



## CIPHI 79th Annual Educational Conference:

### “CIPHI’s Centennial Celebration 1913-2013”

Fort Garry Hotel

Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 23-26, 2013

[www.ciphi.ca/events](http://www.ciphi.ca/events)



Moraine Lake, Alberta

## Message from the President

### PACTIO CENTURY – “Bargain of the Century”

Environmental Public Health Professionals are the best bargain in public health and for 100 years we have given our communities exemplary return on their investment in health protection. This is a message we need to communicate at every turn as we explore the horizons of our field and protect our profession against threats.

Our message for the membership is simple and unchanging. Alberta Branch members should be known for the following traits and if you ever wondered what you can do for CIPHI,

we’d simply ask you to pursue and embody the following values:

#### 1. Support your Fall Educational Workshop

We are blessed with comparatively low dues for membership in our professional organization and a huge reason for that is because of the success of our annual education events. Members love the workshops for their networking opportunities as well and in today’s world face-to-face meetings are increasingly rare.

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## Message from the Editor—My Last

This is the last edition of ABN with me as Editor. It has truly been a pleasure to serve the Branch in this capacity since 2008. **Interested in serving as Editor?** Please let your Zone Councillor know, it really is a fun gig! I'll show you the ropes—I continue to serve on the Newsletter Committee.

There are many folks I'd like to acknowledge. First, a big thank you to the Alberta Branch Executive, and in particular, Branch Presidents that served during my time as Editor: Jason MacDonald, Koreen Anderson and Phi Phan. Executive was continually supportive of ABN and provided several excellent suggestions to make ABN better.

My thanks also to the Newsletter Committee: Karen Emde, Pamela Stewart, Phi Phan, Tony Thepsouvanh and Wojciech Drobina. The entire committee has been helpful in developing and improving each ABN edition.

Last, my thanks to all Branch members who provide content and feedback. This is the foundation of making ABN interesting, informative and eye-pleasing for all CIPHI members.

Please continue to send your submissions and feedback to us at [abn.editor@gmail.com](mailto:abn.editor@gmail.com)

- Lance Honish, Editor

## Message from the President con't.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### 2. Be a Member in Good Standing

Paying your membership dues before March 31 each year ensures that you maintain your status as a member in good standing. Make it a priority each year to see this registration process through.

### 3. Pursue and track your Professional Development hours

Our bylaws now indicate that Alberta Branch members are expected to meet the expectations of the Council of Professional Experience. For many of us that means we need to reach that target number of 80. As CIPHI works hard to promote, advance and even protect the profession, we rely on our

members doing their part and understanding that the CPHI(C) credential is something you earn each and every year.

### 4. Abide by our Institute's Code of Ethics

Each year we reconfirm our commitment to our Institute's Code of Ethics. We agree that we have moral obligations relating to our professional practice in return for the trust given to us by society. We are obliged to uphold the law and to act to protect the public's health, follow the Constitution, the Bylaws, the Standards of Practice of CIPHI, and to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the environmental public health profession.

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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.



# 2012 Branch Fall Educational Workshop

As one of the 2012 CIPHI Alberta Branch Education Sponsorship recipients, I opted to attend the CIPHI Alberta Branch Fall Educational Workshop in Edmonton on September 26 & 27, 2012. This year marked the 13<sup>th</sup> annual CIPHI workshop in Alberta and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Alberta/Canada – China Life Sciences International Forum. The title of this year’s workshop, “Environmental Public Health: Issues and Policy Development” fit well with the topics discussed over the two-day period at the West Edmonton Mall’s Fantasyland Hotel.

A pre-workshop presentation which focused on Alberta Health Services Indoor Air Quality Manual was held on September 25 along with a social event titled “Amazing Race” later on that evening. I was not present at either event but did hear positive feedback from others who had attended and/or participated.

My first day at the workshop opened with a welcome message from Nelson Fok. A notable presentation for me on day one was China’s Jianming Jiang’s presentation on public health’s assessment & management in China’s Paralympics games of 2011. There is so much to be considered with such a diverse and large-scale event. Also notable for me was Dan Gravel’s presentation on trends in water spray parks in Alberta and associated risks in design approval. Although currently employed in AHS’s Safe Food program of Environmental Public Health in Calgary, I recognize the importance and value of staying informed in all aspects of Environmental Public Health, and appreciate the opportunity to attend workshops and/or conferences like this where a variety of material and information is presented to us.

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*Photos and collage—Tony Thepsouvanh*

# Air Quality Index—New!

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a web-based tool that helps people understand what the air quality around them means to their health. The AQHI is a scale from 1 to 10 and pays particular attention to people who are more sensitive to the adverse affects of air pollution. It provides them with advice on how to protect their health during air quality levels associated with low, moderate, high and very high health risks.

Currently, more than 20 communities across Alberta can access the AQHI at [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca)

The AQHI reports local air quality in real-time, based on a measure of pollutants known to affect health. It also provides a forecast of air quality conditions for a period of up to 48 hours. The AQHI is reported in many cities across Canada through a partnership between Environment Canada, Health Canada and the provinces.

In this province, Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Health are working in partnership with the Lung Association, Alberta and NWT, to raise awareness of the Air Quality Health Index and provide air quality and health information specifically to at-risk audiences – those with respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, seniors, children and people active outdoors.

“People react differently to air pollution, even those with chronic diseases, so it’s important they know the risks and how to obtain information on air quality in their region,” says Beth Nanni, Program Specialist, Environment/Infectious Diseases, at The Lung Association.

If you would like to access branded resources available for distribution, please contact Beth Nanni, The Lung Association, Alberta & NTW, at [bnanni@ab.lung.ca](mailto:bnanni@ab.lung.ca)

We value your input, too. As part of the AQHI outreach and education campaign in Alberta, a survey for health professionals has been developed to gauge awareness of the AQHI and interest in sharing air quality and health information with patients and clients. This short, anonymous survey may be accessed at

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AQHI\\_AB\\_Health](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AQHI_AB_Health)

- Jennifer Muir, Communications Solutions



## Introducing the Air Quality Health Index.

Learn what the air quality around you means to you and your health. Visit [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca) or call 1-877-247-7333.



<h1>5</h1> <p>Moderate Health Risk</p>	<p><b>At-risk population:</b></p> <p>Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.</p>	<p><b>General population:</b></p> <p>No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing &amp; throat irritation.</p>
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Not sure if you are at risk? Speak to your doctor or health care provider about the impacts of air quality on your health. You can also visit [airquality.alberta.ca](http://airquality.alberta.ca)

# CIPHI 78th Annual Education Conference

**Editor's Note: Two recipients of the 2012 CIPHI Alberta Branch Education Sponsorship, Carla Eskow and Tanya Mrowietz, used the funding to attend the CIPHI 78th Annual Education Conference on September 16-19 at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort, Ontario. They've kindly provided a summary of their experience for ABN.**

Carla Eskow

I was fortunate to attend the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual CIPHI Education Conference held in the Town of the Blue Mountains, 90 minutes north of Toronto, from September 16-19, 2012. The venue was fabulous! The town is situated at the base of Blue Mountain Ski Resort, surrounded by many different chalets, lodges and private condominiums. The center of town was bursting with entertainment including pubs, restaurants, stores and even a Beaver Tail pastry shop!

The educational sessions were informative, inspiring and thought provoking. A few of the more interesting sessions that I attending included: Looking at Food Safety through Health and Safety Eyes, Gardening on Urban Soil, Food Safety: What they really know and what they don't do, Food Safety Culture, On-site Food Safety Training for Folklorama, Health hazard complaints: Wood Smoke, Urban Ontario Walkability & Environmental Exposures and Consumer Food Safety Knowledge & Behaviour in Canada.

If you were not able to attend the conference and you are interested in knowing more about the topics presented please take a look at the CIPHI - Ontario Branch resources webpage at <http://ciphi.on.ca/resources>.

I had a fantastic time at the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual CIPHI Conference in Blue Mountains reconnecting with old colleagues and meeting new ones. I would like to thank Concordia University College of Alberta for supporting my attendance at the conference and CIPHI AB Branch for selecting me for the Annual Educational Sponsorship Draw.

Tanya Mrowietz

The 2012 National CIPHI Conference was held at the Blue Mountain Resort in Ontario. It was jointly hosted by Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit and Grey Bruce Public Health. This year's topic was "Healthy Place, Health People" a very timely topic as many public health professionals are now realizing the importance of the places we live, work and play and how they interact and define our health.

The conference kicked off bright and early on the morning of Monday September 17 with the Keynote address from Dr. Butler Jones. Even though he was off on leave recovering from his recent stroke, he took the time to give a memorable speech on how public health professionals have the ability to make a difference and how public health professionals continually make a difference.

My time at the conference was spent expanding my knowledge base on community planning and smart street design to get the public out in the environment and moving from house to work to gathering places such as stores, entertainment, etc. by active transportation, meaning transportation powered by their own heart, muscles and skeleton whether by foot or bike. This is the where many health regions are focusing efforts these days as it is integral in the prevention of some pretty nasty chronic diseases that are fast approaching epidemic status such as obesity and heart disease.

Thanks so much to CIPHI Alberta for providing me with the \$1000 grant funding that allowed me to make this trip more financially feasible and to CIPHI National for the awesome learning and networking opportunity. I learned a lot and made connections to PHIs/EHOs in other parts of Canada that are working their way through some of the same challenges we are facing here in Alberta. Now I have a network of people to go to for finding solutions.

## Concordia Corner

Greetings from Concordia University College of Alberta and the Environmental Health Students' Association (EHSA). We welcomed a new and bright cohort to our classroom in the fall semester. In an effort to greet them with the same kindness and enthusiasm and that was offered to us by our previous cohort, we organized a potluck to welcome them and to integrate them into the program. Throughout the semester, we organized more social events and learning opportunities for the students, such as a lunch and learn that gave students the opportunity to learn about the previous cohort's practicum experiences and to ask questions about the Environmental Health program.

During the fall and winter semesters, we had the opportunity to visit a variety of facilities and gained an understanding about the importance of inspecting these types of facilities to ensure the health and safety of the general public. We were able to visit the restaurant in Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, the Pest Management Laboratory, Crimson Empire Tattoo and Piercing, Eveline Charles Academy, a pool facility at Urban Village Condominium, the Waste Management facility, the Edmonton Food Bank, and the Food Service Centre.

The pool facility we visited was especially helpful because it allowed us to use the knowledge we had just recently acquired from our pool classes. We were given the opportunity to take water samples and visit the mechanical room, which enhanced and reinforced the information we learned in class. Our lab visits taught us about new trends in tattoo and aesthetic parlours and the safety procedures and regulations surrounding them, such as scarification and suspensions.

The Edmonton Food Bank allowed us to observe safety procedures when storing and distributing food at a large scale. We were also on the 6 p.m. Global news during this visit in regards to the XL Foods beef recall and Danielle Smith's comments about the situation. After attending the Edmonton Food Bank tour, EHSA decided that we would facilitate an organized effort of raising food donations by involving not only the students in our class, but by extending the effort to the whole school. In



The current Concordia Environmental Health program cohort

the end, we were able to collect 40 lbs of food donations for the food bank.

Along with lab visits, we had numerous speakers volunteer their time to present to us in classes and we are grateful for their time, knowledge and expertise. We would like to thank our mentors for the taking time to meet with us, give us advice, answer our endless questions, and for showing us the field. Mentoring has enhanced our knowledge and confidence and has provided us with a comfortable transition towards preparing ourselves for our practicums.

In an effort to raise funds for the EHSA budget, we held several fundraisers throughout the semester. We successfully were able to raise money through various fundraisers that included several bake sales, a Valentine's Day candy gram fundraiser and by volunteering at Concordia Students' Association's Open Mic event.

Finally, through Phi Phan's inspirational conversation about geocaching, EHSA has decided that the Environmental Health students at Concordia should have their own time capsule geocache so that previous, present and future cohorts can have the opportunity to leave and take an item from the geocache that represents environmental public health or their experiences as a student at Concordia's Environmental Health program. Feel free to download the geocaching app on your phone to look for it in April!

- Ravneet Sandhu, EHSA President

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

To all CIPHI Alberta Branch Members:

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: Strathcona Health Unit  
2 Brower Drive  
Sherwood Park, Alberta**

- EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS
- AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS
- FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2012
- ZONE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Please forward all meeting agenda items to Ihsan Sassi by May 1, 2013 at [branch@ciphi.ab.ca](mailto:branch@ciphi.ab.ca)

Visit [www.ciphi.ab.ca](http://www.ciphi.ab.ca) for more information.



## Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for EHO



Congratulations to Gordon Allen (pictured left), an EHO with Health Canada, First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (Calgary Office) who received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on Monday, December 10, 2012.

The medal was created to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, and to recognize the significant contributions and achievements of 60,000 deserving Canadians. In total, 134 Health Canada employees have been recognized with Diamond Jubilee Medals.

Gordon has been a CIPHI member since 1977 and has served Canadians for 33 years in the field of environmental public health and occupational health. He has worked in these program areas with rural and urban communities across Canada and abroad, positively impacting countless individuals. Congratulations on this prestigious recognition!

- Andrea Germann

## Branch Sock Challenge—letters of thanks

Several agencies have recently expressed their appreciation for the sock donations received as a result of the 2012 Branch Sock Challenge. Here are some excerpts from their letters of thanks:

▶ “Thank you for including us as one of your recipients from your ‘September Sock Challenge’. We sincerely appreciate the support you are giving to the work that we do”. **Salvation Army Addictions and Residential Center, Edmonton**

▶ “On behalf of the Mustard Seed and all those we are able to serve, I would like to thank you for your support of Edmonton's homeless through your generous gift-in-kind donation” **The Mustard Seed, Calgary**

▶ “Thank you so much for the donation of socks for our

drop-in centre.” **Jasper Place Health & Wellness Centre, Edmonton**



▶ “I am writing to express our deep appreciation for your recent donation of socks, with the delivery through the Public Health Inspectors of the province, to Urban Manor Housing Society.” **Urban Manor Housing Society, Edmonton**

▶ “Thank you! Your gift is making a positive difference!” **Calgary Homeless Foundation, Calgary**

- Jason MacDonald, President



# Message from the President con't.

(Continued from page 2)

## Giving our Members a Unique Voice

Over the last six months, your Alberta Branch Association Executive represented the membership by giving our perspective and input into the ongoing Environmental Public Health Operational Strategy (EPHOS). This project is a multi-stakeholder review of Environmental Public Health in Alberta that aims to clarify roles, strengthen partnerships and help to craft a strategic direction. We were able to provide our top 3 recommendations to both Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services going forward, which were as follows:

### Alberta Health:

- ▶ Continue to support the CPHI(C) credential as being the only qualification for an Executive Officer in Alberta.
- ▶ Utilize CIPHI's Fall Educational Workshop and Newsletter for strategic communications to those practicing in Environmental Health in Alberta.
- ▶ Continue to protect, defend and explain the roll of our profession when needed.

### Alberta Health Services

- ▶ While we respect the value of inspection productivity, our members also value the pursuit of a more balanced inspection approach that integrates frequency of inspection with both quality and expansion into all key areas of Environmental Health as outlined in the "Blue Book".
- ▶ Partner with our members to develop bench strength to address the inevitable future attrition of senior employees. Recognize CIPHI involvement as a value-added characteristic in hiring practices.
- ▶ Enhance the focus on both education and promotion to include more disciplines than Safe Food.

## Thank you Lance!

We at the Alberta Branch wish to pass along a huge thank you for Lance Honish as he steps down from his role as Chair of the Alberta Branch Newsletter Committee and Edi-

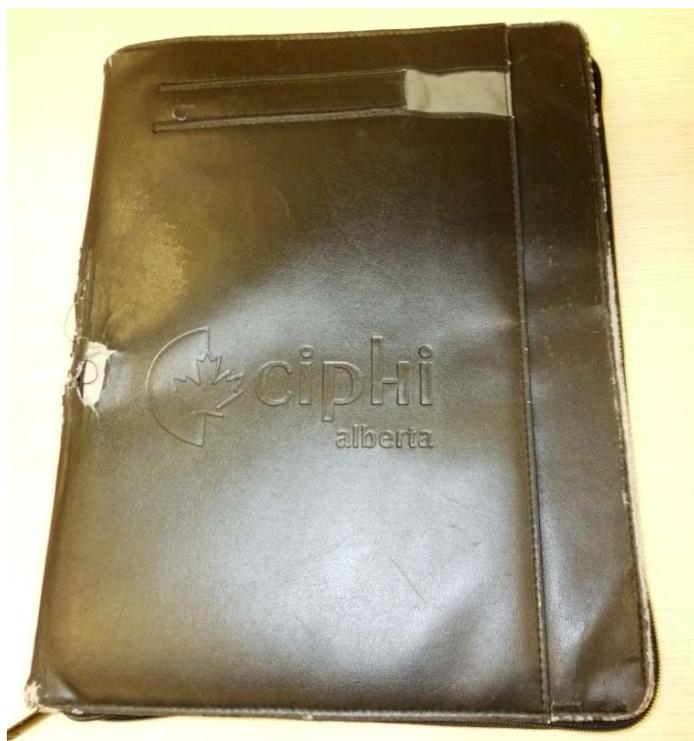
tor of the Alberta Branch News. We all would agree that Lance's publications were timely, informative and important in documenting the great moments of our Branch over the past many years.

Respectfully submitted,

- Jason MacDonald, President

## Epilogue: Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder

This beaten down portfolio (pictured below) was turned in to me by one of our members and it was one of the most beautiful things I have seen in a long time. Clipboards and portfolios are an iconic tool of the EHO and what better testament to the work we do that to see one as heavily used as this.



**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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## 2012 Branch Fall Workshop (con't.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

At the conclusion of day one's "business" section of the workshop, I was among a small group who decided to try out the Galaxyland roller coaster. Our group made our way through the mall to Galaxyland, where we were met with no line and were able to have our ride (over with!!) in no time at all. It was definitely a fun, but scary ride (see picture below)!

The social event was held at the West Edmonton Mall's Comic Strip. The comedians accomplished what they intended to do and had the whole room laughing many times throughout the night. I saw lots of smiles, AND shaking heads as the comedians made no attempt at keeping it PG.

Day two's agenda was equally as diverse as day one's. Keara Shaw's presentation on Alberta's Regulatory Review process was interesting and informative. Ke Wang of China discussed drinking water safety management practices in Shijiazhuang, China. It was both interesting and valuable to hear how agencies in other parts of the world deal with and address issues that we too are involved with here in Alberta.

I thank CIPHI Alberta for putting on a great workshop and for giving me the opportunity to attend. Winning the sponsorship for the 2012 year was definitely something I appreciated and I encourage all members to apply for future years. There is nothing to lose!

- Kelly Kennedy

Workshop delegates on a wild ride:  
 back — Eleanor Lee & Kristen Krywiak;  
 front — Sharon Regimbald & Jason Feltham *(photo courtesy of Kelly Kennedy)*

