

# DRINKING WATER WEEK

*May 5th—11th, 2019*

Get ready to celebrate Drinking Water Week May 5th to 11th! This year's theme is Protect the Source which is an all too important concept. As Environmental

Health Professionals we are all aware of the vulnerabilities around our source water and the importance that protecting that source holds. We speak "Source Water Protection" routinely with our small and large water system operators; perhaps this year, take a moment to spread the word in your community so that message is broadcasted to all those who enjoy the benefit of a safe and reliable drinking water source. Plan an event at your local health office, talk a little shop at your child's soccer game, alter or tweak your own practices at home to prevent source water contamination. In most instances, you are already doing it but make sure to plan to do anything and everything you can to support Drinking Water, particularly source water as we gear up to Drinking Water Week. For more information on how you can participate, visit [BCWWA's Drinking Water Week](#) site.



Photo credit: pxhere - <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1434971>

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE. . .

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# Branch Update

And with that, another spring is upon us. I hope everybody managed to survive the winter (such as it was), and is looking forward to the season of warmth and renewal that has arrived. As this is our first BC Page of 2019, the Branch is excited to share some of the opportunities and events we have coming up this year.

The Branch held another membership drive this year, offering CPHI(C)s who renewed their membership prior to the end of January the opportunity to have their fees reimbursed. We also sweetened the pot by including the option for the first person drawn to choose between fee reimbursement or having the Branch cover the delegate fee for the 2019 National AEC. I'm pleased to announce that our two winners are Selena Russell (Interior Health) and Franklin Fru (Yukon). You can see our two winners highlighted later in the issue.

And speaking of the AEC, by now you should have received both a "save the date" email, as well as the call for abstracts. The Branch is excited about this year's conference, with the theme "exploring the edge", September 8-11 in beautiful Halifax. I look forward to seeing a strong delegation from BC in attendance, and encourage you to submit abstracts to highlight the valued and important work you do.

The Branch Education committee continues to be hard at work developing a webinar series for 2019. Our first priority was establishing a platform that all members would be able to access (including from increasingly-secure work devices) that was also economically viable. Now that (I think) we've got that in place, the committee will be hard at work making contact with sponsors and speakers, with the goal of hosting the first webinar in the series in September. If there are topics you'd like to see covered, please reach out and let me know!

And though it feels early in the year, the end of April means we're already 33% of the way through 2019. The Branch (and NEC) are already working hard on things like planning for EPH Week (September 23-27); thinking about our next Branch AGM; and considering how the Branch wants to support and recognize events like Drinking Water Week (May 5-11).

As always, if you've got great ideas (or just strong opinions!) and want to ensure your voice is heard, we still have vacancies for a couple of roles on the Executive Committee and would love to have you.

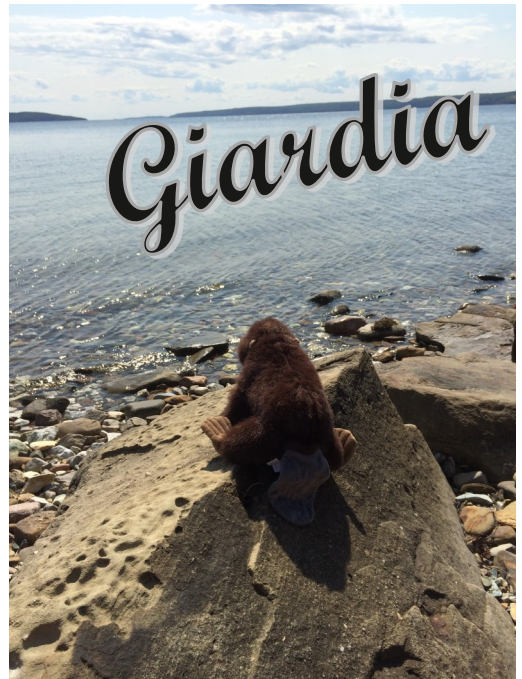
Yours Truly,



Casey Neathway  
BC Branch – President



Hello CIPHI members and environmental health professionals alike! Welcome back again to Giardia's Corner with me, Giardia! Spring is here and the warm weather buzz is starting. We're already hearing chatter about summer festivals, wildfire season, and shortages on water. Enjoy the micro-lull of Spring before our environmental public health programs bloom into full chaos. On the bright and sunny side, I am happy to introduce Jackie Chiu, the BC Branches newest Councilor. Take a minute to get to know Jackie with the interview below!



## Drinking Water Week Fun Fact:

Time to like almonds a little less, one serving of almonds (20-25 nuts) takes 25 gallons of water to produce...yikes!

Source: <http://www.allgov.com/usa/ca/news/california-and-the-nation/california-almond-growing-uses-more-than-1-trillion-gallons-of-water-a-year-141118?news=854852>

## Jackie Chiu — BC Branch Councilor

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

A1: Graduated in 2017 from BCIT.

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

A2: The prologue of my EHO career started with Vancouver Coastal Health as a practicum student. My first chapter as a full-time EHO didn't start until I became a generalist with Northern Health in Prince George and then later on in Vanderhoof. In the current chapter of my career, I remain as a generalist in the Port Alberni office with Island Health.

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

A3: There has definitely been more attention and conversations with regards to healthy-built environments, climate change, air quality, and health promotion. Other agencies as well as health authorities have been putting more emphasis in these areas.

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

A4: I would say my second hoarding case was quite unforgettable. The landlord of a quadplex had requested our help as his upper-unit tenants were complaining of sewage odours coming from a certain lower unit. After all the formalities were taken care of, we attended the unit along with the landlord. Upon opening the door to the unit, there was an evident odour. The severity of the hoarding was bad but not terrible. Though



... Continued on Page 4

that was probably because the poor lighting hid a lot of things. Now to the truly unforgettable parts of my story, with the first thing being the toilet. It would not flush. Live and dead flies in the kitchen were in the hundreds. There was an abundance of jars labelled as pickled white fish, but the contents were questionably brown and paste-like. There were also dozens of two-litre 7 Up bottles stacked around the unit. Despite the poor lighting, the liquid inside these green bottles clearly had a dark yellow-brown hue to them. I hope I have painted the story clear enough for you to see what I saw. If only you could have smelled what I smelled...joking!

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

A5: The reactions from operators or unresolved issues can be discouraging at times. I have primed myself fairly well to not take comments personally, so this keeps me feeling positive most of the time. When I do feel discouraged, I talk to my fellow colleagues. I always learn something through their experiences and in turn use that to stay positive and to prime my mind for the next time.

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

A6: I am an educator! Depending on the violations and circumstances, I will educate with the tone of an enforcer. I have yet to pull out my ticket book.

**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: I believe it would be to create new platforms and to strengthen existing platforms for members to engage with each other, and to enhance professional development opportunities. By better supporting our members, public recognition for our professional body will improve.

### What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity?

Indoors: baking sweets and five-days worth of lunch in one pan. Outdoors: hiking and grocery shopping.

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

Fly a transcontinental plane. I tried flying a private plane before to see if I enjoyed flying enough to make it into a career. The sad news was that the hearing loss in one of my ears made me unfit to be a pilot.

### If you could witness any past, present, or future event, what would it be?

I'd love to attend the Tokyo 2020 Olympics because Tokyo is one of my favourite cities, plus, I'm more of a Summer sports kind of girl. Not to mention, I regret not being able to fully experience the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. At that time, I was too busy studying for my Grade 12 midterms as it was a time when grades really mattered!

### What is something you learned in the last week?

I witnessed and learned about kite surfing for the first time and it looked terrifyingly fun.

### WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER:

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

Neither because I don't enjoy the taste of beer. Sorry if I offended anyone! Plus, my body doesn't handle alcohol that well. Over-fermented kombucha is more than enough for me.

#### 2. Vacation in Hawaii or Alaska?

Aloha Hawaii

#### 3. Go to a comedy club or dance club?

Dance class....synchronized group choreography is mesmerizing!

#### 4. Have a night out or an evening in?

Evening in my (future) house with my (future) cats and family while playing board games and/or watching TV would be my ideal night in.

# United Nations World Water Day



March 22 was recognized as the United Nations World Water Day, people were encouraged to use the day to consider the sustainability of freshwater resources. The theme of this year's World Water Day was "leaving no one behind", raising awareness of the difficulties that marginalized groups have accessing clean water for consumption, sanitation, and hygiene.

As public health professionals, Environmental Health Officers and Drinking Water Officers are valued and important players in increasing access to clean, safe, reliable freshwater. As you go through

your work, I invite you to consider your position in the context of "leaving no one behind" and how we as CPHI(C)s can improve health outcomes for all.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to public health and for the work that you do. For more information on this past World Water Day, please visit: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

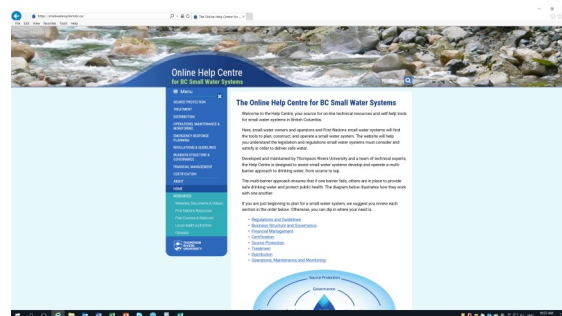
If your organization or local municipality or First Nation recognized World Water Day with any events or celebrations, please feel free to send information to the Branch for inclusion in the next BC Page newsletter!

Casey Neathway  
BC Branch President

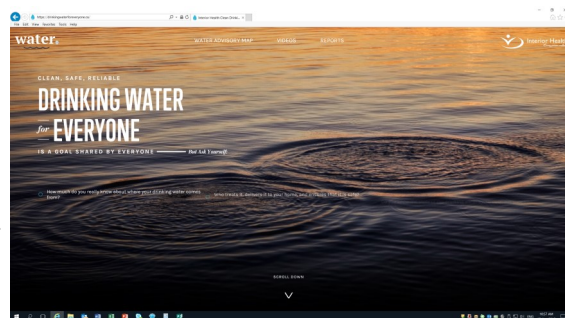
## Highlights from Interior Health's Water Team

Interior Health has been involved in the development of two incredibly informational websites that are geared towards both water owners/operators and the public.

<https://smallwatersystemsbc.ca/> - a knowledge resource for owners and operators of small drinking water systems. Content covers technical and administrative resources of interest to water suppliers in an effort to assist them in meeting their obligations under the provincial drinking water legislation and delivering safe, potable water to their users.

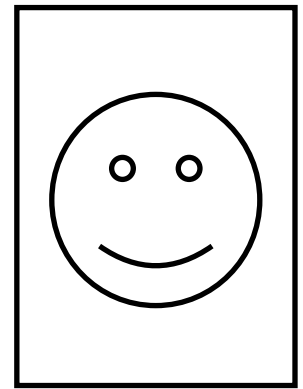


<https://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca/> - a tool for water users to identify and engage with their water supplier. Content includes a map displaying all water suppliers in the IH region and users can view advisories and contact information for their supplier. The site also contains information on different types of drinking water advisories and several educational videos on drinking water supplies that offers great knowledge to anyone looking for drinking water resources.





*The Branch is pleased to announce the two winners of our 2019 Membership Drive! Selena Russell (left), EHO with Interior Health in Vernon, has won her choice of either a reimbursement for her 2019 membership fees, or the delegation fee for the 2019 AEC in Halifax. Franklin Fru (no picture available), EHO with Yukon, won a reimbursement of his 2019 membership fees. Congratulations to both Franklin and Selena, and thanks to everybody who has renewed their membership for 2019!*



**Environmental Health  
Foundation of Canada**  
*Celebrating 30 Years*

**Fondation canadienne  
de l'hygiène du milieu**  
*Fêtons nos 30 ans*

## BOARD TRUSTEE VACANCIES

The Charitable Division of CIPHI, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC), currently has Board vacancies. The EHFC was established in 1989, to advance environmental public health in Canada and internationally through charitable, education and research initiatives. The activities of the EHFC are coordinated by a Board of Trustees. Members come from the environmental public health profession, education institutions, government and industry. The Board members give their time, experience and expertise to the administration of the Foundation.

**The Board welcomes additional CIPHI Branch representation from:**

British Columbia (which includes the Yukon)  
Manitoba

**We currently have no CIPHI Branch representation from:**

Saskatchewan  
New Brunswick (which includes Quebec)  
Newfoundland & Labrador

**Pre-requisite includes:**

CIPHI Member in good standing - Regular, Retired, Student or Honourary Member  
Interest and time to devote to this voluntary board

**General:**

No previous board experience necessary  
Term is for a minimum of two years with a minimum of four teleconference meetings per year  
Required to sit on one of two committees (Advancement & Governance)

If interested, contact us through our email [EHFC@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:EHFC@OUTLOOK.COM) and the Board Chair Pamela Scharfe will be in touch to provide you with more information so you can make an informed decision.



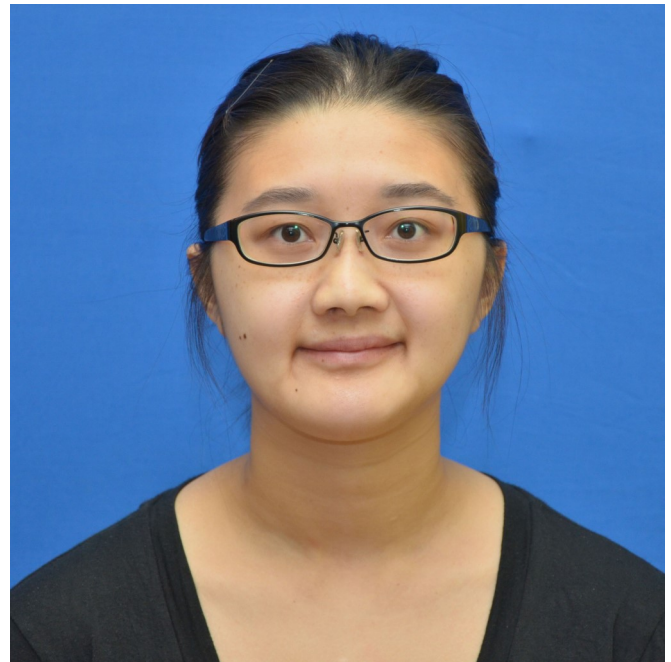
Congratulations to the recipients of three of BCIT’s prestigious Environmental Public Health Awards (left to right):

**Joe & Gladys Woosley and Sam Parrish & Gladys Cranke Memorial Award**  
**ANASTASIA WILCOTT**

**BCIT School of Health Sciences Malcolm CJ Wickson Award**  
**BRAD WAUGH**

**CIPHI BC Branch Bob Herbison Memorial Award**  
**CHRISTINE SWEEZEY**

Congratulations to Elaine Kong, the recipient of the DR. J BLATHERWICK ENTRANCE AWARD .



**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.

# Cannabis Edibles: A Health Promotion Project for BC

Education on cannabis products, especially cannabis edibles, has become critical in light of the legalization of recreational cannabis on October 17th, 2018. Following the release of the Cannabis Act, the Government of Canada stated that “cannabis edible products and concentrates will be legal for sale approximately one year after the Cannabis Act came into effect”. When it comes to the matter of how health authorities will give out permits and develop guidelines for cannabis infused products, the delegation of duties are still being considered. However, edibles being a food-based product, it is expected that permits under the Food Premise Regulation will be required. This would put Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in an unique position where they will be enforcing legislation on an unfamiliar type of food product.

The upcoming legislation of cannabis edibles presented us an opportunity to create health promotion material regarding the overall safety and possible inspection proceedings of edibles. We can expect to see an increase in edible production and distribution in the market. It is in the interest of public safety that we see an urgent push for a regulatory framework in British Columbia in order to manage any potential health hazards related to edible consumption and production.

As aspiring EHOs ourselves, we wanted to produce deliverables that would be an asset to both inspectors and first-time users of cannabis. The first deliverable that we created was a food premise checklist to be used for facilities that produced cannabis-infused edibles. This checklist would help streamline inspections of these types of premises and help to highlight points of interest for inspectors that are unfamiliar with cannabis and infusion procedures. Some of the key aspects addressed include: food safety plans, HACCP plans, proper labelling of products, and safe storage of products. This checklist is accompanied by our second deliverable, a cannabis edibles premise inspection form. The idea for this was inspired by the Fraser Health Authority food premises inspection form where point values are assigned for any observed contraventions resulting in an overall hazard rating of the premise at the time of inspection.

The last deliverable we produced was an education plan that can be used to provide information pertaining to edibles catered to EHOs before these products are legalized and available on the market. This resource could also be picked up by any EHO wishing to educate the public on strains and compounds, safe dosing, safe storage, what to look for in labels, and issues regarding overdose. In our opinion, these deliverables will help better prepare inspectors in education and enforcement pertaining to cannabis edibles in food premises.

Our goal is to persuade and assist the lead policy makers and stakeholders to develop and implement regulatory framework, and educate public health professionals as well as the public regarding cannabis edibles. With proper legislative backing and resources, EHOs can confidently inspect new cannabis edible food premises and provide education on edibles production and consumption.

Thank you to CIPHI for this granting us this opportunity to share this health promotion project with our fellow public health professionals.



(Left to right) Kelsey Kovacevich, Anastasia Wilcott, Christine Sweezy, Aleks Maksimovic, Simon Jiang, and Michael Cai





**Environmental Health  
Foundation of Canada**  
*Celebrating 30 Years*

**Fondation canadienne  
de l'hygiène du milieu**  
*Fêtons nos 30 ans*



**March 2019**

**Hello CIPHI BC Branch Members,**

**As Chair of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) I am pleased to bring greetings to you from the Board of Trustees and our Honourary Chair Dr. David Jones, and to extend our sincerest thanks for your continued financial support.**

**This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EHFC which was established in 1989 to operate as the independent charitable division of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspector. The EHFC is dedicated to advancing environmental public health protection in Canada and internationally through the development and support of public health education, research and the development of aid projects.**

**The Board is busy finalizing 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebratory events including:**

- **completion of a 3-year strategic plan;**
- **creation of an anniversary logo;**
- **launching our new website;**
- **issuing a special 30-year edition of our annual newsletter;**
- **anniversary event/information posts on our website, Facebook and Twitter social media;**
- **fund raising events; and much more.**

**Best Regards, ,**

**Pamela L. Scharfe**

**Pamela Scharfe, CPHI(C), Chair  
CIPHI Environmental Health Foundation of Canada**



**@ehfccca**



**CIPHI Environmental Health  
Foundation of Canada**

**[WWW.EHFC.CA](http://WWW.EHFC.CA)**



EOCP Board and Staff: L to R: Rob Fleming (Past-Chair), Stephanie Hall (Exam Co-ordinator), Kalpna Solanki (CEO), Brian Dean (Chair), Mike Firlotte (Chair-Elect), Heather Reynolds (Program Assistant)

Congratulations to the Environmental Operators Certification Program team for being recognized by the Associated Boards of Certification. The EOCP received the Certification Program Award for using innovative methods to successfully maintain training and certification programs.

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## Facility Classification: The EOCP's new and improved online system

*by: Jenni Green, P.Eng, EOCP Technical Expert*

In the Fall of 2017, the EOCP launched new facility classification models for water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment, and wastewater collection. The new models focus in on physical infrastructure at a facility, and the system influencers that affect the day to day operation of a facility. The main goal of the new models was to increase transparency in the classification process, and ensure that all facilities are classified correctly, removing the heavy influence of population size and flow.

The models were developed by a group of industry experts including engineers, Operators, and drinking water and staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

At the core of each model is consistent and transparent approach to the development of the 'points score' for each classification factor, including:

- Operational Complexity – how complex is the component?
- Operational Sensitivity – how sensitive is the equipment or process to Operator input or changes, and is advanced Operator knowledge required?
- Operator Attention and Maintenance – how often is Operator attention required to keep the component operating and maintained adequately?
- Consequence of Failure – what are the consequences of failure to worker, public health, and the environment? How complex is emergency management and/or for bringing the component back on line?
- Impact to Water/Effluent Quality – does the component impact physical, chemical, or biological properties of the water or effluent? How critical is component to the plant's water or effluent quality?

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## **Facility Classification: The EOCP's new and improved online system continued. . .**

Each infrastructure factor used in the models is ranked on its contribution to operational complexity on each of these five dimensions, and the rankings are weighted and consolidated into a single score on a 1-10 scale. The weights assigned to the infrastructure factors are consistent throughout the models. Influencer factors are also assigned point scores, using the same five variables, but each influencer has been weighted individually based on the strength of its influence on operational complexity.

Through the new classification models, the EOCP has developed a system that:

- Makes the classification process open and transparent
- Encourages comparison between similar facilities
- Provides a mechanism for appealing/disputing results
- Provides a mechanism for modifying the models due to errors/omissions, changes in technology, or changes in legislation
- Engages stakeholders in the details of the classification process

The new models have highlighted some challenges and opportunities within the classification process.

Complicated systems exist in small rural communities, which generally have a hard time attracting and retaining highly trained (Level III and IV) Operators. The EOCP offers Pre-classification of facilities during the design stage: we work with the design engineers and Operators to understand what the implications of the proposed design will have on facility classification, and in turn Operator certification requirements. The models can be used to select infrastructure which might better suit a community. The models allow design engineers to 'right-size' a facility, where possible, to help ensure that the Operator certification requirements will be able to be met.

The models can be used to help facility owners and optimize their operations. Owners and Operators can use the model to see how they can make process modifications which would increase or decrease their classifications. For example, increasing the level of SCADA control can decrease the classification level.

The new classification models have been very well received over the last year. By the end of 2020, the EOCP hopes to have all facilities classified using the new models.

In conjunction with the launch of the new facility classification models, the EOCP launched the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, an online application which allows Operators, facility owners and managers, and government officials to:

- View facility details including classification level and expiration date
- View and verify Operator certifications including dues and CEU status
- Classify new, or reclassify existing facilities
- View and track CEUs, apply for exams, and search for course offerings

Drinking Water Officers and Environment Health Officers are able to use the CRM to obtain data about the facilities they oversee. The EOCP is able to use the system to generate status reports for Officers to assist them with regulatory and compliance efforts.

According to best practices, facilities should be reclassified following any major process change, or every 5 years, whichever occurs first. All facility classifications now carry a 5-year validity, and owners will need to renew and update their classifications on a 5-year cycle. This will ensure that classifications remain valid and relevant, and that Operator training and certification will align.

The EOCP would like to take the opportunity to thank all Operators, owners, government representatives and industry stakeholders for their continued patience and support as we launch the CRM and continue to be on the leading edge of water and wastewater certification in North America.



# Retirement—Len Clarkson



Who remembers 1975? Back then, Trudeau Senior was the Prime Minister, Queen was rocking Bohemian Rhapsody, Microsoft was born then there were pet rocks, Pez candies along with the Rubik's cube! That is the year Len graduated from BCIT and worked as an EHO in Chilliwack.

In 1979, Len moved to the Coast Garibaldi health unit in Squamish. In 1994, Len's passion for Drinking water safety led him to becoming the senior inspector for water quality. From 1994 to 2004, He took opportunities to act as manager for the Ministry's DW and pool program. During this time, Len spent a few years as the deputy chief EHO for Coast Garibaldi health unit. In 2014, merger of the Provincial and Municipal health units complete Len's move to his current role as senior lead and specialist for the DW program at VCH.

Many know Len has a passion for mentoring, teaching and shares his experience with BCIT, BCWWA and internally with staff. Over the years, Len has been recognized by his peers and profession through awards including the BCWWA and AWWA awards and the George Fuller award for distinguished service in the field of Water Supply. His contribution to public health in the communities he served especially in the area of Drinking Water and safety is truly outstanding!

He is held in high esteem and well respected by his colleagues, EHOs, MHOs, industry operators and colleagues from other agencies, like Metro Van and the Ministries.



Richard Taki (left) and Len (right)



He is instrumental in developing and coordinating our (VCH) drinking water program. We thank him for his dedication to public health service in and outside of our organization. He left a legacy of a robust, well established and respected drinking water program and we wish him a long and happy retirement with fun travelling sailing, skiing, biking, diving and playing tennis!! He will truly be missed! Happy Retirement Len! WE love you!

From all of us at Vancouver Coastal Health.

# Retirement—Lis Vallaster



Lis (left) and co-retiree Cindy Krins (right)

Lis started her EHO career with North Shore shortly after graduating in 1991. She went on to work in the financial world for a while before returning to VCH in 2005. While working as an EHO, she completed her Master degree in Public health. She has worked on a variety of portfolios as a senior including the West Nile virus program, special events, pest control, emergency preparedness, mobile food, CD, personal services and Quality Assurance. As a matter of fact, she was the person who started the QA program in VCH and is the lead person for establishing Standardized Training (food program) for the EHOs.

Whatever she is engaged in she puts her all into it. She is very passionate about work and has a very positive outlook on what she does. She has decided to “retire early” because she loves to spend more time with her son and be a full

time Mom! She is excited about all the things she wants to do with him. She is a great Mom and we wish her the best! Knowing Lis, this will not be the last time we see her in the realm of Environmental Health! Much love.

From all of us at Vancouver Coastal Health



(left to right) John Pickles, Paul Markey, David Jantzen, and Lis.

# SAVE THE DATE



Learn more at  
[www.ciphi.ca/aec2019](http://www.ciphi.ca/aec2019)

Questions  
[Information2019@ciphi.ca](mailto:Information2019@ciphi.ca)

In this issue of CIPHI BC Page, we are highlighting a few resources that the NCCEH has developed in recent months for EH practitioners. We welcome your feedback on these and other NCCEH resources and we welcome your practice inquiries when issues emerge.

## Microbial risks and Canadian regulations for specialty ethnic foods

Public health inspectors frequently encounter new and unfamiliar foods in food service establishments as they review applications for new food operations and conduct routine inspections. Many of these foods are ethnic and specialty foods, which are gaining popularity due to increased availability and accessibility. Past consultations with public health inspectors revealed the need for more evidence-based information on preparation methods and food safety assessments of unfamiliar ethnic and specialty foods.

To support the work of public health inspectors, NCCEH developed several resources including a [topic page](#) and fact sheets on [ceviche](#) and [pork dinakdakan](#). These fact sheets summarized the food safety risks and relevant Canadian regulations. If you have encountered unfamiliar ethnic and specialty foods and would like more information, please contact us to help inform our plan to produce more resources.

## Responding to practitioner inquiries: Buzz buttons

Buzz button is a term that refers to the edible flower of *Acmella oleracea* (*A. oleracea*), a plant that is native to a number of tropical areas. The “buzz” evokes the strong taste, effervescence and numbing sensation caused when the flower enters someone’s mouth. NCCEH answered an inquiry about the [safety of buzz buttons](#) from an EHO who had seen them on a menu for a special event at which food was served. The more common uses of Buzz Buttons as food or flavouring are generally considered safe. There is some concern that, spilanthol, the active ingredient in the flower, leaves and roots of *A. oleracea* may slow the rate at which the body metabolises alcohol and in doing so, prolong intoxication. The plant is also a potential allergen for people with sensitivities to the Asteraceae/Compositae/Daisy family of plants. Outside of communities in which they are part of the traditional diet, buzz buttons and other preparations made from *A. oleracea* are not well known. Therefore many Canadian consumers will be unfamiliar with buzz buttons and should be made aware of their distinctive taste and effects.

## Cyanobacteria and drinking water

With warming temperatures due to climate change and increased nutrient loads to freshwater systems, the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, largely associated with toxin-producing cyanobacteria, is expected to increase. This has the potential to increase risks of exposure to cyanotoxins in affected drinking water sources. The NCCEH has recently updated resources on the Cyanobacteria in Freshwater [topic page](#) on our website. These resources include a new evidence review produced in March 2019, titled [Cyanobacteria and Drinking Water: Occurrence, risks, management and knowledge gaps for public health](#). This document provides an overview of the scale of the issue in Canada and highlights key areas of importance for public health professionals and others involved in water management in responding to current and future risks from cyanobacteria in drinking

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*Update from NCCEH continued. . .*

water. A recent [webinar](#) accompanied the launch of this review, providing highlights of the document and sharing recent research on one of the key knowledge gaps identified, the effectiveness of treatment technologies for cyanobacteria in small drinking water systems.

#### **Whiteboard videos: Extreme heat and Radon**

The NCCEH team now offers new video formats to share information and knowledge. Designed to be short, engaging and informative, our videos are developed specifically for environmental health audiences and are easily accessed through YouTube. Our first video, [Extreme heat can be a killer](#), provides an overview of the rising temperature in BC cities and highlights interventions that can reduce the impacts of extreme heat events. The second video, [Radon, public health and cancer prevention](#) outlines what public health professionals can do, both from a policy and practice standpoint, to help reduce radon gas exposure. Stay tuned for the next one in our series and subscribe to our YouTube channel to be notified of new videos, including archived seminar recordings.

As we wrap up the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we would like to thank the CIPHI community for your continued support. Our [feedback form](#) is available year-round, but now is a great time to share your thoughts about what we can do to help you in your work in the coming year.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions, feedback, or field inquiries.



National Collaborating Centre  
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale  
en santé environnementale



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

“Oh that? We installed that used, residential UV bulb a few months after you inspected the system last....what’s a Construction Permit?”

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.



**CIPHI BC BRANCH**

**WANTS**

**EHOs**

**THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS  
BC & YUKON BRANCH**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE:**

- **COUNCILOR**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
- **PRESIDENT-ELECT**
- **BC PAGE ASSOCIATE  
EDITOR**

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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.

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