

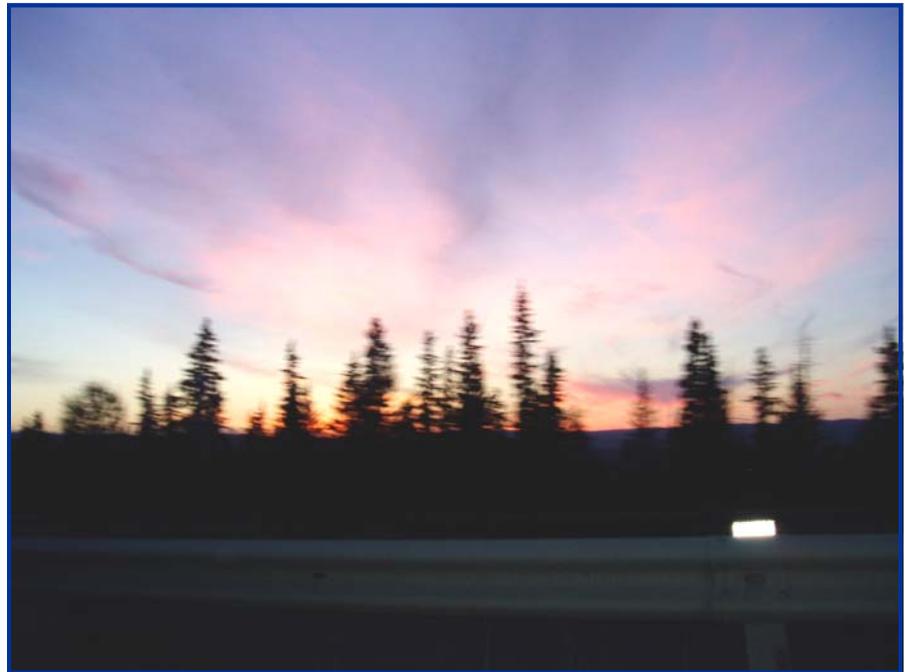


73rd CIPHI Annual Educational Conference

Grand Okanagan Lakefront
Resort and Conference Centre
Kelowna, BC

June 17—20, 2007

Go to <http://www.ciphi-bc.ca/conference.htm> or see page 6 in this issue.



Morning sun rise—Adam Stokowski

Message from the President

Winter is slowly releasing its' grasp here in the majority of the West, but alas, not fast enough it seems. With the spring thaw, the Alberta Branch marches towards the biannual election of the Executive and with that event looming, a member only needs to take a quick survey to realize that the environmental health realm is rapidly changing all around you and I.

So if you want to be involved in your professional organization to have input on these new developments in our field, this is definitely your opportunity! By being involved you will get a better understanding of what

your professional organization is, what it does and the many future directions that it is going. To use business speak, we are looking at a paradigm shift, so why not help steer the ship, versus just being tossed around in storm?

Now onto some of the things that are occurring at the National and Provincial levels.

In January, the Working and Steering Group of CIPHI's continuing professional competencies (CPC) project met in January to update the progress of the project to date. Work also continued on trying to peg a dollar amount for the development

and implementation of any CPC program. As more information becomes available, we'll be sure to distribute to members for your collective knowledge.

In support of the CPC project, a discussion paper has been submitted to CIPHI discussing the Environmental

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New possibilities

The field of Environmental Health has never been so strong within our province. Many new jobs have been created to fill Alberta's demand for Environmental Public Health Professionals (EPHP's). This is a great opportunity for existing and future EPHP's. Not only do we benefit from increasing demand for services but the field is truly heading more into the environmental route.

EPHP's focus is starting to shift to how the environment effects the health of the public. The knowledge that an EPHP needs to address these issues has never been greater. Some of the demands are fuelled from recent food recalls and outbreaks to industrial developments within our province. And how these factors may adversely affect the lives of the public. As being relatively new to the field of environmental health, I have noticed this increase

right in front of my eyes.

But having a greater knowledge and thirst for knowledge is not truly enough. EPHP's must learn how to manage concerns and how to properly communicate them to the public. Addressing real and perceived concerns can pose quite a challenge. Anything can adversely impact public health but not always can we properly address all concerns. The public is becoming more and more knowledgeable through media, internet, and other sources.

The possibilities and challenges are huge but the future looks bright for our field. Especially considering the development of core competencies and new job opportunities.

- Adam Stokowski

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:

- The development and advancement of environmental health, and
- 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 and/or the author, respectively, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Association Executive or its' membership.



President's message continued....

(Continued from page 1)

Public Health Professional's Scope of Practice. The document has been reviewed by a pan-national committee and will be posted to the National website and distributed to all members as soon as possible.

Although the document is not meant as the definitive document detailing all aspects of the environmental public health profession, it is a good starting point to begin work on specific papers and projects detailing who we are, what we are and how many of us there are. And strangely enough, this isn't information that we have ever gathered together in one place before, but it is something that is definitely needed.

Also on the National scene, CIPHI recently put forth an application to register the "Certificate in Public Health Inspection" and the "CPI(C)" credential as trademarks, in addition to the French equivalents. I'm happy to report that the English application was approved in March. This step was necessary to allow progression of the CPC project's objectives. For more information about the CPC project, please go to the National website at www.ciphi.ca.

Provincially, I am pleased to announce that the 8th Annual Branch Fall Workshop will be held in cooperation with Capital Health somewhere in the Edmonton area in October. CIPHI Alberta would like to once

again thank Capital Health for supporting this event after a two year hiatus.

So to conclude, on behalf of the CIPHI Alberta Executive, I'd like to thank the membership for their support over the last two years and look forward to new faces and viewpoints to come to light at the upcoming spring election.

- Phi Phan, President



Alberta HACCP Advantage (AHA!)

As part of a Canada-wide initiative focusing on food safety, the Government of Alberta has partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to support Alberta's food processors to improve their food safety systems.

Up to \$20,000 in funding is available to eligible, non-federally registered food processors for the implementation of HACCP or other food safety programs as well as for food safety training courses. The funding is available through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), Food Safety Initiative – a Federal, Provincial and Territorial Initiative.

A portion of the APF funds will go toward HACCP training for all public health inspectors in Alberta. A committee comprised of practicing health inspectors -- and instructors from both Guelph Food Technology Center and the Alberta Food Processors' Association -- is currently developing training materials. The in-class training will be held across Alberta; inspectors working in every region will have the opportunity to participate.

We encourage all public health inspectors to take advantage of this professional development opportunity to learn more about AHA! and how it will benefit food processors and the food industry in this province. Participants will also investigate the practical application of HACCP and how it fits into other food safety programs and systems in Alberta's food processing industry.

If you have specific questions regarding AHA!, please call 1 (780) 427-4054 or email aha@gov.ab.ca for more information.



Central Zone Workshop - 2006

The CIPHI Alberta Branch's Central Zone recently held a workshop on December 14th, 2006 at the Norsemen Inn in Camrose, AB focused on housing issues.

Tricia Herridge, Gord Corcoran, Pam Williams, and Mike McKnight (pictured to the right), were instrumental in making the workshop a success. The Central Zone Councilor, Doug Johnston, would like to extend a very special thank you to these four individuals for all their hard work, & dedication in putting this great workshop together. Doug would also like to thank East Central's MOH, Dr. Benade for his support and participation in this workshop.

In attendance were 22 environmental public health professionals, 5 speakers and Dr. Benade. The speakers included:

- ▶ Mr. Rick Solkowski discussing "Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service"
- ▶ Mr. Rob O'Neill discussing "Options Available for PHIs During Times of Low Vacancy" in addition to some very interesting and informative roundtable discussions.
- ▶ Mr. Nick Skippings presented Capital's issues with basement suites, as well as various other housing scenarios.
- ▶ Mr. Mike Sidra spoke on HACCP and Alberta



From left to right: Gord Corcoran, Pam Williams, Mike McKnight, and Tricia Herridge

Agriculture and Food's program of "Food Safety Initiative Funding."

All in all, it was an informative day for those in attendance. A super facility, a great lunch and awesome networking opportunities added up to a wonderful professional development day for CIPHI members. Additionally, the attendance and representation by Calgary and Edmonton members was also a nice touch and the effort to attend is greatly appreciated by the Central Zone Committee.

-Doug Johnston



CIPHI members enjoying the workshop



Alberta Branch Awards and Recognition

During a November 2006 Director's Council meeting (DC9), Phi Phan (President, CIPHI Alberta) presented the 25-year Member pin to Mr. Jim Meagher. It's difficult enough to commit to anything for 25 years, but Jim has been a strong supporter of CIPHI and the Alberta Branch during that time. His commitment and support of the goals and objectives of CIPHI is greatly appreciated and we at the Branch wish Mr. Meagher many more years of merriment and mirth in the field of environmental public health.



Jim Meagher and Phi Phan pose after Mr. Meagher received his 25-yr membership pin



Phi Phan presents the LE Stewart Award for 2006 to Peer Mikkelsen in his office in Calgary

During the same excursion to Calgary, Phi also had opportunity to present Peer Mikkelsen the L. E. Stewart award for 2006. The L. E. Stewart Award is named in honour of a man who worked diligently on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and the field of Environmental Public Health in Alberta. It is awarded to a member of the Alberta Branch, who in the eyes of his or her colleagues has made a significant contribution to the Association, the profession and/or the community. The complete citation for Peer can be found in the Summer 2006 (Issue 5, Volume 2) edition of the *Alberta Branch News* available at www.ciphi.ab.ca

Upcoming events



Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

L'Institut canadien des inspecteurs en santé publique



JOIN US IN KELOWNA

British Columbia

June 17-20, 2007

73rd Annual Education Conference

Vision: Visiting the Core ~ Building the Future

Mission: Revisiting and Reaffirming Core Competencies for Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Health Officers

About the Conference:

The BC Branch, in conjunction with the Interior Health Authority, is excited to host the 73rd Annual Education Conference of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors in Kelowna. The Conference theme will allow delegates to critically examine core competencies for Public Health Inspectors / Environmental Health Officers with a view to preparing a base upon which to face our future challenges.

The triple stream conference will be held at the beautiful Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort & Conference Center and will offer a tailored professional program focusing on Air, Food, Water and Community Sanitation. The National CIPHI Awards luncheon and traditional President's Banquet, after-hours and partner activities will include golf, tours and a trademark wine tasting evening.

Ken Christian - Chair
Roger Parsonage, Domenic Losito - Co-Chairs

CONTACTS: Laurie Bourdin at 250-851-7305
Debra Losito at 604-543-0935



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INCDNCM Conference 2007

The International Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man (INCDNCM) is pleased to announce that we are now accepting registration and abstract submissions for the 62nd Annual Meeting at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Meeting dates are 12 to 14 Aug 2007, inclusive (Sunday to Tuesday).

INCDNCM conferences are multidisciplinary and include topics on viral, rickettsial, bacterial, parasitic, and prion-related diseases acquired from natural sources, including animals (wild or domestic), contaminated water or food supplies, arthropod vectors and other sources. Presentations are typically 10-15 minutes in length and can describe epidemiological, clinical, ecological, diagnostic or laboratory-related aspects of the above diseases. Student presentations are encouraged. The focus of the meeting is to present information from clinical, epidemiological, research and diagnostic areas primarily related to zoonotic diseases, both current and emerging.

This meeting is especially suited to public health practitioners and healthcare workers, such as laboratorians, epidemiologists, veterinarians, infectious disease specialists, medical health officers, researchers and students, who have an interest in zoonotic infections and wish to present their findings either orally or through posters sessions.

Please visit the following website to register, view updates on our program, and get additional information: <http://www.union.wisc.edu/INCDNCM/index.html>. You can also read more about INCDNCM at our homepage at <http://incdncm.googlepages.com/>. We are looking forward to seeing you in Madison this August!

- 2007 Conference Organizers

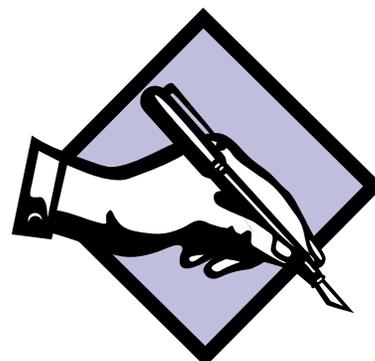


Alberta Branch Members Publications

Congratulations to the Branch members below (names in bold), who authored/co-authored articles that appeared in scientific journals in the last year.

- ▶ *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* as a Waterborne Gastroenteritis Pathogen. *Environmental Health Review* 2005;49:121-7,30. **Nelson Fok**.
- ▶ An international outbreak of human salmonellosis associated with animal-derived pet treats - Canada and Washington State, 2005. *Canada Communicable Disease Report* 2006;32:150-5. Brisdon S, Galanis E, Colindres R, **Larry Crowe**, ... **Doug Everett** et al.
- ▶ Histoplasmosis cluster, golf course, Canada. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 2006;12:163-5. Anderson H, **Lance Honish**, Taylor G, ... **Stephen Probert**.
- ▶ Outbreak of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 gastroenteritis associated with consumption of beef donairs, Edmonton, Alberta, May - June 2006. *Canada Communicable Disease Report* 2007;33:14-9. Lance Honish, Ingrid **Zazulak I**, **Rabindra Mahabeer**, **Kristen Krywiak**, **Rick Leyland**, **Nyall Hislop**, **Chui L**.

Did we miss your publication? E-mail the editor, astokowski@dthr.ab.ca



Alberta Branch News

The 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 News

Box 1674

Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0

Phone 403/783-4491

Fax 403/783-3825

Email astokowski@dthr.ab.ca

Alberta Branch Executive Board

President	Phi Phan president@ciphi.ab.ca
Vice-President	Koreen Westly koreen.westly@pchr.ca
Treasurer	Keith Lee klee@dthr.ab.ca
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Northern	Adrea Simmons adrea.simmons@pchr.ca
Central	Doug Johnston djohnston@shaw.ca
Southern	Andrea Hahne ahahne@chr.ab.ca
Capital	Rebecca Johnson rebeccajohnson@cha.ab.ca
Calgary	Kara Bascom kara.bascom@calgaryhealthregion.ca
Federal	Jon Elliott jon_elliott@hc-sc.gc.ca

Alberta Branch News

Editor	Adam Stokowski
Committee Members	N Amlin, K Emde, W Drabina, P Phan
Design	Phi Phan
Contributors	Doug Johnston, Lance Honish, Keith Lee, P Phan

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Box 1674
Drumheller, AB
T0J 0Y0

Email: branch@ciphi.ab.ca
Homepage: <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca>

Is that right?

CHICAGO (AP)- McDonald's Corp. is reviving its campaign to ditch the dictionary definition of "McJob," this time setting its sites on the vocabulary of Britons. The world's largest fast food company said Tuesday it plans to launch a campaign in the U.K. this spring to get the country's dictionary houses to change current references to the word "McJob."

The Oxford English Dictionary, considered by many wordsmiths as the gold standard for the English language, is one of those that will be targeted. It defines the noun as "an unstimulating, low-paid job with few prospects, esp. one created by the expansion of the service sector."

The word first cropped up two decades ago in the Washington Post, according to the dictionary. But executives at Oak Brook, Ill.-based McDonald's say the definition is demeaning to its workers and say they'll ask dictionary editors to amend the definition.

"Dictionaries are supposed to be paragons of accuracy. And in this case, they got it completely wrong," said Walt Riker, a McDonald's spokesman. "It's a complete disservice and incredibly demeaning to a terri-

fic work force and a company that's been a jobs and opportunity machine for 50 years."

But the restaurant chain that helped coin the phrase "super size" may have its work cut out.

In 2003, editors at the Merriam-Webster dictionary declined to remove or change their definition of "McJob" after McDonald's balked at its inclusion in the book's 11th edition. Instead, the Springfield, Mass. publisher said the word was accurate and appropriate.

Amanda Pierce, a spokeswoman for McDonald's U.K. operations, declined to comment on the specifics of the company's newest campaign, but said it will kick off in May with the goal of changing what she called an "out-of-date" definition.

She said she did not know how long the campaign would last, saying that depended on "how far and wide the campaign goes."

A representative from the New York office of Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford dictionary, said nobody was immediately available to comment.