

2004 BC Branch Educational Conference
April 20th & 21st, 2004
Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby, BC

Planned presentations will include speakers from BC Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health Planning, Health Canada, Radiation Protection Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health Authority, City of Vancouver, Justice Institute of B.C., BCI T,

Join other Environmental Health professionals in discussing issues that are currently relevant in our Regional Health Authorities. The B.C. Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20th following the last afternoon session.

Any inquiries may be forwarded to Roopy Khatkar at (604)736-2866 (roopy.khatkar@vch.ca) or Jasmina Egeler at (604)983-6860 (jasmina.egeler@vch.ca).



BC Branch Executive 2004

www.bc-ciphi.ca

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The BC Page is published by and for the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

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BC Branch Update: March 2004

As I suspected, Christmas 2003 has come and gone and there is no news from the Provincial Government as to when the draft regulation designating PHI/EHOs as professionals will be publicized. I am in receipt of a letter from Minister Hawkins that states the matter is still under consideration by the Government and that she doesn't know when it will be published for public consultation. In light of Minister Hawkins's recent illness and move out of the Ministry of Health Planning, I guess we are back where we started last year at this time. (One thing's for certain, this process is a long one!!) I will be sending a letter to the Ministry of Health Services requesting a meeting with the Honourable Colin Hansen to try and garner his support for this initiative as well as to move the process along.

The BC Branch Education Committee is in midst of organizing the BC Branch Educational Conference to be held April 20th and 21st, 2004 at the Metrotown Hilton Hotel in Burnaby. (This is the same location as last year) Mark your calendars and look for a finalized agenda in the near future!

The BC Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on April 20, 2004 at 5:30 pm at a location to be determined. Stay tuned for more information to follow when details have been finalized.

By all accounts the first Environmental Health Week went well and was well received by PHI/EHOs. Our colleagues in the Yukon did a bang up job of promoting the week through the print media, radio spots and tips for the public on different Environmental Health issues. Rob Bradbury was interviewed on the Stirling Faux radio program and the Environmental Health Week posters were distributed across BC and the Yukon. We didn't have a lot of time to plan the event and activities however, the BC Branch and CIPHI have created committees to undertake the planning for Environmental Health Week 2005.

Just a friendly reminder that it's membership renewal time! Keep in mind you need to renew your membership by March 31, 2004 in order to remain a member in good standing. A renewal reminder was recently mailed to you and as an added incentive this year, the BC Branch will be giving all members who renew by March 31, 2004 a much coveted CIPHI BC Branch pen. (these are much nicer than Wayne's!)

There has been a change in the Board of Registration with David Butt elected as Chair with the end of Harsh Thakore's term. Congratulations David! There are two vacancies currently on the Board of Registration and the BC Branch is looking for members in good standing, one from Northern Health and one from Central/Upper Island, interested in these volunteer positions. Please contact me if you are interested in these volunteer opportunities.

Claudia Kurzac,
President
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, BC Branch



Check out the re-designed CIPHI Website. This exciting re-design is part of a marketing plan CIPHI has implemented to standardize the "look" of CIPHI. (e.g.- standardized colours and logos). Visit <http://www.ciphi.ca/> and be sure and let the CIPHI Webmaster, Mike LeBlanc, know what you think. Mike has spent countless hours on this re-design and I am sure he would appreciate your feed back and/or suggestions.

The recommendation to discontinue the 4-year option went forward to the BCIT Board of Governors in December. The Board approved the recommendation; the 4-year program will no longer be offered in its present format except to those students who are currently enrolled.

The 2-year option has been strengthened and enhanced to ensure the sustainability of the program. The entrance requirements have been broadened to include 2-years of post-secondary education. Students can now complete their first 2 years of study at another institution, reducing the economic burden of relocating to the Lower Mainland. It will therefore still require 4 years of post-secondary education to obtain a Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Health. The program continues to be available to those who have completed a credential such as a degree, a diploma or an associated degree. These dual pathways to the program should increase the applicant pool and attract applicants with diverse backgrounds. The seats previously allocated to the 4-year option are being added to the 2-year program to ensure the number of graduates reflect the needs of employers.

The specific entrance requirements are available at: <http://programs.bcit.ca/8500DBTECH>



Anita Ely is presented the Bob Herbison Award by Patricia Tymiak. Anita is currently completing her second practicum in Kelowna and will be starting a permanent job in Salmon Arm in June.


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Retirements



Victoria hasn't seen a retirement party the likes of the one held recently for Bob Smith at the Coast Harbourside Hotel in Victoria. Bob's party was attended by many EHO and MHO colleagues from around BC as well as old school mates, retired PHIs, industry representatives, and especially his family including his Mother. MC'd by John Gibb, the party both roasted and toasted Bob for his many years in Public Health Inspection in communities throughout BC. Bob is pictured receiving a special award of appreciation from Bill Hyslop on behalf of the BC Water & Wastewater Association.

A retirement celebration for Norm Clarkson was held in late January at the Best Western Vernon Lodge in Vernon. Norm obtained his Diploma in Environmental Health from BCIT in 1970 and joined the City of New Westminster as a field inspector, moving to Simon Fraser Health Unit in 1972 and then to Port Alberni in 1974 where he stayed until 1983. While on the Island, Norm obtained a diploma in Public Administration through the University of Victoria.

Norm then moved to Nelson to become the Chief Environmental Health Officer for the Selkirk Health Unit, a position that was eliminated when the Selkirk and West Kootenay Health Units were amalgamated to form the Central Kootenay Health Unit. Norm then joined the North Okanagan Health Unit as Chief Environmental Health Officer, a position that he also held with the North Okanagan Health Region. When Interior Health was formed, Norm became the Manager of Health Protection for the Okanagan in 2001, a position that included responsibility for environmental health, licensing, tobacco reduction and control, and public health engineering. Norm held this position until his retirement in December 2003.



Norm has been a member of the BC Branch since he joined the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors in 1970. He is pictured opening a gift from brother Len while his wife Marlene looks on.

BC Branch 2003 Christmas Lunch

Christmas 2003: how quickly it came and how quickly it went. Each year we marvel at the increasing speed with which the years seem to pass. The festive time of year is always a chaotic mix of emotions, busy-ness, and memories. The annual CIPHI Christmas Luncheon has become a tiny respite in the holiday madness; a time for the environmental health family of the lower mainland to get together; a time to see old and new friends and colleagues; a time to share past memories while creating new ones.

The 2003 CIPHI B.C. Branch Christmas Luncheon was held at the Firefighter's Club in Burnaby. Chef Bill Yardley put together a delicious turkey feast with all the trimmings. The buffet line allowed for a great opportunity to mix and mingle with as many guests as possible. Claudia Kurzac, Branch President, presented CIPHI 25 year membership pins to Doug Glenn, Alice Munger and Kelvin Higo. Jolly St. Nick shared some carrots with his reindeer and we were all off with our hearts full of goodness and warmth and our sights set high in the sky thankful for another year shared!!! Ho Ho Ho and see you all next year!!!

Submitted by Patricia Tymiak



BC Branch Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, April 20, 2004-5:00 p.m.
Bob Prittie Metrotown Library
6100 Willingdon, Burnaby

Free parking is available in the parkade under the library, the meeting room is left of the info. desk
 A light meal will be served at 5:00 p.m.

1. Approval of previous minutes-May 13, 2003
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian.
3. Reports: a) President
 b) Treasurer
 c) Registrar
 d) Corresponding Member of the BOC
 e) Board of Registration
4. Awards
5. EHO/PHI College Update
7. Election of Officers
8. Appointment of BOC Examiners
9. Other Business

Photos: More Christmas Lunch



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Northern Health's Public Health Protection (PHP)

programs have recently been reorganized. A review completed by Interim PHP Regional Director, John Pelton (who is also Director of Environmental Health Services for Calgary Health Region) initiated the program changes. A new streamlined structure has been incorporated which promotes consistency across Northern Health, while still supporting responses tailored to the needs of local communities.

To assist with the new direction of PHP programs, three regional site managers have been appointed: Sharlene Lively, Northern Interior (previously Chief Licensing Officer, NI); Sheila Withrow, North East (previously Chief Environmental Health Officer, NE); and Iqbal Kalsi, North West (previously Environmental Specialist, Calgary Health Services).



Succeeding John Pelton, Lucy Beck will join Northern Health as the new Regional Director for Public Health Protection in January 2004.

Public Health Protection includes the areas of Environmental Health, Community Care Facilities Licensing and Public Health Engineering.

Photo (L-R): Lucy Beck, Iqbal Kalsi, Sharlene Lively, and Sheila Withrow

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Cost Benefits of Healthy Homes

By Clifford G. Turner, CPHI(C)

The most important function of a house is to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the people inside and this includes a plentiful supply of fresh air. The only way to provide adequate amounts of fresh air consistently, is with mechanical ventilation. The HVAC (Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) mechanical systems control heat, moisture and airflow in all interior living spaces of a home. However, there are other considerations such as the uncontrolled aspects of the indoor environment including ventilation, energy flow, and water management.

In the past, leaky “envelopes” associated with older, traditional construction worked well to provide fresh air and so adequate ventilation was never a problem. When we started tightening up our homes airflow was reduced to levels that cause illness. Data that track 35 years of asthma death rates, from 1960 to 1995, support this relationship (eg Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, MMWR, v 47, No. SS-1, p 27).

When a mechanical ventilation system provides adequate fresh air, it only makes sense to make the rest of the envelope as tight as possible. The combination of mechanical ventilation with a tight envelope not only ensures adequate fresh air, but also controls energy leakage. A good house cannot be built “too tight”. A tight envelope makes insulation work better by reducing air flow through air permeable materials. With better control over airflow through the envelope, condensation moisture and the mould growth it supports are prevented. Tragically, the vast majority of homes built in the last thirty years have mould problems inside concealed cavities in the exterior envelope.

Radiant energy heat loss is mostly controlled with high thermal resistance windows. Double pane, low-e, gas-filled glazing is standard construction in Canada. A major problem with manufactured windows was discovered during tests for air tightness. Approximately 80% of the windows failed the tests. While the faulty windows were replaced by the manufacturer, it is well known that the defectives are placed back on the market to be used by customers who do not test for air tightness. This obviously raises the 80% failure rate for installers that do not test windows. The window manufacturers enjoy a protected market because of the window requirements in the Canadian Building Codes.

Proper water management is crucial to building durability and occupant health. A wet building will deteriorate rapidly in the first five years; a dry building will be good for eighty years and longer if a maintenance program ensures dry components. Water ingress or condensation will raise the moisture content high enough to support mould growth. The higher the moisture, the more quickly mould grows. Moisture also causes rust and rot.

Competent builders who properly address ventilation, energy flow and water management have taken an enormous step to overcome the most common construction defect – moisture. Mould and the disease it causes are prevented and huge cost savings in energy and building longevity are realized.



BC History for PHI's

- 1974 April 1 - The Capital Regional District took over the delivery of public health services from the Greater Victoria Metropolitan Board of Health and the Southern Vancouver Island Health Unit (Provincial) and organized the first "regional" public health service in B.C.
- 1977 November 23 - The B.C. Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors was Incorporated as a Society under the Societies Act of BC.
- 1980 The first degree program in Public Health Inspection was implemented at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. As a result, over 70% of all Public Health Inspection graduates in Canada had degrees thereafter.
- 1982 April - Ron de Burger, C.P.H.I.(C), was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for Preventive Health Services. He was the former National President of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, and had been Acting Dean of the Community Services Division as well as Director of the Environmental Health Program at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto.
- 1985 Morven Ewan, the longest practicing Sanitary Inspector/Public Health Inspector in B.C., retires from the New Westminster Health Dept. with over 45 years service.
- 1988 January 19 - The "Board of Registration" for Public Health Inspectors was established as the first such board in Canada and approved by the B.C. Registrar of Companies. The titles "Registered Public Health Inspector" "Registered Environmental Health Officer" and the initials "R.P.H.I." and "R.E.H.O." were reserved.
- 1988 April 1 - The authority for the health inspection of "Meat, Milk and Fish" was transferred from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food to the Ministry of Health with appropriate delegation of authority from the Minister to Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Health Officers.
- 1991 May - B.C.I.T. becomes the first Environmental Health Training Program in Canada to become "accredited" by the Board of Certification of Public Health Inspectors.
- 1992 Andy Hazlewood, Director of the Division of Public Health Inspection for the Ministry of Health, is appointed the 1st Public Health Inspector to Chair the Environmental Health Advisory Board at BCIT. For the previous 26 years the Board had been in operation, all Chairmen had been Medical Health Officers.
- 1992 With the support and approval of the employers, the Environmental Health Advisory Board and the Dean of the School of Health Sciences, work commences on the development of a degree program in Environmental Health at B.C.I.T.
- 1993 The Health Authorities Act was approved by the B.C. Legislature in 1993 initiating a 5 year process to convert B.C. to a regionalized health delivery system.
- 1993 The Board of Certification of Public Health Inspectors approved a resolution implementing a degree in Environmental Health in Canada. This became the basic requirement for those entering the field commencing 1995 to obtain the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada).
- 1995 April 1, 1995 - The Central Fraser Valley Health Unit became the first health unit in B.C. to be dissolved by the regionalization of health services in B.C. The health unit was broken into three parts with each part being attached to the neighboring health units of Simon Fraser Health Unit, Boundary Health Unit and the Upper Fraser Valley Health Unit.

- 1997 April 1 - Provincial health units across B.C. as well as municipal health departments are all regionalized as part of the reorganization of health care delivery services in B.C. Public Health became part of health "Regions" in the larger population centers and "Community Health Service Societies" serving the smaller communities.
- 1997 May - The Ministry of Education, Skills and Training approved the Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Health at B.C.I.T.
- 1997 November 4 - The Health Professions Council concluded that Environmental Health/Public Health Inspection met the definition of a "health profession" but declined to recommend in favor of establishing a College of Environmental Health/Public Health Inspection.
- 1998 The Labour Relations Board for B.C., at the request of the B.C Branch CIPHI, accepts Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers as Paramedical Professionals pursuant to the Health Authorities Amendment Act (Bill 28 - 1997).
- 1998 June - The first four students graduate from the Environmental Health Program at B.C.I.T. with their Bachelor of Technology (Environmental Health) degrees. The four students were: Robert Birtles, Jasmina Egeler, Elsie Friesen and Ivan Rukavina
- 1999 July 8 - Andrew Hazlewood, C.P.H.I.(C), is appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Health for Public and Preventive Health Services. He had previously been Executive Director of Health Protection and Safety Programs and was formerly the Director of the Public Health Inspection Branch for the Province of Saskatchewan.
- 2000 January 1 - The Workers' Compensation Board of B.C. implements a total ban on smoking in the work place in B.C. including restaurants, bars, games rooms, bingo halls, sporting arenas, extended care facilities and prisons.
- 2000 March 22 - The ban on smoking in the work place was soon overturned by the B.C. Supreme Court due to a lack of consultation with the hospitality industry.
- 2000 December - The National Executive authorized the creation of an award to recognize 50-year members of CIPHI. In B.C. recognition plaques have been presented to the following 50-year members of the Institute.
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| George Armson | Bill Leith |
| Morven Ewan | Bob Scott |
| Len Hiebert | Bruce Stephen |
- 2001 December 12 - Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services approved Ministerial Order No. M 297, pursuant to the Health Authorities Act, amalgamating all existing Health Regions and Health Councils across B.C. into five new Health Authorities. They were the Fraser Health Authority, Interior Health Authority, Northern Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Vancouver Island Health Authority.
- 2002 May 1 - The B.C. government approved controversial new Regulations under the Worker's Compensation Act which restricted but did not ban smoking in the hospitality industry.
- 2002 March 20 - Morven Ewan was made "Citizen of the Year" for 50 years of volunteering and community service in New Westminster.
- 2002 May 16 - The Lieutenant Governor approved an Order In Council bringing into effect the "Drinking Water Protection Act" for B.C. (Sections 1 to 49) and the Drinking Water Protection Regulation as well as repealing the Safe Drinking Water Regulation. The new act does not specifically mention PHIs or EHOs.
- 2002 May 9 - Royal Assent was granted for the creation of a new "Food Safety Act" for B.C. to provide for all food safety issues to be capture under one act. The new act does not specifically mention PHIs or EHOs.

Be up-front about risks

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Sault Star Editorial Staff

Just as bad as the tainted-meat scandal rocking Ontario is the tainted-information scandal in connection with it.

In fact, the province's misguided mishandling of news about possible dangers could do more harm to the beleaguered industry than any actual food contamination.

Police have launched a criminal investigation into Aylmer Meat Packers in Aylmer, Ont. There are allegations flesh from deadstock, or animals that had died from disease, was processed into products destined for the human food chain.

There is also some indication that fake inspection stamps were part of the scheme.

The most crucial question for most people is whether they have been exposed to tainted products and whether they are in danger of any ill effects.

Queen's Park has failed to address that concern properly. Perhaps in a foolish attempt to forestall panic, provincial authorities have been so secretive they could provoke panic.

Last Friday, Ontario's Health Ministry quietly sent a memo to public health officers alerting them to watch for any signs of illness in their areas related to consumption of meat that might have come from deadstock. Two days later, federal authorities recalled all beef and beef products from the Aylmer plant.

But little was said publicly about possible health dangers.

As soon as there was any hint the system might have been compromised, health authorities at both levels of government should have issued a public alert warning of possible problems and advising consumers which meats they should avoid until the situation was clarified.

When are officials going to learn that there is nothing as fearful as the unknown? SARS was frightening largely because it was so mysterious, and the scare would have been even worse if authorities had not been so responsible about sharing what information they did have.

One of the heroes of the SARS episode was Dr. Sheela Basrur, Toronto's medical officer of health. Her constant updates and straightforward honesty did much to allay fears.

The government ought to learn from her experience. She observes of the Aylmer case, "Given the apparent seriousness of this, I think the public has a right to know and certainly local public health officials can do their job more easily if that information is given to them."

Provincial information and privacy commissioner Ann Cavoukian accuses the province of failing its legal obligation to warn the public of health risks. She calls for "openness and transparency . . . Transparency breeds trust."

And obfuscation breeds mistrust.

Perhaps authorities wanted to do damage control so soon after the mad cow scare that started with a case of BSE in Alberta in May and closed the American border to many Canadian meat products for months.

But by being so cagey, they have done the opposite. Because they weren't clear about what precisely was under investigation, many consumers will regard every package of meat suspiciously and will err on the side of caution. The whole meat industry will suffer unnecessarily because of allegations against a single processor.

Confidence in government will suffer, too. If we can't trust authorities to be forthright about our food, what can we trust them about? The best damage control they could do now would be to admit their shortcomings, and to lay the whole matter bare to the public.

Officers Elected to Board of Registration

David But (photo at right) has been elected as the Chairman for the B.C. Board of Registration. At the Board meeting on December 3rd, 2003 Dave was elected as Chairman of the Board for a renewable two-year term of office. David takes over from Harsh Thakore who moves to Past Chairman. Dan Moreau has been elected as Vice Chairman and Brian Gregory has been re-elected as Secretary to the Board for a second two year term of office. Tim Roark steps down from the Board as Past Chairman having served for a number of years as Chairman and Past Chairman.



David joined the Board of Registration in 2000, and in 2001 was elected Vice Chairman. He has been a member of the Working Group which was formed by the Board and Branch Executive to plan and prepare for the establishment of a College for EHOs and PHIs in BC. Dave is also Web Master for the BC Branch Web Page. He has been the Representative for Region #4 serving Central and Northern BC. However, Dave has just moved to take an EHO position in Creston, thus leaving a vacancy on the Board for Region #4.

Other members of the Board are Grace MacIver a Non-Regional Representative and Debra Losito, the Registrar.

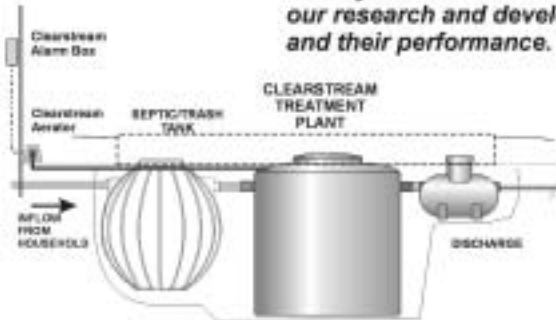
This now leaves two vacancies on the Board for EHOs. Vacant are Region #1 serving Vancouver Island and Region #4 serving Central and Northern BC. Also vacant is the position for a consumer representative on the Board as a result of the departure of James Leslie upon completion of his full term of 4 years on the Board. Mr. Leslie represented the BC Public Health Association.

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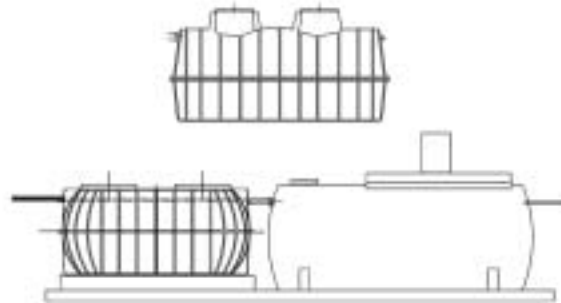


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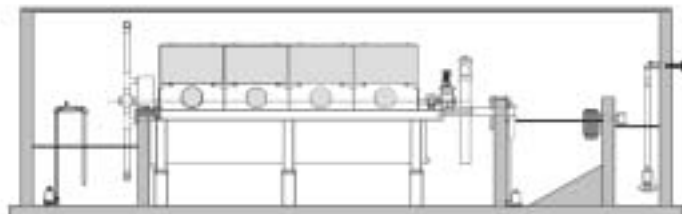


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