief of Police for Delta and a City Councillor.



Our heartiest congratulations to both Ken and George. Who will be next?

Tim Roark, Historian  
BC Branch, CIPHI

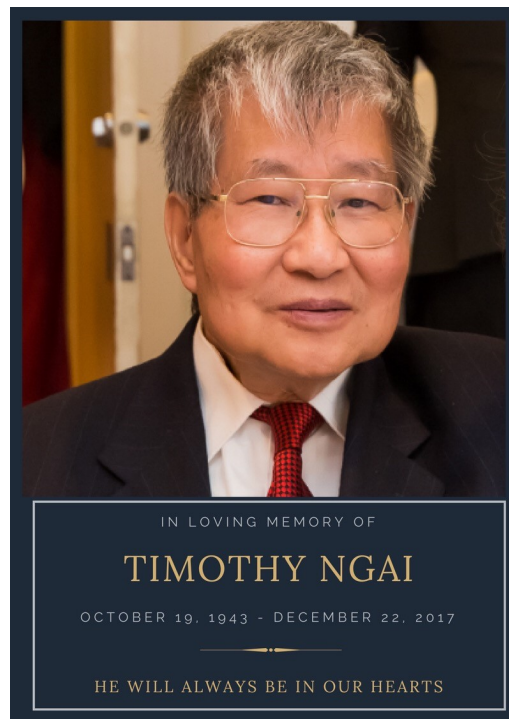
## In Memoriam—Tim Ngai

Tim Ngai was born on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1943 in Hong Kong and grew up there. He moved to Oregon to study in 1961. He started at Multnomah College and then transferred to Oregon State University where he studied microbiology. After graduating from OSU Tim moved to Vancouver to find employment but instead enrolled in the Public Health Inspection Program at BCIT. Tim graduated from BCIT and was awarded his Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) in 1971. Tim worked as a PHI in northern BC and then transferred to the Fraser Valley where he worked in Chilliwack and Abbotsford.

Tim worked with Bill Koberstein, Deputy Chief in the Abbotsford Public Health Office for many years and when Bill subsequently became the Abbotsford Manager they continued to work together for a number of years until Tim's retirement. Bill tells that "Tim was always a diligent and dedicated inspector. He was very dedicated to the safety of the people of Abbotsford. He was honest and hard-working throughout his entire career. There were times I would be working late and the only other light in the entire office would be Tim's doing his paperwork. Many times I encouraged him to finish and go home. After Tim retired he would volunteer at the Public Health office and later I talked to him when he volunteered at the Abbotsford Regional Hospital auxiliary gift shop. I was deeply saddened to learn of Tim's passing. Tim was a nice person and he will be missed." This sentiment was echoed by many others who worked with or knew Tim.

Tim Ngai passed away on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. A Celebration of Life was held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Chapel Ocean View Funeral Home. Many relatives, colleagues and friends were in attendance.

Tim Roark, Historian  
BC Branch, CIPHI



## In Memoriam—Thomas Main Houston

Thomas Houston was born on June 10, 1928 in Glasgow, Scotland. Tom grew up there and while driving a double decker bus met Mary Ellen, a lovely Ticket Taker on the bus. In 1951 Tom immigrated to Canada and Mary Ellen joined him in 1952. They were married in Drumheller, Alberta that same year. Tom worked as a truck driver for Schlumberger and Mary Ellen answered the phones for them. While in Drumheller their first son Gordon was born in 1953 and Alice in 1955. The Houston's moved to Stettler where Shirley was born in 1957 and Scott in 1960. Soon after they moved to Jasper Place (Edmonton). Tom was employed by the Township of Jasper Place where he trained as a Sanitary Inspector and was awarded this CSI(C) in 1961. In 1964 Jasper Place amalgamated with Edmonton and so Tom became a City of Edmonton Health Inspector. He worked hard and made several life long friends in Edmonton.



Tom started to play the bag pipes in the 70's. He became quite proficient with his pipes. He would practise outside so all the neighbours could hear whether they wanted to or not!

In 1976 Tom & Mary Ellen moved to Victoria where Tom worked as an Inspector with the Capitol Regional District. The Houstons loved Vancouver Island. Tom was appointed as the Senior Health Inspector in the Langford and Victoria offices. He was liked by all that worked with him. Tom had a wonderful sense of humor. His easy-going personality could persuade even the toughest sewage contractor to meet the Regulations.

Tom was known to play the bagpipes at colleagues' weddings. **Wee Tommie** was his nickname and he could really tease. It was a sad day at CRD Health in 1996 when he retired. Tom and Mary Ellen moved to Westbank, BC. Tom kept busy doing maintenance at a local shopping centre and Mary Ellen worked at the gift shop of a local nursing home. In 2013 Tom went to live at Sun Pointe Village in Kelowna. His memory declined, but his sense of humour never left him. He always remembered his life long pal and fellow Health Inspector Doug Smith from Edmonton. He was so happy to see Doug any time he came to visit. He loved animals and always had a dog around.

Thomas Main Houston died on April 5, 2015 in Kelowna BC. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Ellen Houston on October 8, 2014.

He is survived by his son Gordon (& Patricia) Houston, daughter Alice Houston Mais, daughter Shirley (& Glen Houston) Mehus and son Scott (& Tracey) Houston plus six grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Tommy has been sadly missed by his family and many friends. Tommy was always a gentleman and a bit of a comedian. Never a dull moment with him.

Many thanks to his daughter Shirley Mehus and colleague Maxine Marchenski for all their kind words and information regarding Wee Tommie.

Tim Roark, Historian  
BC Branch, CIPHI



## BC Branch Executive 2018

www.ciphi.bc.ca

<b>President</b>	Gordon Moseley	250-549-5725	gordon.moseley@interiorhealth.ca
<b>President Elect</b>	Casey Neathway	250-851-4831	Casey.Neathway@fnha.ca
<b>Past President</b>	Dale Chen	250-645-6474	dale.chen@northernhealth.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Pickles	604-983-6879	john.pickles@vch.ca
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Vacant	###-###-####	-----
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Christine Chen	###-###-####	chen.t.christine@gmail.com

## Councilors

Daniel Fong	604-829-2543	daniel.fong@bccdc.ca
Jessica Ip	604-675-3803	jessica.ip@vch.ca
Janelle Rimell	250-549-5758	janelle.rimell@interiorhealth.ca
Paul Cseke	250-519-3632	paul.cseke@viha.ca
Gethsemane Luttrell	250-363-0249	gethsemane.luttrell@fnha.ca
Michael Wu	604-698-5547	michael.wu3@vch.ca
Tiffany Chu	604-661-3867	tiffany.chu@fnha.ca
Elizabeth Thomson	250-947-8222	elizabeth.thomson@viha.ca
Vacant	###-###-####	-----
Vacant	###-###-####	-----

## Branch Appointees

<b>BC Page Editor</b>	Stacey Sowa	250-737-2022	stacey.sowa@viha.ca
<b>BC Branch Historian</b>	Tim Roark	778-574-1188	tdroark@shaw.ca
<b>B.O.C. Coordinator</b>	Kuljeet Chattha	604-675-3831	kuljeet.chattha@vch.ca
<b>B.O.C. Member</b>	Gary Tam	604-675-3845	bocbcbranch@gmail.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	Elden Chan	###-###-####	EldenLChan@gmail.com
<b>CoPE National Chair</b>	Jenny Brown	587-774-5198	cope@ciphi.ca
<b>CoPE BC Representative</b>	Vacant		

## BC Branch Address

c/o Gordon Moseley  
1200-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
FAX: 604-736-8651

## Editorial Team

### Associate Editor

Casey Neathway (FNHA)  
#770 – 175 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Kamloops, BC V2C 5W1  
Casey.Neathway@fnha.ca

### Associate Editor

Tim Roark  
3301-164A Street  
Surrey, BC V3Z 0G5  
tdroark@shaw.ca

### Associate Editor

Vacant

### Editor

Stacey Sowa (Island Health)  
489 Alberni Highway  
Parksville, BC V9P 1J9  
stacey.sowa@viha.ca

## Editorial Policy

The objective of this newsletter is to keep the members of the BC Branch and other colleagues informed of the local and national events that are of interest and importance to them.

The views, comments, or positions of the BC Page are those of the Editorial Team or the author and do not necessarily reflect those of either the BC Branch or the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit material submitted, solicited or unsolicited, for brevity, clarity, and grammatical accuracy.

## Advertising Policy

The BC Branch will accept advertising relating to health & environmental issues, products, and services. Advertisements that the editorial team concludes are contrary to good public health practice or environmental protection goals, or those deemed offensive or not in good taste, will not be accepted.

### Advertising Rates

FULL PAGE.....\$75 per issue

HALF PAGE.....\$50 per issue

QUARTER PAGE.....\$30 per issue

BUSINESS CARD.....\$20 per issue

There is a 25% discount for a commitment of at least six consecutive issues. Changes can be made in the ad format or content during this period. Ads should be camera-ready; any extra costs necessary to prepare the ad material may be charged to the advertiser.