Message from the President

Greetings,

The year ahead will be an interesting one for our Branch.

I am especially excited to acknowledge that 2015 marks the 20 year anniversary of the Environmental Health Program at Concordia University College of Alberta, now called Concordia University. While many of us won’t be able to recall what the profession was like 20 years ago, it certainly isn’t hard to recognize and appreciate the role that this program has played in enhancing our professional profile in Alberta. Watch for further celebratory announcements as we work with Concordia to mark this special occasion.

Speaking of education, our commitment to bringing quality professional development opportunities to the members will continue, as a planning committee from the Central Zone has taken on the task of hosting our 15th annual Fall Educational Workshop in Olds. I look forward to getting out of the city and re-connecting with the members at another great Branch event this October.

We are also heavily into planning for the national CIPHI Annual Educational Conference in Edmonton next September. Our Chair, Phi Phan, has put together a great team of volunteers and our mission is to deliver an innovative experience for the delegates. Alberta’s Capital Region has a lot of unique environmental public health features to share. We encourage you to mark your calendars in order to be there to support the Institute and liaise with your colleagues from Alberta and across the country.

Finally, this year we will elect a new Branch President. I hope that you all
Message from the President continued.

look back at the four years I gave you and respect the time and effort that I, and the rest of your Branch Executive, put forward. Stepping down from the President role is a tough move for me as I really do enjoy the work. With that said, I think I finally understand why Ben Kenobi lets Darth Vader cut him down at the end of Star Wars. I hope to be more valuable to the Institute now than you can possibly imagine.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason MacDonald, CPHI(C)
Branch President

Message from the Editor

There is so much going on in 2015. We will welcome a new Branch President, new president elect and many other seats on the branch executive.

In 2015 our members under the provincial health portfolio, we have already had a new Swimming Pool Regulation come into effect, we will see changes to the Nuisance & General Sanitation Regulation and possibly a new Drinking Water Regulation. We also anticipate the realization of the long suspected shift of meat processing inspection from Alberta Agriculture to the Health mandate. This just goes to show how diverse and qualified our profession is.

I am excited to be the co-chair of the Fall Workshop this year along with Kelly Bauer, as Central Zone hosts the workshop for the first time since the formation of AHS. We are pumped to share what Central Zone has to offer the membership, and will be throwing in a little rural flavor.

Being a rural inspector means being a generalist. Some people say we are “jacks of all trades, masters of none”, but I have to disagree with the last part of that statement. The term generalist has almost become a 4 letter word to some, thinking in some way it makes us inferior to our specialist counterparts.

The Oxford dictionary defines a generalist as “a person competent in several different fields or activities”. Wikipedia defines it as a person with a wide array of knowledge. I think that both of those descriptors are fitting for both “generalist and specialist EPH professionals”. We have more in common than we give each other credit for.

Admittedly, I am biased in my love for the “generalist” portfolio of EPH, having only really known it for my entire 7 years practicing in the field. But that doesn’t mean I don’t appreciate the detailed knowledge of a particular program area that my specialist colleagues have to share. I always know who I can call when the “odd and unusual” comes up in my day to day.

Continued on page 7...
2014 Fall Workshop Recap

Editor’s Note: Every year a name is drawn from all those who have paid their membership fees prior to January 1st. The winner is eligible for $1000.00 to attend either the AEC or the Fall Branch Workshop. The 2014 membership draw winner was Quentin Schatz, whose write up is provided below. The 2015 Winner is Carly Bernjak. Congratulations!

Quentin Schatz

Thanks to CIPHI Alberta for providing its members the opportunity to win free registration. To whoever drew my name, the cheque is in the mail. Having a young family, I opted for the shorter and closer fall Alberta Conference over the spring national conference. As my kids typically burn through my health/education spending account by mid-January I likely would not have been able to attend otherwise.

Upon reviewing the agenda, the fishbowl format for the four Thursday topics left me skeptical (or was it intrigued) over the potential chaos that could result. Instead, the keynote speakers from the sessions including the Farmers Market, E.coli Investigation, Unpasteurized Milk and Social Media were all very organized and informative. It was interesting to note that the longer the topic progressed, the more the keynote speaker opinions became similar to each other.

The social event at the Craft Beer Market was a blast. Starting off with five (or was it seven, I can’t remember???) complimentary drinks definitely set the tone for the night. Catching up with new and old friends is ‘almost’ as important as the conference itself.

As a prior and potentially future Board of Certification Examiner I opted to attend the Examiner Training course on Friday. The goal is to establish a consistent approach for examiners to ensure that students are treated equally, whereby substituting examiner A for examiner B will yield the same result. We’re likely a bit from achieving such, but any training and examiner evaluations brings us closer and closer towards said goal.

Workshop Organizing Committee

► Connie Zagrosh (Health Canada)
► Jason MacDonald (formerly with AHS, now with Alberta Health)
► Jon Elliott (formerly with FNIHB-EPHS, now with Alberta Health)
► Becky Best (AARD)
► Danny Thepsouvanh (FNIHB-EPHS)
► Renee Wambeck (AARD)
► Karen Henderson (CFIA)
► Sonia Worobec (CFIA)
► Monika Frank-Ruediger (AARD)
► Thomas Cheung (AHS)
► Victor Mah (Alberta Health)
► Sarah Nunn (AHS)

Sponsorship Draw Winners

AB Branch members are eligible to enter and three names are drawn. The winners are eligible for $1000.00 to attend either the AEC or the Fall Branch Workshop in 2015.

The 2014 winners are:
► Cortney Best
► Baldev Sandha
► Mandeep Minas

CONGRATUALTIONS WINNERS!

REMEMBER TO ENTER YOUR NAME THIS YEAR!

Left to Right: Quentin Schatz, Scott Budgell and Mike McKnight.

Photos provided by Tony Thepsouvanh

Pictured Right:
The 3 co-chairs: Jason, Becky and Sarah.

Submitted by
Sarah Nunn
Editor’s Note: Unfortunately I did not attend the 2014 Fall workshop, but the buzz around the water cooler was that it offered a unique and engaging platform. I am sorry I missed it.

In continuing the theme of interagency collaboration, the 2014 fall conference focused on “Aligning Food Safety Systems in Alberta”. CIPHI partnered up with our food safety partners, opening up the conference to other participants in allied professions. The conference committee had participants from Alberta Health Services, The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Alberta Health, Health Canada, First Nations Inuit Health and Alberta Agriculture.

The layout of the conference was much different than previous years; the first day was set up as a fishbowl. The fishbowl panel sits in the centre of the audience, the audience makes up circles around the panel. The idea of the fishbowl is to encourage discussion and debate between the panelists – what better way to communicate with our partners! Subjects covered in the fishbowls included farmers markets, E. coli outbreak investigations, and Raw milk.

The day started out with a keynote address from Ben Chapman of Barfblog. Ben highlighted the use of social media in relation to food safety and how this has completely changed the world of “the food safety nerd!” Ben was able to participate in the audience throughout the day, asking some tough questions to the panel members. The last fishbowl discussion of the day was about the use of social media in food safety, which Ben was invited to sit in the centre of the fishbowl.

The evening social was a beer tasting and pairing event at the Craft Beer Market in Edmonton. Participants were able to network with the speakers, experts, and other participants from the various agencies.

Day two was back to a traditional presentation method with a morning of engaging speakers discussing risk assessment, food safety prosecutions and the Canada-Alberta Partners in Food Safety (CAPiFS). The awards luncheon celebrated some of the achievements of many CIPHI members, and was followed by an afternoon of verbal judo.

This year Jason and myself had the pleasure of co-chairing the conference with Becky Best; the Inspections Operations Manager for Alberta Agriculture. Becky brought invaluable ideas and perspectives to the table from one of our food safety partners. We hope that in future years we’ll have this opportunity again.

Submitted by Sarah Nunn, Co-Chair.
Environmental Public Health Week:

September 20-26th, 2015.

Doing anything to celebrate in your office or community?

Tell the ABN about it.

Send us your photos.

In the Social Photo Collage on Page 6
- Danny Lo, Cortney Best, Danny Thepsouvanh, Mike Khan, Craft Beer Manager, Nyall Hislop, Darcy Chrisp, Jason MacDonald
- Ivan Bernardo, Jon Elliott, Ben Chapman, unknown, Sabrina Zajac-Wellwood, Evelien Meyer
- Jim Kostick, Jon Elliott (above)/Danny Thepsouvanh, Thomas Cheung, Francesco Palladino (below), Dale Nelson
- Darcy Chrisp, Sarah Nunn, Jason MacDonald, Becky Best
- Tim Hibbs, Jeremy Roberts
- Kyle Wonsiak, Cortney Best, Danny Thepsouvanh, Dale Nelson, Danny Lo, Tony Thepsouvanh, Nyall Hislop, Sarah Nunn
- Dale Nelson, Jon Elliott, Kelly Kennedy, Keara Shaw, Kyle Wonsiak
- Miller Thompson Team
- Candace Fraser, Andrea Germann, Angella Kim, Diane Teoh,
- Sarah Nunn, Darcy Chrisp, Becky Best, Kiran Khullar
- Dianne Brownless, Karen Clarke
- Mike Sidra, Nyall Hislop
- Sudharsun Vettivelu, Nova Do
- Tara Hluchy, Kelly Kennedy
- Thomas Cheung, Jason MacDonald, Jessica Popadynetz
- Amber Keus, Jason MacDonald, Thomas Cheung, Kyle Wonsiak, Jacqui Davis and Teni Zetlian

Continued from page 2…

I hope that the membership enjoys all the goodies we have for you in this edition. There are a lot of retirement announcements, great photos from the 2014 Fall Workshop & award recipients. Federal Zone is highlighted in this edition, you will get to learn from one of their members what TACPHOGI means and Nelson has provided a write up that will have you suspicious of where you store your tooth brush from now on.

As always this edition would not have been possible without my amazing editing team. Thank you boys!

Please send us your feedback and ideas.

Respectfully,
Pamela Stewart
Editor, ABN
Alberta Branch Award Recipients

Editor’s Note: Photos provided by Tony Thepsouvanh.

Advocate Award Recipient- Matilda Berton
Nominated by: Joan Yee and Geraldine Sawyer

D.R. Vujevic Award- Corey Ma
Nominated by: Ken Dong and Rebecca Johnson

Community Service Award- Sharon Regimbald
Nominated by: Keara Shaw and Chai Tang

Fortitude Award- Ken Longmore
Nominated by: Kristen Dykstra and Michel Gervais
Fortitude Award- Geraldine Sawyer
Nominated by: Sukhi Jagpal and Joan Yee

Court Case Award- Sarah Yusuf
Nominated by: Daria Romanish and Lynne Navratil

Innovation Award- Jenny Brown
Nominated by: Nadine Newman and Sarah Nunn
Alberta Branch Award Recipients continued

L.E. Stewart Award- Phi Phan
Nominated by: Cheryl Galbraith and Koreen Anderson

Long-Term Service Award- Debra Langier-Blythe
Nominated by: Cheryl Galbraith and Koreen Anderson

Alexander Officer Award- Lance Honish for the Alberta Health Services– Environmental Public Health – Disease Control Team

CIPHI National Award Recipients

Honorary Membership Award- Jeremy Roberts for Vincent Tam

President’s Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sarah Wanchuk

Congratulations to all the Provincial and National award recipients.
What Would Nelson Fok Do?

Editor’s Note: This is an ongoing feature in the ABN and is a professional opinion submission from Nelson Fok on emerging issues in environmental public health.

Flushing out the truth….

Have you ever wondered if there is ‘poo dust’ coming out of the toilet when you flush it? Should you leave the toilet lid up or down?

With our fascination with toilets, scientists first asked this question back in 1955 and found increased bioaerosol being produced with increased flush energy. Basically, when you flush with the lid up, a polluted plume of bacteria and water vapour erupts out of the flushing toilet bowl. Droplets produced by flushing were found to harbor both bacteria and viruses and can remain airborne long enough to settle on surfaces throughout the bathroom.

The ability of flushing toilets to spread disease was demonstrated in 2000. Researchers examined homes where a family member recently suffered Salmonellosis. They found Salmonella persisted in the biofilm under the recess of the toilet bowl rim which was difficult to remove with household toilet cleaners. The bacteria can also be found in the scaly biofilm adhering to the toilet bowl surface below the water line. Salmonella were found to persist in one toilet for 4 weeks after the diarrhea had stopped. Seeding experiments found flushing the toilet resulted in contamination of the toilet seat and the lid. Salmonella were also isolated from air samples taken immediately after flushing, indicating that airborne spread of the organisms could contaminate surfaces in the bathroom.

The use of automatic toilet bowl cleaners can reduce the number of bacteria ejected from the bowl. The cleaner containing the greatest amount of surfactant (18%), and not bleach content, was the most effective in aerosol reduction. It is theorized that the surfactant reduced the ejection or aerosolization of droplets by interfering with the surface tension of the droplets.

Closing the lid had some effect in reducing the number of bacteria released into the air which can be as high as 1,000 cfu/m³ after the first flush. Although splashes would probably have been contained by closing the lid, there is a gap of 15 mm between the top of the porcelain rim and the seat, and another 12 mm gap between the seat and the lid, which would allow aerosols to escape into the room. One study found microorganisms in the air were at the highest level immediately after the first flush, but there was a gradual elution of 2.0 log cycles/mL. Sequential flushing resulted in further distribution of microorganism in the air although the numbers declined after each flush. This was confirmed in a 2012 study examining the use of toilet seats without a lid in healthcare facilities. With the lid open, C. difficile was recorded on the settle plates at all locations. With the lid closed, no C. difficile was recovered. The role of toilet plume in airborne transmission of viral pathogens such as norovirus and influenza need to be examined.

Moral of the story: close the lid and wash your hands.

Submitted by Nelson Fok

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Barker J and Jones MV The potential Spread of Infection Caused by Aerosol Contamination of Surfaces After Flushing a Domestic Toilet, Journal of Applied Microbiology 99:329-347 2005
Best EL et al Potential for Aerosolization of Clostridium difficile after Flushing Toilets: The Role of Toilet Lids in Reducing Environmental Contamination Risk, Journal of Hospital Infection 80:1-5 2012
Editor’s Note: This edition’s Zone Feature is Federal.

It is my pleasure to profile the Federal Zone for this edition of the Alberta Branch News. Our Zone is comprised of members who work across a variety of Federal departments and diverse programs. Even though not all members are practicing public health inspectors, their work engages them with the public and other colleagues on matters of environmental public health. These departments and programs include: Health Canada (First Nations and Inuit Health Branch), Health Canada (Environmental Health Program), Maskwacis Health Services, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This diversity serves to further enrich the depth of professionals working in our field.

Federal Zone members with Environmental Public Health Services (EPHS) with FNIHB work as environmental health officers providing services to the 45 First Nations on 140 reserves in the three treaty areas of Alberta. Environmental Public Health is a mandated program of the Health Protection Directorate under our director and Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Yacoub. The EPHS team is lead by our Regional Manager, Simon Sihota and two Senior EHOs, Joan Yee and Chris Kelly. There are 4 field staff in Calgary and 11 in Edmonton, with 2 EHOs currently working specialty positions of communicable disease and infection control. Michael McKnight is the EHO for Maskwacis, where he is employed by Maskwacis Health Services (MHS), a transferred community which administers and delivers its own health services. MHS serves four First Nations in five communities: Samson, Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and Pigeon Lake. Examples of environmental health challenges on First Nations commonly encountered by EHOs includes: drinking water quality, food safety, safe housing and private sewage disposal systems as well as responding to public health emergencies as they arise.

Former FNIHB EHO Opel Vuzi now works as the Regional Air Quality & Health Specialist in the Prairie Region. His responsibilities involve working with stakeholders such as Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Health, the Lung Association Alberta/NWT and other health or environmental groups promoting the AQHI to Albertans helping them use the program to reduce individual exposures to air pollutants. As well, responds to public inquiries on ambient and indoor quality and health issues as well as radon. Additionally, he represents the department on regional working/task groups related to air quality and health. For example he’s been on the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Odour Management Health Task Group, the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association – Human Exposure Monitoring Program Committee and Children’s Environmental Clinic Advisory Board.

Our members are also actively involved in the Institute at both the Branch and the national level. The Zone is represented on the CIPHI Alberta Branch Executive by Kyle Wonsiak (Federal Zone Councillor) and Danny Thepsouvanh (Treasurer); Wojciech Drobina and Tony Thepsouvanh are on the newsletter committee (Tony is also the Alberta Representative to the Board of Certification). Federal Zone members have also volunteered time and contributed to activities such as CIPHI Alberta Branch Workshops, Environmental Public Health Week celebrations and taking part in Board of Certification examinations.

Below are some photos of the Federal Zone members:

- EPHS Calgary Office: (Left to Right) Amy Chahal, Diane Teoh, Valerie Baranieski, Nova Do, Sudharsun Vettivelu.
- Mike McKnight, EHO Maskwacis Health Services.
- Environmental Public Health Services, FNIHB, Health Canada Back row: Kyle Wonsiak, Joshua Ibach-MacKeen, Danny Thepsouvanh, Wojciech Drobina, Chris Kelly, Simon Sihota, Michael McKnight
Middle row: Geraldine Sawyer, Marcy Iwanyk, Andrea Germann, Candace Fraser, Nova Do, Joan Yee
Front Row: Nicolette Wodzinski, Diane Teoh, Sudharsun Vettivelu, Tony Thepsouvanh
Missing: Jeff Kresowaty, Stephanie Amoah, Amanda Robitaille, Angie Kim, Bryan Smith
Submitted by Kyle Wonsiak & Tony Thepsouvanh
Notable Mentions

Alberta NSPF Instructors Win Awards!

NSPF International awarded Alberta Health Services Pool Instructors two awards at the World Aquatic Health Conference in Portland in October 2014. The Pool Instructors were recipients of two of the 14 total awards.

The 18 Public Health Inspectors from Alberta won the International Team award and Top Supporter of the Math Workbook awards.

This is quite an achievement as the Public Health Inspectors just received their training as instructors in 2011. Courses are taught in each zone. The students receive the math workbook to help in their understanding of the material. “I noticed a clearer understanding of chemical dosages, flow rate and combined chorine because of the work the students had done before the course in the math workbook”, noted instructor Jacquie Schnider when talking to other attendees at the World Aquatic Health Conference. “The students who attend the classes have a better understanding of their role in pool maintenance and recreation water illness. It has benefited pool operations across the province”.

The team of instructors should be very proud to win the two awards in such a short period of time.

Submitted by
Jacqueline Schnider

Alberta Health Services announces new Executive Director for the Provincial Safe and Healthy Environments Program.

CIPHI Alberta Branch would like to congratulate Mark Fehr on being chosen as Executive Director, Safe & Healthy Environments, Population, Public and Aboriginal Health with Alberta Health Services. Mark first became a member of the Branch in 1989 and has been an active member for 26 years. We look forward to continuing to work together with Mark and his team in advancing Environmental Public Health practice in Alberta.

Respectfully,

Jason MacDonald, CPHI(C)
President, CIPHI Alberta Branch

Nyall Hislop receiving the NSF International Food Safety Award from Jason MacDonald, branch President. The award is given by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada annually to a CIPHI member in recognition of outstanding contributions to the promotion of food safety in Canada.
The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) Ontario Branch welcomes you to the 81st Annual Educational Conference, to be held at the Westin Hotel in beautiful downtown Ottawa. The conference will incorporate educational, business and networking opportunities in the National Capital Region. The theme for the conference is “Looking Back, Moving Forward”. Our carefully chosen speakers will engage the audience with historical overviews, the lessons learned, and visions and strategies to meet the environmental and public health challenges of the future. We look forward to seeing you!
Branch Executive Updates:

**Forecasted Executive Vacancies**

- President
- President - Elect
- Secretary
- South Zone Councillor
- CoPE AB Branch Representative: — Expressions of Interest accepted till May 30, 2015

Next Annual General Meeting
Watch for updates on date and location.

**2016 National Annual Educational Conference:**

Where: Edmonton, AB
When: September 26-29, 2016
What:
- Technical Tours
- Innovative Presentations
- All around fun
Call for volunteers coming soon!

**Next Generation of PHIs:**

Grady Svein Anderson was born on November 10, 2014. He was 9lbs 2oz and 21.75” long. Pictured with big sister Everly. Congratulations to Koreen Anderson and her hubby Ryan.
**Concordia Corner**

**Editor’s Note:** I had the opportunity to chat with Ludmilla Rodriguez, to learn about what things were like for the first graduating class. Being the guinea pigs of the program had many challenges, there was a lot of unknowns at the time. The first classes were actually held off campus, at the original campus, and a few years later it moved to Gold Bar. It wasn’t actually until 2008 when the Environmental Health Program found its home on the Concordia University College of Alberta (CUCA) Campus. I was actually my graduating class of 2009 that was the first to start and finish all classes held on the CUCA campus.

The economic challenges of the mid 1990s, very similar to our present situation in Alberta meant that educated professionals from various backgrounds were looking to make the move into new fields. Ludmilla had been working as a consultant in the oil and gas industry, having a Masters in Food Science from the U of A, and chemical engineering background from Venezuela, she was on the now dissolved Fort Saskatchewan Environmental Advisory Commission. Warren Boychuck, PHI with then Capital Health, also happened to be on that board. Warren mentioned to Ludmilla that her skills would match well for a career in Environmental Public Health, with the closest school initially being BCIT, she sat on the idea for a while, when the program started at Concordia, being so close to home, she figured it was worth a try.

At Concordia Ludmilla cultivated friendships that have maintained over the years with classmates Jennifer, Sandra and Rita. The individuals attracted to the program then were as diverse in age, experience and education as they continue to be today, and like today, not all graduates ended up pursuing careers as practicing PHIs. Tim Sakulak ended up going on to be a physician. Those that were most successful in the profession then, are like those now, those with good communication skills and strong understanding of discretion….. We have a big stick of authority, but its just as important that we know when and how to use it.

In 1995 the school hadn’t had time to develop the reputation it has today, and those in the majority of hiring positions had their alma mater dedications to Ryerson or BCIT, making practicums for Concordia students hard to come by. They were difficult and tense times in the province of Alberta. Ludmilla credits a lot of her success as a PHI with the opportunities she was given with the former Lakeland Hills Health Region, Sherwood Park office and Capital Health. She further expressed sincere appreciation for William Hohn’s involvement early on in the Concordia based program for Environmental Health and that his support was instrumental in it becoming the successful program is it.

The most interesting thing I learned about Ludmilla’s story is how much it had in common with my own. Many of us met that pivotal person who put us on the track to “fall into this job”, having never actually heard of health inspectors before. Many of us made lifelong relationships with likeminded people we not only call our colleagues, but for so many of us, our dear friends. All of us Concordia Alumni can bond over our stories of Nelson’s stories, jokes and even those ties. We all came from diverse occupational and educational backgrounds.

Personally, I came to find my sense of normal, my people amongst EPH professionals. A place where my kind of crazy wasn’t so abnormal. Thank you Ludmilla for sharing your story with me. Thank you Concordia for giving so many of us the start in becoming the professionals were are today!

Happy Birthday Concordia Environmental Public Health!

Concordia’s Environmental Health program will be twenty years old in September 2015. The program was born out of necessity in 1995. With only Ryerson and BCIT graduating students, it was not easy to get graduates to come and work on the “Prairie Provinces.” Initially there was resistance to having a third school, especially with a ‘fast track’ program and the school failed to get approval from CIPHI even when the first class of students graduated.

This year, at the CIPHI-Alberta Branch Fall Workshop, we are hoping to have a great birthday party celebrating with graduates, inspectors and allied professional to commemorate our success. The success of the Concordia program can be attributed to three factors.

The first one would be the vision and leadership provided by all the directors for the program. From John O’Laney who started the program, to most recently Karen McDonald, who has reaffirmed and promoted the program in the last 15 years. Karen, who is now the Dean of Graduate Studies at Concordia University, has worked tirelessly in developing and advancing the program. She will officially resign from the program this spring and a new director will be appointed to start a new chapter for the school. She will be missed. On behalf of all graduates, I would like to thank Karen for her hard work in promoting our profession.

(Continued on the next page)
Central Zone is pleased to announce that the AB Branch Fall Workshop will be held in Olds this year.

This year the workshop organizing committee will be partnering with Alberta Agriculture again, this time to offer Meat Processing Training on Day 1. A second stream on Day 1 will offer Emergency Management Training.

Day 2 will include our keynote speaker, awards luncheon and variety of EPH topics to celebrate the vastness of our profession.

Where: Olds, AB
When: October 14 & 15, 2015

Happy Birthday Concordia University, continued from Pg 14

The second source of success would be the instructors. Unlike any other schools, students feed on knowledge provided by working inspectors and allied professionals coming to Concordia to teach and share their expertise. Many Concordia grads are also now coming back to share the podium as adjunct professors, passing important current and working knowledge back to new students. The students learn to solve today’s problems using the most up-to-date tools and policies. The adjuncts understand the pressure the students are under, realize the information that is important to them to succeed, and all want to share their knowledge, experience, skills and passion for the betterment of the profession. A big thank you must be extended to all the adjunct professors and guest instructors that have graced the classrooms at Concordia.

First Instructors:
- Vince Gagner
- Dr. Louis Francescutti
- Barry Barclay
- John O’Laney
- William Hohn
- James Steele
- Nelson Fok
- Bill Carney
- Sheri Dalton
- Dr. Gerry Predy
- Jim Murphy

First Class of Students:
- Onkar Bhaskar
- Nasreen Dhirani
- Victor Drouin
- Sandra Gertsch (Hamilton)
- Jennifer May (Hadford)
- Tim Sakaluk
- Ludmilla Schmidt (Rodriguez)
- Rita Steinbru
- Natalie Yates

Lastly, the success is shared and promoted by the students themselves. They have taken the knowledge pressed into their tiny brains and applied and used them effectively and efficiently in all areas of Environmental Health throughout Canada. Many past graduates have furthered themselves through post-graduate programs, other certificates and expanded their area of expertise. Many graduates now find themselves in management positions, as specialists in various programs or involved in vast disciplines such as infection control, occupational health, scientific research and emergency planning.

Concordia grads, you deserve applause, first for surviving Concordia and then for spreading your wings. You are the future of environmental health, making a difference in public health protection, and you should be proud of your achievements.

Happy Birthday Concordia University*, wish you and all the graduates many more years of success and continuous contribution to the advancement of our great profession.

Submitted by Nelson Fok
Acting Director- Environmental Public Health
Concordia University

*Note: Name change from CUCA to Concordia University in 2015
2015 Fall Workshop Platinum Sponsor

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TACPHOGI

Editor's Note: In effort to keep the membership informed of the resources out there, each issue we highlight committee. This issue we have chosen a provincial committee outside of our CIPHI organization, but that is made up of many of our members and impacts our profession.

Have you ever heard of the ‘TACPHOGI’ or ‘ERMPHOGI’? Let me give you a hint; these have nothing to do with Bogeys, TACAIRs, or the USS Enterprise. If you are like me, at least when I first entered the field of Environmental Public Health, you probably thought to have heard this mentioned in ‘Top Gun’ (1986 American action drama directed by Tony Scott).

Although currently in a flat-spin, the subsurface energy resources of Alberta provide the province & Canada as a whole with a large economic opportunity and advantage. These vast opportunities are further amplified by the development of new extraction technologies that allow previously unreachable resources to be extracted. While in a constant dog fight with environmentalists and bad publicity, the industry exerts every effort to advance production with bogey-like recovery techniques. To ensure that exploration & production of natural resources does not adversely affect the health of Albertans and their environment it is crucial that an equal effort is exerted by health authorities & their provincial allies in the fight to ensure that resource development in Alberta is conducted in a way that protects the health of all Canadians.

The high rate of Alberta’s subsurface energy industry growth has also highlighted an expanding need for the health authorities and public health officials to be involved in the development of new energy projects, review of industry emergency response plans, involvement in the emergency management process, and in the management of all public health matters affected by the industry activities. To meet the arising challenges and public expectations health authorities identified a need for effective and consistently applied protocols to help them in responding to emergency events and protecting public health. To this end, the development of the ERMPHOGI (Environmental Resource Manual on Public Health and the Oil and Gas Industry) and response protocols for environmental public health field staff was supported by the former RHAs. These documents were to enhance Environmental Health Officer’s knowledge of public health issues pertaining to the oil and gas industry, and to provide a consistent and effective approach to responding to Emergency Response Plan development and review, public concerns and emergency events. To facilitate the development of this manual, the AH&W (current AH) Environmental Public Health Team proposed the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee on Public Health and Oil and Gas Industry (TACPHOGI), which in 2004 took its’ shape. The Council of Medical Officers of Health and the Alberta Environmental Health Directors Council supported this process, which is consistent with the Provincial Advisory Committee on Public Safety and Sour Gas Recommendation 34 to the former EUB (Energy and Utilities Board), now AER (Alberta Energy Regulator).

Through the collective effort of the TACPHOGI squadron the first edition of the Environmental Health Field Manual on Public Health and Oil and Gas Industry was finalized in 2007. To ensure the relevancy of the manual the TACPHOGI (aka TOPGUN) was re-established by Alberta Health in 2014 and its’ mandate was expanded. TACPHOGI’s current mandate is in part reflected in the second edition of the Manual, which is currently under development and which will change its’ name to ‘Public Health Reference Field Manual for Resource Development’ (PHRFMRD). The new version of the manual is expected to land on your desks in the near future.

TACPHOGI’s currently mandate aims to:

- educate environmental public health professionals on the oil, gas, and coal mining industry including regulatory framework and operational policy,
- outlines roles and responsibilities of stakeholder agencies in the oil, gas and coal mining as they relate to emergency and non-emergency situations, and
- helps to identify emerging environmental public health concerns related to oil, gas and coal mining development.

In addition, the new ERMPHOGI will identify interagency linkages and include updated action response protocols for health agencies designed to bring about consistent, effective and appropriate responses and communication in addressing public health emergency situations and public concerns that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Armed with this new and improved ERMPHOGI, Environmental Health Officers will be better prepared to maneuver between industry installations and to identify, mitigate, and eliminate any threats to public health.

This TACPHOGI squadron also envisions future updates to the manual as new information becomes available and additional needs are identified. So now that you know, be on the lookout for this great resource.

Over and out.
Wojciech
for Maverick and Goose
Ebola Response Training by Central Zone—AHS staff.
Above- Mike Lambert, Manny Ahmad, Dave Brown.

Garth Gosselin and Jason Lee, AHS Central Zone
Mask Fit Testing

As part of ongoing emergency response planning to equip staff with the resources and skills to respond should an infectious disease outbreak, such as Ebola occur in Alberta, AHS staff communicable disease staff have been practicing donning and doffing their PPE.

Tricia Herridge, AHS-Central Zone in full Ebola PPE

Gary Butler: February 4, 1943 - December 2, 2014

For those of you who may not already be aware, it is with great sadness we inform you that we have lost one of the most long standing members of our profession and our Association. Gary Butler passed away on December 2nd of last year.

Gary was a proud graduate of Ryerson in 1963. He began his career in Castlegar, B.C. then served in numerous roles within Alberta Health Services and all of its previous incarnations including Calgary Health Services, Calgary Regional Health Authority, Calgary Local Board of Health, and the City of Calgary where he was initially hired in July of 1966. He served in several roles during his tenure including Supervisor, Specialist in Personal Service Establishment Inspections and Specialist in Housing inspections. He cared deeply about his profession and his co-workers. He will be remembered for his long standing participation and involvement with CIPHI and the Unions that represent all of us. This passion continued after retirement in late 2007 until shortly before his passing. Even in passing, this passion was evident in his request that donations be made in his memory to the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada www.ehfc.ca Gary’s biggest legacy to our profession will be his dedication and involvement in training our young professionals.

Gary was pre-deceased by Darlene, his wife of 43 years. He will be deeply missed by his children Jay, Shannon and Bryce, and his grandchildren, Grayson, Grace and Emma. Gary was a passionate promoter of our profession and will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Submitted by Brent Kierstens & Lynne Navartil
Retired Members

Pictured: Elmer receiving his retirement certificate, with Ashley Yu.

**Elmer Spilchen**

I first heard about Elmer Spilchen before I ever met him. His reputation at BCIT remained long after he graduated. I had joined the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship club on campus. As soon as the members heard that I was in training to be a Public Health Inspector they immediately introduced me to James Dean, a second year student in the program and started sharing stories about Elmer. My second set of field training took me to Grande Prairie where I was trained by—Elmer Spilchen. Elmer took the time to further his knowledge of Christianity by attending classes at the Bible School in Sexsmith. Elmer was often asked to lead grace at CIPHI events. In his retirement I have no doubt that he will continue to share his faith.

Elmer has an unusual sense of humour. When we were talking about toilet availability for a special event he responded without a blink of an eye he responded “they would do anywhere they wanted”. It would not take much to get him going either. After drinking caffeine free-diet coke we laughed for hours as we played cards at one of the northern zone meetings. His friends will continue to laugh with him.

I appreciated the time he took to review documents, reports and information. Elmer gave solid feedback on items he was asked about. Elmer proudly wore his Germbuster t-shirt to teach handwashing to elementary schools or ride the slides to test play equipment. Elmer will get a chance to play with his grandchildren and his thoroughness will come through in his next community work.

**Judy Fitzpatrick**

After 38 years as a PHI in Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and Alberta, Judy has announced that she will be retiring this summer. Judy has been an active member in both the Newfoundland and NWT branches. In her time in Alberta, not only a member in good standing with CIPHI, but a passionate Food Safety Educator, practicum mentor and also an avid member of the HSAA union, serving the interests of not only the public but also her fellow professionals, helping to assert union rights.

In true humble Judy fashion, she will quietly retire officially from her post at the Wetaskiwin Community Health Centre— Central Zone, Alberta Health Services, in July 2015 after her much deserved final vacation from AHS. Even though retired, she will not stop working. She will be devoting more time to social justice issues— helping the world become a better place.

**Ken Fujioka**

Kenneth Fujioka began his career in public health with the City of Edmonton’s department of public health in 1978. Ken has seen several incarnations of the local board of health since then, including the Edmonton Board of Health, Capital Health Authority, Capital Health, and most recently the Edmonton Zone of Alberta Health Services. A graduate of the British Columbia Institute of Technology’s public health inspection program, Ken has over 35 years of exemplary work records, vast knowledge and field experience. He has always been a proud supporter of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) and his branch, and he was the recipient of the Alberta CIPHI Long-term Service Award for 2011.

**Submitted by Jacqueline Schnider**

**Judy Fitzpatrick**

**Submitted by Pamela Stewart**

**Ken Fujioka**

**Submitted by Jacqueline Schnider**
Retired Members continued

Continued from previous page.

Mr. Fujioka retired from environmental health in November 2013. He now resides in Kelowna and continues to play recreational rugby, travelling the world with his international team. Keep an eye out for Ken, as he may very likely show up at an inspector conference near you!

William Hohn
On September 19, 2014 Bill (William) Hohn bid us all farewell after 40 years in the field of Environmental Public Health.

Bill received his CPHI(C) in 1972 and began his career in Dryden, Ontario. A couple of years later Bill and his wife Janie moved to Edmonton where he began as a field inspector and later into the positions of Health Educator, and Senior Advisor with the Edmonton Board of Health. Upon completion of his Masters Degree, and the retirement of John O’Laney in 1997, he moved into the position of Director of Environmental Health in Capital Health Authority. With the amalgamation of the nine zones into what we now know as Alberta Health Services, Bill became the Director of the Provincial EPH program.

Throughout his career, Bill has been instrumental in the progress of Environmental Health. Acting as an adjunct professor he has been directly involved in the success of the Concordia Bachelor of Environmental Health program, he is a staunch supporter of continuing education for inspectors, and mandatory membership in CIPHI for all Alberta inspectors. He has worked on the CIPHI Core Competencies working Group, has co-chaired Alberta Branch and National education workshops and conferences. Bill was a member of the Council of Managers –Environmental Health which developed the “Blue book” and with the help of those zone managers; he has guided the zones through the transition from regions to Zones within the new entity of Alberta Health Services.

Bill has been the recipient of many awards during the span of his career, including the Alexander Officer National award, L.E. Steward Provincial award, and the CUCA distinguished alumnus Award. Perhaps the most distinguished is his designation from CIPHI as one of its 100 members of distinction- how fitting this award is as we all take a moment to reflect on Bill’s impact to our profession.

Bill and his wife Jane plan on continuing their travels (Hawaii being a long time favorite) and spending time with their Family. Environmental Health will miss you.

Thanks Bill: we bid farewell not goodbye.

Submitted by Shauna Dimock

Chris Rolfe
Christopher Rolfe joined Environmental Public Health in the Edmonton Zone (formerly Capital Health) in October 2004. He had brought with him extensive experience and knowledge from the Canadian Armed Forces, having been trained and worked as a Preventive Medicine Technician. He performed his duties with great care and detail, and functioned as senior advisor (health inspector III) in the Safe Built Environments program (Edmonton Zone) from 2011 to 2013.

Mr. Rolfe retired from environmental health in January 2014. He now enjoys time on his personal hobbies and with his wife Sheila, and lots of outings with their grandson.

Write ups on Ken and Chris
Submitted by Ken Dong
Photos provided by Dennis Chu

2015 Hockey Pool Standings

The top ten are:

1. Dan Richen  920pts
2. Lesley Wong  914pts
3. Chad Beegan  900pts
4. Tricia Herridge  897pts
5. Bryon Miller  896pts
6. Andrew Lum  892pts
7. Kevin Jeroncic  891pts
8. Scott Budgell  891pts
9. Ken Dong  883pts
10. Kevin McLeod  882pts

With Dan Richen retiring May 29, 2015 after a long a very distinguished career as an Environmental Public Health Professional, it is fitting he is presently leading the standings, good luck Dan!
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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Taste For Charity Update:

Taste for Charity is a joint effort supported by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) to raise awareness and funding for Clinica Verde, a maternal and infant clinic in Nicaragua.

Last year, with the help of Health Inspectors across Canada, we were able to compile your favorite recipes into a cookbook to benefit Clinica Verde. In three and a half short months, over $750.00 was raised for Clinica Verde through cookbook sales!!

Thank you for joining us to create something amazing! Watch for new and exciting updates through 2015!!

Visit our website to purchase your very own copy of Taste: The Classic Collection or email us at: tastycharity@gmail.com

Submitted by Lena Parker

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