



President's Message

I hope everyone is keeping warm across the province. It has been a strange winter where one day can be above freezing and the next -30C!

A lot has been happening since the last newsletter.

I attended National Executive Council (NEC) meetings, the national Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Richmond BC in November. The AEC was very well done. The venue, speakers, meals and entertainment were all top notch. I would like to congratulate the organizing committee for the AEC in Richmond on a job well done.

The NEC meetings were very informative and productive. I look forward to continuing to work with this group as we continue the important work of CIPHI at the national level.

The branch held a face to face meeting in Regina November 21 and 22, 2017. The one initiative that came out of that meeting was the creation of a policy committee to examine current SK Branch policies in order to update them and to create new policies where gaps have been identified. That work has already begun and this is important for the day to day operation of the branch. The executive have also begun planning for our next Professional Education and Development Seminar. Currently we are looking at a late October or early November date in Regina. Stay tuned for more details.

We have recently had some other changes to positions within our branch. Ian Harrison, who has served as our Board of Certification (BOC) representative, has moved into the position of vice-chair of the BOC as of January 1, 2018. Our branch has appointed Vanessa Amy as our new BOC rep. We have also appointed Life Member Doug Terry as our Retirees Advisory Committee representative. Finally, Peter Ross, our CoPE representative, has indicated that he will let his name stand for a second term. I would like to congratulate these members on their appointments and thank them for volunteering their time to CIPHI to help keep our profession strong.

As always, if you have ideas or ways to improve our branch or would like to become involved, please feel free to contact myself or one of the executive members. Stay warm out there!

Respectfully, Kevin Kapell



Spring 2018 Contents:

- **AEC Bursary Write Ups & SEHIP Award**
- **Office of the Month: Regina!**
- **Point of Interest: Salmonella in Poultry**
- **Extra, Extra!**

Annual Educational Conference Bursary Write Ups

Richmond, BC November 5-8, 2017

The SK Branch Executive recognizes the importance of encouraging attendance at the National Annual Education Conferences (AEC). The SK Branch policy was developed to increase attendance and representation of Saskatchewan Branch delegates at these important events. Each year, the Branch allocates \$1500 towards financial support of members who are attending the National AEC. To be able to receive a bursary applicants must be current members, as well as complete an application and submit an article for the branch newsletter discussing their experience at the AEC. The following four members attended the 2017 AEC in Richmond, BC, and their articles can be read below.

Ian Harrison

The CIPHI Board of Certification – An Introduction and Overview

The certification of public health inspectors dates back to 1935 with the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) establishing qualifications for sanitary inspectors and then public health inspectors in 1963 after a designation name change. This continued until 1979 when the CPHA transferred the responsibility to CIPHI and the Board of Certification (BOC). The BOC is comprised of up to 12 members appointed by their branches. Members serve a three-year term, and can remain on the Board for a maximum of two terms.

The BOC is responsible for establishing standards for academic and practical training; granting approval of post secondary institutions offering training; establishing standards for curricula; establishing standards for the acceptance of qualifications received outside of Canada; examining candidates for certification; and for granting the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) CPHI(C).

The review and accreditation of the six approved academic institutions is an ongoing responsibility of the BOC. Reviews consist of a two-day onsite visit where the campus and facilities are toured, and stakeholders such as faculty, administrators, students, graduates and employers are interviewed. The review panel then writes a report and can recommend accreditation of up to 5 years, along with conditions and reporting requirements.

The BOC exam process is a core responsibility of the Board. This process includes, the creation of the oral exam by the National Exam Panel, the organization of the exam through provincial exam coordinators, the review and approval of marks, and the review of written reports for plagiarism. For this last part, the BOC uses iThenticate plagiarism detection software to compare submitted written reports to 24 billion web pages, 120 million journal articles, periodicals and books, and 250 million archived student papers, including thousands of written reports from previous BOC exams. Students where strong evidence of plagiarism has been found are notified that all portions of the exam are forfeited, and they may only reapply after 12 months. A second offence for plagiarism results in a lifetime ban. Students can appeal these decisions, however to date, no appeal has been successful. The BOC is working hard to eliminate these cases of plagiarism, through presentations to students, online FAQs, education of training agencies, and connecting with the accredited institutions. The BOC is reviewing the entire exam process, because we must be sure that our assessment of entry-level public health inspectors is valid, reliable and fair. Valid means that the exam process is testing students on what we want it to test. Reliable means that when we pass or fail a student, we can be sure we have made the right decision. Fairness is needed in the exam process so that students will accept the results and believe in them. The review will be thorough and will likely take time, with all aspects of the current exam process being looked at.

The BOC currently has over 500 instructional objectives (IO's) that all accredited institutions must achieve in their programs. These objectives cover all aspects of required entry-level knowledge and skills for public health professionals. The BOC is currently reviewing these objectives and have now hired an expert consultant to complete the task. The new objectives will look much different to our current IO's in that they have been divided into three tiers.

Tier 1 – Program Outcomes. These are the overarching goals of the objectives as a whole. I.e. the knowledge, skills and behaviours graduates can demonstrate as entry level professionals.

Tier 2 – Major Topic Areas. These describe the knowledge, skills and behaviours students gain from significant learning modules. Subordinate to each topic area are several specific and measurable learning goals.

Tier 3 – Factual, conceptual and procedural knowledge. These are incremental objectives and performance elements embedded within courses and lesson plans as learning activities and assignments.

A final draft of the objectives will be shared early in the new year.

Anyone who would like more information on the work of the BOC is welcome to contact me.

Faith Kwong

I had the opportunity to attend the AEC in Richmond, BC with financial assistance from the CIPHI Saskatchewan Branch. This was my first time attending a CIPHI national event and being a new inspector, it was a great opportunity to network with other inspectors from across Canada. It was also great experience for me to learn about the recent trends and issues surrounding EPH.

It was hard to choose which sessions to attend as all of them were very interesting. Some of the sessions I attended include safe drinking water for BC First Nations, regulatory requirements for marijuana edibles, sanitation inspection of marijuana, cannabis legalization, bed bugs, fentanyl and property remediation, radon and childcare facilities, funeral homes and bodies of deceased persons, and healthy built environment teams in BC. The keynote speakers were also great to listen to as they shared their experiences and achievements.

Aside from the conference, I really enjoyed my stay in BC as I was able to conveniently enjoy all the good food and endless bubble tea trips. I look forward to attending future conferences, networking with EPH professionals and expanding my knowledge in EPH.

Ildiko Herr 'Sharpening the Saw'

Kudos to the organizers; this year's CIPHI Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Richmond, BC was an energizing success with 405 registrants over the period of three days. The AEC was themed "Honouring Traditions, Inspiring Innovation", and the topic repertoire indeed lived up to the expectations. Finding less than expected colleagues from some of the distant provinces; however, signalled that we professionals and our employers may need to be reminded of the value of attending conferences as a tradition. Developed for a reason; such venues generate unique and indispensable value through connecting individuals through their professional interests. Benefits of conference attendance aren't straightforward to quantify; however, and the ROI (Return of Investment) is far from being directly measurable by Finance. Nevertheless, here is my argument why it is enormously necessary for PHI/EHO, aspiring students and employers to make this investment. It is my intent to encourage participation and help increase support for such venues in our field.

Frankly, there aren't an awful lot of tools that an employer can draw on to compliment outstanding work with, that would also have the ability to give you a leg up, inspire drive, generate creative ideas and strengthen the home-base by making us all look good – and that on the long term. Sending team members to a really good conference can accomplish all this. After all, the attendee is a representative of the employer, hence of advertising value.

At this year's AEC, the biggest challenge for me was to decide which sessions to attend: personal interests vs. work-team interests were weighed for content. Experienced and high-calibre professionals of our field, regulatory agencies and the world of academia from far and near presented on top issues with particular relevance to specialized work that PHI/EHO currently carry out (e.g. a Listeria outbreak investigation, pool/hot tub suction risks, emergency preparedness, fuel spills, pests, food handling violations, safe drinking water, health consequences of traffic related air pollution, radon and childcare facilities, odour control, food fraud detection, and a lot more). Popular topics were addressed that many of us are keen to know more about such as the risk assessing around cannabis legalization, established practices and challenges in other jurisdictions.

Attendees could also take the pulse of what is happening for novel, innovative food processing technologies that are expected to make their way into the facilities that we inspect. Smart new technologies that were mentioned in detail incorporate pressure, pulsed electric field, light, irradiation and even sound to achieve shorter processing and better quality outcomes without jeopardizing food safety. Workshops in progressive compliance, drinking water and food processing generated immediate benefit through engaging participants and coaching a special skill. I feel that the learnt know-how on food risk assessments and opportunity to personally connect with experts will definitely be beneficial to my home-team. Through the new knowledge it will be easier to overcome certain challenges, or at least will know how to source evidence-based information. I particularly enjoyed learning in detail about the risks involved with fermentation processes (e.g. tempeh, yoghurt/kefir, cheese, kombucha), reduced oxygen packaging and the applications of liquid nitrogen and dry ice in food and beverage.

Beyond the conference content, it is the opportunities for networking and the teambuilding capacity of the social engagements at the conference that one can take really long-lasting advantage of. Where else would you have the chance to meet hundreds of like-minded individuals, with a variety of experiences, many of them experts, leaders of the field? Where else will you have the opportunity to make so many valuable exchanges of ideas, practices, advice, and even connect with individuals who may help advance your path? Social engagements really offer a good chance to expand on our PHI community. You cannot help but feel being with your 'tribe', will feel stimulated after talking face-to-face with your peers, mentors and teachers. You may seek answers from a group and can partake in a lively debate occasionally riddled with roaring laughter, and whether you are socially inclined or not, you will find your niche, build new friendships, professional relationships and connect with colleagues.

It was tremendously useful for me to visit the numerous industry vendors who showcased new tools, solutions and ideas. This comes without the intention to single out and promote one company from all the participating sponsors, but just one small example of how my personal investment to attend this conference benefited my own team at work was through engaging with the representatives of BeautySafe, one of the exhibitors. I didn't only learn that this nation-wide recognized online certification program promotes protocols of infection control, proper cleaning, sterilization and chemical practice, and that one BC municipality's bylaw now requires all personal service establishments to undertake this training, but was also able to get an insider's view for my whole work team through getting them access to the training course. Unlike in SK, personal services in BC are regulated; but in addition to that the involvement of local governance in this case is a prime example of a practice that supports public health through multi-disciplinary collaboration. I felt that getting acquainted with such solutions could generate a lot of useful ideas in our province and generally in our field, as well.

At the end, your conference experience and the ROI will be what you make of it. From all the advice I have received from my mentors in life, there was one in common: "never get complacent and keep 'sharpening the saw' through adding to your knowledge" (as the seventh habit of highly effective people in Steven Covey's book). In spite of the geographic distance challenges, my future hope is to see even more support and participation at the CIPHI conferences from all provinces... I really hope to see you at the next CIPHI AEC!

I am thankful for the time away that my work-team and management made possible for me, and also would like to express my gratitude to the CIPHI SK Branch for supporting continuing education opportunities through making bursary funds available. This is a very special benefit that Saskatchewan CIPHI Membership can provide, and I feel privileged and grateful to be able to take advantage of this support. With their help, I will continue to be a voice for advocacy and testimony for the goals and objectives of CIPHI SK.

AEC - November 5-8, 2017 Richmond, BC



Ian Harrison accepting the award on behalf of the group from Kari Engele-Carter, SK Branch Member and National President Elect at the AEC Awards Luncheon.

SEHIP Alexander Cross Award

Please accept this nomination of the Saskatchewan Environmental Health Inspection Program Task Group for the Alexander Officer Award.

The Saskatchewan Environmental Health Inspection Program (SEHIP) Task Group was formed in 2013 to assist the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health in developing the foundation for the transition from paper based to electronic based inspections. Their tasks included the development of risk assessments for various facilities, a complete overhaul of the inspection forms used by public health inspectors in Saskatchewan, a reclassification of all facility types used in the province, and the creation of rules to govern the use of the system. Two years of work culminated in the successful launch of the SEHIP system in late March of 2015 coupled with a redesigned inspection disclosure website, and a recent roll out of an update this past September.

The task group has become an essential feature in the governance of the system as all proposed changes are vetted by the group to ensure that any changes made help both the inspector and the public at large. Members of the group have also been key in testing the system to ensure that any issues or bugs have been ironed out before provincial roll out. The group's collective knowledge in Environmental Public Health, as well as their specialized knowledge in information technology has helped transition Saskatchewan Environmental Public Health Professionals to the digital age.

The group is comprised of members from different autonomous health regions who each have different processes and thoughts. By bringing these different perspectives to the table a consensus was achieved to ensure that the new electronic system would be a benefit for everyone directly affected in Saskatchewan.

Members of this group include Mr. Wayne Johnson, Ministry of Health; Mr. Kim Krett, Saskatoon Health Region; Ms. Verna Law, Sunrise Health Region; Ms. Nicole White, Northern Saskatchewan Population Health Unit; and Mr. Jim Webster, Heartland Health Region. Former members include Mr. Travis Philipation, Five Hills Health Region; Ms. Leslie Rea, Saskatoon Health Region; and Ms. Kristin Waroma, Sun Country Health Region.

SAVE THE DATE



Learn more at
www.ciphi.ca/aec2018

Questions
information2018@ciphi.ca



Mark Your Calendar

Office of the Month! Regina



... Be Dog Smart! Goes to School

In 2016, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) investigated 675 reported animal bites with over 70% of those being from dogs. And in children aged 12 and under, 84% of all the reported animal bites were from dogs.

To address this issue, the Be Dog Smart program was started as a joint initiative between the RQHR and the Regina Humane Society (RHS). The program, intended to be taught in schools in Regina and area, teaches children how to behave safely around dogs. It provides valuable information for teachers, parents, and children, and shows everyone how to handle dog encounters with greater safety and confidence.

The program had initially been set up as a teaching package that was sent out to teachers and daycares. The teaching package included:

- four interactive lesson plans for educators covering kindergarten to grade six;
- resource materials to send home with students (e.g. factsheet and brochure); and
- free giveaways to help students remember the message (e.g. Frisbees and Yoyo's, etc.).

After two years of bringing the Be Dog Smart program to schools, the team received valuable information from principals and teachers. They liked the program, and would be happy to teach it, but found it inconvenient to have to borrow it. So, in April 2017, the Be Dog Smart team decided it was time to talk to school boards and get permission to distribute the Be Dog Smart teaching packages directly to schools. And, in the fall of 2017, four local school boards agreed to allow elementary school teachers use the Be Dog Smart curriculum on a voluntary basis.

School board superintendents helped select sixty high risk schools for receiving the Be Dog Smart program. Forty schools were selected in Regina and twenty in the surrounding rural areas. In November and early December, teaching packages were sent out to schools along with a communique encouraging teachers to teach the Be Dog Smart lesson before the summer of 2018. But something was still missing – the materials were in English only. In January 2018, the Be Dog Smart materials were translated into French so that students and teachers in both official languages had equal access to the resources. The French materials are estimated to be available in the spring of 2018.

As we progress through 2018, the Be Dog Smart team is set to provide Dog Smart teaching packages for the remaining schools in the four school districts and will be expanded to include registered daycares. The role of the Be Dog Smart team for 2018 onward will be threefold:

- encourage all elementary school teachers and daycare educators to use the teaching package
- support teachers by providing updated materials and teaching aids
- monitor the overall use and success of the Be Dog Smart program

If you would like more information on the Be Dog Smart program, please visit www.rqhealth.ca/BeDogSmart or contact Morgan McLellan at morgan.mclellan@saskhealthauthority.ca or 306.766. 7716





New requirement to reduce Salmonella to below detectable amounts in frozen raw breaded chicken products

March 12, 2018: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is requiring industry to implement measures at the manufacturing/processing level to reduce Salmonella to below detectable amounts in frozen raw breaded chicken products that are packaged for retail sale.

Frozen raw breaded chicken products include chicken meat products (excludes quail, duck, and turkey) that are manufactured and are:

- raw - breaded - frozen - appear "ready to eat" and - packaged for retail sale.

Frozen raw breaded "stuffed" chicken products are not affected at this time. The CFIA will work with industry to ensure a common understanding of which products are affected and which are not.

These new measures were prompted by the continued link between frozen raw breaded chicken products and outbreaks of food-borne illness. Processors will be required to identify Salmonella as a hazard likely to occur in these products. The CFIA expects industry to implement suitable measures that will allow them to manufacture an end product that reduces Salmonella to below a detectable amount.

The CFIA is granting a 12 month period for industry to review their processes and implement controls that will accommodate these changes.

We will continue to work with industry to further improve voluntary labelling and encourage other means of increasing awareness of the raw nature of products.

We will also continue to work with our federal food safety partners, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, and industry, to remind Canadians about the importance of always fully cooking frozen raw breaded poultry products prior to consumption, as well as using proper food handling techniques and following cooking instructions to limit the risk of foodborne illnesses.

Information from: <http://inspection.gc.ca/food/meat-and-poultry-products/program-changes/2018-03-12/eng/1520884138067/1520884138707>

CoPE Connection

Some of our most Impactful Actions are those we take
within our own Communities!

Are you a local sports coach? Do you volunteer for any charitable, community, or religious organizations? Then we have **Good News!**

EPHPs can claim **1 PDH** for every **1 Hour** of Community Involvement under the **Participation** Category in the MSC.
(Max of 10 PDHs annually)

Contributions to the community which require professional and ethical behaviour, but not necessarily the application of technical knowledge can be claimed.
Our volunteers should be rewarded - we need more people like you!

You're not just an inspector, you're a wealth of knowledge.
Stay competent by participating in professional development activities.



PD Portal:

Did you know that organizations, employers and conference organizers can apply to have PDHs preapproved for educational activities by using this form:
<http://www.ciphi.ca/pdf/orgappforhours.pdf>

A list of CoPE approved courses can be found under the Library tab in the Member Service Centre (MSC) at www.ciphimember.ca

Extra, Extra! ...



Some fun at the AECI



See you in September!

FOOD SAFETY 101

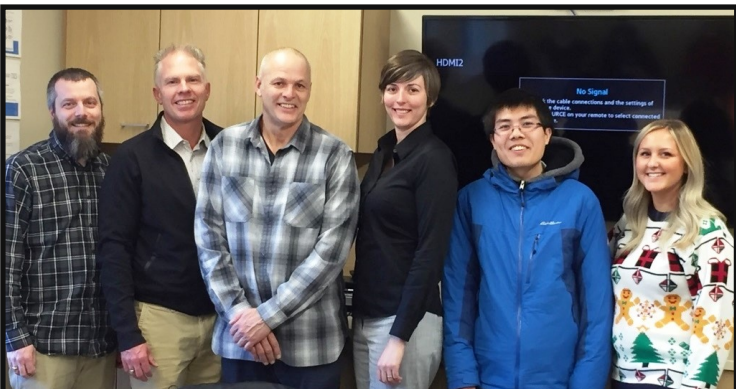


"For only 5 cents, you too can have fresh made mandazi (donuts) in Kenya!"

- Photo courtesy of Kristin Waroma

Former Team Heartland

Former Heartland Health Region Staff honor Jim Webster with a cake for being part of the SEHIP task group who won the Alexander Officer Award. Pictured are Kevin Kapell, John Prince, Jim Webster, Vanessa Amy, Toby Xie and Rebecca Mayer.





Any News?! Share Your Thoughts! Share Your Pictures!

Email your editor at shawna.stevens@saskhealthauthority.ca

We are already looking forward to our next edition! Thank you for taking the time to read and catch up on some of the exciting news happening around our beautiful province.

- Shawna Stevens

Newsletter Opportunity!

Please feel free to submit interesting articles for our *New* Point of Interest section! This is an area of the paper where you can submit something that sparks your attention and is of value to our profession! I look forward to hearing from you :)

CIPHI Saskatchewan Branch Merchandise

Spring is upon us and what better time to stock up on CIPHI merchandise! Including golf balls & infuser water bottles! All items are only \$10 each. To order your CIPHI Sask branch merchandise contact Michael at michael.hayduk@saskhealthauthority.ca. Hurry and get yours, supplies are limited!

Your branch executive are always looking for suggestions for new merchandise ideas for members. If you have any suggestions for new merchandise with the CIPHI Saskatchewan logo for membership, please contact Michael at michael.hayduk@saskhealthauthority.ca



We Are Humboldt Strong



Our deepest condolences to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy. Thoughts and prayers go out to all of the players and their families.



Since 2006, **Food Safety 1st** has partnered with Public Health Inspectors across Saskatchewan to provide Food Safety Training. "Thank You Inspectors" for your support. I look forward to continue working together. Until then, **Keep Your Food Safe!**

Russell Scott, CIPHI (c)

303 Bornstein Cres.

Website: FoodSafety1st.com

Saskatoon, Sk.



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