



BC PAPER



News for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

Supporting Our Students—The BC Branch Mentorship Program

Jessica Ip and Stacey Sowa

CIPHI's BC Branch launched a Mentorship Program in 2022 to support the connectivity between CIPHI members and individuals who were preparing to enter the field of Environmental Public Health. The Mentorship Program was aimed at second year students to create a networking opportunity to enable them to gain a deeper insight into the career they were working toward. The program involves partnering a student with an Environmental Health Officer and the facilitation of guided conversations through virtual and in-person meetings. The inaugural year of the program wrapped up in early August 2023.

The roll out of the program started in September 2022, with an email out to all members, an email to the BCIT CIPHI Student Liaison Rep, and a posting on the BC CIPHI site. The Student Liaison Rep assisted in the promotion of the program at BCIT and was a great help in signing up second year students who were interested. By the end of the September deadline, there were 13 students who had applied to be mentees. An initial call out to the membership resulted in 10 EHO volunteers and two additional EHO volunteers were found in late October to bring the total to 12. The mentors were from different Health Authorities, had different backgrounds, and varying years of service. There were members from First Nation Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, Island Health, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Background includes CD EHOs, field EHOs, Senior EHOs, Managers, Drinking Water Officers, Environmental Health Scientists, and BC Branch Executive members.

A review of the student applicants were completed in mid-October in an effort to match them with a mentor that harmonized with their career goals. The first 10 mentors and mentees were matched by October 24, 2022 and two more matches were made by end of the month. Efforts to get more mentors ended in late November and one mentee applicant was left without a match. As this was the first year for the BC Branch Mentorship Program, there wasn't a full understanding of what to expect but there is recognition that not all mentees or mentors will get a match as this is a volunteer-driven initiative.

Ahead of the initial meetings, brief instructions were emailed to mentors to remind them of their duties

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and expectations. The mentor and mentees were responsible for setting their own schedules for virtual and in-person meetings. The Coordinator of the program kept in touch with the mentors and mentees to evaluate how the program was progressing for each pair. At the end of the mentorship period an evaluation was sent out to gather feedback and assess the success of the program. The responses solidified the importance of the Mentorship Program as the stats showed a mutual benefit of the program. 80% of mentees reported that the mentorship experience improved their readiness to enter the career based on the guidance they had received. In addition, 80% of mentees and 90% of mentors reported that this experience was beneficial to their personal and professional life. The overall response to this program was positive and the support from all parties, including BCIT, BC Branch, and EHOs, was encouraging.

Following the enthusiastic participation and positive reviews, the Mentorship Program kicked off for a second year in September 2023. The BC Branch appreciates the opportunity to strengthen the BCIT student experience and will continue to help prepare them for their Environmental Public Health careers.

CIPHI BC BRANCH Invites You to Our....

AGM & CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, 2023

December 14, 2023
AGM at 10 :00 am, Lunch at 12 noon
At Holiday Inn Vancouver-Centre
711 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC.

Registration is required. Please contact:-
For Regular members - Jackie Chiu at 604-675-3822 jackie.chiu@vch.ca
For Retired or non-members – Jessica Ip at 604-675-3803 jessica.ip@vch.ca
For Student members – Ricky Santos at msantos70@mv.bcit.ca

Deadline – December 7, 2023

Fee for Luncheon
Regular Member - \$30.00
Student Member - \$25.00
Retired Member - \$20.00
Non-Member - \$45.00



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Vancouver Coastal Health

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Randy Ash (Right) was the lucky winner of one of the door prizes—a \$2500 door prize!



HYDRATION

made possible
by your environmental
public health professionals



See how we support safe drinking water at ciphi.ca >

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

www.ciphi.bc.ca

The page also contains information on membership, conferences, career opportunities, documents, and much more. Check it out regularly.

Did you know the BC Branch is on Facebook and Instagram?



Click on the icon to find the BC Branch on Facebook and *Like them*.



Click on the icon and *Follow* the BC Branch on Instagram.

Have you entered your 2023 PDHs?

*Join the CoPE PDH Q & A drop in session with
Garth Gosselin & Jennifer Guth*

Wednesday
November 29, 2023
1:00pm - 2:00 pm (EST)

Register for webinar using link:

[PDH Q & A Drop in Session](#)

**You will receive an email with passcode*



***Please remember to enter your PDHs
before Jan 31st, 2024.***

***Contact cope@ciphi.ca if you have any
questions***

Emergency Response Teams for Critical Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Since 1966, the Environmental Operators Certification Program has been classifying water and wastewater facilities and certifying Environmental Operators to ensure that the more than five million people living in British Columbia and Yukon have access to safe drinking water and wastewater management.

The events of the past few years have shown that we are inadequately prepared to deal with the severity and frequency of disasters such as floods and fires. Check out this [video](#).

When it comes to emergency response and critical water and wastewater infrastructure, we can be reactive, or we can be proactive.

It's not a matter of "if", it's a matter of "when".

Let's learn

Let's adapt

Let's act now.

Being proactive results in:

1. Reduced risk to workers;
2. Less damage to infrastructure; AND
3. Faster resumption of water and wastewater services so that people can come back to their home and their community.

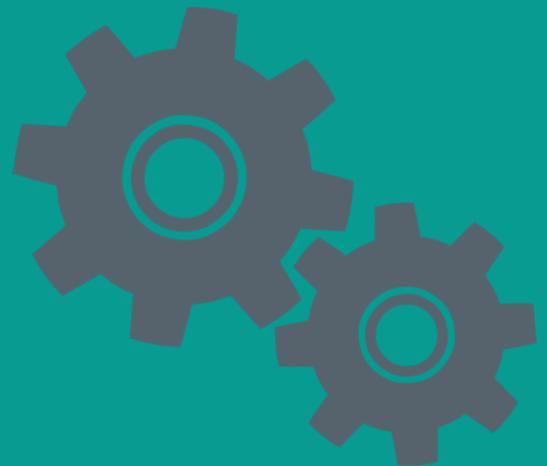


We urge the BC Government to take action to support Emergency Response Teams specifically for critical water and wastewater infrastructure, so that when calamity strikes, we are better prepared.

Take Action NOW – click [HERE](#) to send a message to the minister responsible.

We look forward to your support on this important initiative.

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



“When you discover a glaring issue during an inspection and the operator retorts “I didn’t expect you today”...”

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

Highlights from the VCH Crew



2023 Sun Run

(L to R) Sophie Fantillo, Shelley Beaudet, Kaz Takeuchi, Matt Latter, Emily Chow, Sophie Turner, Brian Moore, and Ryan Hammel.

2023 5K Foam Fest



Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

Check out the EHFC 2023 Fundraising Campaign YouTube Video to find out how to donate now! Just click above!

In Memoriam—Bill Rogers



Sadly BC recently lost one of its most dedicated Public Health Inspectors with the passing of Bill Rogers on July 26, 2023. Bill was born in Vancouver on April 18, 1947. He graduated from Burnaby South High School in 1965 and then enrolled in the new day school program for Public Health Inspectors in BC at BCIT. It was a small class of very dedicated students who worked through the bumps and wrinkles of this important new training and certification program for PHIs in BC. Upon successful graduation and certification in 1969, Bill started his long and successful career in Public Health in Fort Saint John, BC. He was then stationed in Golden before moving on to the very desirable South Okanagan Health Unit. In 1970, Bill married his lovely wife Candice Murray which resulted in three wonderful children Michael, Amber and Tara.



In 1989, Bill got the opportunity he had been waiting for to become Chief PHI for Boundary Health Unit covering the large communities of Surrey, Delta and White Rock. In 1993, Bill was presented the BC Branch Member of the Year Award for an important public health related report which he had prepared.



After several years, complications arose for all health unit staff in BC when the BC Government implemented a reorganization of the Health Care System which regionalized health care delivery. What had been the Public Health Service was then integrated into the hospital care management system with all its complications. Langley was then added to the new Fraser Health Authority along with a new administration structure lead by the hospital system.

During that complicated process changes in the union contract resulted in a management attempt to cancel the substantial accumulated sick leave benefits for long term health unit employees which included Public Health Inspectors. Bill and his close friend and colleague Nick Potter organized opposition to this outrageous action and forced the matter to go to arbitration. The highly respected arbitrator rejected this inappropriate decision by management and ruled in favour of the long term employees. Three cheers for Nick and Bill!

In 2002, Bill retired to enjoy a well deserved break after a very successful 37 years in Public Health Protection with his loving wife Candice of 53 years, their 3 children and eight grandchildren. This was a big decision for Bill as he really enjoyed his work and truly appreciated his staff and colleagues. When time permitted, Bill also participated in one of his great pleasures of fishing for salmon, halibut and whatever would bite his line. Bill also found time to take on the position of President of the Burnaby Fish and Game Club. On occasion, Bill went Moose hunting and made delicious Moose Sausage to be shared with his friends.

A great send-off was held at Henderson's Funeral Home In Langley on September 8th with a wonderful slide show of Bill, his family and friends. The room was filled with family, many friends including 15 fellow Public Health Inspectors as well as other health unit colleagues. In a final bold decision, Bill donated his brain for research into dementia through the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation.

Many thanks to Candice Rogers and Nick Potter for their thoughtful contributions to this important life summary.



Tim Roark, BC Branch Historian

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www.ciphi.bc.ca

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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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