



## 9th AB Branch Fall Educational Conference

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

Grande Prairie, AB

October 2 & 3, 2008

Visit <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca>

for more information



North Saskatchewan River Valley in Autumn—Lance Honish

## Message from the President

As we collectively traipse from the warm embrace of the Canadian summer into fall's cold grasp, I am sure many CIPHI Alberta members will fondly remember the summer of 2008, especially if those members had the great fortune of attending the recent CIPHI National conference in St. John's, NL. During the last week of July over 30 members of CIPHI Alberta were in North America's oldest English-founded city (founded circa 1541, if you're interested) attending the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference.

From frontline staff to management, there was a disparate cross-section

of Environmental Public Health Professionals from Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut who made the journey to attend. Many were there as speakers, others as exhibitors and some to receive an award, but what was clear was that everyone found the organization of the conference to be exemplary. Congratulations are extended to the Newfoundland and Labrador Branch for hosting an excellent conference!

Details regarding the extensive contribution of CIPHI Alberta members to the 74<sup>th</sup> AEC are provided later in this edition of the ABN.

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## Message from the Editor

It's my second ABN edition as Editor, and I have to say I'm very much enjoying it (yes, I'm a geek). My thanks to the Newsletter Committee, contributors, and, those who provided feedback regarding the Spring issue.

Also, I extend my thanks to the Branch Executive, who approved changes to the Terms of Reference for the Newsletter Committee, in which the roles/responsibilities of the Editor and other Newsletter Committee members are clarified. Also, it's been formalized that the target number of ABN issues is two per year—Spring and Fall editions.

I had the honour of attending the 74th CIPHI Annual Education Conference in St. John's, NL this past July, and was

proud to be a part of the large (in number, not in mass) Alberta contingent. It was fun to sift through the (edited) conference pictures and choose those that appear in this edition (see page 7). I'm confident I will have as much fun with the snapshots from the AB Branch Fall Workshop in Grande Prairie, which is coming up quickly (make sure you register!).

I remain on bended knee begging all Branch members to send me ANYTHING they think might be appropriate for publication in ABN. Also, I continue to encourage your feedback, anytime. E-mail me at [Lance.Honish@capitalhealth.ca](mailto:Lance.Honish@capitalhealth.ca)

- Lance Honish, Editor

## Message from the President con't.

*(Continued from page 1)*

On behalf of CIPHI Alberta and its members, congratulations to the several national award winners!

In addition to the usual conferencing activities, CIPHI business was also carried out, as the Annual General Meeting was well attended. All of the Notices of Motions that were sent out to members previously were passed, although some required amendments to correct minor phrasing or terminology issues. Although many of the notices involved cleaning up language errors

and numerical referencing errors, several others will help CIPHI in achieving its strategic objectives of demonstrated continuing professional competency and mandatory membership.

Of course, as mechanisms and frameworks are developed to utilize those new provisions within the Objects of the Constitution, CIPHI will be sure to elicit member and stakeholder input to ensure that we do what is best for Environmental Public Health as a whole.

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### 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.



# 9th Annual Fall Educational Workshop: "Law Matters"

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors – Alberta Branch  
October 2 & 3, 2008 – Grande Prairie, AB  
Delegate Registration Form

## Delegate Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees	CIPHI Members	Non-Members	Student	Amount
Early Bird Registration (before August 29)	\$175	\$250	\$50	
Regular Registration (after August 29)	\$225	\$300	\$75	
Early Bird Daily Registration (before August 29) Thursday, Oct 2 Friday, Oct 3	\$100	\$140	\$35	
Regular Daily Registration (after August 29) Thursday, Oct 2 Friday, Oct 3	\$125	\$165	\$40	

The Social Event is not included in the registration. Ticket information is provided below.

Social Event (Thursday, Oct 2)	Cost	# of Tickets	Amount
Curling and Dinner	\$25		
Dinner Only	\$20		

If you are curling, please indicate if you would be willing to skip a team: Yes No  
All curlers must bring clean, indoor running shoes. All other equipment will be provided.

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payments by cheque to **Alberta Branch Fall Workshop 2008**.

Mail your completed form along with payment to: <b>Alberta Branch Fall Workshop 2008</b> Unit 66, Letterbox Express 10001 – 101 Ave. Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0X9	You may also forward your completed form by e-mail to <a href="mailto:adrea.simmons@pchr.ca">adrea.simmons@pchr.ca</a> or by fax to (780) 532-1550 Attn: Adrea Simmons.
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**Speaker Schedule:** <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca/doc/workshop2008/SpeakerSchedule.pdf>

**Accommodations:** Special room rates are available at the Holiday Inn for \$139 up until September 1, 2008. Access the room rate by quoting the "CIPHI Alberta Branch Workshop" when booking. The hotel is located at 9816-107 St, Grande Prairie, Phone: (780) 402-6886, toll free 1-888-307-3529. The hotel also provides guests with a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport and anywhere within city limits.

**Airline:** Air Canada is the official airline of the Alberta Branch Fall Workshop 2008. Discounted rates have been secured for delegates flying with Air Canada. To book a flight, access [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com) and enter the promotion code **QMYJETN1** in the search panel.



# The AB Branch Rocked the Rock!

The Alberta Branch was well represented and well recognized at the recent 74th Annual Education Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. By all accounts, it was an excellent conference, both the conference proper and the social events (just ask anyone who attended the "Rally in the Alley").

Congratulations to the eight (yes, eight!) Branch members who **presented papers** at the conference:

## Raymond DeSmit

- ▶ "Environmental Health's Role in Emergency Preparedness"

## Nelson Fok

- ▶ "Food Safety: Practice-Based Evidence to Evidence-Based Practice"
- ▶ "Health-Based Safe Water Program"

## Cheryl Galbraith

- ▶ "Capital Health's Safe Food Assurance Program"

## Sandra Hamilton and Crystal Bull

- ▶ "Tent City—Edmonton: What We Have Learned"

## Lance Honish

- ▶ "Foodhandler-associated Outbreak of *Salmonella* Heidelberg"

## Victor Mah

- ▶ "Environmental Public Health's Infection Control Role in Facilities"



AB Branch President Phi Phan (above) accepts Honourary CIPHI Membership Award on behalf of Dr. Gerry Predy.

## Merry Turtiak

- ▶ "Alberta's Environmental Reference Manual on Public Health—Oil & Gas"

**National awards** were also presented to AB Branch members at the conference awards luncheon.

Congratulations to:

## Dr. Gerry Predy

- ▶ Honourary CIPHI Membership Award

## Merry Turtiak

- ▶ Alexander Officer Award (accepted on behalf of the Alberta Health & Wellness Technical Advisory Committee on Public Health and the Oil & Gas Industry)

## Sharon Regimbald and Keara Shaw

- ▶ Stanier Institute Opinion Paper Award, 2007



Merry Turtiak (above) accepts Alexander Officer Award on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee on Public Health and the Oil & Gas Industry



Sharon Regimbald and Keara Shaw (above) accept the 2007 Stanier Institute Opinion Paper Award.

Photo credits:  
Victor Mah

# AB Branch Advocacy

One of the core missions of CIPHI is to advocate for the PHI/EHO profession. The AB Branch has certainly been fulfilling this role in 2008—several position statements and letters have been submitted (and posted on the Branch website):

## Position Statements

- ▶ *Audit of Regional Health Authorities Highlights Shortage of Public Health Inspectors (June 2008)*
- ▶ *Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy & Alberta Hand Hygiene Strategy (January 2008)*



## Letters and Other Correspondence

- ▶ Letter to the Editor regarding the audit of Regional Health Authorities highlighting a shortage of Public Health Inspectors, Printed in the Edmonton Journal on June 15, 2008
- ▶ Letter to Hon. Ron Liepert, Minister (Health & Wellness) regarding the audit of Regional Health Authorities highlighting a shortage of Public Health Inspectors (June 2008)
- ▶ Letter to Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister (Health & Wellness) regarding the *Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy* and *Alberta Hand Hygiene Strategy* (January 2008)
- ▶ Open letter to stakeholders regarding the *Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy* and *Alberta Hand Hygiene Strategy* (January 2008)

# Message from the President con't.

*(Continued from page 2)*

On the home front, all members should have received an email update concerning the development of an Environmental Public Health Technician Course by Bow Valley College in Calgary. As the development of the curriculum and scope of practice for this technician position continues, CIPHI will be involved to ensure that the position of Environmental Public Health Technician does not conflict with the role of the certified Public Health Inspector/Environmental Health Officer.

Of course, CIPHI Alberta is also working under the same cloud as our membership as the health care system in Alberta is revamped and reorganized under the mandate of Alberta Health Services. Within this context, CIPHI Alberta has issued a position statement with regards to the shortage of certified Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Health Officers in all areas of the province, urging more support for the recruitment and retention of these highly prized professionals; professionals

whom can play an integral role in the sustainability of health care in Alberta. We will continue to monitor the development of the new organization and will continue to work as advocates for all EPHPs and for our place as the cornerstone of public health and a sustainable health care system.

I would also like to mention that CIPHI Alberta will be providing two exceptional educational experiences for all EPHPs within the next few months. Firstly is the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Workshop which is being held in Grande Prairie on October 2 and 3, 2008. The theme is “Law Matters” and will deal with legal issues and Environmental Public Health practice. The second is the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference being hosted in Kananaskis at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis from May 3 to 6, 2009. The theme will be “75 Years and New Frontiers” and has already secured world-renowned keynote speakers. I urge all

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## AB Branch Spring AGM (and mini golf)

This year's Spring AGM was on held May 24<sup>th</sup> in Calgary at the Carriage Hotel. The biggest news this time around: we actually managed to achieve a quorum in Calgary. Word is that Calgary Health Region's turnout broke records!



Lindsay Sullivan was presented with the 2007 President's Award for Academic Achievement by Phi Phan, President

Highlights of the meeting included: updates regarding the Educational Workshop to be held in Grande Prairie in October, and also the Annual Education Conference to be held in Kananaskis in May 2009. Lindsay Sullivan (CHR) was also awarded the President's Award for Academic Achievement. This may well be the first time the person with the highest marks actually applied for the prize!

Brave Koreen Anderson her husband were the winners (by default) of virtual golf. The winner of the mini golf, on a course which wraps its way around the bar at Schanks, was Karen L Clarke. Ashley Kameka (Secretary with CHR) demonstrated the incompatibility of mini golf and high heels – she looked great, but got the loser prize: a cute stuffed chicken!.

The aim for the future is to organize a social event with each AGM to try and encourage attendance at the AGM and also to encourage the members to socialize outside of the formal work/meeting environment. If you have an idea for a fun event at the next AGM, please let your Zone Councillor know.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting and Fall Educational Workshop in Grande Prairie in October.

- Karen L. Clarke

## AB Branch Golf Tournament 2008

Twenty golfers/hackers participated in the 2008 AB Branch golf tournament, and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the Speargrass Golf Course located on the Bow River near Carseland/Strathmore. The fescue grass got the better of many - we are still looking for Keith Lee.

Big thanks to Environmental Health Solutions (John O'Laney), Ogilvie LLP (James Murphy), Marc Vanhoutteghem and the AB Branch for their kind and generous donations to the tourney.

And now, the results!

- ▶ Lowest net: **Rick Dimock**
- ▶ Lowest gross—was a tie: **Vicki Wearmouth** and **Lew Skjonsby**.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out next year (Sylvan Lake is the rumoured course—watch the AB Branch News for details).



Branch golf tournament participants take in the Speargrass scenery between holes

- Peer Mikkelsen

# Networking in Newfoundland

It's well established that AB Branch members participate fully in networking opportunities at Institute conferences. The 74th Annual CIPHI Annual Education Conference in St. John's, NL was no exception, and here's the proof!



Karen Clarke (left), Sarah Nunn and Jenny Brown singing along like true Newfoundlanders



Keara Shaw (left), Sharon Regimbald, Lance Honish, Cheryl Galbraith and Raymond DeSmit (part of the "blue team") raise a toast at the "Rally in the Alley"



Tony Thepsouvanh (left) and Jon Elliott wait for their fish & chips

Photo credits:  
Phi Phan



Sean Robison (left), Chad Beegan and Simon Sihota share a lighter moment



Janie Hohn (left), Bill Hohn, Mike Walsh and his significant other at the President's Banquet



Adrea Simmons (right) seems a little tentative about being "screached in"—you have to kiss the cod!

**Alberta Branch News**

The Alberta Branch News is published twice yearly by the Newsletter 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.

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*Alberta Branch News*

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## Message from the President, con't.

*(Continued from page 5)*

members to take advantage of these opportunities as it is not often you will get premier education events such as these in our backyard. More information can be found about both events at our website at <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca/>.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of CIPHI, our employers and other associated professionals and organizations for their continued support of CIPHI Alberta and CIPHI as we work to evolve Environmental Public Health in Canada. We have come an amazing distance in a short amount of time, however, in the interest of organizational renewal and regeneration I feel it is time for someone else to take the reigns of CIPHI Alberta and lead us into the next decade with a renewed energy and vision. It should be made clear that I am not ending my tenure as President because I have become disenfranchised or disillusioned, but I feel that complacency hinders innovation and it is important for a new flag bearer to rise up and lead the charge. Environmental Public Health is at a crossroads in Canada and it is imperative that we all move in the same direction. In my mind that direction can only be forward to demonstrated professional competencies and mandatory membership.

I would urge that the membership understand the importance of volunteering your collective time and effort to CIPHI as it is only through hard work and determination that we will reach that metaphorical summit of what Environmental Public Health can truly be. Whether it is as President or as a member of the Executive, your contribution in moving CIPHI forward is important and necessary. As for me, although my attention have been refocused, rest assured I will continue to work in cooperation with my colleagues in CIPHI to achieve what was once thought to be impossible. See you all in Grande Prairie and Kananaskis!

Respectfully,  
 Phi Phan  
 President, CIPHI Alberta