



BC PAGE



News for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

One Wild, Wildfire Season

On Thursday, July 6, a large fire broke out on the Ashcroft Indian Band reserve and informally marked the start of the 2017 fire season. In the six weeks that have followed, BC has experienced its worst fire season in recorded history, with nearly 900,000

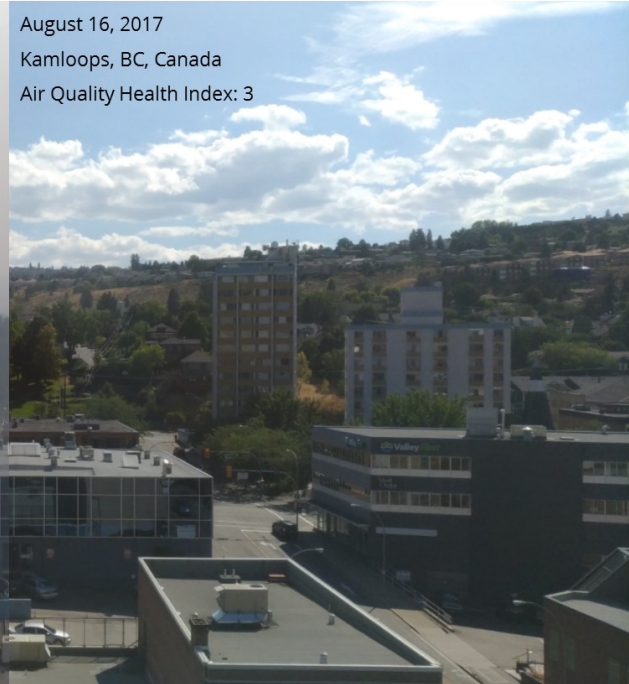


August 3, 2017
Kamloops, BC, Canada
Air Quality Health Index: 49

hectares burned, and tens of thousands of people displaced from their homes.

Environmental Public Health professionals from Interior Health, First Nations Health Authority, and Northern Health have all been engaged to support individuals that have been evacuated. Emergency reception centres were set up in many cities around the province, including Kamloops, Vernon, Prince George, and Quesnel, as well as in First Nations communities. EHOs attended the reception and group lodging centres to inspect food services, drinking water, bathroom facilities, and to investigate communicable disease clusters and dog bites.

Air quality has also been a significant concern across the province as smoke from the wildfires has drifted far and wide. On August 3, Kamloops experienced an Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) of 49 on a 1-10 scale! The above imag-



August 16, 2017
Kamloops, BC, Canada
Air Quality Health Index: 3

es, taken by FNHA Environmental Health Technician Neil Kane, show the drastic difference in air quality between a “high health hazard” day and a “low health hazard” day.

Though autumn is coming, and people will soon start thinking about back-to-school planning, the fire season is still very much in effect. Since the beginning of July, Kamloops has received only 4.5mm of precipitation over three rainy days. Over the same period, Kelowna received only 0.4mm, with no rain at all in July. Many fires are still burning out of control, many communities are still evacuated with thousands of people displaced, and there’s much work for Environmental Public Health professionals to do in order to ensure everybody stays safe and healthy both now, and as they return home.

Casey Neathway
Associate Editor, BC Page

Greetings,

Wow, what a difference this spring/summer has been compared to last. Flooding, forest fires, and smoky skies seem to be the buzz words to best describe the past few months for most of the province. Oh the smoke, oh the smoke, oh the smoke! Like most of you, I would imagine, I am done with the smoke and every other sign of the impending apocalypse over the past few months. With most of that behind us now, we can hopefully look forwards to a nicer fall with clear skies and cooler temperatures.

BC Branch Constitution & By-laws

We are currently still working on finalizing the necessary revised BC Branch Constitution and By-laws. We were hoping to have them finished for circulation, to the Membership-at-large for your collective input, in order to have them adopted at this year's AGM but alas it will have to wait until next year. In order to accommodate the new Societies Act, however, we will need to host next year's AGM earlier than normal to ensure that they are adopted and filed before the deadline of November 28, 2018.

New Website in Progress

In other news, we have committed to finally updating and revitalizing our Branch website, hopefully in time for the upcoming Annual Educational Conference in Richmond Nov 5-8, 2017. Our webmaster has shown us some really modern templates for a new website and is currently toiling away collecting the key information to be transferred over and building the new snazzy platform. Stay tuned for more details this fall.

National Awards Nominations Needed

Take a look at Page 3 for more information on the National Awards that are up for grabs.

Yours Truly,



Gordon Moseley, Dip.T., B.Tech., C.P.H.I.(C)
CIPHI BC Branch President - Elect



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE. . .

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- 10 Update from NCCEH**
- 18 News from FNHA**



Message from the BC Branch President

Dear BC Branch Members,

As hopefully most of you now know, the CIPHI National Annual Education Conference is coming to BC later this year, in November. It is tradition that the annual national awards are presented during the course of the AEC. Therefore, to ensure that our Branch members are recognized for their contributions to the society and profession, I would like to raise everyone's attention towards the National and BC Branch award nominations. The Branch Executive is asking that all award nominations be submitted to the Branch Executive to president@ciphi.bc.ca so that we can put forward our nominations to National as well as assess our Branch awards. The various awards are as follows with the detailed descriptions and eligibility criteria in the links:

National Awards - <http://www.ciphi.ca/about-us/awards/>

Alex Cross Award

- This award is issued to a member for displaying the highest standards of professional practice during the past year.

Alexander Officer Award

- This award is issued to an organization or agency for outstanding and meritorious achievements in the field of public or environmental health.

Environmental Health Review Award

- This award is issued to a member, non-member, individual or organization for excellence in presenting an environmental health issue or topic to the public.

President's Award

- This award is issued to a former member of the National Executive Council, Board of Certification, Council of Professional Experience or Environmental Health Foundation of Canada, who has demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors while in office.

Honourary Membership

- This award is issued to a person who is not eligible for Regular, Retired or Life membership in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, for outstanding support, contribution or service to the association or Public Health Inspectors in Canada in general.

Life Membership

- This award is issued to a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors for outstanding service to the Institute, to his or her profession and/or to his or her community over an extended period of time

BC Branch Awards - <http://ciphi.bc.ca/awards.html>

BC Branch Member of the Year

- The Award is presented to a member of the B.C. Branch, who has made a significant contribution to the Branch, the Institute nationally, or health professional organizations other than the Institute over the past several years.

BC Branch Honorary Members

- The Award is presented to any individual who has performed or rendered some outstanding service to public health and to society.

BC Branch Alex Nilsson Award

- The Alex Nilsson Award was created to commend one hard-working volunteer who has given considerable time, skill and effort to the BC Branch, CIPHI, and/or his or her community and has had a positive impact in British Columbia and/or Canada.

*****Stay tuned for deadlines*****

Dale Chen, BC Branch President

How clean water in remote communities could be cheap and easy

New technology to clean water filtration systems developed at the University of British Columbia (UBC) could drastically lower the cost of delivering clean drinking water to Canada's First Nations communities and remote regions around the world.

It's capable of removing over 99.99 per cent of dirt, organic particles, bacteria, and virus-based contaminants from otherwise undrinkable water using a fibrous spaghetti-like membrane.

That technology has been around for decades. But unlike most municipal systems, this one is about as easy to maintain as a fish tank, according to its designers.

UBC civil engineering professor Pierre Bérubé told CTVNews.ca that many small and remote communities are able to raise the money to build a water treatment plant, but the high cost of employing skilled workers to keep the system clean often leads to neglect and ultimately undrinkable water.

"What our technology does is it removes the need for all those chemicals and complex mechanical systems," Bérubé said Tuesday. "We've gone from a system that essentially requires 24-hour-a-day attention to something that requires half-an-hour-a-day of attention."

He estimates about half of the infrastructure at most water treatment plants is dedicated solely to removing contaminants from clogged membranes with chemicals, motors, and pumps. This new simplified design relies instead on gravity, and hungry bacteria, to get the job done.

The dirty water falls through tanks filled with the fibre membranes that latch on to particles such as dirt, bacteria and viruses while the liquid filters through.

"You just need to cause liquid flow and turbulence around the membrane to scour it clean. The way we do that with gravity is basically analogous to taking a

bottle of water and flipping it over. As the water rushes out, air rushes in," said Bérubé. "At the same time, in our system we have microorganisms that grow and eat away at the contaminants."

The operational cost savings could be a godsend in communities where budgets for municipal staff are slim. Bérubé said the critical job of managing rural water supplies all too often fall on the shoulders of someone with several other jobs on their plate.

The operational cost savings could be a godsend in communities where budgets for municipal staff are slim. Bérubé said the critical job of managing rural water supplies all too often fall on the shoulders of someone with several other jobs on their plate.

"Often it is a part-time person that is responsible for the water treatment system that is also responsible for maintaining fire hydrants, cleaning the roads, and a whole bunch of other civil infrastructure requirements," he said. "Our system under those circumstances becomes very feasible. All you need to do is go in every day and check the system to make sure it is still functioning, and do a bit of routine cleaning."

Bérubé's efficient design is well timed given the number of First Nations and remote communities in desperate need of functioning water infrastructure. One in four living on a First Nations reserve may not have access to clean water, according to an estimate by The Council of Canadians released last week.

"In pretty much all provinces there is a number of communities that are currently on boil water advisories, literally in the number of thousands of small systems," said Bérubé. "In B.C. at any one point in time, I think there are over 300, up to 500 boil water advisories."

UBC plans to begin testing the new system in West Vancouver next week. The researchers plan to eventually broaden the pilot project to partnering small communities in the province.

Article Retrieved from BCWWA Waterline Newsletter
(Source: [CTV News](#) | April 5, 2017)

Hello CIPHI members and environmental health professionals alike! Welcome back again to Giardia's Corner with me, Giardia! Our spring, here in BC, kicked off with heavy flooding in the Interior, leading to all kinds of drinking water related crises and our summer has settled in quickly with a number of wildfires across the province. While you're busy working away this summer, hopefully you will have a chance to take a quick read of this segment to meet two of the BC Branch's newest members: Carol Leung and Paul Cseke.

Want to get involved?
Check out the ad on page
17 and join the BC
Branch!



Carol Leung — BC Branch Recording Secretary

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

A1: BCIT, graduated in 2015.

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

A2: I did my practicum with Northern Health in Prince George. I currently work for Interior Health Authority. I started in the Penticton office and then transitioned to the Nelson office as a field EHO.

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

A3: The transition into Health Built Environments and focus on health lifestyles and food security are quite a significant change.

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

A4: Attending a sewage complaint and seeing 50 cats on and around the property.

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

A5: Knowing that I am an educator in the field and what I do can and will make a difference helps me stay positive



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Carol Leung—BC Branch Recording Secretary — Cont'd

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

A6: Educator.

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: Building a strong partnership between CIPHI and all of the health authorities across the province.

What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity?

- Aerial skills

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

- Mind reading

When was the last time you had an amazing meal?

- Last Thursday

What do you miss about being a kid?

- Not having to pay bills

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER:

1. **Go skiing or snowshoeing?**
 - Snowshoeing
2. **Go to a comedy club or dance club?**
 - Comedy club
3. **Have a night out or evening in?**
 - Evening in
4. **Travel by sailboat or cruise ship?**
 - Sailboat

Paul Cseke — BC Branch Councilor

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

A1: BCIT, 2014.

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

A2: I have had many jobs before my current role as an EHO, most in the food industry. After graduating from a degree in Food Science at UBC, I left to travel for a year to New Zealand where I worked in with a food distributor called Bidvest (our equivalent would be Sysco). Before starting the Environmental Health program I was a Quality Assurance technician for Thrifty foods (this consisted of mostly microbiological lab work). Then while I was at BCIT and before I was full time with VIHA, I was a Food Safety Auditor for a large auditing company called Everclean Services; here I audited all the Safeways in BC to assess their compliance with their own food safety and sanitation plans. My first permanent role with a Health Authority was in Penticton with Interior Health as an EHO. My journey finally took me to the island and in 2016 I got a permanent position with Island Health.

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

A3: I have seen places like Interior Health specialize and start to shift resources to more being involved with the Built Environment. I think every health authority will be more involved with this as well with goals of helping prevent chronic diseases, not just communicable.

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

A4: A few stand out: Getting my first permanent job, writing my first ticket and Order, and falling into the ocean trying to do a beach sample.



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VCH Staff partaking in the 2017 Vancouver Sun Run

Baby Announcements



Dale Chen and his wife, Catherine, welcomed new baby boy Anthony Chen on April 29th, 2017.

Congrats!



Marta Jaeckel and Liam Cripps welcomed their new baby, Alden Ernest Cripps. He arrived the early morning of April 23rd, 2017 exactly two weeks past his due date. He weighed in at 9 lbs 3 oz and measuring 52 cm long.

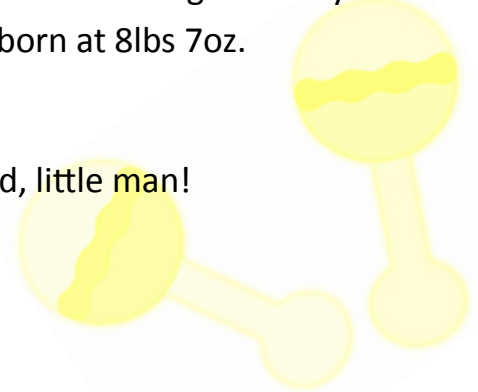
Congratulations!





Newly retired, Karen Cummings, welcomed her first grandbaby on June 27th, 2017. Braiden was born at 8lbs 7oz.

Welcome to the world, little man!



Paul Cseke—BC Branch Councilor — Cont'd

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

A5: I won't lie, it can be difficult sometimes. One of the best ways of staying positive is communicating and sharing stories with colleagues. Likely, the situation you are in, someone has been in it before.

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

A6: Definitely educator, however, education takes a lot of time, so with increasing workloads, I think this answer may change more to enforcer in the future.

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: Showing a strong presence and representing BC well at the national conference later this year.

What is one of your favourite quotes?

"You can fail at what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing something you love" – Jim Carey.

What's your favourite indoor/outdoor activity?

- Sports, sports, any sport! (Mainly curling, soccer, and volleyball)

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER:

1. Travel by sailboat or cruise ship?
 - Cruise

2. Read on a Kindle or paperback book?

- Paper

3. Go to a play or a musical?

- Play

4. Win the lottery or find your perfect job?

- Job

5. Watch sports or play sports?

- Play

6. Use Facebook or Twitter?

- Twitter

What is Career Planning without a Learning Plan and Self-Reflection?

Your Friendly Neighbourhood CoPE Crew have made a few improvements on receiving PDHs for Self-Assessments, Learning Plans, and Self-Reflection.

EPHPs can now claim **1 PDH** for every **1 Hour** spent conducting self-assessments, learning plans, and reflecting on your progress.
(Max of 5 PDHs annually)

Stay tuned for new tools, in addition to the existing self-assessment tool on the MSC, to help members plan and reflect to better reach their goals.

Just remember there is a Max of 5 PDHs for this Category!

The MSC is a great place to store your assessments and learning plans, but it is not required.



PD Portal: Have you watched a Webinar lately? Webinars can be entered under Informal Activities on the Member Service Centre (MSC) at www.ciphimember.ca

2017 Membership Drive

Shaun Malakoe, of Island Health, was selected as the lucky winner for the 2017 Membership Drive Contest. Shaun opted for the free membership dues!

Congrats Shaun! Congrats on your role as the newest model for CoPE, as well!!





National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale

Municipal Heat Response Planning in British Columbia, Canada

British Columbia has historically had a temperate climate compared to other provinces in Canada and thus may have been less of a concern for extreme heat than elsewhere in Canada. However, in 2009, 110 people died prematurely in a week-long extreme heat event [1]. With a changing climate it can be expected that BC will experience a continued increase in average summer temperatures and the number of days of extreme heat. The article [Differences in heat-related mortality across four ecological regions with diverse urban, rural, and remote populations in British Columbia, Canada](#) shows that heat-related mortality on extreme heat days differs between the ecoregions. The coastal region and Northern BC have the highest per degree of heat impact on mortality, indicating that those populations are more susceptible to extreme heat[2]. In view of the changing climate and to protect health, BC Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Environmental Health Services team investigated the state of planning and preparedness, emergency response, and long term adaptation strategies to extreme heat and climate change in BC. A report from this work is now available: [“Review of Municipal Heat Response Planning in British Columbia, Canada.”](#)

Highlights from this report include:

- An overview of the health impacts of extreme heat events and which segments of the population are most vulnerable.
- Interviews on extreme heat preparedness with representatives from BC health authorities and emergency preparedness organizations in three health regions and seven municipalities ranging in population size from less than 5000 to over 500 000.
- Links to extreme heat response planning documents that are publicly available from BC municipalities.
- Comparison of available municipal response plans

from various size municipalities in Metro Vancouver.

Other findings from the report

BC Health Authorities reported some level of involvement in planning for extreme heat. However, they described limited involvement in municipal climate change adaptation planning.

Within three BC health authorities (Northern Health, Interior Health and Vancouver Island Health Authority), we were unable to identify municipal health plans. Municipalities in the coast ecoregion considered extremely hot days to be approximately 32 degrees; whereas, in the Interior Health region of BC, municipalities stated that such temperatures are not a large health risk, as their populations are used to hot weather and also have appropriate infrastructure, such as air conditioning. Northern Health Authority did not consider heat to be a main concern for their population.

While a few coastal municipalities have extensive heat plans with detailed documents and mapping of the most vulnerable populations, relatively few BC municipalities have formalized heat plans. Most municipalities did state that they had some climate change adaptation and/or mitigation strategies, or were at least in the process of developing them, including increased green spaces and other strategies to reduce heat retention in communities.

Those few municipalities that did have extreme heat plans were only found in the lower mainland of BC. Their plans prioritized communicating the health risks of heat

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Municipal Heat Response Planning in British Columbia, Canada—Continued

prior to the arrival of summer. During extreme heat events municipalities prioritized alerting the public that there was heat related risk to health and what to do making sure there was access to water and providing cooling shelters.

Populations most vulnerable to extreme heat include seniors, people on specific medications, low income and socially isolated people, and young children. It is crucial for municipalities and health authorities to know where these vulnerable individuals are located and how to reach them.

As social isolation is a risk factor for poor outcomes in extreme heat events and almost any emergency, climate change related or not, communities will be more resilient if members can work together to share resources and check on vulnerable members of their families/ community. Prepared BC suggests methods to build social capital throughout the year in their [Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide](#); municipalities may choose to share this guide with their residents.

The extent of collaboration with health authorities varied widely among municipalities. Both health authorities and municipalities felt hampered by lack of resources and/or personnel capacity for preparation for extreme heat or identifying and mapping the most vulnerable segments of the population.

New guidance document on heat preparedness:

Interviewees stressed the need for guidance in developing heat-response plans for small and medium-size municipalities which lack the infrastructure, resources, and expertise of larger centres. In response, BC CDC has created "[Developing a Municipal Heat Response Plan: A Guide for Medium-sized Municipalities](#)" to provide best practices for how to integrate heat preparedness into existing emergency plans. Elements of this guidance document include:

- Asset management i.e.: taking stock of physical resources, non-profit organizational and health authority supports, and communications strategies.

- Tips for assembling an emergency planning group and low resource solutions to mapping vulnerable citizens and populations.
- Information on how to establish activation/ deactivation protocol. Heat emergencies are called by municipalities under the advice of their local health authority if the health authority is alerted by Environment Canada.
- Protocol implementation checklist.
- Suggestions for the evaluation of extreme heat strategies.

The information that is presented in this BC CDC document is applicable across Canada despite being BC focussed. Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers can be involved with and to integrate climate change and heat response planning into their work, regardless of their geographic location.

Visit the [National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health \(NCCEH\)](#) website for additional resources: Heat Advice <http://www.ncceh.ca/documents/guide/heat-advice>

If you use these resources, or have suggestions on how we can further support health professionals getting involved in municipal extreme heat and climate change preparedness, please contact Amy Lubik at amy.lubik@bccdc.ca.

1. Ho HC, Knudby A, Walker BB, Henderson SB: **Delineation of Spatial Variability in the Temperature-Mortality Relationship on Extremely Hot Days in Greater Vancouver, Canada.** *Environ Health Perspect* 2017, **125**(1):66-75.
2. Henderson SB, Wan V, Kosatsky T: **Differences in heat-related mortality across four ecological regions with diverse urban, rural, and remote populations in British Columbia, Canada.** *Health Place* 2013, **23**:48-53.

It was brought to our attention, by our ever keen Branch Historian, Tim Roark, that the 2015 BCIT Grads were never showcased in the BC Page. Our apologies from the BC Page Team.

Congrats Grads of 2015.

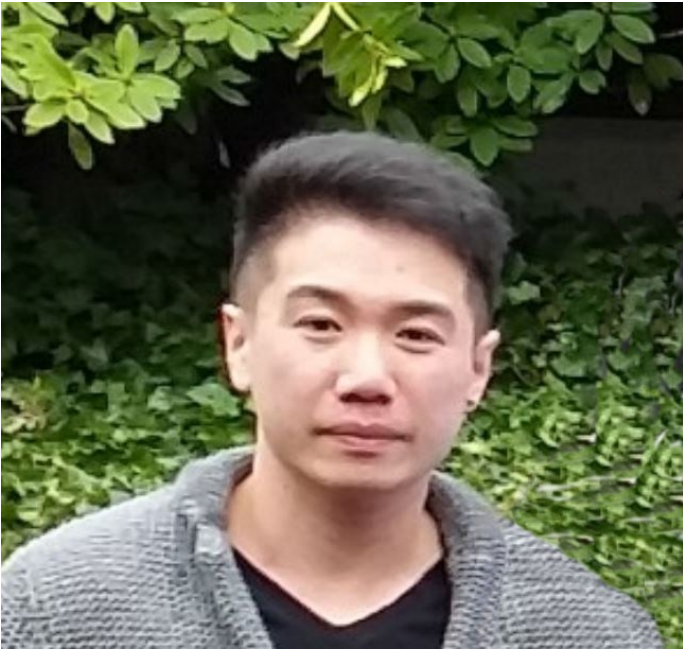


Back Row (L to R): Rakesh Dutt, Arunjit Heran, Charlene Tang, Lorelle Weiss, Moh Mehrabi, Yaroslav Moissejev, Amanda Ding, Kelsey Hynes, Anya Besharah

3rd Row (L to R): Frankie Tsang, Andy Fung, Daniel Park, Iris Chan, Carol Leung, Ying Tan, Jocelyn Wu, Tony Yip

2nd Row (L to R): Ben Duchon, Jason Murillo, Kavindya Peiris, Sonia Gavin, Arvinder Brar, Dilavar Rana, Richard Lam

Front Row (L to R): Kazu Takeuchi, Alan Leung, Chen Huang, Harry Zhuang, Rebecca Li, Jannie Szeto



Michael Wu received the **BCIT Alumni Award** at an awards ceremony on Nov.15, 2016. The award, for second year students, and is based on “a combination of high academic standing and documented participation in activities at BCIT involving leadership and/or service”.

In addition, in the Fall of 2015, Michael received the **Dr. John Blatherwick Entrance Award** for students entering the program.

Retirements—Shendra Brisdon



Shendra Brisdon graduated from BCIT in 1988 and moved to Winnipeg for her first position as a PHI. In 1993, Shendra moved back to work in Boundary Health Unit where she did both general and specialized work. Shendra retired on August 31, 2016 after specializing as a member of the CD Team with Fraser Health from 2005. Shendra participated as a volunteer during the first international conference held in Winnipeg in 1988 between the Institute and the US National Environmental Health Association. For her volunteering with CIPHI, including several

years on the BC Branch Executive, Shendra received the BC Branch *Member of the Year Award* in 2003. Shendra also volunteered as a Trustee on the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada for several years including a term as Chairman of the Board in 2010. Shendra is happily married and is really enjoying retirement, making changes to their new home, and going on vacation whenever they want. We wish Shendra all the best in her retirement.



GOFUND SAJAN JOSEPH

Following Saj's diagnosis with ALS many of you have been asking how you can help out our dear friend and colleague. We're looking to help alleviate a bit of the financial burden on Saj and Therese. The sooner we act, the better they can plan and move forward with any changes to help with accessibility issues around the home.



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

When an operator is asked to ensure equipment, food contact surfaces, and the kitchen are kept in a sanitary condition and they reply with “it’s a really busy time of the year and we just can’t find the time to...”

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. Let’s all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.

Retirements—Karen Cummings

Many years ago, a young lass named Karen Cummings was born in Armstrong, BC. Karen grew up there and graduated from the Armstrong High School in 1971. Employment opportunities were not that great in the small community of Armstrong back then, so Karen moved to the big lights of Vancouver in search for the right job and career. It took a while to find the right one, but on January 3rd, 1975 she started working with the Vancouver City Health Department in the clerical department. Karen was bright, cheerful, and hard working so it wasn't long before she was working for the Chief, Carl Hutton and Deputy Chief, Bill Leith. Karen worked her way up to the position of the office Administrative Coordinator. During this time, she found the duties of the Health Inspectors she worked with most interesting. With the support and encouragement of



John Blatherwick (left) and Karen (right).

her colleagues, she enrolled in the Environmental Health Program at BCIT in 1987.

Karen graduated in 1989 and was awarded the **Bob Herbison Award** for maturity, leadership, integrity, and excellent communication skills. She received her Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) in the fall of 1989. Karen then returned to work at the Vancouver Health Department as a District EHO. In 1999, Karen was designated as a TEO to carry out the duties of an inspector under the Tobacco Control Act, for Health Canada.

Over the years, Karen saw many changes having worked for the Vancouver City Health Department from 1975 to 1999. This was followed by a change to the Vancouver Richmond Board of Health until 2001 and finally the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to the

present. During that time, Karen worked full time, three quarter time, half time and even job shared. When she started in 1975, staff worked a 5 day week and then several years later, as a result of contract negotiations, this changed to the much better 4 day week and then changed back to a 9 day fortnight before recently reverting to the 5 day week again. Karen became like a mother figure to the new staff. She also made a point to keep in contact with the EHOs as they retired. All total, Karen worked over 41 years in public health in what she has indicated was a really interesting, enjoyable, rewarding, and sometimes challenging career. She stated she worked with many great colleagues and made many lasting friendships during that time.

Friends and colleagues joined Karen and her husband at Mahoney & Sons Pub recently to celebrate her long and successful career and wish her all the very best in her new endeavours. Richard Taki and Randy Ash spoke positively about her accomplishments over the years and wished her all the best for the future.

Many thanks to Richard Taki for providing this information.

Tim Roark,
BC Branch Historian



From left to right: Karen, Angelo Kouris, and Karen Zabaraz

Retirements—Chasch Ray



Chasch Ray's retirement slipped past the BC Page a couple of years ago but lucky for us our Branch Historian recently connected with her. Chasch retired in May of 2014 and has been living the dream ever since. Following her career in Public Health, Chasch started a new chapter and pursued pottery. She took a ceramics program in Nelson and is now working from her home studio in Harrop, BC. Chasch stated "It's hard to call this "retirement" because I've never been busier but can't think of anything I'd rather be doing."

Belated Congratulations on your retirement!

Stacey Sowa
Editor, BC Page

In Memoriam—Dr. Hugh Morgan Richards

Dr. Hugh Morgan Richards (21st May 1933 - 14th July 2017). Hugh was born in North Wales, second son of a Welsh country clergyman. He attended St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London where he attained his medical degree before being recruited into the Royal Army Medical Corps for National Service. Subsequently, Hugh attended the London University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine to obtain the necessary post graduate qualification before uprooting the family to Peace River, Alberta where he was Medical Officer of Health for a Northern Health Unit. After three years, the family moved to Edmonton where Hugh attended the Public Health Laboratory at the University Alberta.

In 1970, Hugh was appointed Medical Officer of Health in the South Central Health Unit, in Kamloops. During this time, he studied for and obtained his Specialist Certification from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. After four years in this position, he joined the Department of Public Health in Victoria, BC, moving up to become Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Health and, in 1981, the Provincial Health Officer. During these years, Hugh was awarded several prestigious medals and prizes for Meritorious Service and lifetime contributions to Public Health, in British Columbia.

From 1975 onwards, Hugh and his wife Christine belonged to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club where they, with their boys, spent many happy years learning about the local waters and exploring north to beautiful places for summer trips. They sailed twice around Vancouver Island and began to dream and plan for further cruising. Upon retirement in 1993, Hugh and Christine set sail in their Vancouver 32 ft sloop Demelza to achieve a life time dream to sail around the world. Hugh wrote a book about their seven years on board called "Reflections on Three Oceans".

Hugh was the founding Chair of the Friends of Shoal Harbour, a stewardship group based in North Saanich and Sidney, dedicated to protecting and celebrating this migratory bird sanctuary and surrounding environment. His commitment and passion for the ocean environment and ecosystems inspired many. He will be terribly missed.



Tim Roark
Branch Historian

In Memoriam—Brian Eric Nordin



Brian Eric Nordin graduated from the Public Health Inspection program, at BCIT, in 1974 and was awarded his CPHI(C) later that year. He worked as Public Health Inspector for the Simon Fraser Health Unit until 1979 at which time he obtained advanced training and qualifications as an Occupational Safety & Hygiene Specialist. For over the 42 years, Brian worked with industry and government at all levels. As he stated, “I am trying to help clients understand their due diligence and obligations under the law in a way that makes sense both ethically and financially.” Brian was passionate about his work. His consulting business took him throughout BC and as far as Bermuda where he assisted that government in setting up a health and safety management system.

Brian passed away quite suddenly on March 1st, 2017. His family held a Celebration of Life in Kelowna on May 27th, 2017.

Tim Roark
Branch Historian

Interested in getting involved?

The BC Branch is currently looking to fill a:

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

president@ciphi.bc.ca

for more information.



FNHA Partners with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to bring LEO Network to BC

There's now a new tool available in BC for citizen scientists to record and highlight instances of unusual animal, environment, and weather events. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) designed the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network as a way to increase understanding about environmental changes, and identify healthy and effective ways to adapt to these changes.

The tool allows local observers to connect with indigenous and scientific experts, bringing together traditional, local, and scientific forms of knowledge. Through a website and mobile app, observers can post descriptions, photos, videos, and audio of unusual environmental changes that they witness. A scientific and/or indigenous knowledge holder then reviews each observation, and responds with additional information and links. Users can view previously submitted observations and follow-up data on a location-based interface, and can search the LEO observation database for specific areas of interest. Anybody can become an observer, just by signing up and creating a member profile and it's free to join!

Presently, the LEO Network has more than 1,777 citizen scientist members, which include scientists, elders, and youth. There have been more than 772 observations made, on topics ranging from migration patterns of salmon, to a lynx sighting in a suburb of Kamloops, to increases in tick populations and concerns of lesions in fish and wildlife.

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) launched the BC LEO hub with a one-day workshop in Victoria in November 2016. It brought together champions, identified through FNHA Regions, and provided training and familiarization. These regional champions were then able to take the knowledge back to their home communities and Nations to support others in becoming involved in the network. The BC LEO Hub also hosts monthly webinars, highlighting new and interesting observations, and brings in experts to present on 'hot topic' issues.

Environmental Health Officers, as subject matter experts in a wide range of topics, make excellent local observers and scientists. Public health professionals are encouraged to visit <http://www.leonetwork.org> and sign up as a member. To learn more about the LEO Network in BC, contact Dionne Sanderson at Dionne.sanderson@fnha.ca.

Casey Neathway
Associate Editor, BC Page

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

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.



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BC Branch Executive 2016

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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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