



News for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

2020: Year in Review

It's that time of year again; the time of year where I reflect upon and highlight a select few hot public health events from the year past. I uphold this annual ritual to remind us all of the broad scope of our field and the purposefulness of our daily work. But this time around, I found myself thinking: "did anything other than COVID even happen this past year?" For the majority of 2020, it seemed that the entirety of media, social media, our work lives, and our personal lives were dominated by the SARS-CoV-2. Of course, if this article focussed solely on the effects of the pandemic on our work-lives, I could still proffer my comfortable annual reminder to all of us of "the broad scope of our field, and the purposefulness of our daily work". No matter how our jobs have changed, the new roles we are fulfilling continue to protect public health every single day.



However, it turns out the world kept turning amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic! I was shocked as I sifted through the news releases of last year, just how much had still happened. 2020 was filled with hardships beyond COVID. 2020 was filled with hopeful, triumphant moments. 2020 even had a little non-COVID environmental public health.

In 2020, we collectively mourned the losses of Kobe Bryant, the 22 victims of the Nova Scotia Attacks, Captain Jennifer Casey, George Floyd, Alex Trebek, and so many others. We continued to see the overdose crisis consume lives at an alarming rate with over 1500 lives lost in BC alone by November 30, 2020 (BC Coroners Service, 2020). When the Black Lives Matters movement rekindled in the media and the damning report *In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care* was released, we were reminded that there is still so much work to be done to meaningfully mend cross-cultural relationships toward true equality.

In 2020, we triumphed together over the arrest of Ghislaine Maxwell, the 27 year sentence issued to Harvey Weinstein, Joe Biden's successful race for the US Presidency, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police's apology to the LGBTQ2+ Community, and many other moments of hope.

Newsworthy environmental public health happenings may have been shadowed by COVID-19 pandemic, but none-the-less, they took place. In January of 2020, a Canadian woman contracted Dengue Fever in Jamaica and succumbed to her illness after only days (CTV News, 2020). Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne illness that is endemic in all areas of Jamaica, and can be transmitted year-round (International Association of Medical Assistance for Travellers, 2020). Many travellers do not think to review the local health risks

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Introducing Stephanie Tooke—Our New BC Branch President

With every New Year comes the resounding feeling of new beginnings - the proverbial clean slate; a chance to start again and reinvent oneself. More than anything, I think many are happy to put 2020 behind us and stride into 2021 with a sense of renewal and a breath of fresh air. Literally. Unlike previous years, the constant hum of messaging wasn't around New Year resolutions, but of hope. Hope that this year we can get back to some sense of normalcy. That we will be able to gather and hug our families and friends; Hope that we can retire our masks and take a deep, unrestricted breath, and hope to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. In 2020, we saw the rapid rise and spread of COVID-19 putting Public Health to the test. But across Canada, Environmental Health Officers rose to the challenge and have tirelessly forged ahead in the fight against COVID 19 often going unnoticed and unrecognized. As the incoming President of CIPHI – BC Branch and as a fellow Environmental Health Officer, I'd like to recognize and acknowledge how each of you has stepped up and done your part to flatten the curve. Thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the commendable work of Casey Neathway as he transitions from CIPHI – BC Branch President into his new role as President-Elect for the National Executive Council. Casey has been and will continue to be a beacon of leadership in his new role and as CIPHI – BC Branch Past President. Thank you Casey for sharing your talents and for all your hard work. It has been an honour and a pleasure to have you sit at the helm as BC Branch President.

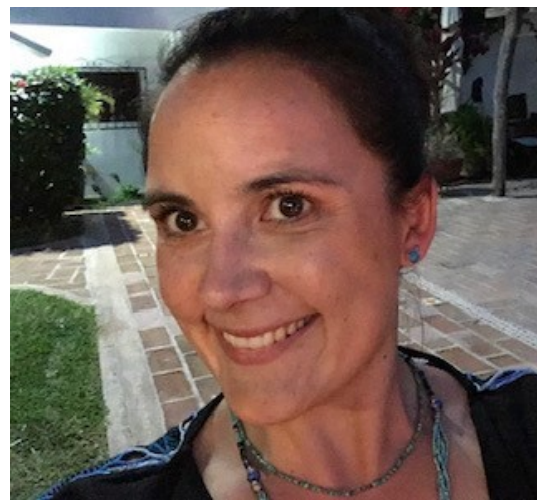
I look forward to working with a Council of such dedicated, passionate volunteers as we move forward to full-fill current and future initiatives.

In the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry "Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe."

With great respect,



Stephanie Tooke
BC Branch - President



Saying Farewell to Casey Neathway—Our Now Past President (and NEC President Elect)

It feels bittersweet to be providing my final update to the BC Page as I vacate the President position. I've enjoyed my time as Branch President, and feel like there's a lot of work that our Executive Council wanted to move forward that stalled as everybody fully entered COVID-19 mode and we learned to work virtually. I'm thrilled that Stephanie will be taking over as Branch President and continue to move this work forward, as well as bringing her own vision and ideas to the table. And as I begin my term as National President-Elect, I'm optimistic about the opportunity to provide a National voice to some of the items that we've heard are important to BC/YT Branch membership: educational opportunities (especially virtual ones, given our current situation); advocacy for the profession and improved visibility in the public health world; and supports and connections for students and new environmental health professionals.

2020 was certainly the busiest and strangest year of my public health career, and I'm sure many of you feel the same way. Yet, in spite of (or partially because of, perhaps) the extraordinary and unique work that CPHI(C)s were involved in throughout the pandemic, we managed to move a lot of our advocacy efforts forward and identify a longer-term strategic pathway for additional items. As CIPHI National continues our work with Be The Change Group on our advocacy projects, I commit to providing updates with Stephanie here in the BC Page and through other communications avenues.

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Branch Update Continued. . .

In my day-to-day work, I have the opportunity to work with public health and healthcare professionals from many agencies and many portfolios, and I can tell you that I consistently hear how valuable EHOs/PHIs are, and how their quiet competency and dedication is so appreciated. I couldn't agree with this sentiment more, and it's a true privilege for me to represent the profession and the CPHI(C) designation.

Yours Truly,



Casey Neathway
BC Branch – Past President

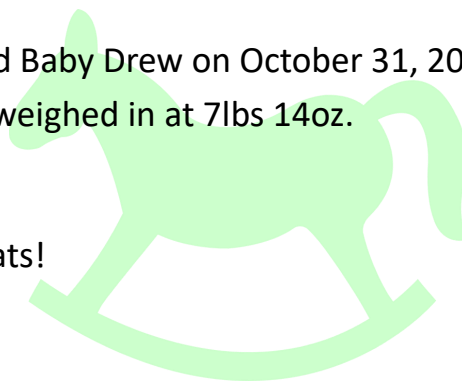


Baby Announcements



Marion Masson and family welcomed Baby Drew on October 31, 2020 just before midnight! She weighed in at 7lbs 14oz.

Congrats!



BCIT Awards



Congratulations to the 2nd Year Environmental Health students who received their awards at an online ceremony on November 4, 2020!

- Joe & Gladys Woolsey and Sam Parrish & Gladys Cranke Memorial Award – **John Zhang (right)**
- CIPHI BC Branch/Bob Herbison Memorial Award & School of Health Sciences Malcolm C.J. Wickson Memorial Award – **Jasmine Lee (left)**

2020: Year in Review Continued. . .

when they pack their bags for a holiday retreat. This unfortunate story is a stark reminder that we need to consider all of the necessities for future travel beyond our bathing suits and aloe vera.

The Southwestern Region of the US battled through the worst wildfire “season” in history, with many wildfires still ablaze today. Five of the six largest wildfires experienced in California took place in 2020. Six of California’s 2020 wildfires alone consumed over 2.6 million acres of land (State of California, 2021). Emergency response measures were implemented with residents being evacuated and rehomed. The issuance of air quality advisories became a norm in California when records for poor air quality were repeatedly broken. At some points during the height of the wildfire season, PM2.5 levels were measured at 45x the World Health Organization’s established safe limit (airquality.com, 2020).

British Columbia had a notably calmer wildfire season in comparison to California and even in comparison to its own yearly provincial averages (Government of British Columbia, 2020). Sadly, some BC residents still experienced a deterioration in air quality and subsequent community evacuations as a result of both local and US wildfire smoke (Global News, 2020). While the pandemic rolled on, our desks were still piled with boil water advisories, foodborne illness complaints, rabies submissions, and all of the MANY other daily tasks for which we are responsible. The world outside of the encompassing grasp of COVID-19 kept turning. It continues to turn. Take a moment to pat yourselves on the back and breathe deeply....here comes 2021.

Stacey Sowa,
Editor

**** Huge thanks to Alison Gardner who helps me put the final tweaks on these articles every year!**

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CIPHI Represented on the International Stage

CIPHI is a member of the International Federation of Environmental Health which releases the biannual magazine, *Environment and Health International*.

Check out [Volume 20 no. 1](#) where Vanessa Nickelo, of the Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island Branch, discusses Climate Change from a Public Health Inspector’s point of view.





CIPHI BC Branch is seeking new members to revitalize its force.

- Are you looking to build your professional network?
- Have you been looking for an opportunity to get involved and help elevate your profession?
- Looking to apply your skills and make a difference with them?

The CIPHI BC Branch has councillor positions ready and waiting for you. Contact president@ciphi.bc.ca or one of our existing councillors (Page 19) for more information.

VIHA Gets in the Holiday Spirit

(a mix of Halloween and Ugly Holiday Sweater Season)



Update from NCCEH

COVID and the Underserved

By Jade Yehia

Encampments in the time of COVID-19: when shelter in place is not an option

The COVID-19 global pandemic had made it very clear that public health must be mobilized en masse including the environmental health workforce. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are at the core and frontline, and are nimble in infectious disease prevention and with protecting the public from environmental harm. Our content knowledge is diverse, communication skills are adept, and critical thinking is rooted in robust risk assessment. While the breadth of EHO practice has evolved from our early days – separating water and sewer infrastructure and addressing overcrowding in tenement housing – more contemporary practice means considering growing population health disparities as a result of poverty, mental health, physical disabilities, and substance uses. These complex issues can be intertwined and in some cases, are causative factors that leave some of our most vulnerable out in the cold. We are seeing proliferation of homeless [encampments](#) in communities large and small. While they vary in size, encampments refer to any area where a group of people live together, often in tents, temporary structures, vehicles, or other forms of informal shelter. The term [encampment](#) itself has connotations of both impermanence and continuity.

My work experience with encampments began in 2016 when I was called on by our Medical Health Officers to investigate a [tent city](#). The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light many existing issues associated with homeless and encampments. Public health messaging centers around stay at home, practice physical distancing, avoid large gatherings, practice good hand hygiene. For those in homeless and encamped situations, all these measures are difficult if not impossible to carry out. In my part-time secondment to NCCEH, this situation involving encampments became an opportunity

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COVID and the Underserved Continued . . .

for me to address an existing practice gap concerning environmental public health and the special settings of and attributes concerning encampments. Given the lack of profession-specific guidance to guide reviewing an encampment, I began by researching recommendations or guidelines from national, provincial, and local public health departments. Synthesizing and analyzing these results led me to a document I wrote entitled [Environmental Public Health Guidance for Encampments Specific to COVID-19](#). I also delivered a webinar titled *When shelter in place isn't an option - environmental health guidance for encampments during the COVID-19 pandemic*. The recording is available here: <https://nccch.ca/content/when-shelter-place-isnt-option-environmental-health-guidance-encampments-during-covid-19>

Population health status and its implications for the rising number of encampments



Figure 1: BC Housing (2018). Report on Homeless Counts in BC. Retrieved at: <https://www.bchousing.org/research-centre/housing-data/homeless-counts>

In our line of work, EHOs take on a degree of advocacy for health. COVID-19 has brought to light many of our social injustices and health inequities. Before, COVID-19 the [BC Homeless Count](#) (from 2018) stated that there were just under 8,000 homeless in the province from the 24 communities surveyed. These statistics have likely changed, given the economic impact the pandemic has on job losses.

The [NCCCH document](#) outlines a set of recommendations to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in an encampment. This includes initial planning, which involves environmental health and other stakeholders, such as in municipal government. The document also presents a collation of best practices to mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk in encampments. Below is a brief list of some priority issues identified:

- *Potable water: with soap onsite or at a nearby public facility.*
- *Liquid waste: porta-potties or washrooms available 1 per 20 users.*
- *Solid waste: waste management system with adequate pick-up and removal.*
- *Food safety, service, and donations: all food from approved sources and mealtimes staggered.*
- *Environmental exposures (e.g. cold): at least one area with heat to warm up in the winter.*
- *Cleaning: approved sanitizer provided, cleaning frequency (min 2x/day) of all high touch surfaces.*
- *Physical distancing: ensure space between tents is 2m² and 4m² of space per person.*

Communication and engagement to address immediate concerns

The guidance document also addressed initial site planning considerations and communication channels to explore, from decision-makers and stakeholders (such as listed in the Table below) to those residing within an encampment site. The critical takeaway is that similar to any operation we are involved in, we need to know who the owner and operator is to direct requirements or recommendations. In addition, our role as EHOs is to support information dissemination to let those most at risk know of identified hazards, e.g., use of [signage](#) for those residing in the encampment.

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COVID and the Underserved Continued. . .

<i>Health unit supports</i>	Medical Health Officers, Environmental Health Officers, Primary Care/Clinical Nurse, Mental Health Services, Substance Use Services, Harm Reduction Services Virtual Health, linkage to health services not provided at the ERC
<i>Key partners</i>	Housing authorities, Local governments (staff &/or leadership), Law enforcement, Emergency management, Outreach teams, Homeless service providers, People with lived experiences of homelessness, Other support services
List extracted and blended from CDC Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 and the BC COVID-19: Joint Provincial Program Framework for Emergency Response Centres	

EHOs as advocate: inspiration from Dignity Village

COVID is impacting people's economic security, and many more are on the brink of being without shelter or tenuously housed. Our role is not limited to addressing the short-term environmental health hazards but can also be one of advocating for longer-term, safer, and more sustainable solutions. One way for us to do so is to use our [EHO core competencies](#) related to housing and healthy built environments and also our connections/communication channels, e.g. to connect with local governments to provide a health lens to [Housing Needs Assessments](#).

Amongst many [examples](#), one well-known tiny house village is a potential option to explore. Many individuals working in the field to address homelessness are familiar with [Dignity Village](#) in Portland, Oregon. This tiny house village is situated in a predominantly industrial area and has communal washrooms and a kitchen. The focus is on community and capacity building. While encampments are not ideal, the question is how they might be upgraded to something safer, cleaner, semi-permanent — and even pleasant. [Dignity Village](#) has not been without its challenges with 300 residents living in close proximity. Nevertheless, lessons are being learnt to inform future proposals like it and embed an environmental health lens into the design, layout, and needed amenities onsite. This is similar to any regulated facility we inspect; during the approval phase, we conduct a plan review. Why not do this for encampment site, tiny house village, and offer drinking water, wastewater, and healthy built environment commentary for a proposed subdivision?

Encampments are not a long-term solution as EHOs we use our expertise and experience to protect the health of the population, housed or otherwise. We are proficient at empowering the public through education and protecting them against environmental harms. We can also advocate for building a more inclusive, secure, and safe housing for all. We have done this since [Dr. John Snow](#) demonstrated the link between cholera and contaminated drinking water and now to COVID-19.

This article is based on the document written by Jade Yehia during her part-time secondment to NCEH in 2019-2020. Readers interested in this topic can view the full document (<https://nceh.ca/documents/guide/environmental-public-health-guidance-encampments-during-covid-19-pandemic>) and can access the August 27, 2020 recording with Jade Yehia as presenter (<https://nceh.ca/content/when-shelter-place-isnt-option-environmental-health-guidance-encampments-during-covid-19>).



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale

BC Branch History

Take a look at our BC Branch Presidential History. Nearly 100 years of leaders improving public health and elevating our profession.

Stephanie Tooke	2021-01-01	Present	Don McNab*	1968-05-05	1972-05-08
Casey Neathway	2018-12-01	2020-12-31	A.C. Dobson*	1966-05-16	1968-05-05
Gordon Mosley	2017-11-06	2018-11-23	Ken Clark*	1963-05-07	1966-05-16
Dale Chen	2015-12-03	2017-11-06	Howard Branston*	1962-04-28	1963-05-07
Crystal Brown	2013-09-26	2015-12-03	John Webb*	1960-04-23	1962-04-28
Gary Tam	2011-10-04	2013-09-26	Don McNab*	1956-09-12	1960-04-23
Keir Cordner	2009-11-03	2011-10-04	Howard Branston*	1954-04-24	1956-09-12
Jasmina Egeler	2006-05-10	2009-11-03	Al Stringer*	1952-04-18	1954-04-24
Steve Chong	2004-04-20	2006-05-10	John Murrell*	Spring 1950	1952-04-18
Claudia Kurzac	1999-05-19	2004-04-20	George Armson*	Spring 1948	Spring 1950
Denis Semail	1998-09-23	1999-05-19	Ellis Ford*	1947-04-14	Spring 1948
Robert Bradbury	1998-05-13	1998-09-23	Bill Wookey*	1946-06-12	1947-04-14
Denis Semail	1997-05-14	1998-05-13	George Rogers*	1944-12-20	1946-06-12
Grace Maclver	1995-05-10	1997-05-14	Harold E. Reusch*	1944-04-11	1944-12-20
Richard Taki	1992-05-03	1995-05-10	Stan George*	1943-05-14	1944-04-11
Robert Bradbury	1987-09-09	1992-05-03	Bill Black*	1941-02-11	1943-04-20
Cathie Gibson	1984-03-31	1998-09-09	Sidney Heasman*	1939-03-14	1941-02-11
Rex Eaton	1983-05-14	1984-03-31	Robert Skinner*	1938-01-11	1939-03-14
Tim Roark	1982-09-30	1983-05-14	Alex McCulloch*	1937-02-14	1938-01-11
Larry Copeland	1980-05-14	1982-09-30	Robert Skinner*	1934-04-18	1937-02-14
Tim Roark	1976-05-12	1980-05-14	John F.C.B. Vance*	1928-11-15	1934-04-18
Frank Hartigan*	1972-05-08	1976-05-12	Laurence Robertson*	1925-09-14	1928-11-15

* Deceased

Thank you to Tim Roark who has maintained our Branch's history throughout the years. To further Tim Roark's quest to build and maintain our Branch history, please let us know , via contact information on Page 20, if you have pictures of Laurence Robertson, Harold E. Reusch, or George Rogers.

The EHOs of Northern Health



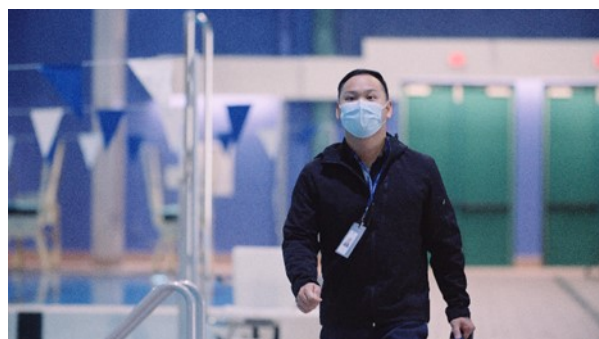
As 2020 drifts into 2021, many of our EHO's redefined their definitions of a "remote inspection." While it was once only used to describe those days where you spend 8 hours driving through the mountain to visit a water system for a resort helipad, it can now be easily mistaken for days spent behind the desk reviewing plans and photos of a facility only a few kilometers away.



David Creighton traveling to a sewage complaint inspection.

Our first star EHO is David "Crater" Creighton, who is currently flying solo in the Vanderhoof, BC office. To the left, he can be seen stopped to call into our weekly huddle on the way to the formerly known remote inspection, as he does often. David is not afraid of a little travel, and has spent a lot of time working with various industrial camps or remote facilities, especially in relation to their drinking water. He's even been spotted traveling by ferry. David is the newest addition to the NH Drinking Water Focus Group as they have been completing a Water Quality Advisories project. One of David's greatest abilities is his persuasion and "smooth talking" to reconstruct relationships with many operators.

Our second highlighted EHO is Jun (Tom) Chen, who has officially put down roots in Prince George with his wife and fellow EHO Xu (Anna) Huang. Jun is Northern Health's representative on the Provincial Recreational Water Group, and an asset to many swimming pools during the constant changes to Orders and restrictions. Jun has been mastering the latter remote inspections hosting biweekly meetings with recreational facilities and reviewing the ever updating safety plans. Of course a visit to the facilities still occurs when warranted. One of Jun's greatest assists is his focus to details, even on page 48 of a 50 page safety plan.



Jun Chen visiting the City of Prince George Aquatic Center.

Aletta Shurter, CPHI(C)
Northern Health

Give Back

**JOIN THE CIPHI
RETIREES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Email the Committee Chair: ciphiretireschair@gmail.com

Created by Canadian Public Health Inspectors



Door or window decal received upon completion!

- ◆ 2 hour online course with section quizzes and final exam
- ◆ COVID-19 prevention training not found elsewhere. Covers receiving, storing, handling, serving, dishwashing, sanitizing/disinfecting, gloves, masks and more!
- ◆ Free access for EHOs! Public: \$39.99 or \$29.99 per student for groups of 3 or more
- ◆ Information and registration at <https://covidsafe-courses.com>

VCH & an Infamous Public Health Icon



VCH rubbing elbows (literally) with Dr. Bonnie Henry at the clinic where Vancouver saw it's first COVID Vaccines being administered (left to right: Mark Ritson, HP Manager, Shelley Beaudet, Senior EHO, Jessica IP, Senior EHO, and Dr. Bonnie Henry).

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME IN A PANDEMIC



2020—the year that changed our lives. COVID-19 has tested all of us and for many changed the way we work and spend our leisure time. Many of us have had to re-evaluate how we want to live our lives and learned to do things differently. The EHFC Board of Trustees who govern the Charitable Division of CIPHI have found like many Canadian charities, that the pandemic has also affected our ability to fundraise. Our Board was not able to organize any face-to-face fundraising events during 2020 and our 2021 efforts are on hold at this point

In 2019, the EHFC Board of Trustees celebrated our 30th year as CIPHI's charity and set a financial goal to raise \$30,000 to create and sustain two new endowment funds: (1) to support students enrolled at one of the CIPHI accredited academic institutions, to attend the National CIPHI AEC up to \$5,000 annually to cover the cost of student registration, and (2) to partner with a like-minded charity to support an annual domestic or international aid project that focuses on but not limited to food safety, hygiene, sanitation, and safe drinking water.

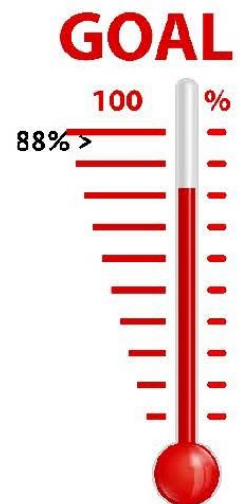
Colleagues from across Canada donated to the 30th anniversary fundraising campaign and by the end of 2019 we raised \$17,630. The funds raised were through the generous donations from CIPHI Branches, Conference exhibitors/sponsors, individual donations, and hundreds of PHIs/EHOs who participated in many of our fundraising events such as our annual silent auction, 50/50 ticket draw, golf tournament, etc. **The EHFC Board of Trustees decided to continue our efforts to reach 100% of our \$30,000 goal in 2020 & into 2021, so that is where you come in from the comfort of your home.** We have reached 88% of our goal having raised **\$26,269.**

Please help us reach our fundraising goal of 100% by donating by today! Visit our website www.EHFC.ca and click on the DONATE button to make your online gift. Or you can print off a donation form from the website Support Us page & mail in your donation. **All donors will be entered into a draw for one of three money gift cards (\$50, \$100, \$200) donated by a Board Trustee.** The EHFC is a Canadian registered Charity—No. 87096-8377-RR0001. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more.

Wishing you a Hopeful New Year! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Stay Safe and Healthy.

EHFC Board of Trustees

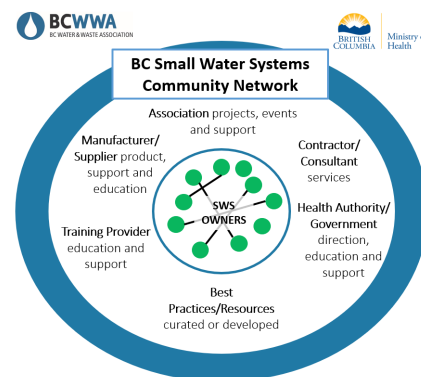


Environmental Health
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne
de l'hygiène du milieu

The BC Small Water Systems Community Network Project

The Ministry of Health and the BC Water and Waste Association have initiated the BC Small Water Systems Community Network project with the intention of providing a network mechanism for small water system owners/operators. This network will connect small water systems owners/operators to the knowledge, programs and resources that they need in order to ensure safe drinking water for their constituents over the long term. For more information, please visit: <https://www.bcwwa.org/resources/SWS/>.



Retrieved from <https://www.bcwwa.org/resources/SWS/>, January 7, 2021

New Guidance on Rainwater Harvesting for Potable Use

As BC's climate changes, rainwater harvesting is becoming a common way to make water use more sustainable and resilient. This doesn't always stop at watering the garden—sometimes harvested rain is used as a source of drinking water. To date, this has mostly been done for single family dwellings, particularly in regions such as the Gulf Islands, where the ability to access and store surface and ground water is limited.

Recently, however, there has been growing interest in harvesting rainwater as a source or supplementary source for drinking water supply systems.

To support public health professionals who are responsible for issuing system permits, the Ministry of Health has developed guidance on rainwater harvesting for potable use, with input from industry and public health stakeholders. In September, this guidance was added to the Drinking Water Officers' Guide and distributed to the health authorities.

This guidance is intended to provide clarity for Drinking Water Officers as well as owners, operators and designers of water systems that require operating permits on the expectations for rainwater collection and treatment systems for potable use. The document covers the regulatory framework, risk assessment, design considerations, standards for treatment, monitoring and operation.

The Ministry is also working to release additional guidance on non-potable water use for domestic purposes such as toilet flushing, laundry, irrigation or washing stations. Like the rainwater harvesting guidance, this resource will be added to the Drinking Water Officers' Guide in the coming months with the aim of supporting Drinking Water Officers in decision making while ensuring public health risks are minimized.

You can find the rainwater harvesting guidance at the bottom of the Ministry's drinking water policy page here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-quality/drinking-water-quality/how-drinking-water-is-protected-in-bc>

Thanks to all who contributed to the development of this policy. For questions and comments, feel free to contact Kat.Zimmer@gov.bc.ca.



YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS . . .

“When people try and find loopholes in the Public Health Orders being issued and then try and get you to give it the big ol’ thumbs up!”

Please submit your “heard it a thousand time before one-liners” that you hear in the field over and over to bcpageeditor@ciphi.bc.ca. Let’s all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.



Environmental Health
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne
de l'hygiène du milieu

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Charitable Division of CIPHI, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC), currently has Board vacancies. The EHFC was established in 1989 by the CIPHI membership, 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.

Pre-requisite includes:

- CIPHI Member (Regular, Retired, Life, Student or Honourary Member)
- Interest and time to devote to the work of this voluntary board.

General:

- Volunteer experience
- Term is for a minimum of two years with a minimum of four teleconference meetings /year.
- Required to sit on one of two committees (Advancement or Governance).

For additional information on the work of CIPHI’s charity please view our website at www.EHFC.ca

Please send an expression of interest and a recent resume via email to ehfcchair@gmail.com. Board Chair Pamela Scharfe will follow-up to provide you with additional information so you can make an informed decision on joining the EHFC Board of Trustees.

In Memoriam—Richard Edward Bernard

July 13, 1946 – November 26, 2020



Rik passed away after valiantly surviving strokes and seizures for six years without complaint and always a smile. He finally succumbed to kidney cancer. Throughout his life he had the ability to adjust and adapt to the challenges he encountered.

Rik was born in Edmonton, the eldest male of twelve siblings. As a child, he knew what it was like to be hungry and would make sure he was at the table on time. As a teenager, he worked at various House of Pancakes restaurants while attending school, saving his money to buy his first car, a '57 Ford. After graduation, he attended NAIT for instrumentation but never completed his diploma. In 1968, he moved to Kelowna for a job at the Longhorn Restaurant. It is there that he met and fell in love with his future wife, Connie Haber, a waitress home for a summer job after her first year at SFU.

After marrying, they settled in Burnaby so Connie could continue university. Rik got a job at the Leon Hotel in Port Moody, becoming chef. Soon a son, Todd, was born. Rik's philosophy was don't change your

life for a child but make your child a part of your life, and that he did. Within two years, Rik bought a brand-new house in Richmond. There he worked as head cook at the International House of Pancakes, and as a *sous* chef at the Top of Grouse restaurant seven days a week. When Connie received her degree, it was now his turn and he decided to join the "enemy."

He attended BCIT full time in Environmental Health, graduated in 1977 and received his CPHI(C) shortly thereafter.

Rik was never wanting self attention so was humbled when he won an award for his paper on the importance of hand washing. He secured a job with Vancouver Coastal Health rising from health inspector to senior environmental health officer until his retirement in 2006. His bosses and colleagues highlighted his common-sense approach, intelligence, sense of humour and his smile. Some of his colleagues remained his friends.

Rik was always busy whether it was remodelling the house or landscaping the yard. His creativity, patience, talent and attention to detail was noteworthy. He often helped friends and neighbours with their projects.

When he bought a cabin on Gabriola in 1991 he totally renovated inside and out with Todd, at times, helping along side his dad. Rik was always resourceful and devised a large hidden cistern to catch roof water before cisterns became common practice. Memorable times by many were spent at the cabin over the years. However, as retirement neared for both Rik and Connie, they decided that this spot was where they wanted to be. So with much sadness, the cabin was demolished and their dream home was built.

Rik was instrumental in the design and was able to read blueprints with ease. Most of the interior design and finishing was done by Rik with the usual preciseness that was in his nature. The landscaping had his unique flair.

Rik did find time for more leisurely pursuits. Early on, snow skiing and camping were a family enjoyment. He loved cars and attended races and car shows. Always loving boats and the ocean he had many good times sailing with friends. In 1988, he bought a new Harley Davidson Softtail and spent many years enjoying rides - in BC, across Canada, California, and to Sturgis in South Dakota - always with Connie on the back. Travelling and cruising brought him to every continent except Antarctica. Music was an ongoing part of his life. Many live concerts and performances from rock, blues, to classical were thoroughly enjoyed. Background music was part of his home environment.

Rik could be quite content by himself creating and inventing some things practical and sometimes ideas beyond many people's understanding. Although he had a quiet demeanor when strong words were needed he was direct, meaningful, and persuasive. His sense of humour, especially after a few drinks, would often catch people unaware. His generosity was shown in many thoughtful and unexpected gifts to Connie and Todd; a helping hand to family and friends; charitable lotteries and, even in his death, donation of his eye tissue to give sight to those in need.

. . . Continued on Page 16

In Memoriam—Richard Edward Bernard Continued. . .

Rik will be forever loved and remembered. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Connie for 52 years of marriage, son Todd, eight brothers and sisters, in-laws and numerous nephews and nieces.

Thank you to the VIHA Gabriola caregivers who made it possible for Rik to have some quality of life in his Gabriola home for much of his last six years. Also appreciation to the Gabriola paramedics for attending to Rik's care numerous times. Due to Covid restrictions there will be no celebration of life at this time.

Our thanks to Mrs. Connie Bernard for writing this wonderful story of Rik's life and his good friend Doug Glenn for sharing it with us.

In Memoriam—Jaswant Singh Pannu



Jim donating a wheelchair to Eagle Ridge Hospital on behalf of the Branch (above).

Our good friend and colleague, Jim Pannu, passed away in early January 2021. Jim was born on January 24, 1938 in Hong Kong. He started career as a Public Health Inspector in Hong Kong and received his Diploma from the Royal Society of Health in 1962. After working there for several years he moved to Canada and received his CPHI(C) in 1967. Jim had a lengthy and very successful career working in the Central Fraser Valley Health Unit, followed by the Simon Fraser Health Unit, and then the Vancouver Health Department. Jim also gave back to the Branch holding Councillor and Treasurer positions on the Executive in the 70s.

Jim was a real gentleman and a friend to many. He enjoyed a good game of pool and a cup of coffee with friends, plus telling stories from the past about growing up in Hong Kong during WWII, working their as a Health Inspector, moving to Canada and a great private tour that he and his family made throughout a large portion of India several years ago. We understand that a service for Jim will be delayed until the COVID situation improves.

Tim Roark, Branch Historian



(left) Jim (front row, second from the right) and Maple Ridge Nurses circa 1970s.

(right) Jim (right) at a septic system inspection.



NOTE FROM A COLLEAGUE & FRIEND:

Jim Pannu was one of the most knowledgeable, friendliest, nicest, giving.... person that I have ever met. He was the type of person that would go out of his way to help others in whatever the situation was. Whether it was with work, finances, family, culture, religion.... It didn't matter what. He was always there. He will truly be missed. May god bless peace for his soul in heaven.

Harry Dhaliwal

. . .Continued on Page 17

In Memoriam—Jaswant Singh Pannu Continued. . .



(left to right) Richard Taki & Jim



(left to right) Patrick Fan, Cliff VanAlstyne, and Jim.



(left to right) Jim, Tim Roark, and & Cliff VanAlstyne.

NOTES FROM COLLEAGUES & FRIENDS:

I still recall the first time I met Jim at the then Vancouver Health Department. He came up to say “Hi” and after a few exchanges he asked if I know an “Ip” who works as a Chief PHI in Hong Kong. I said “yes, he’s my Dad!” Jim knew my Dad when he was working in Hong Kong as a PHI. He must have been a young lad then. As a matter of fact, my Dad remembers him to this day.

Everyone says Jim is a true gentleman. Indeed he is but he is also wise, caring and looks out for others, especially the junior staff. He gave us good advice and helped us look further down the road than most of us could at the time! He saw my skills set and pointed me to work at the CD division which gave me the best work experience of my life! He also invited me into his family and I got to meet his wife Judy, his kids and grandchildren.

Jim loves betting on horses, a recreational activity that he seemed to enjoy to dabble. He also loves cooking curry. I still remember he said about cooking curry with tomato sauce and going to visit his mom...., over the years we got busy with our own lives and did not kept in touch. He is still young I said; we will catch up one day I said! Sadly, he is gone too soon. But the fond memories remained - his smile, his joy of family, his kindness and generosity will always be there. That’s what I remember when I think of him! Thanks Jim for your friendship! I wished I had more time to say thanks again for all that you have done!

Jessica Ip

Very sad to hear about Jim. A really nice guy.

Ken Christian

Jim surely was a fine man and had a deep love for his family.

Nick Potter

I remember Jim from my very first posting in the Mission office. George Armstrong our Chief asked me to help Jim out in the Langley office until they hired a replacement. A very nice guy.

Larry Copeland

Sad to know the passed away of another wonderful colleague and friend.

Peter Lee

Another good one leaves us.

Bob Smith

One of the really good guys.

Dr. John Blatherwick

I have known Jim Pannu since I was a teenager. He was a true gentleman. I know that my dad thought very highly of Jim, his intelligence, his wit and his professionalism. Whenever you spend your 'off' time with a colleague it is a testament to enjoying each other's company.

Craig Van Alstyne

In Memoriam—Susan Clay



We regret to inform you of the recent death of a colleague and Environmental Health Officer, Mrs. Susan Clay. Susan was an exceptional professional and a warm person with a long and successful career in public health. Her interactions were always with grace, dignity and respect for others.

Susan passed away on 8th of January, 2021. Susan is survived by her husband Eric Clay, daughters Amy and Alison and sons Scott and Annan. Her daughter Lindsay predeceased Susan.

Her educational background included Environmental Health and Epidemiology, the latter as part of the Canadian Field Epidemiology Program. She worked with all levels of government in Canada and internationally throughout her nearly 40-year career in public health.

Susan graduated with a diploma in Environmental Health from the BC Institute of Technology in 1972. She received her BA (Hons) from University of Alberta in 1987 and in 2004 received her MSc in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Susan worked with all levels of Government in senior capacity in Canada and was a consultant in public health and epidemiology with the World Health Organization. As a consultant with the WHO Susan travelled throughout Europe, Asia and Africa working with various governmental officials implementing IHR core capacities at points of entry.

In 2013 Susan retired as a Senior Policy Analyst with The Public Health Agency of Canada and moved to Portugal with her husband Eric. Susan Clay will be greatly missed by all that knew her and had the opportunity to work with her.

Kevin Carlisle and Harsh Thakore

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.

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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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