



President's Message

Yet another year has dawned across the plains and mountains of Alberta and I sincerely wish the best of 2005 to the members of the Alberta Branch and your respective families.

Although we look forward to the rest of 2005, we cannot forget the devastation and destruction that was unleashed across the shores of numerous countries surrounding the Indian Ocean on Boxing Day of last year. Ranking among the worst natural disasters in human history, the importance of basic environmental public health principles was never so clearly evident. In a matter of moments human life was swept aside along with the basics of shelter, food and water.

A motion was introduced by the Branch Executive to possibly provide monetary assistance in the wake of such a wide-scale disaster to a relief organization with an environmental public health focus. However, the motion was defeated by a vote of the Executive, which accurately reflected the views and wishes of majority of members who provided feedback when that input was sought. We will instead seek out more constructive means of providing support to the relief efforts that will be more relevant to the wishes of the membership. If any member should have a viable suggestion, please forward to any member of the Executive as soon as possible.

On a more Canadian tangent, the Alberta Branch in conjunction with the other Branches of CIPHI and CIPHI National celebrated another

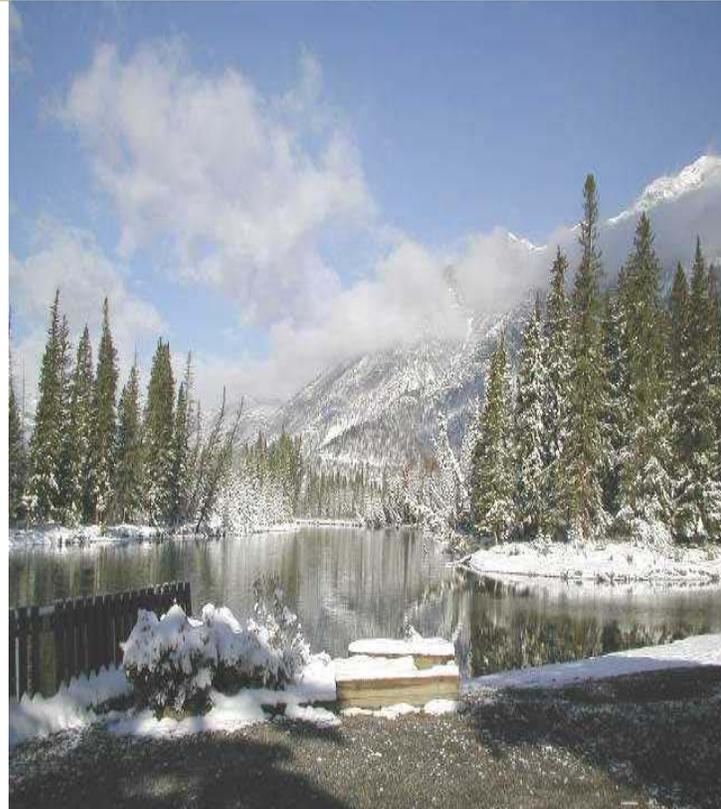
Environmental Public Health Week. Across the country, the activities in support of EPH Week was varied and proved to be a successful promotion of our profession. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the respective Branches were able to get the provincial governments to proclaim EPH as a provincial initiative.

More information regarding EPH Week in Alberta and across Canada will be highlighted in the upcoming, premiere edition of CIPHI's new national newsletter. With its' distribution, CIPHI National hopes that communication will be improved between the National Executive Council and the membership. At the helm of the publication will be a member that most of us in Alberta will be very familiar with, Mr. Victor Mah. I'm sure that Vic would be most willing for any constructive comments when the newsletter goes to press.

In Alberta, the City of Calgary was the only municipality to proclaim EPH Week, even though requests were sent to the other major centres in the province as well. It is hoped that continued work in support of EPH Week.

And finally, I would like to remind everyone to renew their memberships for 2005. The deadline to remain membership-in-good-standing is March 31, 2005, but I would recommend sending in your paperwork earlier than later.

And for all those members that renewed prior to January 1, 2005, all of your names have been entered into a draw for a free registration to the upcoming 71st Annual Education Conference coming up this September in Toronto



(\$650 value)!

See you all at the spring Annual General Meeting.

Respectfully,
Phi Phan, President



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Editorial	2
Regional Spotlight	3
Membership Report	4
Notice of Retirement	4
Expecting	5
Engaged	5
Branch News	6
Annual Fall Workshop	6
SDHT Award	7

Editorial

Dear colleagues; I have been the Editor now for two full issues and I am unable to continue in this position. In my first issue I stated I would like to have a more serious research focus to this publication. However, from then until now I have been unable to dedicate the time to identifying a topic and bringing to bear the resources necessary to produce an article that would be useful to you, the field inspector.

Much of this inability was my responsibility. I had hoped that some of my colleagues would have stepped forward to produce a science-based article concerning our field. While several individuals expressed interest in this, none followed through and I was unable to write such an article myself.

Another failing was in the timing of publication of the ABN. Previously, this newsletter was unfailingly published quarterly. I have struggled to bring the ABN to the membership in the season of concern.

Accepting a challenge is an important part of a career. I have rarely failed to take on new challenges. However, knowing when to say “enough, you win” is also important. I cannot in good faith continue on as Editor, I believe that I would be failing the Membership, the President, and myself if I did so.

Therefore, effective after this issue I will no longer be Editor for the ABN. I call upon you, my colleagues and critics to take up this challenge. Many of you have expressed interest in contributing to the ABN, expressed criticism of the ABN and of CIPHI. Well, in the words of Don Cherry “Get in the game”, it is easy to criticize what you have not done anything about. Please, step forward and do a better job than I have, or as good a job as Phi.

In my few years in the field I have found inspectors are always willing to express their opinions. In fact, we seem to have an opinion on everything from hot holding to hockey. As a group we are quick to identify and defend ourselves and our profession to outside pressures, such as the Inspector technician movement.

The number of issues facing our profession, within Alberta and within public health demand serious, rigorous examination. Issues such as the proposal by Alberta Agriculture, CFIA, and Alberta Health and Wellness to change the method of food inspection under one agency, or our role in public health emergencies need to be examined and debated at the Branch level not just at coffee.

Can the ABN provide a venue for such discussion, that depends on you. The editor cannot write the whole issue themselves. If they must spend time begging contributions from the Membership, then coaxing the article to some basic format, then editing it into the next issue, they have little time for their job, their families and other commitments.

Whoever steps forward to take on this role will require the full support of the Membership.

Good Luck!

-Rabindra Mahabeer

Please contact the ABN Editorial Committee if you are interested, contact information on the last page.

Regional Spotlight

Spot Light on Northern Lights!

Northern Lights Health Region is booming, bustling and simply bursting with activity. Since amalgamating with the North-western Health Region in 2003, our geographical footprint has increased to become the largest Health Region in the province. We have a regional population of approximately 82,000 people.

Originally, Fort McMurray was established as a Hudson's Bay Company post in 1870. When the settlement of Fort McMurray first appears in the Census in the summer of 1901, only 16 people were counted. One hundred and three years later the population has grown to over 56,000. Now, with the continued and anticipated growth in the Fort McMurray area, the population is expected to soar by another 20,000 in the next few years.

Why this growth you ask? Well, to put it simply – OIL and GAS. We are unique in our region in the fact that with the Oil-sands we are sitting on about 25% of North America's oil supply, and as such, have a plethora of mining companies and mines in various stages of development. Syncrude Canada, Suncor Energy, Albian Sands, and CNRL are some of the major developers in the Fort McMurray area.

Being at the centre of such a "booming oil town" it is often assumed by everyone that at least one working members of a household is a plant employee. This assumption is valid in that over 60% of employed persons in Wood Buffalo work for an oil company or for an oil company contractor. However, with the large incomes of those working in the oil industry, we also have a big wage gap with the low incomes of those working in the service industry. Many service industry employees keep two or more jobs in order to pay the bills. As such we have a great problem with employee turnover, which is challenging, especially in our food facilities.

We see the influence of our major industries in every aspect and area of our region. Though Environmental Health Services never has a slow season, our full staff of five health inspectors, are kept the busiest in the winter months. It is estimated that over 11,000 people live in permanent or winter work camps in our region. When you combine these camps with our 20 or so outlying communities, there is a great deal of road travel involved in our daily activities.

The inspection staff consists of Manager Darcy Garchinski, Heather Thomas, Rory Peever, Dragan Sikanje, Maria Precup, and Gary Tam. Northern Lights has also been very good at hosting practicum students. As two inspection teams, based in High Level and Fort McMurray respectively, we are a breed of generalist inspectors, meaning we do not specialize as much as in the more urban RHA's. We find that about 60% of our activities involve food facilities, another 25% is associated with Personal Service Facilities and Institutions, and the remaining 15% is divided up between housing and other complaints, including enterics and investigations. Currently we are involved in the Human Exposure Monitoring Program in conjunction with the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association and Alberta Health & Wellness. This program was developed from the results of the Oil Sands Community Exposure and Health Affects Monitoring Program (AOSCEHEAP) conducted in 1998 and monitors human exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollutants in our region. The CEHEAP protocol has gone to be used in Grande Prairie, Fort Saskatchewan and most recently in the Wabamun area of Capital Health.

Northern Lights Health Region is a dynamic and constantly changing region. It is an exciting place to work and challenges our team on a daily basis!

-Heather Thomas



Former NLRHA Inspector Sunil Beeharry (now with FNIHB) and Heather Thomas, 2002

Membership Report

AB Branch News Spring 2005, Membership Report

Spring seems finally to be here! We ended off 2004 strong with 168 members!

Final Membership Report for 2004

	Life	Regular	Retired	Student	Total
Arctic	0	11	0	0	11
Capital	0	54	2	19	75
Calgary	0	22	1	1	24
Central	1	18	0	1	20
Northern	0	26	0	0	26
Southern	1	10	1	0	12
Total	2	141	4	21	168



We are also off to a good start this year with the table below representing members as of Feb.1, 2005. This is just a reminder that to remain a member in good standing your dues must be paid before March 31, 2005.

	Life	Regular	Retired	Student	Total
Arctic	0	5	0	0	5
Capital	0	20	2	5	27
Calgary	0	10	1	1	12
Central	1	9	0	0	10
Northern	0	17	0	0	17
Southern	1	5	1	0	7
Total	2	66	4	6	78

The membership raffle is now over. Thank you to all you purchased tickets. The draws will be held at the spring general meeting.

Finally in membership news, congratulations goes out to Adam Jensen from Pincher Creek. Adam was the winner of the early bird draw. For renewing his membership before December 31, Adam won an early bird registration valued at \$650.00 to the NEC being held in Toronto this September!

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Herridge, B.Sc., B.E.H.(AD), C.P.H.I.(C)

Alberta Branch Membership Committee Chair

Branch News

Notice of Retirement

John Pelton, Director of Environmental Health for Calgary Health Region, has announced his retirement effective March 31, 2005. For 45 years, he has been a major force in the advancement of environmental health academics and practice in Canada, displaying excellence in a wide range of capacities: practitioner, instructor, program head and director.

In 1961, John obtained his certification as a Sanitary Engineer from Ryerson, pursued a public administration degree from Carleton University, and completed his Masters in Business Administration from City University in 1990. John gained his first ten years practical experience in Ottawa, complemented this with 18 years of academic and administrative experience at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, and then proffered this wealth of talents on the Calgary Health Region.

During his 18 year tenure as Director, John can be credited with reorienting the Environmental Health Program. He has enhanced the traditional mandate, developed the specialized services, doubled the program resources, and increased program capacity to respond to new and evolving environmental health issues.

John still expresses a deep passion for environmental 'public' health. He is justifiably proud of his longstanding and enduring contributions to the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, the Environmental Health Advisory Board of BCIT, and the multitude of medical and environmental students and staff that he has mentored and nurtured over the years.

John is looking forward to more relaxed involvement in environmental health. He will stay active on notable provincial and national committees and environmental health projects, whilst protecting more of his time for life's little pleasures.

Editorial Policy

In the pursuit of the Association's objectives, the Editor 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.

Expecting

SARAH THEPSOUVANH (n. HOFFMAN) along with her husband, Tony will be expecting their first child this summer. Congratulations and well wishes can be sent to Mr. Sarah at tony_thepsouvanh@hc-sc.gc.ca.

ZAHEEN NANJI, and her husband are expecting their first child this summer.



Sarah



Tony

Engaged

ANDREA ANGUS, Coaldale PHI, recently became engaged.

Branch News

Zaheen Nanji, Central Zone Councillor will be retiring from this position. This has been a very positive experience for her, and Zaheen has enjoyed the many new challenges and rewards the position has awarded her. Phi would like to extend, on behalf of the membership of the Alberta Branch his heartfelt thanks and admiration for the exemplary manner in which Zaheen fulfilled her responsibilities in representing the Central Zone. Past-President Victor would also like to extend his thanks and best wishes to Zaheen.

Doug Johnston has accepted the position and will be confirmed at the Spring Annual General Meeting. Doug has been a public health inspector for 30 years and a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) for 29 years. He started his career in Edmonton in June 1975 and then moved to Canmore in November 1990. He joined what was then known as the Mount View Health Unit, where he worked for 3.5 years. In April 1993 he moved to Olds, where he resides today. Doug has a passion for Public Health and has supported the Institute throughout his career. Please join Phi in welcoming Doug Johnston to his new position. Congratulations Doug!! Doug has indicated that he would like to use the following email address for branch business: dpjohnston@shaw.ca

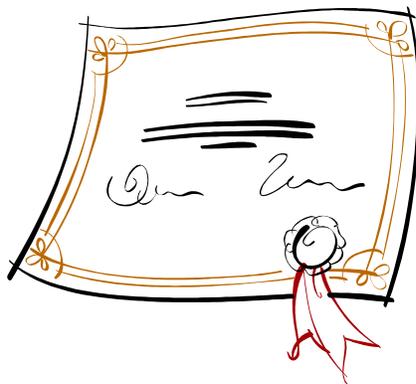


Annual Fall Education Workshop

The Alberta Branch is pleased to announce that the Annual Fall Education Workshop is being held in Calgary on October 6 & 7 and is being hosted by Calgary Health Region. As preparations are currently in their initial steps, more information will be provided as it becomes available. Please refer any inquiries to Sarah Nunn, Southern Zone Councillor for the time being. She can be contacted at sarah.nunn@calgaryhealthregion.ca

Please help the Alberta Branch make this Workshop as successful as previous years with your support and attendance.

-Phi



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



Capital Health Safe Housing Team Receives Award

Capital Health and its partners in the Safe and Derelict Housing initiatives can finally be referred to as award-winning programs! The annual Prevention Power Community Awards were hosted by Capital Health November 15th, 2004. The Safe and Derelict Housing Team (SDHT) won top honors in the Partnership Category. Out of 88 nominees, 15 finalists were selected to attend the Awards Ceremony to compete in 5 different categories. These included the Partnership, Innovation, Volunteer, Leadership, and Award of Distinction categories. With 3 finalists in each category, SDHT were up against two other very impressive initiatives; the Expecting Respect Peer Education Program & Heads Up Partners. Despite tough competition, the team was awarded top honors in the Partnership category. The Safe Housing Team is comprised of the following groups and members.

City of Edmonton, Housing Services Team Members

Hal Wright, Chairman Safe Housing Committee, Senior Safety Codes Officer

- Howard Schultz, Safety Codes Officer, Building Discipline
- Kevin Wawryko, Safety Codes Officer, Building Discipline
- Teresa Mabley, Coordinator of Safe and Derelict Housing

Capital Health Team Members

- Ken Dong, Senior Environmental Health Officer
- Brian Craig, Environmental Health Officer
- Chris Rolfe, Environmental Health Officer
- Glenn Jenkins, Environmental Health Officer
- Karen Hislop, Environmental Health Officer
- Sandra Hamilton, Environmental Health Officer
- Wojciech Drobina, Environmental Health Officer

Edmonton Emergency Response Department Team Members

-Colin McKay, Safety Codes Officer, Fire Discipline

Edmonton Planning and Development Team Members

-Rick Hachigian, Development Officer

Edmonton Police Service Team Member

-Constable Chris Hayduk

Inspections Group

- Don Scott, Safety Codes Officer, Electrical Discipline
- David Niven, Safety Codes Officer, Electrical Discipline

The City of Edmonton and the Capital Health Authority have established the Safe Housing Committee to work toward improving housing conditions for Edmontonians living in rental buildings. To achieve that goal, the Safe Housing Committee utilizes the Approved Fire Safety Guidelines for Rooming Houses & Converted Buildings 1999, the Public Health Act Minimum Housing and Health Standards and the Alberta Building Code.

Hal Wright, Senior Safety Codes Officer, Housing Services - City of Edmonton, was honoured to accept the award on behalf of the team, adding that he was very proud to be associated with such dedicated professionals.

SDHT would like to thank everyone involved for a job well done. Thank you.

Wojciech Drobina, CPHI(C)



Alberta Branch News

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

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

The Editor, Alberta Branch Newsletter:

Rob Mahabeer
 c/o Capital Health
 205 Stan Woloshyn Building

Spruce Grove, AB

T7X 4C4

Voice 780-962-7573
 Fax 780-960-0305
 Email RMahabee@cha.ab.ca

Alberta Branch Executive

<i>President</i>	<i>Phi Phan</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Tony Thepsouvanh</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Keith Lee</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Merry Turtiak</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Victor Mah</i>
<i>Arctic Councillor</i>	<i>Rhian Harrison</i>
<i>Northern Councillor</i>	<i>Koreen Westly</i>
<i>Central Councillor</i>	<i>Doug Johnston</i>
<i>Southern Councillor</i>	<i>Rod Mattice</i>
<i>Capital CCouncillor</i>	<i>Simon Sihota</i>
<i>Calgary Councillor</i>	<i>Sarah Nunn</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>Phi Phan, Dan Richen</i>
<i>Board of Certification</i>	<i>Peer Mikkelsen</i>
	<i>Dan Richen</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Tricia Herridge</i>
<i>Continuing Education</i>	<i>Edwina Kordyback, Shauna Dimock</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>Phi Phan</i>

Contributors *Phi Phan, Heather Thomas, Tricia Herridge, Victor Mah, Zaheen Nanji, Wo-*