



Photo Credit: Dan Richen

Word Power

quandary

(\KWAHN-duh-ree; -dree\, noun)

A state of difficulty, perplexity, doubt, or uncertainty.

President's Message

Springtime has always been synonymous with regeneration and growth and this year this fact holds true for the Alberta Branch, as elections have been held and a new Executive has been voted upon.

To start off with, I'd like to introduce myself to the general membership. My name is **Phi Phan** (pronounced 'fee fan') and I was recently chosen to be President of the Alberta Branch.

If my name seems familiar, it is. Up until now I've edited this very newsletter; I've just moved up a page.

Unfortunately, there is insufficient space to discuss my goals and objectives for the next year in this newsletter, but in the near future I will put those thoughts into a cohesive form and that will be provided to the membership.

In the meantime, however, I look

forward to meeting and speaking to members and non-members to gauge their concerns and get direction for the future of the Branch and the Institute.

After all, I represent the membership and only through discussion will I know where the members want the Executive and I to go. These are exciting times.

On a personal note, I'd like to take this time to acknowledge and applaud the dedication and support that **Victor Mah** has provided the Branch.

Although a small man, he has left enormous shoes to fill both on a

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The Path Less Travelled

It sure has been a hectic few weeks for me as I attempt to divest my various activities to other individuals within the Branch due to my new position as Branch President. Unfortunately, just as fast as I can get things off my proverbial plate, other things keep getting piled on. Thankfully there are many willing folks within the Branch that are providing assistance.

In addition to the election of the various Executive Board members (see pages 4 and 5 for bios) at the 2004 Annual General Meeting, appointments were made to a variety of committees. They are listed below:

- *Advocacy (formerly Issues) Committee:* Simon Sihota
- *Board of Certification, Corresponding Member:* Peer Mikkelsen
- *Board of Certification, Exam Coordinator:* Dan Richen
- *Communications, Newsletter:* Phi Phan (Chair)
- *Communications, Website:* Dan Richen (Chair)
- *Environmental Health Week 2005 Committee:* Rabindra Mahabeer (Chair)
- *Membership Committee:* Tricia Herridge (Note: At the AGM, Tony Thepsouvanh had been appointed to this position, but he has since relinquished the Chair of the Committee to Tricia, effective May 1)

If you wish to become involved and help out any of the above-noted individuals with a committee, please contact myself and I will put in touch with right folks. Only through members' support can we move the Branch's goals forward.

Finally, although it is a little like saying goodbye to a loved one for me, this edition of the *Alberta Branch News* marks my last as the sole editor. (Okay, loved one maybe a stretch, perhaps a better descriptor would be petulant child.)

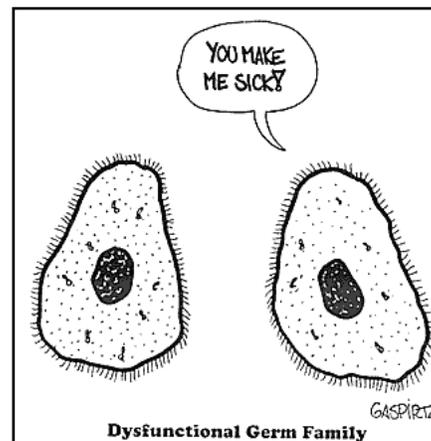
However, as you can see from above, I remain on the Communications Committee, but a new editor will be in place by the next edition of the *Alberta Branch News*. I would ask that you support him or her, as you have done for me in the past two-plus years.

And the picture of Victor? With all the work he's done, a picture does indeed say a thousand words. Cheers. ■

- Phi Phan



Photo credit: T. Thepsouvanh



Editorial Policy

In the pursuit of the Association's objectives, the Editor and the Newsletter Committee is authorized to publish this Newsletter on a periodic basis, as deemed appropriate. The objectives of the Association are:

- (1) The development and advancement of environmental health, and
- (2) To support the advancement of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Association Executive Board has the authority to provide general direction respecting the content of the Newsletter and, in consultation with the Editor, to set policies regarding administrative matters of each issue. The Editor shall have the general authority to select material for publication in the Newsletter provided all material meets the criteria of being within the objectives of the Association.

Views, comments or positions within the contents of the Newsletter are those of the Editor, Editorial Staff or the author, respectively, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Association Executive or its' membership.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- Congratulations to **Peer Mikkelsen** on his marriage in Vancouver! Another one bites the dust!
- Coming into the batter's box for marriage is **Sean Robison** who proposed to his girlfriend (now fiancée) earlier this year.
- **Nyall and Karen Hislop** welcomed a new P.H.I. to the family and it's a boy!
- **Keara Shaw** is going to extremes to get some time off from work as she and her husband await the arrival of their own addition.



PRESIDENT *continued...*

(Continued from page 1)

provincial level and a National level as he was extremely active on the National Executive Council as well. His presence and logical thinking will be sorely missed at the NEC.

The new executive is lucky to still have the advice of Victor as he remains on the Executive as Past President.

On behalf of the membership and the Executive, I would like to thank Victor for his numerous years of hard work, which often went unheralded. Victor, just know that it was all appreciated.

That's all for this President's Message, but looking forward to the future, I see great things happening, but the membership's support will be needed.

Feel free to contact me at president@ciphi.ab.ca or at (780)413-5767. ■

- Phi Phan, President (Alberta Branch)

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

On The Waterfront won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1954, and it also marked the first year that **Roy Griffiths** joined the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors (which is now the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors). Now, 50 years later, *On the Waterfront* is considered a classic film and Mr. Griffiths continues to be a member.

To acknowledge his support of the Institute over these many years, the Alberta Branch recently presented Mr. Griffiths a commemorative plaque at the Annual General Meeting in Calgary.



Photo Credit: P. Phan

A man of few words, Mr. Griffiths quietly accepted his award to a standing ovation.

Congratulations and thanks are extended to Mr. Griffiths for his continued support of the Institute.

Also occurring in 1954:

- The World Series was broadcast in color for the first time
- The first Burger King opens
- M&M's Peanut Chocolate Candies were introduced
- Canada and the United States agree to build the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line ■

- Phi Phan, President (Alberta Branch)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Calgary once again played host to the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Branch held at Centre 15 on March 27, 2004.

With over 30 members in attendance, a variety of topics were discussed including a proposal for a continuing education program for the Branch. More information will be available once the committee working on the proposal is finished.

Additionally, news that the 2nd Annual Environmental Health Week was a success across the country was well received.

There was some media coverage in certain centres and in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, the mayor officially proclaimed January 3 to 9 as Environmental Health week.

A committee has been struck to handle next year's Environ-

mental Health Week, which promises to be bigger and better than previous years.

One of the more important items on the agenda was the election of a new Branch Executive. The winners are detailed on pages 4 and 5.

However, some positions remain vacant, therefore the Branch requires some volunteers to step forward to handle these portfolios.

If you are interested in volunteering, drop a line to Phi Phan at president@ciphi.ab.ca.



INSIDE THE BRANCH



President

Phi Phan

Capital Health

president@ciphi.ab.ca

780/413-5767

Hailing from the bustling suburbs of Melita, MB (population 997), Phi's family moved to the Edmonton region in the late 80s. Since that time he has completed a Bachelors of Science in Microbiology as well as finishing his Environmental Health training at Concordia.

Previous to his current position with Capital Health in Edmonton, Phi honed his skills in Taber with the Chinook Health Region.

In his spare time he enjoys watching movies, playing tennis and volleyball, reading and hacking into the Government of Canada computers. (Just kidding on the last one).



Secretary

Merry Turtiak

Peace Country Health

secretary@ciphi.ab.ca

780/513-7521

Merry was born and raised in the Drayton Valley-Evansburg area. She attended the University of Alberta for her B.Sc. in Microbiology and then moved onto Concordia to complete the After Degree Diploma in Environmental Health in 1999.

For her practicum, she moved to Grande Prairie and luckily it turned into a full-time position and she has been there every since. Merry has been actively involved in the Branch for the past 4 years as the Branch Secretary and was elected for her 3rd term at the Annual General Meeting in March.

Other interests include golfing, cheering on the current Grey Cup Champions, and traveling when ever she can.



Vice-President

Tony Thepsouvanh

Aspen Regional Health

vicepresident@ciphi.ab.ca

780/675-2231

Originally from Lethbridge, Tony completed his undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Lethbridge. After realizing just how little one could do with a science degree he stumbled upon environmental health at Concordia. He obtained his CPHI(C) in October 2001.

He has worked for Peace Country Health (formerly Mistahia Health Region) in Grande Prairie, but now hangs his shingle in Athabasca for the Aspen Regional Health Authority.

He enjoys snowboarding, trying to golf, washing his Jeep and spending time with his lovely wife (not in that order, though)



Treasurer

Keith Lee

David Thompson Health Region

klee@dthr.ab.ca

403/823-3341

Keith was born in Vancouver and raised in Richmond, BC. After graduating from BCIT in 1983, he came out to Alberta and worked for Wetoka, Banff National Park, Drumheller and Vegreville Health Units. For the last 15 years, Keith has been with Health Authority 5 (now David Thompson Health Region). Keith has been the Treasurer for the Alberta Branch for the past 10 years and is now starting a 7th term in that position.



Past President

Victor Mah

Capital Health

victormah@cha.ab.ca

780/963-3772

Victor has been on the Branch executive since 1996 holding the positions of Membership Committee Chair, Zone Councilor, Vice-President, President, and a "zillion" National and Branch committees. He now enjoys his new position of Past President.

He continues to be involved with the Board of Certification as an examiner and assists the National Executive Council on special projects.

The Executive Board





Arctic Councilor

Rhian Harrison
Hay River HHSS

Koreen.westly@pchr.ca
(780) 618-3479

No information available at press time.



Central Councilor

Zaheen Nanji
David Thompson Health Region

znanji@dthr.ab.ca
(403)309-5601

Zaheen works for the David Thompson Health Region (DTHR) and is based out of the Wetaskiwin Community Health Centre. Her specialization includes communicable disease control and institutions such as hospitals, long term care facilities, seniors' lodges and daycares.

She received a B.Sc. in Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Alberta and joined CIPHI while a student at Concordia. Zaheen completed her practicum in Manitoba and joined DTHR in October 2001.

Her hobbies include reading and various sports, but this year she has taken up 'quading' and Hip Hop dancing. A goal this summer is to white water raft and mountain climb.



Northern Councilor

Koreen Westly
Peace Country Health

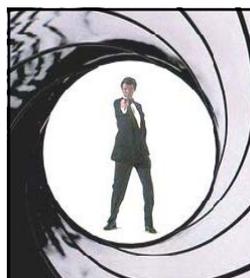
Koreen.westly@pchr.ca
(780) 618-3479

Koreen took her Bachelor of Science Degree at Concordia University College and enrolled in the Environmental Health program immediately after that.

She received field training in Lakeland Regional Health Authority and Capital Health. In November 2001 she moved to Peace River to work for Peace Health Region. She then transferred to Grande Prairie during the regional amalgamation and after a few name changes now works for Peace Country Health.

Koreen has been involved in the Alberta Branch as the Northern Zone Councillor since September 2002. She also participated in the 69th Annual Education Conference by joining the Sponsorship and Education Committees.

After hours Koreen enjoys playing and watching most sports and volunteering for various activities in the community.



Capital Councilor

Simon Sihota
Capital Health

ssihota@cha.ab.ca
(780) 413-5650

No information available at press time.



Calgary Councilor

Kristen Kliciak
Calgary Health Region

kristen.kliciak@calgaryhealthregion.ca
(403) 943-8066



Kristen was born and raised in Edmonton, and completed her BSc, specializing in Microbiology, at the University of Alberta. She then spent the next two years working for Norwest Labs in their Microbiology and Client Services departments. Prior to finishing University, her goal was to become a public health inspector; in 2002, this goal became a reality. Kristen graduated from Concordia in the spring, completed her practicum training with Headwaters Health Authority during the summer, and obtained her CPHI(C) in the fall. She has been working for the Calgary Health Region with a wonderful group of people since November of 2002, and is enjoying it very much.



Southern Councilor

Brian Craig
Chinook Health Region

bcraig@mail.chr.ab.ca
(403)223-4403



Brian graduated from Concordia in the spring of 2000, and was certified in October of that year. After doing his practical training with Chinook Health Region, he accepted a full time position and has been there ever since.

Previous to that, Brian had received a BSc and a D.C. from Logan College of Chiropractic (St. Louis, MO). He has worked in the oil and gas industry and the agriculture industry for almost 20 years. What I most enjoy about health inspection is meeting and working with people with character.

WellNet: Provincial Personal Health Identifier (PPHI)

The Provincial Personal Health Identifier Program (PPHI) allows authorized staff to access the Alberta Health Care database to obtain or create a Personal Health Number (PHN) for Alberta residents or a unique lifetime identifier (ULI) and associated demographic data to other health service recipients.

More importantly public health inspectors can access the Personal Directory (P.D.) section of the registry through Alberta Wellnet Application Portal.

This section allows access to Public Health Numbers, addresses and telephone number of clients.

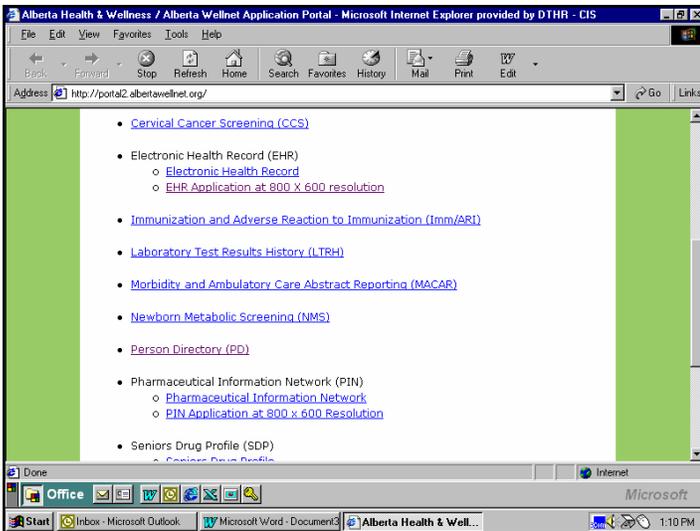


Figure 1: Portal site for Alberta WellNet

Generally, an application must be made through your PPHI coordinator, who will submit the request form to Alberta Health and Wellness for authorization.

Your PPHI coordinator is generally your Health Information Services Support Manager (at least it was in the David Thompson Health Region, your region

may be different).

A PPHI Person Directory User ID Request form must be completed by the employee and submitted to the PPHI Coordinator by the department supervisor, along with a secret word (in case you forget your password) and prompt.

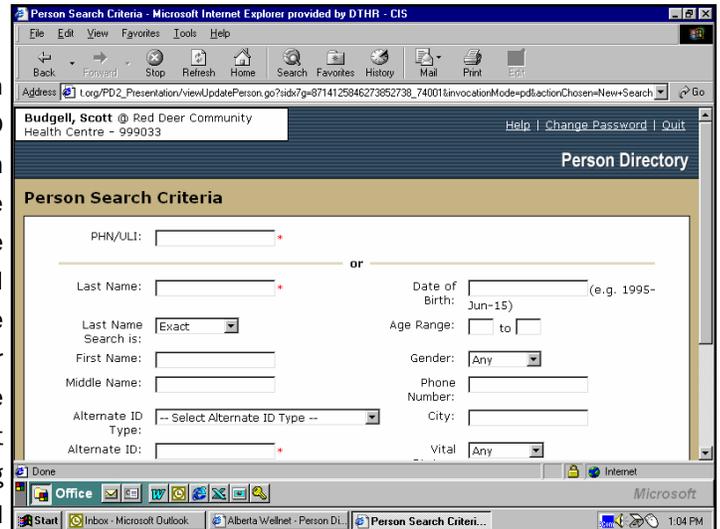
The supervisor then submits the request form to Alberta Health and Wellness (AH&W) for authorization.

Once the application has been processed the Help Desk at Alberta Health and Wellness will contact the user with a new ID and a temporary password.

Just to note that the password must be changed every ninety (90) days.

Passwords Must:

- contain at least one numeric value (not the first or last character)
- be between eight and ten characters long
- be no adjacent or repeating characters



- not contain special characters (# or \$) and
- have no more than two consecutive characters in common with the old password

Enjoy the password making process. I think it took me 10 attempts to get it right.

For more information contact Alberta Health and Wellness at:

PO Box 1360, Station M
Edmonton AB T5J 2N3

Fax: (780) 422-0102

Telephone: (780)427-1432

Email: AHCIPMAIL@health.gov.ab.ca

Web: <http://www.health.gov.ab.ca>

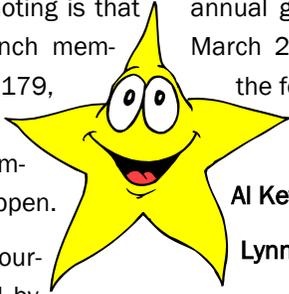
To dial toll free in Alberta, call the Rite Line at 310-0000, wait then dial (780) 427-1432

Or in person at Alberta Health & Wellness' offices in Edmonton or Calgary. ■

- Scott Budgell, Public Health Inspector, David Thompson Health Region

MEMBERSHIP

The membership drive for 2004-05 is off to a great start! The numbers current to March 26, 2004 are listed in table below. Also worth noting is that last year the Alberta Branch membership count reached 179, which is a record for us. Congratulations to the membership for making this happen.



Although the Branch encourages membership renewal by March 31 of each year to remain a member-in-good-standing, we accept renewals throughout the year, so if you haven't paid your dues yet, please go to <http://www.ciphi.ca/pdf/apply-en.pdf> for a membership form today!

In other exciting membership committee news, our annual raffle was an-

other great success this year. A total of 5 free memberships, valued at \$125.00 each were given away at our annual general meeting in Calgary on March 27, 2004. Congratulations to the following individuals:

Keith Lee – Southern Zone

Al Kettler – Calgary Zone

Lynne Bollinger – Central Zone

Ken Dong – Capital Zone

Elmer Spilchen – Northern Zone

In addition, members who renewed before December 31, 2003 were entered into a draw for a free registration to the **70th National Educational Conference** in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island this summer.

The winner of this prize was **Marilyn Dahlgren** from the Northern Zone. Way to go Marilyn!

Finally, as I have taken up post as Vice President of the Alberta Branch, I would like to relinquish my position as the Membership Committee Chairperson. If anyone has any interest in becoming the Chairperson for this exciting committee, please contact me. *(Editor's note: As noted in the 'Message from the Editor', Tricia Herdridge has accepted the responsibilities of Membership Chair, effective May 1)*

Thank you to all members who continue to support our organization and profession. ■

- *Tony Thepsouvanh, Vice President, Alberta Branch*

Zone	Regular	Retired	Student	Corp./ Affiliate	Life	Total Membership
Arctic	9	0	0	0	0	9 (7.3%)
Northern	22	0	2	0	0	24 (20%)
Capital	34	1	10	0	1	46 (37%)
Central	16	1	1	0	0	18 (15%)
Calgary	17	1	1	0	0	19 (15%)
Southern	6	0	0	0	1	7 (6%)
Total	104 (85%)	3 (2.4%)	14 (11%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.6%)	123



Alberta Branch — Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Box 1674
Drumheller, Alberta
T0J 0Y0
Email: ab-ciphi@telusplanet.net
Homepage: <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca>



alberta branch news

alberta branch news is published quarterly by the Communications Committee of the Alberta Branch to provide current information on the many activities of the Alberta Branch. The newsletter is distributed to members and friends of the Alberta Branch.

Any inquiries, correspondence or change of address should be forwarded to:

The Editor, Alberta Branch Newsletter
305, 11215 Jasper Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 0L5
Voice 780 / 413 . 5767
Email phphan@cha.ab.ca

or to the Alberta Branch address.

Alberta Branch Executive Board

<i>President</i>	<i>Phi Phan</i> president@ciphi.ab.ca
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Tony Thepsouvanh</i> vicepresident@ciphi.ab.ca
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Keith Lee</i> klee@dthr.ab.ca
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Merry Turtiak</i> secretary@ciphi.ab.ca
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Victor Mah</i> victormah@cha.ab.ca
<i>Arctic Councillor</i>	<i>Rhian Harrison</i> rhian_harrison@gov.nt.ca
<i>Northern Councillor</i>	<i>Koreen Westly</i> koreen.westly@pchr.ca
<i>Central Councillor</i>	<i>Zaheen Nanji</i> znaji@dthr.ab.ca
<i>Southern Councillor</i>	<i>Brian Craig</i> bcraig@mail.chr.ab.ca
<i>Capital Councillor</i>	<i>Simon Sihota</i> ssihota@cha.ab.ca
<i>Calgary Councillor</i>	<i>Kristen Kliciak</i> kristen.kliciak@calgaryhealthregion.ca

alberta branch news

<i>Editor</i>	<i>P Phan</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>N Amlin, K Emde, W Drobina, R Mahabeer</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>P Phan</i>
<i>Contributors</i>	<i>S Budgell, B Craig, R Harrison, K Kliciak, Z Nanji, T Thepsouvanh, M Turtiak, K Westly</i>

IS THAT RIGHT?

Homeowners Told to Remove Moose Carcasses

ANCHORAGE - Eagle River resident Glenn Gibeault discovered a dead moose on his quarter-acre near Eagle River Road last month. As the snow started melting, an ear emerged.

He called the state Department of Fish and Game.

"It's your moose," Gibeault said he was told.

If a moose dies alongside a road or in a ditch, Fish and Game will call on a trapper or city or state road crews to haul it off. But if one dies on private property, the homeowner has to dispose of the carcass.

"Our policy is once a moose is dead, it's not ours anymore. People are stuck moving them themselves," state biologist Rick Sinnott. "People get very upset with us, obviously. They figure it's still our moose."

In winter, it's easy to find trappers who want the hide or meat. But as the trapping season ends in spring, they're not so interested, Sinnott said.

At this time of year, Sinnott said, moose are weakened and starving and "dropping like flies."

Gibeault said a friend suggested he drag it down the road. "Then it's the municipality's moose."

That's not a new idea, Sinnott said. The

Peninsula Clarion of Kenai reported last week that moose carcasses were piling up in the peninsula, littering back-road ditches, sometimes with ropes still cinched around their necks.

Gibeault also thought about trying to shove his moose 10 feet, across his neighbor's property line. Unfortunately, the neighbor already had noticed the animal on Gibeault's property, he said with a laugh.

Game officials told Gibeault they would try to help him find a trapper to take the carcass.

A moose carcass might attract bears stumbling out of hibernation this time of year, so people want them removed from neighborhoods as quickly as possible.

Robert Doran, owner of Nuisance Wildlife Management in Wasilla, charges \$175 to use his 9,500-pound winch and dump trailer to pull animals out of people's yards.

"It's not the most glamorous thing," he said. "And it's kind of odoriferous."

A trapper finally bailed Gibeault out. Gibeault helped him tie a rope around the animal and drag it up onto a mound. They backed the trapper's truck up to the mound and slid the carcass into the truck bed.