

CIPHI Alberta Branch

Fall General Meeting - October 2, 2008

Attendees: (* denotes Executive member)

Dennis Chu	Jason MacDonald*	Kosoo Ng
Ludmilla Rodriguez	Marilyn Dahlgren	Debra Langier-Blythe
Bonnie Segal	Dragan Sikanja	Bruce van Mulligan
Todd Baxter	Diane Teoh	Ken Dong
Frances Fong	Dave Fong	Danny Thepsouvanh
Jon Elliott*	Simon Sihota	Tony Thepsouvanh
Jeremy Spencer	Ken Longmore	Ken Fujioka
Shauna Dimock	Rick Dimock	Adrea Simmons*
Keara Shaw	Claire Webb	Sandra Hamilton
Samy Tawfik	Karen Clarke*	Elmer Spilchen
Lew Skjonsby	Nicole Obert	Sarah Nunn
Wayne Quan	Garth Gosselin*	Ihsan Sassi
Glenn Jenkins	Nadine Newman	Jason Lee
Keith Lee*	Vicki Wearmouth	Beth Trevelyan
Phi Phan*	Koreen Anderson*	Jim Meagher
Victor Mah		

1.0 Call to Order

- 4:00 pm

2.0 In Memoriam

- No names to report

3.0 Agenda

3.1 Additions or Deletions to Agenda

- None

3.2 Adoption of Agenda

- Bruce van Mulligan moved acceptance of agenda. Glenn Jenkins seconded. Carried.

4.0 Adoption of Meeting Minutes

4.1 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting May 24, 2008

- Garth Gosselin moved acceptance of previous meeting minutes. Jason MacDonald seconded. Carried.

5.0 Executive Reports

- 5.1 President's Report
- Sandra Hamilton moved acceptance of report. Adrea Simmons seconded.
 - There is a new National President, Adam Grant. The search is on for a new National President-Elect.
 - Carried.
- 5.2 Vice President's Report
- Koreen Anderson moved acceptance of report. Ludmilla Rodriguez seconded.
 - The various committees are looking for volunteers. Sheets have been produced detailing time commitment and activities.
 - Carried.
- 5.3 Treasurer's Report
- Keith Lee moved acceptance of report. Andy O'Laney seconded.
 - The 2009 AEC Committee has been advanced \$40,000
 - The POS credit card contract is now in place- \$600 cost to date including setup fee (this also covers Item 8.3)
 - Auditors are required- 2 volunteers from the membership stepped forward during this meeting (this also covers part of Item 9.1)
 - Carried.
- 5.4 Secretary's Report
- Nicole Obert moved acceptance of report. Keith Lee seconded. Carried.

6.0 Zone Reports

- 6.1 Arctic Zone Report
- No report submitted (no councillor)
- 6.2 Northern Zone Report
- Adrea Simmons moved acceptance of report. Marilyn Dahlgren seconded. Carried.
- 6.3 Capital Zone Report
- Jason MacDonald moved acceptance of report. Glenn Jenkins seconded. Carried.
- 6.4 Central Zone Report
- Garth Gosselin moved acceptance of report. Shauna Dimock seconded. Carried.
- 6.5 Calgary Zone Report
- Karen Clarke moved acceptance of report. Jason MacDonald seconded. Carried.
- 6.6 Federal Zone Report
- Jon Elliot moved acceptance of report. Lew Skjonsby seconded. Carried.
- 6.7 Southern Zone Report
- No report submitted

7.0 Committee Reports

- 7.1 BOC Report
- Verbal report given.
- 7.2 Membership Report
- Sandra Hamilton moved acceptance of report. Simon Sihota seconded. Carried.
- 7.3 Advocacy Report
- Jason MacDonald moved acceptance of report. Wayne Quan seconded.
 - Thanks to all who helped out this year, and please continue to forward any ideas and issues to the committee
 - A response from Minister Liepert regarding inspector shortages in rural communities was received - *see the Branch website*.
 - Carried.
- 7.4 Social Report (verbal report by Keith Lee)
- Keith Lee moved acceptance of report. Ken Dong seconded.
 - 2008 AB Branch Golf Tournament- Rick Dimock won the low gross, and Vicki Wearmouth and Lew Skjonsby won low net.
 - Volunteers are required to plan the 2009 tournament, somewhere in the Edmonton area.
 - Carried.

8.0 Business Arising

- 8.1 2009 National Educational Conference Update
- Sarah Nunn moved acceptance of report. Sandra Hamilton seconded.
 - Highlights will include great keynotes, a federal track of topics, and many recreational/social activities (will be able to sign up for activities on the website)
 - Please contact Sarah Nunn with any sponsorship ideas
 - Carried.
- 8.2 2008 Fall Workshop (verbal report by Adrea Simmons)
- Adrea Simmons moved acceptance of report. Debra Langier-Blythe seconded.
 - Projected profit of > \$4,000
 - Thanks to all on the workshop committee!
 - Carried.
- 8.3 Purchase of POS
- Topic was discussed earlier with the Treasurer's Report (Item 5.3)

9.0 New Business

9.1 Volunteers for Alberta Branch Activities

- AUDITORS - see Item 5.3
- BYLAW COMMITTEE-
- Review and revision of the Branch bylaws required. Michael Lambert volunteered, and he will likely collaborate with Merry Turtiak and Dan Richen on this project.

ACTION: Executive and Bylaw Committee

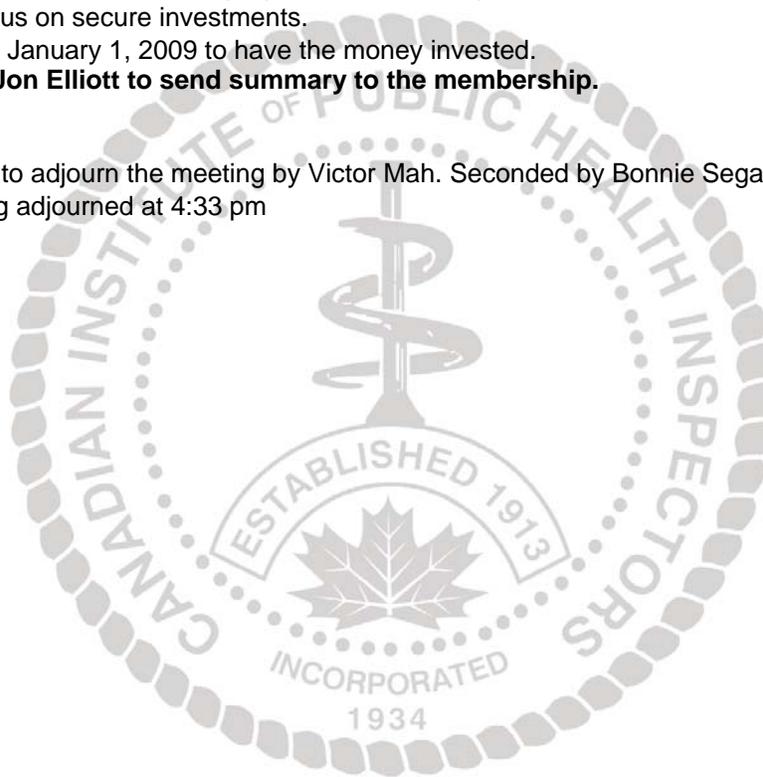
9.2 Investment Strategy

- Jon Elliot will send a summary to the Branch membership for comment on each of the top investment firms and their proposals in next couple weeks.
- Will focus on secure investments.
- Goal of January 1, 2009 to have the money invested.

ACTION: Jon Elliott to send summary to the membership.

10.0 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Victor Mah. Seconded by Bonnie Segal. Carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm



President's Report Fall General Meeting – October 2, 2008

CIPHI National Update

The 74th Annual Education Conference in St. John's is now part of the history books as a yet another successful and well-attended CIPHI education event. The small, but determined team of organizers did an exceptional job given limited resources and many daunting challenges. Over thirty members from Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut travelled to the edge of North America and were treated to wonderful vistas and exceptional hospitality. Congratulations are extended to CIPHI Newfoundland and Labrador for a job extremely well done.

At the conference, amongst the learning and socializing, work was also afoot as the Annual General Meeting dealt with changes to the Constitution that will pave the road to the future of Environmental Public Health in Canada. Specifically, the membership approved an object of the constitution that will allow for the establishment of a Board of Practice that is envisioned to be the steward of the profession, which complements the role of the Board of Certification as the gatekeeper to the profession. This development is a continuation of a plan by CIPHI to move to a system of continuing demonstration of professional competencies.

Along those lines, work continues on crafting the framework of such a system. To assist, CIPHI has proceeded to engage a contractor that will provide project management services in support of the Continuing Professional Competencies project. The contractor will facilitate meetings, conduct focus groups and provide communications to ensure that everyone that currently has a certificate, whether practicing or not, those who are studying to receive the certificate and those who have a general interest in the field and profession of Environmental Public Health have an opportunity for input into the system that is developed. Stakeholder involvement is crucial for success and long-term sustainability.

A parallel project that is quickly coming to a conclusion is the CIPHI National Database. Final touches are being put on a secure online database that will allow members to maintain their own professional profile including education, certifications and any other continuing education activities. As well the system will allow for easier registration for students studying for certification in the BOC sitting of their choice, while also providing the ability of members to register for events such as the CIPHI Annual Education Conference, Provincial Conferences and/or Workshops or any other CIPHI sponsored activity. Also being built into the system is the ability for online payment of such registrations as well as annual membership. This is an exciting project that will undoubtedly provide a value-added service to members.

Finally, national elections were also held this year at the AGM and Adam Grant, President of CIPHI Ontario, was acclaimed as National President. In fact, this will mark the last time that a National President will be elected due to the fact that in 2007 in Kelowna the position of National President-Elect was created. Unfortunately for this year, no nominations were received for that position; consequently work needs to be done to fill in the gap left with this vacancy. This will involve some constitutional work, but rest assured, the CIPHI boat will have a captain when it comes time for the new President to take over in 2010. Thanks are extended to Claudia Kurzac as outgoing National President for her remarkable poise and leadership during some very turbulent times. However, with the election we also must say goodbye (again) to the outgoing National Past President, Robert Bradbury, who will be sorely missed as the voice of reason and experience at the NEC table.

Alberta Environmental Health Directors' Council (DC9) Update

No news to report at this time.

Concordia Professional Advisory Committee

As of the writing of this report, no meeting has been scheduled.

In Conclusion

As members can see, CIPHI is forging the road for Environmental Public Health into the future. There has been an inordinate amount of work that has been done so far, but more work still needs to be done to evolve Environmental Public Health and that work needs to be done by dedicated and motivated individuals. What we are doing is important and worthwhile, so please consider volunteering your time to CIPHI. Only through membership support and engagement will we be able to move forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phi Phan".

Phi Phan
President



Vice President Report Fall General Meeting - October 2, 2008

Spring and summer have passed by quickly and fall is into full swing. We all tend to take a little hiatus during the summer, but it is now time to start thinking ahead to upcoming events.

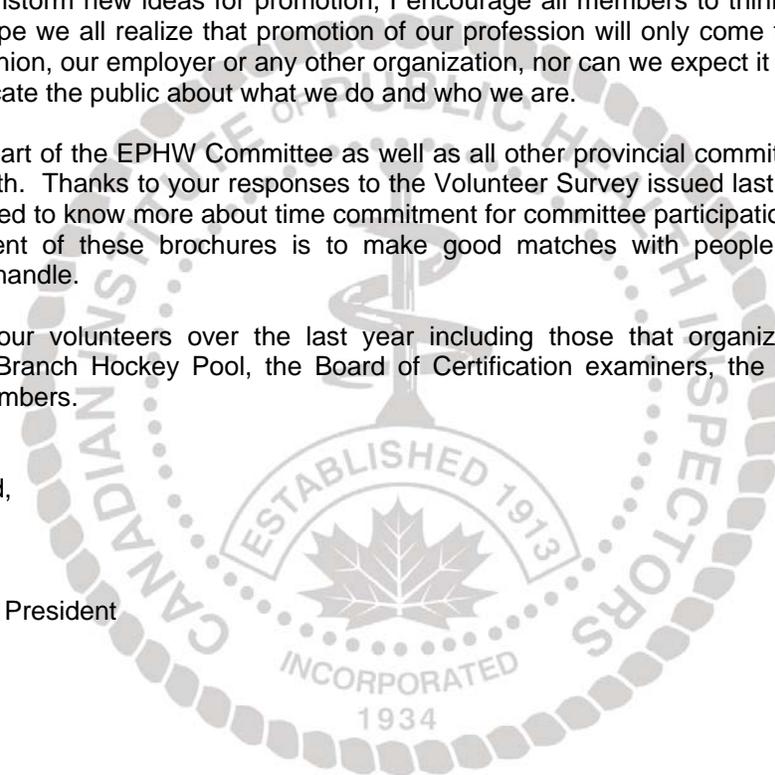
Environmental Public Health Week is fast approaching. While the EPHW Committee will take care of the letters to dignitaries and brainstorm new ideas for promotion, I encourage all members to think about how to make the week a success. I hope we all realize that promotion of our profession will only come from our members; it will not happen from our union, our employer or any other organization, nor can we expect it to. Please try to do what you can locally to educate the public about what we do and who we are.

Information on being part of the EPHW Committee as well as all other provincial committees can be found at the CIPHI AB Branch Booth. Thanks to your responses to the Volunteer Survey issued last year recurring trend was noted. Members wanted to know more about time commitment for committee participation and details about what is involved. The intent of these brochures is to make good matches with people's strengths and a time commitment they can handle.

Thank you to all of our volunteers over the last year including those that organized the AB Branch Golf Tournament, the AB Branch Hockey Pool, the Board of Certification examiners, the Fall Workshops and AB Branch Committee members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Koreen Anderson
CIPHI AB Branch Vice President



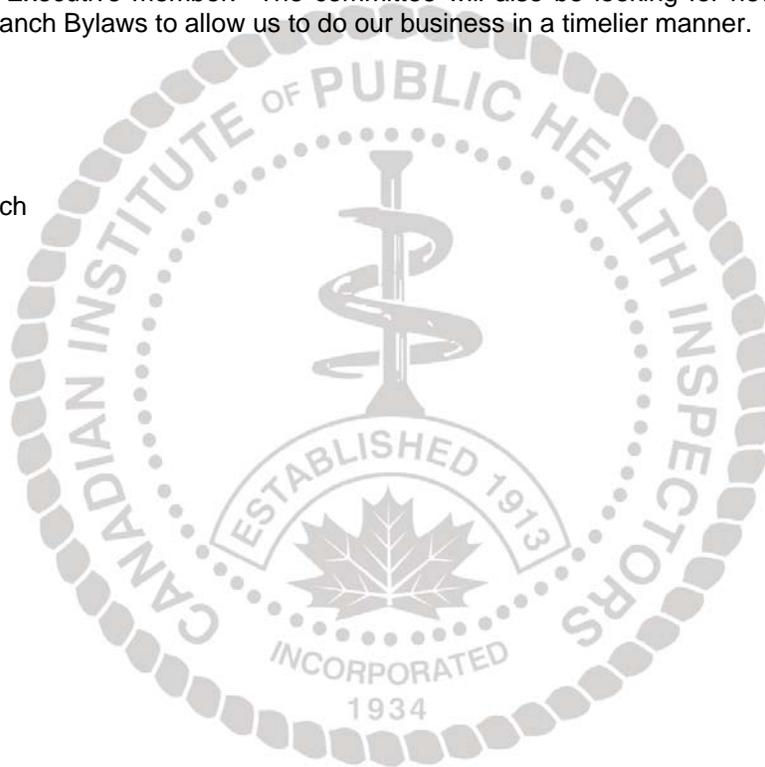
Secretary's Report Fall General Meeting – October 2, 2008

While personally, the Branch Secretary's life has been a bit frantic, I have little to report at this time in regards to activities of the Secretary since the Annual General Meeting. Membership updates from the National Office are occurring on a more timely manner, however if you are not receiving Branch news by email please let me know as soon as possible.

Starting soon after this meeting, a new Bylaw Committee needs to be struck to review and update the Branch Bylaws. The goal will be to have members voting on bylaw changes at the 2009 Annual General Meeting, so get ready to vote! Anyone who is interested in participating in the Branch Bylaw committee should contact the Secretary or any other Executive member. The committee will also be looking for new ideas which should be incorporated into the Branch Bylaws to allow us to do our business in a timelier manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Turtiak
Secretary, Alberta Branch



Northern Zone Report Fall General Meeting - October 2, 2008

Aspen:

No information provided.

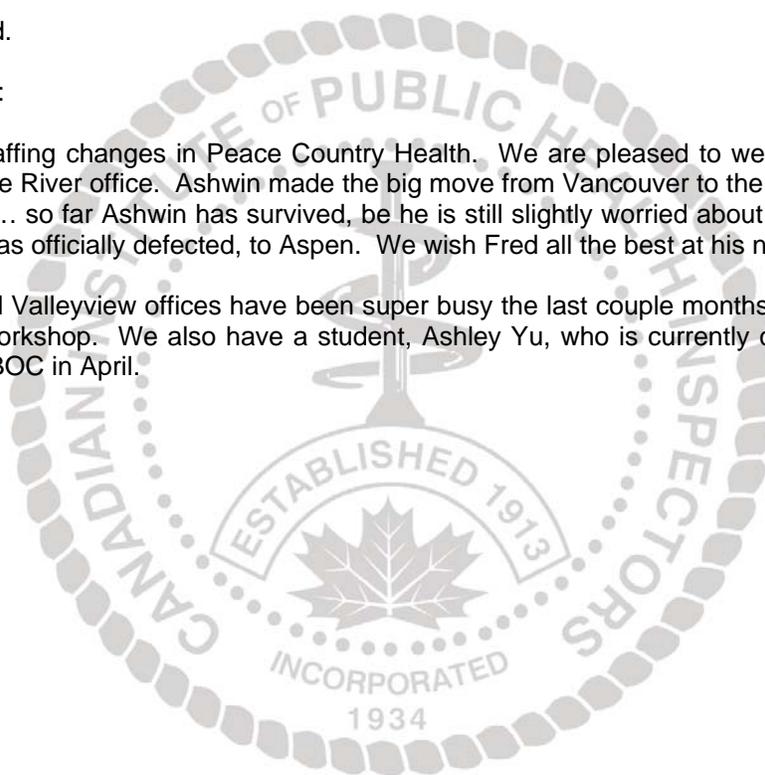
Northern Lights:

No information provided.

Peace Country Health:

We have had a few staffing changes in Peace Country Health. We are pleased to welcome our new inspector Ashwin Din to the Peace River office. Ashwin made the big move from Vancouver to the wonderful small northern town of Peace River..... so far Ashwin has survived, but he is still slightly worried about his first Northern Alberta Winter. Fred Cundict has officially defected, to Aspen. We wish Fred all the best at his new job in Hinton.

The Grande Prairie and Valleyview offices have been super busy the last couple months planning and organizing the 2008 CIPHI Fall Workshop. We also have a student, Ashley Yu, who is currently completing her practicum with us and will sit the BOC in April.



Capital Zone Report Fall Branch Meeting– October 2, 2008

I am very excited to share my third zone report. I am also excited to present it to my colleagues in Grande Prairie, as I haven't been in this part of the province since I spent a week (one night) in Beaverlodge. Our zone had a busy summer as you will see.

Capital Zone Meeting

We were able to hold a Capital Zone meeting on September 9th for our members. We had 25 attendees in the end; a number that grew significantly once it was communicated that lunch would be provided. We discussed important upcoming dates and the impending transition of our Alberta Branch Executive. It would be my hope that we can look within our zone to ease the pain of change when some of our core Executive members move along this spring.

New EHOII Positions

We are happy to share the following promotions from Capital Health. Keep your eyes posted on other future opportunities in the Capital Region.

Research & Development

Maria Precup - Drinking Water Officer EHO-II

Cheryl Galbraith - Recreational Water Officer EHO-II

Rob Mahabeer - Health Education/Promotion EHO-II

Safe Food

Michael Sidra - HACCP Coordinator EHO-II

Hany Guirgis – SFBI Surveillance Coordinator EHO-II

We Can Run!

One thing about our zone that I have come to realize is that we have a lot of runners. This year several of our members have taken part in some fairly significant running events. For instance:

- **Keara Shaw, Steve Probert** (and family), **Michael Sidra, Marie Beliveau, Ludmilla Rodriguez, Francis Fong, Michael Lambert** and **Jason MacDonald** all took part in the Little Big Run on June 1, 2008.
- **Sharon Regimbald, Francis Fong, Keara Shaw** and **Jason MacDonald** all ran segments of the grueling K-100 relay in Kananaskis on June 21, 2008.
- **Sharon Regimbald** will also be running in the 22nd Annual Melissa'a Road Race on September 27, 2008.
- **Lindsay Freistadt** and **Victor Mah** are signed up to run in the *CIBC Run for the Cure* on October 5th, 2008. Thank you to Lindsay for organizing this event. She tells me there is still time to sign up to be on the Breast Team Ever!

74th Annual National Educational Conference

The following members represented the Capital Zone at the National Conference:

- **Nelson Fok** – *Practice-based evidence to Evidence-based Practice & Health-based Safe Water Program*
- **Lance Honish** – *Food handler-associated outbreak of Salmonella Heidelberg*
- **Raymond Desmit** – *Environmental health and its role in Emergency Preparedness*
- **Sandra Hamilton** – *Tent City Edmonton – What We Have Learned*
- **Victor Mah** – *Environmental Public Health's Infection Control Role in Facilities*
- **Cheryl Galbraith** – *Safe Food Assurances Program*
- **Merry Turtiak** - *Alberta's Environmental Health Reference Manual on Public Health and Oil and Gas Industry*

Our Members

So much can change in a matter of months. Here are some intriguing updates that you should know about.

- Congratulations to **Rick Dimock** for attaining the “lowest score” at the Alberta Branch golf tournament this summer.
- **Sandra Hamilton** will be representing Capital Health at an upcoming workshop for childcare workers.
- **Lance Honish** has been doing a tremendous job as the editor –in-chief of the Alberta Branch newsletter. Thank you so much for your efforts Lance. Don't forget to email your ideas, photos, and stories to Lance for the Spring newsletter.
- **Marie Beliveau** has recently commenced her course work for her Master's degree in Epidemiology.
- **Merry Turtiak** just finished her thesis defense and will graduate with her Master's degree in November. That is a remarkable accomplishment, especially considering Merry's dedicated work as Alberta Branch Secretary. Congratulations.
- Congratulations are extended to **Warren Boychuk, Michael Lambert, Jason MacDonald, Lois Wiberg** and **Christina Schmitke** who all completed the *Enhanced Course* in **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**, as presented by the Edmonton Police Service.

Concordia Alumni Project

As discussed in my last report, **Nyall Hislop**, along with assistant editors **Cheryl Galbraith, Karen Hislop, Glenn Jenkins** and **Phi Phan** have started a project to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Concordia's accredited program in Environmental Health. The deadline for submissions which showcase the achievements and experiences of past graduates is fast approaching (December 1, 2008).

Upcoming Board of Certification Hopefuls

We would like to collectively wish our summer students well in the upcoming Board of Certification Exam. Good luck to **Michael Khan, Chelsey Pomeroy** and **Sylvia Hrushka** in October.

Welcome to the Team

The Safe Built Environments division would like to welcome **Chelsey Pomeroy, Sylvia Hrushka, and Jasjeet Bola** to the team. We hope you like bedbugs!

Also, we should extend a warm welcome back to **Karen Hislop** after her maternity leave. She shared her leave with her husband **Nyall**, who is currently off with the kids – leaving his office wide open for pranks and minor vandalisms.

Largest Food Penalty Sentence Ever

Congratulations to **Glenn Jenkins** for his diligence with respect to the *China Barbecue* restaurant in Edmonton. China BBQ was issued a global fine of \$51,520. The charges stemmed from repeat violations. The operator (John Ng) steadfastly believes that his customers prefer his product at room temperature, and therefore tuned off the hot holding cabinet at times that he did not think that the health inspector would find it. Even after a two week closure, and administrative hearing, and a special two hour food safety in-service for the staff, the violations were found again. This was the third time the operator was convicted of these offences. It was the second time for his wife, who also works in the facility and a first offence for their son, who bought the business from his parents following the second conviction.

In her decision, the judge stated that the customers were in a vulnerable position, because they are not able to inspect the kitchen themselves. She also said that the "yo-yo effect" of repeated violations showed an ongoing failure to comply with the regulations, and that these breaches were persistent and deliberate in nature. Therefore she had no problems accepting a joint submission on penalty that resulted in the highest fine given to date in the Province of Alberta for a food related offence under the Public Health Act.

Thank You!

Lastly, I want to thank the organizers of the Fall Education Conference. These events are very important for the membership and they are not easy to put together. Curling was a great idea too. I look forward to yelling "hurry hard" in the appropriate venue for a change. See you all again in springtime in Kananaskis!

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. MacDonald, CPHI(C)
Capital Zone Councilor
Alberta Branch



Central Zone Report

Fall General Meeting - October 2, 2008

It is my pleasure to fill you in on the recent happenings in the central zone. I will start with the East Central Region because if the rumors are true this could soon be the new corporate home of Alberta Health Services, from what I heard they are actively pursuing office locations in Killam. There has been one staff member part ways Kiran Brar left the region last month to head back to Manitoba, we wish her the best. Moving in the other direction they are happy to welcome some new staff their way. Thor Hameister has joined the ranks and will be sitting his oral's in October, good luck Thor. They also welcome Kelsie Dale a practicum student currently working out of the Tofield office. On a personal note Mike McKnight and his wife Krista will see their lives changed forever as they are proud to announce the birth of their first child Mackenzie Marie on September 14 weighing in at 7lbs 6 oz. Remember Mike it's never too early to buy them their first thermometer.

A little closer to home in the David Thompson Health region we have some news of our own. We continue with the farewell parties (my doctor wonders why my liver is shot). Unfortunately Diane Luka and her husband Bill have moved to Canmore and Diane has accepted a position there. Adam Stokowski has left his post in Ponoka to pursue some business opportunities and end his lengthy commute. Doug Johnston has decided to slow it down after more than 25 years and has moved to part time (I know, who thought Doug could slow down any more). Janine Steinkey completed her field training in Red Deer and moved back to her home in Medicine Hat. And last but not least Grez Ritz retired from his position in Rocky Mountain House after more than 30 years and the word is he's truly enjoying his retirement. Each and every one of them will be missed. So if you are looking for a change of venue we have some great rural areas open in Olds, Rocky and Ponoka.

It's not all bad news though as we are happy to welcome Bryon Miller to the region from his former home in sunny B.C. We are very happy to see inspectors from Edmonton move south as we rolled out the welcome mat to Michael Lambert. We are pleased that our Sylvan Lake posting is now permanently filled by Laurie Anne McClellan. And last but not least we have a new practicum student Manny Ahmad with us for at least a few months. I pass along our congratulations to newly certified inspectors Jason Lee and Janine Steinkey who sat their orals in April. I also wish to congratulate former DTHR staff Dean Blue and Amanda Lyons on their engagement.

That about sums up all that is new in the Central Zone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Garth Gosselin
Central Zone Councilor

Calgary Zone Report Fall General Meeting – October 2, 2008

It's tough trying to summarize the ever-changing world of the Calgary Zone, but I will do my best! Thanks to all my coworkers for helping me out and providing updates.

New Faces

We are pleased to announce that Diane Luka will soon be joining Lindsay Sullivan in beautiful Canmore. Many of you know Diane from her days at the David Thompson Health Region. Just a couple days ago, Jeremy Donaldson arrived from Kamloops to take over the Strathmore position. New students have recently arrived, Pamela Stewart and Nana Gyennin, both from Concordia. Welcome all!

Familiar Faces, New Roles

The Risk Assessment and Management (RAM) team has seen some big changes, welcoming back David Lee, who has taken on the position of Manager. Most recently David was Manager in Northern Lights HR. New Land Development and Remediation Advisors in RAM are former Calgary student Ryan Pawsey, and previous Strathmore PHI Brigette Noren.

Andrew Lum must be doing something right, as he moved from a maternity leave position into a permanent south Calgary district. Theresa Wawrykow and Freya Volstad decided to take it easy, and returned from maternity leave. David Crowe went back to the Drinking Water program after hanging out with the lovely Education ladies for several months. In a move that literally made her supervisor Joan Kozlowski jump for joy, secretary Ashley Kameka accepted a permanent full time position.

Really New Faces!

We have 2 new parents in the office! Kenning Leung welcomed baby girl Clara, and David Crowe is new dad to baby boy Calum. Congratulations.

Not too cool for school

Several staff are taking advantage of the new course being offered by Concordia, 'Management Principles for Public Health Professionals': Brigette Noren, Karen Clarke, Ryan Pawsey, and Valerey Davidson. Mark Fehr recently completed his Masters degree. Dennis Stefani will be participating in the Ambient Air Quality Health Index workshop in Niagara Falls. Conferences across North America faced a deluge of Calgary staff, with many of us attending the CIPHI Annual Educational Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, the annual NEHA conference in Tucson, Arizona, and the AB Branch Workshop this week. Thanks to Director Rob Bradbury and the managers for supporting staff in their educational goals and activities!

Don't worry, we'll still be friends

To the envy of many other Calgary staff members, the Enterics and CD teams have moved to the shiny new Sheldon Chumir building downtown. Whether we like it or not (hey, I'm excited to get an actual desk!), the rest of the urban staff face a move in late October to the Southport office in southwest Calgary.

So, what have they REALLY been up to?

Investigating

- Rental housing complaints continue to increase, and we are on pace for > 2000 this year.
- Handled hundreds of calls about Listeria but no confirmed cases in the CHR
- Hard work is underway for the Water for Life project

Educating

- Ongoing project looking at creating a web-based home study food safety course, based on the popular home study course already developed by the Calgary Health Region.
- The Education and Housing teams collaborated to create a new set of bed bug handouts.
- Sarah Nunn gave a presentation to the members of the new Calgary office of the residential dispute resolution service regarding the roles and reports of health inspectors

Enforcing

- There has been 98% compliance of operators with Phase 1 of the Trans-fats Policy.
- At the 2008 Calgary Stampede, new requirements for mandatory high risk food temperature recording resulted in a 53 % reduction temperature violations over last year. Great work, Lynne Navratil and team!
- Charges have been laid against a landlord accused of renting out 2 grow-op homes still deemed Unfit for Human Habitation
- Successful prosecutions include Singapore Sam's restaurant(\$23,000)& Chong Fat Foods (\$20,930).

Collaborating

- Jacquie Schnider is participating in a review of Food Safe Level 2
- PHIs recently began attending night time bar inspections along with the already-established Public Safety Task Force. This team includes police, fire, and licensing personnel from the City of Calgary, and Alberta Gaming and Liquor Control inspectors. Should be interesting to see what goes on in bar kitchens in the middle of the night!

Communicating

- Increase in media and public attention to the Safe Housing Inspection Program (SHIP), a collaboration with various city agencies towards improved low income housing, following a fatal rooming house fire and the city's promotion of the use of their general complaint line to report unsafe housing.
- A GIS/GPS project is underway that will be a valuable resource for all of the environmental health staff. Currently it is being used to track contaminated lands, landfills, water wells, and social care facilities.
- The RAM team is inviting both Calgary and outside staff to participate in hands on experience and hands-on training in land, air, and risk assessments.

The Fun Stuff

After hours of preparation, IOC president Peer Mikkelsen was unfortunately sidelined by injury in a "pre-Olympic event" before the Staff Olympics could officially kick off. However, thanks to his planning, along with the team captains, the games went off without a hitch and included such activities as Frisbee golf, hiking, biking, 'real' golf, softball, a picnic and, uh, croquet (we had to include *something* Ivan Rukavina was good at). Many staff attended the Jack Morris golf tournament, and the following dinner/retirement party for our (very) old friend Gary Butler.

We want YOU!

Currently available positions include one full time and one part time district in central Calgary. The housing team is also recruiting. Keep an eye out for upcoming postings from RAM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Clarke
Calgary Zone Councillor

Federal Zone Report Fall General Meeting- October 2, 2008

We have undertaken a name change at Environmental Health Services of First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH); we are now called Environmental Public Health Services. This name change has taken place through collaboration with FNIH in all regions and Ottawa to better reflect what environmental health officers do. I'm sure I have heard about something like this before...

We would also like to announce the return of Joan Yee, our Senior EHO who has been away on maternity leave. We are all pleased to have her back and we know that her dedication will help Alberta region's Environmental Public Health Services become more effective.

There have been a number of new additions to our offices: Caroline, Dana, Jeff, Kyle, Marcy, and Wojciech. The new positions have helped ensure the protection of Alberta First Nation communities. We have had some interesting events in the past few months:

- A treaty 6 First Nation is testing an enzyme to reduce the sludge layer in its lagoon. This enzyme appears to be digesting the sludge which will assist the lagoon in handling the necessary volumes of sewage.
- We have been working closely with two treaty 7 First Nations during the building of a school and a Casino. After many recommendations to revise the plans we are seeing the completion of these buildings.
- Chief and Council of one First Nation in treaty 8 created a band council resolution (they enacted a law) for Health Canada to close a community restaurant. This step showed that the band is committed to protecting public health.
- Our MOH, Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, issued a closure order to a daycare due to an outbreak. The closure and investigation arose many questions in the community so information sessions were held for the band members.
- In treaty 8 we are helping a first Nation with a feasibility study to replace a failed community sewage (RBC type) system.

We also want to welcome Andrea Germann who took a practicum with us. We look forward to sharing our unique role with her.

Lastly, we wanted to congratulate Sunil Beeharry and his wife Carmen on the addition of Jordon. We hope she can help Carmen keep the boys in line.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Elliott
Federal Zone Councilor

Membership Committee Report Fall General Meeting - October 2, 2008

Once again, membership numbers continue to increase. Membership numbers as of August 20 were as follows:

Zone	Affiliate	Corporate	Life	Regular	Retired	Student	Total
Arctic	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
Calgary	1	2	0	56	2	0	61
Capital	1	1	0	74	2	10	88
Central	0	0	1	21	1	1	24
Federal	0	0	0	11	0	0	11
Northern	0	0	0	30	0	2	32
Southern	0	0	1	17	1	4	23
Total	2	3	2	216	6	17	246

I have been busy sending out over 30 letters in the last month to members new to province, new student members and members who were certified in the last year.

Congratulations once again to the winners of the membership raffle draw that was held at the Spring General Meeting. The winners of a free membership were Mike Gervias, Karen Emde, David Crowe, and Quentin Schatz.

Once again we will be having a membership raffle. See your zone councilor to purchase tickets. Tickets are 1 for \$5, 2 for \$8 or 3 for \$10. The last day to purchase tickets is Feb. 27, 2009. The draw will be made at the spring general meeting.

Don't forget to renew your memberships before Dec. 31, 2008. Those that do will have their name entered into a draw for a free registration to the NEC to be held May 3-6, 2009 in Kananaskis! Congratulations once again to Maureen Elko who won a free registration to the NEC in St. John's.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Herridge
Alberta Branch Membership Committee Chairperson

Alberta Branch Advocacy Report Fall Branch Meeting – October 2, 2008

After one year in the role of Advocacy Chair, I have had a chance to appreciate the importance of this position. Also, I have had a chance to network with more and more of my colleagues with respect to issues that affect our profession. The past few months have been very active behind the scenes, with a few successes that you may have read about in your local news.

The team continues to be comprised of Elmer Spilchen (Peace Country), Koreen Anderson (Peace Country), and Nadine Newman (Peace Country). We have also had input from Cheryl Galbraith and Lance Honish. The rest of the Advocacy role is filled by me, and our President Phi Phan, whose intense understanding of our profession should not go overlooked.

Highlights

- Our most recent achievements were featured in the Fall Edition of the Alberta Branch news.
- Our last report indicated that we had created a response to news stories in the Edmonton Journal and Calgary Herald which highlighted shortages of Public Health Inspectors in several rural health regions based on audits conducted by Deloitte in 2006 and 2007. Subsequent to that, a letter was drafted and sent to Hon. Ron Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness. Furthermore, our position statement was also sent to major newspapers in Alberta in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Camrose, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat.
- CIPHI Alberta received a response from Minister Liepert on July 15, 2008, which can be viewed on the Alberta Branch website. The Minister agreed with our position, while encouraging all health professionals to be committed to new and innovative ways to deliver adequate health services. He also stated his commitment to the role of “prevention” in health care.

What we are working on

- The College of Physicians and Surgeons is looking for auditors to audit physicians' offices and our committee is considering our current and potential future role with respect to this request.
- In light of the current Listeriosis outbreak and associated food re-calls, the issue of restricting food menus for high risk populations (i.e. Hospitals & Long-term facilities) was brought forward. We are considering how to best advocate for improved legislation to prevent this and other illnesses in high risk populations.
- We are also keeping our eye on a notion that was “floated” in national media prior to this outbreak, in which the Federal government would put more expectation on facilities with respect to food safety, possibly reducing the role of government inspection.

Sermon

I feel that any successes in terms of advocacy should not be limited to the work of our committee and Executive. Advocacy does not always take the shape of a letter to the Minister or the editor of a publication. It happens every day. We encourage you all to join in and make a difference. There are a lot of things that many of us do already to advocate for our profession, such as presenting topics at meetings, publishing articles, sharing on the message board or even simply being a consistent performer in the field.

With that in mind, we encourage you all to consider upcoming opportunities such as Environmental Public Health week, the Alberta Branch Newsletter and the Concordia Alumni project as a platform to advocate for our profession. Furthermore, if a topic grabs you locally, provincially or nationally and you want to discuss its implications on our profession, don't hesitate to contact me and we will begin the discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. MacDonald, CPHI(C)
Advocacy Chair
Alberta Branch

CIPHI Annual Educational Conference 2009 Update Fall General Meeting – October 2, 2008

We are 8 short months away from hosting the CIPHI Annual Educational Conference and the Steering Committee and various portfolio committees are gearing up for the large volume of work that remains to be done to ensure a successful National Conference. We look forward to hosting delegates from across the country and a huge attendance from those here in the Alberta Branch. We look forward to seeing you in Kananaskis Country, May 3 – 6, 2009 at the Delta Kananaskis.

The following are a few key updates:

We have now secured our three keynote speakers:

- Bill Marler or Associate from Marler-Clark Attorneys – food safety advocate and food borne illness litigant. Marler- Clark has led numerous class action suits against companies associated with large food borne outbreaks in the United States.
- Warren MacDonald – mountain climber/inspirational speaker.
- Andrew Nikiforuk – author/reporter – provides interesting well researched insight into environmental health issues in Alberta

We continue to work on strengthening our provincial-federal partnership at Conference 2009. Part of this will be to run an educational track each day featuring the interests of a Federal Environmental Health Department. For example, First Nations and Inuit Health, Workplace Health and Safety and the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Social/Networking events have been secured. Entertainment includes a Wild West Night at Boundary Ranch, Piano Bar Sing-a-long and an evening with the Dino Martinis. Further info will be in the final Conference package, soon to be released.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available and we are looking for Regional support prior to the creation of the new organizational governance model. Sponsorship opportunities, gifts or donations or exhibitors, can contact Sarah Nunn at 403-943-8085 for additional information.

The Conference Committee successfully promoted the 2009 CIPHI AEC in St. John's, Newfoundland this past July, as well as at the Health Canada National Workshop in Ontario in the spring. We will continue to promote the Conference in all Branch Newsletters and in the Environmental health Review. Stay tuned for more updates.

We look forward to seeing you in K Country in May, for what is shaping up to be an interesting venue, one you will not want to miss!!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W Bradbury
Conference 2009 Co-Chair