Hello Alberta Branch members,

I am excited to share my first President’s message earlier than anticipated and welcome the opportunity to provide an extra year of service as President for Alberta Branch. Although the transition was rapid, it was warmly embraced. Being President-Elect, one is always learning and preparing to be the President. I would like to thank Evelien Meyer for her contribution to the Branch in addition to Thomas Cheung, Past-President, for going above and beyond supporting our Branch while in transition.

As I transition into my new role, I am committed to our core work of supporting education and providing a Fall Educational Workshop. At the time of writing this message, we have recently approved the proposal for the Fall Educational Workshop in Alberta, which will be held in Edmonton. Nationally, the Annual Education Conference has been formally announced and will be in Saskatchewan. I am excited for the high quality education and networking that are part of these events. Similar to previous years, Alberta Branch is committed to supporting members in attending these fine educational events with bursaries so stay tuned for announcements.

Alberta Branch has been working on many different initiatives since the fall including increasing our role in advocacy, nationally and provincially,

Continued on next page….
Message from the President continued.

recording our historical story within Public Health in organized manner with interesting reports being shared with members, and increasing membership engagement and communication.

Nationally, CIPHI advocacy has been center stage as Ontario changed legislation to remove the CIPHI qualification. Branch leads across the nation supported Ontario Branch in various forms and, although the qualification was removed, a protocol which is attached to the legislation has kept the credential. Public health service model position statements, sitting at public health coalition and working groups to voice health reform from a CIPHI perspective, and drafting responses to potential changes that impact CIPHI members in other provinces has been much of our advocacy work nationally to date.

Member benefits are another area of work that has borne fruit recently. Nationally, Good Life Fitness and CIPHI have negotiated a corporate rate for our members. The discount is available at over 250 GoodLife Fitness Clubs across Canada.

Alberta Branch will continue working in areas of advocacy, educational support and networking, and mandatory membership while also contributing nationally. I look forward to my role as President and to engaging with members as we move well into 2018.

Finally, a very special thanks goes to Pamela Kutuadu who has been tirelessly putting together Alberta Branch Newsletters for several years. We can’t thank her enough for the countless hours she’s contributed to the Branch and her tenacity for high quality content certainly made her a valuable member of our team.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Tomko, CPHI(C)
Branch President, CIPHI Alberta

Message from the Editor

Like every edition I am very excited to share this one with you all. This time we have part 2 of the South Zone feature, which was cut short in our last edition due the fires that ravaged Southern Alberta; our reoccurring What Would Nelson Fok Do? Feature, this time discussing the risk of dog poo; 2 significant retirements from the North and Edmonton zones; announcement of the new Alberta rep to the Council of Professional Experience (CoPE), sharing of the accolades for the publication of several of our members from AHS-HPE in a joint submission to the Environmental Health Review on “pour in place surfacing”, the second of hopefully many historian features provided by our president and branch historian– Geoff Tomko; highlights from the 2017 AEC in Richmond, tips from CoPE on submitting your PDHs, and update from the newest cohort at Concordia and sadly an In Memorial write up for Dan Richen.

Thank you to all the contributors: Mike Swystun, Geoff Tomko, Nelson Fok, Theron White, Valerey Davidson, Maria Krall, Meghen Allen, Darcy Garthni, Sukhman Grewel, Keith Lee, Blair Bartley, Shane Hussey & Ashley Yu, photos from the AEC provided by Garry Tam and Toy Thepsouvanh, and the cover photo from Lindsay Sullivan.

Continued on page 22…
South Zone Feature Part 2

Editor’s Note: The featured zone for this edition continues from the Fall 2017 Edition, highlighting South Zone.

Kenow Fire
The Kenow fire entered into Waterton Lakes National Park from BC on the afternoon of Monday September 11, 2017. The fire ran 12 km in 4 hours burning 30% of the park and covering 35,000 hectares. The fire aggressively spread, leaving the park boundaries and entering into the Municipal District of Pincher Creek and Cardston County, causing evacuation orders within these municipalities as well as the Blood Tribe No. 148 and Standoff. There were four separate emergency operations centers activated during the initial spread of the wildfire. Approximately 500 people were evacuated and several residences, structures and out buildings were destroyed. Incredibly, no one was seriously injured or killed in the fire despite most of the M.D. of Pincher Creek and Cardston County evacuations occurring in the middle of the night.

Timeline:

Sept 2, 2017 : Lightning strike ignites fire in BC directly west of Waterton Lakes National Park, AB (Waterton Park)
Sept 2-5: Fire moves slowly towards Waterton Park Boundary
Sept 5: Fire reaches park boundary. Evacuation alert for Waterton Park and townsite issued
Sept 8: Evacuation Order issued for Waterton Park. Waterton Park is closed. Fire is held at BC/Waterton Park boundary
Sept 11 (afternoon): Fire enters Waterton Park and moves SE towards townsite.
Sept 11 (night): Fire runs 12 km from park boundary in 4 hours burning 35,000 hectares, pushing past Waterton townsite and spreading in the M.D. of Pincher Creek, Cardston County and Blood Tribe No. 148. M.D. of Pincher Creek, Cardston County, Blood Tribe and Standoff all issue evacuation orders for residents.
Sept 11-19: Fire remains out of control.
Sept 20: Waterton Lakes National Park Evacuation order is rescinded and re-entry occurs.

The morning after the fire consumed the majority of the park, Parks Canada put out the following statement regarding the townsite which was saved: “At this time, the majority of the townsite appears to be intact. Extensive fire protection measures were effective in safeguarding the majority of infrastructure and facilities within the community and at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Firefighters worked tirelessly throughout the night to extinguish spot fires, monitor sprinkler protection, and protect facilities. High volume pumps and sprinkler systems, in combination with planning and fuel management done in previous years, ensured the townsite perimeter held”.

Continued on the next page...
South Zone put together a very effective emergency response strategy. An ICS command structure was set up within Environmental Public Health (EPH) and the following positions initially being filled:

- Incident commander
- Safety Officer
- Planning Section Chief
- Operations Section Chief
  ◦ Reception Centre Branch
  ◦ EPH Support Brach
  ◦ Supportive Living Branch

EPH had inspectors in all Municipal EOC's including M.D. of Pincher Creek, Cardston County and Waterton Park. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch had an inspector in the Blood Tribe No. 148 EOC.

Outside of the immediate emergency incident work, EPH staff also worked on Public Health issues such as ambient air quality monitoring, air quality alerts for daycares and immunocompromised populations, air quality risk assessments for continuing care facilities, and effects of the wildfire on surface and ground water quality.

Throughout the entire event, other zones throughout the province provided quick, efficient and effective assistance with logistical and technical expertise.

The experiences that EPH inspectors across the province gained with the Fort McMurray fires were invaluable in the response to the Kenow fire. Furthermore, the response processes and public documents created during the Fort McMurray fire were used extensively in the Kenow Fire, specifically:

- Re-entry package for residents and businesses
- Returning to Your Home
- Residents returning to your home after a fire when power is not restored
- How to Clean and Disinfect a Cistern
- How to Collect a Water Sample for Bacteria Testing
- Shock Chlorinating a Well
- Air Quality
- Air Quality Advisories
- Air Quality Health Index
- Breathing Smoke or Fumes
- Wildfire Smoke and Your Health
- Reopening Your Building After a Wildfire
- Reopening Your Food Establishment After a Wildfire

When looking back at the experiences from the Kenow fire, it was obvious that it wasn’t nearly as destructive or involved as the Fort McMurray fires but posed some very interesting challenges. Several municipal jurisdictions including Parks Canada, Glacier National Park (United States) M.D. of Pincher Creek, Town of Pincher Creek, Cardston County, and Blood Tribe all came together during the response. Having so many municipalities working together posed communication challenges but also allowed for sharing of resources. Alberta Emergency Management Agencies (AEMA) did an incredible job facilitating communications and advising on emergency management.

Continued on the next page...
Zone Feature

Continued from previous page…

When reminiscing about the Kenow fire, it becomes apparent that experience dealing with other emergencies such as the High River Floods and the Fort McMurray fires becomes invaluable. Moving forward, it is crucial that Public Health Inspectors continue to get the opportunity to be involved in emergency responses like this one. The more experience we have, the better prepared we will be when the next one happens.

Low German Speaking Mennonite FoodSafe Course

Serving the public health needs of a diverse population in South Zone means being flexible. So, when Environmental Public Health saw an un-met need among Low-German-Speaking Mennonites (LGSM), SZ inspectors Theron White and Mike Gervais adapted an existing program to fit. Now, LGSM folks are able to take food-safety certification course in their own language. This is the first Section 31 course taught in Low German in AHS. The Taber & District Adult Learning Association reached out to EPH saying many Low-German-speaking Mennonites in the area were hoping to acquire Food Safety certification, but language was a barrier. An estimated 20,000 LGSM’s live in Alberta, most of them in South Zone; many having emigrated from Mexico.

The course includes instruction in Low German, and incorporates hands-on demonstrations within the commercial kitchen setting. EPH partnered with the local Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services to create instructional videos, now online and accessible to anyone. Since it’s been available online, it has been viewed in Paraguay, Brazil, Belize, Mexico, and across Canada and the United States.

Tina Fielding, who translated the course, grew up in a Mennonite home. As a Community Health Representative and Low-German interpreter, she brings an insider’s perspective and understanding to her work as a liaison with the LGSM community.

Some of the participants work in stores where there is some food-prep happening, others work at restaurants and others want the certification because they’re hoping to expand their horizons. Some folks have plans to sell at farmers’ markets and the knowledge they have now will help them do that safely.

John Younger has a shiny new EHO III position with Healthy Physical Environments (HPE)

John started with HPE on Jan 22, 2018 as the Provincial Drinking Water Coordinator. This is a new position within HPE and the role will evolve over time in response to demand from field staff or as necessary to move forward provincial initiatives decided by the Provincial Drinking Water Working Group. In general, John will be available as a provincial resource to EPH in all zones for questions involving drinking water. This might range in supporting inspectors who are conducting source water categorization and vulnerability assessments, providing input on treatment options for different types of water systems, or assisting with technical information for those dealing with emerging issues related to drinking water safety.

Congratulations John!
South Zone Feature Part 2 Continued...

Mike Gervais Turns 50
Mike Gervais has been an inspector for 25 hears and is currently an EHO III working out of the Lethbridge office. For his Birthday, SZ inspectors took him out for some Axe throwing action. Happy Birthday Mike!

Staffing updates

- Brittany Dulle has accepted a permanent position with Community Infection Prevention and Control. Congratulations Brittany!
- Josephine Shin is filling Theron White’s 1 year secondment to Healthy Physical Environments
- Danny Lo is filling a 1 year maternity leave position, based in the Lethbridge Office.
- Chantal Wog is working in a casual position.

Submitted by Michael Swystun

Notable Mentions

National Swimming Pool Foundation Awards

Most Certified Individuals by a Company Internationally: Alberta Health Services of Canada received the International Award for certifying 486 students. In 2012, the company began offering CPO® Certification courses across Alberta, Canada, in response to their government’s introduction of new pool standards. The City of Ottawa also received an award in this category with 239 certified individuals.

https://www.nspf.org/news/nspf-honors-top-field?

TITLE: A review of the potential risks associated with chemicals present in poured-in-place rubber surfacing

- Courtney Janes, Ludmilla Rodriguez, Chris Kelly, Theron White, and Chad Beegan

ABSTRACT:

Poured-in-place (PIP) rubber surface systems are becoming a popular material for playground and play area surfaces due to their customizability, durability, and impact protection. The material is constructed from crumb rubber, which is made from recycled tires as well as synthetic components and other additives, such as a binding agent. Several government agencies and non-governmental organizations have commissioned studies and status reports to identify possible health risks related to exposure to the chemical hazards present in PIP surface materials. Various routes of exposure were considered such as inhalation, ingestion and dermal contact. After a review of the available literature addressing potential chemical hazards of PIP surfaces, no health risks were noted. Some information gaps, such as limited experimental data specific to PIP surface systems, were identified at the time of the review.
Council of Professional Experience Update

Originally from Saskatchewan, I received my formal Environmental Health education from the British Columbia Institute of Technology and then later on from the University College of Cape Breton. I was nationally certified in Public Health Inspection in 1996 and soon after started my first Public Health Inspector position in Hay River, NWT.

After spending about four years working in the Territories, I moved to Fort McMurray, Alberta where I worked for 9 years in various frontline and management positions in the former Northern Lights Health Region including being in the position of Director of Public Health. During this time I was successful in obtaining a Master’s in Healthcare Administration Degree from the University of Phoenix and transferred to Edmonton in 2008 with the amalgamation of Alberta Health Services and have been serving as the Director of Environmental Public Health for the Edmonton Zone ever since.

I look forward to working with my fellow CoPE members over the next couple of years while representing and supporting his fellow Alberta provincial colleagues in the important work that is well underway!

Submitted by Darcy Garchinski

CoPE Connection

Some of our most Impactful Actions are those we take within our own Communities!

Are you a local sports coach? Do you volunteer for any charitable, community, or religious organizations? Then we have Good News!

LPHI’s can claim 1 PDH for every 1 Hour of Community Involvement under the Participation Category in the MSC.
(Max of 10 PDHs annually)

Contributions to the community which require professional and ethical behaviour, but not necessarily the application of technical knowledge can be claimed.

Our volunteers should be rewarded - we need more people like you!

You’re not just an inspector, you’re a wealth of knowledge.
Stay competent by participating in professional development activities.

PD Portal: Did you know that organizations, employers and conference organizers can apply to have PDHs preapproved for educational activities by using this form:
http://www.ciphi.ca/pdf/orgappforhours.pdf?

A list of CoPE approved courses can be found under the Library tab in the Member Service Centre (MSC) at www.ciphimember.ca
Historian Feature

For the past year or two, I have personally taken on digitizing and electronically archiving any paper documents that CIPHI possessed in our archive and that I could find throughout Alberta via our members. The Alberta Branch had a stock of boxes kept for years. Approximately 12 boxes were shuttled to my home (literally a truck load) where I began to slowly scan documents and save them digitally. As you can imagine, through this tedious work (to say the least), there have been several gems that I intend to share with membership.

An interesting question, one that you may be thinking, is: **What’s the oldest document that the Alberta Historian currently has and is directly relevant to Alberta health inspectors?**

The answer to this question has recently hit a new milestone: **1909**.

It is fitting that this edition of the newsletter contains a South Zone feature, as our oldest known document (currently known in my possession at the time of writing) is an application for an inspector position in Lethbridge from 1909 by Mr. Jesse Vallance.

Mr. Jesse Vallance held a certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute of London, England, where he passed the “Inspector’s of Nuisances Examination”. At the time of writing the letter, he was working in Winnipeg and was promised the first vacancy of the “Sanitary Staff” there however, he wanted to secure a position as soon as possible so he applied to a posting in the Manitoba Free Press for a inspector position in Lethbridge, Alberta. He was unmarried, 26 years old and the successful candidate for the position.

Written in cursive, the succinct letter takes us back in time and we are connected with one of the first known inspectors in Alberta. It is amazing to consider that Mr. Vallance was hired 5 years before the start of World War 1 or 109 years ago. As we work with the City of Lethbridge Archives Team, we will hopefully learn more about Mr. Vallance and his work.

Special thanks to Mr. Sean Robison for being continually connected with the City of Lethbridge, without this connection, much of our inspector history in South Zone would be unknown.

For another great write up by our colleague Mr. Sean Robison, I encourage you read the Fall 2015 piece, page 15.

Submitted by Geoff Tomko
AB Branch Historian and President
Historian Feature continued....

Sir,

In response to your advertisement in the "Manitoba Free Press" inviting applications for the position of Inspector for the City of Lethbridge, I beg to submit my application to you. I hold the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute of London, England and have had twelve months practical experience with the Sanitary Inspector of the borough of Camberwell in England; a town with a population of about eight thousand. I have been promised the first vacancy on the Sanitary Staff at Winnipeg, but am anxious to secure a position as soon as possible. I am 26 years of age, and unmarried. Since September last I have been employed in the office of the General Locomotive Foreman of the c.P.R. shops at Winnipeg. I am thoroughly conversant with all kinds of sanitary appliances and methods, and have a good general knowledge of the principles of electric lighting etc.

I feel confident I could give you every satisfaction, were I given the opportunity. I enclose copies of testimonials which speak for themselves and for local testimony as to my character. I would refer you to the R.R. Yard, General Locomotive Foreman c.P.R. Winnipeg, or the Rev. E.R. Whitt, Walnut St. Winnipeg.

I could commence duties at your convenience, and, if necessary, I would be pleased to furnish you with any further information or more references, on hearing from you. Well I successful, I would require a commencing salary of $70 or $85.

Trusting I shall meet your requirements,

Yours respectfully,

J. F. Callahan

[Handwritten Signature]
2017 Annual Education Conference

Editor’s Note: The photos of the AEC were provided by BC Branch member—Gary Tam, and our own Toy Thepsouvanh. I was amongst the strong Alberta representation at the AEC. The conference theme of “Honouring Traditions, Inspiring Innovation” was present in all things. The keynote speakers: Bill Carr, Dr. Perry Kendall and Dr. Patricia Daly, each provided their own spin on what that meant.

Bill Carr used his motivational humor to in part wisdom regarding the importance of doing work inspired, stress management and social cognition. As professional “bubble bursters” we hold the great power of knowledge and have a responsibility to use that power with tact and grace.

Dr. Kendall highlighted our long and divine history of public health, the return on investment and experience as our best teacher.

Dr. Daly spoke on the factors driving innovation: environmental changes, changing disease patterns, new tools, effects of climate change and urbanization.

One major highlight for me was the Healthy Built Environments talk on the last day presented by Charito Gailing and Tannis Cheadle with PHSA-BC, Sandra Gill with Fraser Health. The “iceberg of public health” model resonated with me, showing the foundation for a collaborative approach to public health moving forward and reinforcing the concept of “what is old is new again” in our profession.

Each year 3 individuals are awarded $1000 from the AB Branch to attend a CIPHI educational event. Two of the recipients from 2017 have provided their experiences in the following write ups.

Being a recipient of the 2017 educational scholarship gave me a great opportunity to travel a little bit further and attend the CIPHI National Conference in Richmond this year. I’d like to give a big thank you to CIPHI Alberta Branch for their financial support. As always, some excellent presentations were offered and it was really nice to connect and meet with colleagues from across Canada.

There were many great aspects of the conference, but I think the first day’s keynote speaker, Bill Carr, really set the mood for the next few days. I guess you might classify him as a motivational comedian. Anyone who knows me would say I’m definitely not one for motivational speakers, however, I’m always up for a little comedy, so he had at least half of my attention. Mr. Carr used interesting and comedic stories splattered with lessons and insights into how to interact with others and live life in a positive way. I’m still part skeptic, so I’m not going to say his words changed my life’s direction or belief system, but his points were the ones that all too often get forgotten about during busy work and family lives. His ease and natural storytelling ability allowed him to remind the audience of these important insights without sounding preachy or making me think, “I know, I know, I’ve heard this all before”. In fact, I was a little disappointed when his presentation came to an end, but left the session with a positive, open, and receptive mind. What a wonderful way to begin the conference!

Submitted by
Maria Krall

Continued on next page...
2017 Annual Education Conference Richmond

In 2016 I was one of the lucky people who won a $1000.00 bursary to attend a CIPHI Conference in 2017.

I attended the CIPHI National Conference in Richmond November 5th to 8th 2017: “Honouring Traditions, Inspiring Innovation”. All aspects of the conference were excellent, from the venue to the speakers to the social events.

The keynote that stands out was the conference opener, Bill Carr, comedian and motivational speaker. He spoke of the science behind how our thoughts and feeling affect others around us. Every day, we each have moments when we feel positive and optimistic and bring “Tonic” to our conversations and moments we feel angry or judgmental and bring “Toxic” to our conversations. He encouraged us to choose to be more Tonic than Toxic not only to influence a positive environment and facilitate change but to be more healthy physically and emotionally.

You can hear his message at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJm_bboXi68

The sessions were excellent. There were a lot of good information sessions on topics ranging from legalization of Cannabis, Fentanyl Remediation, Radon Gas Projects to Funeral Home Inspections. The most difficult part is choosing which session to attend as they all sounded like they had valuable information.

Conferences are a great way to connect with old classmates, meet new people, socialize with co-workers, talk to vendors and bring new information and ideas back to work.

To refresh and renew your perspective, attend a conference.

Submitted by Valerey Davidson

The 2018 Educational Sponsorship Winners are:
- Wade Goin
- Ludmilla Rodriguez
- Heather Langemann

Alberta Branch 2018 Fall Workshop
Doubletree by Hilton West Edmonton
October 1-2, 2018

Details to follow soon.
2017 AEC Photos
Upcoming Events

2018 National Annual Education Conference

SAVE THE DATE

September 16 - 19 2018

Learn more at www.ciphi.ca/aec2018

Questions information2018@ciphi.ca
CoPE

PD Hour Entry Tips

When is the deadline to enter my PD hours?
All PD hours for 2017 must be entered no later than January 31st, 2018. Start early!

Where do I go to enter my PD hours?
1. Visit http://www.ciphimember.ca to access the Member Service Centre (MSC).
2. Under ‘Professional Development’ (left column), click ‘Log PD hours’.

Where do I find the document that explains the categories?
CPC Professional Development Model:
http://www.ciphi.ca/pdf/prodev.pdf
Use this version (June 2017) when entering hours!

‘Section 4: Minimum Requirements’ on page 6 explains PD hour requirements and categories.

CoPE is working on simplifying the categories. Once completed, a simplified ‘PD Hour Entry Tool’ reflecting all the changes will be provided on the MSC.

What if I am not practicing full time?
1. Complete a ‘Declaration of Reduction of Professional Development’ form:
2. Upload/attach the completed form to your professional practice entry on the MSC.
3. Enter your minimum PD hour requirement by January 31st of the following year*.

Remind your colleagues to enter their PD hours! Questions? E-mail cope@ciphi.ca

Which Branch will have the highest percentage of members entering PD hours for 2017?
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.

Picking up after Man’s Best Friend

Canadians love their pets. A 2014 report showed 57% (equates to 7.5 million) of Canadian households own pets. 37% of Canadian households owned one or more cats, and 32% owned dogs. 2016 data showed there may be 7.6 million dogs in Canada and 41% of households have at least one dog, slightly lowered than 47% ownership in the US. Calgary, for example, has more than 135,000 dogs, making for more than one dog for every 10 Calgarians. “Man’s Best Friend” has been our companion for at least 15,000 years, why stop now?

Taking their dogs out for a walk is a routine for many dog owners. With every trip, owners will have the opportunity of ‘picking-up’ after their friends.

The most common way of ‘picking up’ after their dogs of course is ‘trashing it’. Trashing it means picking up the fecal material in a plastic bag and disposing of it in a proper container. It has been estimated that a 34 kg dog will generate over 226 kg of waste in one year. Picking up fecal material 3 times a day with plastic bags will put over 1,000 bags a year into the landfill for each dog. A City of San Francisco study showed that animal feces make up nearly 4% of residential landfill waste. Plastic bags, however, are not easily broken down in landfills. There are ‘biodegradable’ bags available on the market. However, unless the bags are clearly labeled as meeting ASTM D6400 standard, the bags are not truly ‘biodegradable’ and will not breakdown easily.

Some municipalities have tried ‘flushing’ method, that is to require owners to pick-up the feces in special bags, take it home and flush it down the toilet. Flushable bags, however, can break down very quickly if the ‘load’ is wet or if it is raining and can begin falling apart before one gets home. To reduce clogging, sometimes the bags must be left in the toilet for 5 to 10 minutes for the bag to dissolve properly.

Other municipalities have tried using a composting or waste digester system where owners can dispose of fecal material in a special bin. The City of Edmonton had considered putting composting bins in dog parks. The biggest problem would be the type of plastic bags that can be used and the slower process during cold weather. ‘Burying’ waste at least 6 inches deep have also been tried, but again, the method is too labour intensive and does not work in cold weather. It should be noted that flushing or burying methods should not be applied to cat waste. Toxoplasma from cat waste can be an issue in the environment.

Taking your dog to the off-leash dog park is one of the favourite past time for dogs and owners. The City of Edmonton, for example, has 41 off-leash dog parks. It is disturbing to know that up to 40% of waste goes un-scooped. Various studies in the US and UK have shown that dogs taken to parks in an urban region had a higher risk of infection with Giardia spp. and Cryptosporidium spp. than dogs not taken to parks, especially for off-leash parks. Swimming near a dog park also increase the risk of infection.

Enjoy the socialization and opportunity for exercise with your dog, but please be responsible and pick up after the dog.

Submitted by Nelson Fok

References:
CIPHI Members Giving Back

COLDIEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR WALK
On February 24, 2018, members with the Edmonton Zone (PHIs Danyluk, Johnson, Parker and Allen) and their families participated in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in which money and awareness goes to support local charities serving hungry, homeless and hurting families and youths. The team "Health Raisers" raised $465 in addition to the $25 registration fee. In total, 12 individuals participated in the 2km walk and it was a great opportunity for team building and to support our community. In Edmonton, the event raised $73,977 (Bissell) and $44,928 (Mustard Seed) and had 492 walkers registered.

PROJECT WATCH DONATIONS
Some CIPHI members working in the Edmonton Zone participate in Project Watch Task Force which is a multi-agency task force working to ensure safe living conditions for Edmonton’s vulnerable. The team consists of Edmonton Police Services, Fire, Child and Family Services, Alberta Works, AISH and the City of Edmonton. Together, the team conducts safety inspections of buildings housing vulnerable clients. PHIs work to ensure the premises meet Minimum Housing and Health Standards and our partner agencies work to advocate for clients, connect them to resources and make referrals. Many of these individuals are on income support, have limited income and often lack the financial means to purchase basic necessities. The team often provides clients in need with hygiene packages and coloring books for children. The task forces’ supply of hygiene products were low and a call was put out for support.

Edmonton Zone CIPHI members stepped up to the plate. There was a two-week challenge between the 2 offices of AHS – Environmental Public Health and Healthy Physical Environment to see who could donate the most to the cause.

In the end, almost $1000 was raised and a desk full of hygiene products was available to make hygiene packages. Some of the money went to purchasing presents for children residing in motels in our city.

Sponsoring and Serving Dinner To The Vulnerable
On December 12, 2017, Edmonton members volunteered and served dinner for the vulnerable populations at the Mustard Seed. With the support of HSAA, they were able to raise the $1000 to sponsor the dinner.

Submitted by Meaghan Allen
Concordia Corner

Greetings from the Environmental Health Students from Concordia!

The Environmental Health Students have had very dynamic fall and winter semesters. The highlight of the fall semester was the CIPHI AB’s Annual Conference in Fort McMurray, where we got the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow professionals from the field. Learning about the first-hand experiences from the inspectors themselves helped us know the profession we’re getting into, closely. The highlight of the winter semester was the Toastmaster’s SpeechCraft series. All the students participated and we all got an opportunity to improve our communication skills. Recording our speeches gave us an opportunity to self-reflect and get a better understanding of how we come across the camera.

Throughout the fall and winter semester, we were exposed to various areas of Public Health. Various field visits helped us connect the theoretical aspects to its practical applications. Whether it was a housing inspection or for pools, tattoo studio or a restaurant, the site visits were very helpful in understanding the practical aspects and importance of inspections.

As we learnt more about the field, time flew by so quick that we are already getting ready for practicums, some beginning this summer and some in fall. We are hoping that with the excessive training and good base built at Concordia, we’d be able to contribute positively to this noble profession, helping protect and promote public health.

On behalf of all the students, I wish all the students who are appearing for their BOC exams this April.

On behalf of EHSU, 
Sukhman Grewal 
President, 
Environment Health Student Union (EHSU) 
Concordia University of Edmonton

Pictured above: Current students of Environmental Health with Toastmasters team at Concordia University of Edmonton
Retirements

Carol Sobkow Alloway

It is always difficult to summarize the highlights of a person with an exemplary 40 year career in just a few sentences. Carol Sobkow Alloway was born and raised in Edmonton, AB. She graduated from NAIT with a diploma in Food Sciences. She went on to work for 5 years with Western Industrial Laboratories performing water and air pollution analyses which unknowingly prepared her for a future career in the field of Public Health.

Carol attended the Environmental Health program at BCIT and became certified in 1977. She started her career in Public Health with the Stony Plain-Lac St. Anne Health Unit, based in Whitecourt AB for 3 years, later transferring to Stony Plain/ Spruce Grove. In her early career, Carol established herself as a pioneer in gaining acceptance of women in a predominantly designated male profession. Carol overcame many obstacles and barriers affronted to her because of her gender and youthful appearance. While she never backed away from a dispute, she always presented a professional demeanor and gave options to those who asked. Carol became known as "a force to be reckoned with" by any who failed to follow the rules set out in the Alberta Health legislation or the guidelines established by the health authorities. As a field inspector never shying away from laying charges, Carol obtained significant fines for breaches of Executive Officer Orders issued under the Alberta Public Health Act. In 2001, she successfully prosecuted an operator for openly discharging sewage onto public lands in a large industrial area and later a landlord who failed to maintain his twin apartment buildings in Devon, Alberta both of which obtained and set the bar for the highest fines in Alberta ever at that time.

Carol has been a dedicated district inspector who has always focused on protecting the public. She inspired many upcoming PHIs to be the best they could be in their profession maintaining that one must have a passion for this work and have compassion towards clients. There are numerous PHIs in Alberta who have benefited from the guidance and influence Carol willingly shared in aiding their development in the profession. She has actively been involved as a member of CIPHI assisting with planning of our national CIPHI conference in Edmonton, as a BOC examiner, and mentoring numerous practicum students.

Her dedication to the public was often recognized by her colleagues, supervisors and senior management. She was commended for her work at the EOC for the Acclaim Oil Gas Well disaster near Edmonton in 2004 and took on a lead role in the Wabamun Lake - CN train derailment where she received a REACH award in 2005. Carol also assisted in the Calgary Flood event of 2013.

Amongst Carol’s many skills and talents, she is fondly remembered for her organization of office events, as well as her leadership and involvement in local community events and activities. She participated in the planning of Environmental Public Health offices in the new WestView Health Centre in Stony Plain, Alberta and was asked to emcee the grand opening of the WestView Health Centre.

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Retirements

In addition Carol emceed and participated in WestView’s fundraising events for hospital equipment. Over several years she engaged her PHI colleagues to actively participate in similar fundraisers.

Over the years, there were many changes in the organization of the public health care system. Nevertheless, Carol managed to adapt to the changes and embraced the future of public health as it evolved into the present delivery system. Her professionalism in dealing with the public, colleagues and affiliated agencies marked her as outstanding amongst her co-workers. She will be greatly missed by all who had the honor of knowing her and had the pleasure of working with her over her remarkable career.

Submitted by Blair Bartley

Jeremy Spencer

Jeremy Spencer retired in January of this year after dedicating 40 years of his life to protecting the health of rural northern Albertans and promoting public health within the communities he served. Jeremy graduated from BCIT in 1977 and began his career as a Public Health Inspector the next year in Fairview.

Since that time, he has witnessed regulations and standards come and go, such as the Keeping of Livestock and Poultry Regulation, and the Fluid Milk Standards and Regulations. He also has worked through the fiscal restrictions of the 1980’s, the development of the Regional Health Authorities in the 1990’s and the birth of Alberta Health Services in the 2000’s. Through all of that, Jeremy continued to build his expertise in being a true generalist. His wealth of knowledge on a wide range of topics made him the go to person for the rationale behind regulatory changes, red-eared slider turtles, landfills, work camps, housing and any other topic that may present itself. His unique perspectives, comedic voice-overs and passion for the profession will be missed.

The North Zone will not be the same without him! Jeremy plans to spend more time on his musical stylings with the Mitelka Folkloric Theater Company and travelling to see his children and grandchildren. Wishing him health and happiness in this next chapter of his life!

Submitted by Shane Hussey
Photos provided by Ashley Yu
In Memoriam—Dan Richen

Editor’s Note: I had the privilege of working with Dan for a four years prior to his retirement. Like many other young inspectors Dan made an impression on me and helped me to develop my career. I will mostly remember his uncanny ability to argue any side of a debate just for arguments sake with zeal and joy.

Dan retired from the field of Environmental Public Health in 2015, after 36 years of continuous service with the Drumheller Health Unit, Health Authority 5, David Thompson Health Region and Alberta Health Services, serving in various capacities including field level Public Health Inspector, Senior Public Health Inspector, Manager of Environmental Public Health, Senior Advisor, and Supervisor of the South District EPH Central Zone AHS.

Dan was very involved with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, taking on a number of roles including Alberta Branch President, South Zone Councilor, Alberta Branch webmaster, Editor of the Alberta Branch News, and was a member of the National Executive Council, National Finance Committee and National Awards Committee. Dan also helped to organize the Alberta Branch golf tournaments and the Branch Hockey Pool for a number of years. Dan was the Alberta Branch Member of the Year in 1998, was awarded with the CIPHI President’s Award in 1999, and in 2013 was honored and recognized by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors in the 100 Members of Distinction centenary project.

To me, Dan was a friend, a mentor, a colleague, a supervisor, a confidante, a golfing buddy, and much more, and I will miss him more than my words can express. Rest easy my friend. My sincerest condolences go out to his wife, Cheryl, their families and their many friends and acquaintances.

Submitted by Keith Lee

The following is the official obituary on the Courtney-Winters Funeral Home & Cremation Services website.

Daniel Thomas Richen of Drumheller beloved husband of Cheryl unexpectedly passed away peacefully on March 1, 2018 at the age of 64 years.

Dan was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on March 18, 1953. He grew up and took all of his schooling in Winnipeg, upon completion of High School he attained his Certification in Public Health in September of 1979. Dan worked as a Public Health Inspector in the Drumheller area from October 1, 1979 until his retirement May 29, 2015. Dan also had a B.A. of Science from the University of Winnipeg, plus adding to his education a Masters of Science from the University of Calgary November 10, 1994.

Dan was a kind, honest and intelligent man, he loved to read, watch sports, but his passion was playing golf. He always had some trivia or fact about people, places or things. He enjoyed his retirement, “doing nothing”, as he put it. We will miss his laugh and his smile.

Dan leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Cheryl, in laws, Bob & Lorraine Knight of Ashern, Manitoba, Brad & Betty Kelso (Curtis & Pam) of Brandon, Manitoba, Blaine & Cori Kelso of Yellowknife, NWT, Allan & Brenda Kelso (Emily) of Norris Arm, NFLD, brothers, Doug & Jan Richen (Scott & Michael) of Burnaby, B.C., Bob & Sandra Richen of Winnipeg, Manitoba, David & Lorrie Richen (Matthew & Danielle) of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and a lifetime of friends.

Dan was predeceased by his parents Robert & Clementine Richen, and brother Ronald Richen.

A Celebration of Life for Dan was held on March 15, 2018 at the Dinosaur Trail Golf & Country Club.

Memorial Donations may be made in loving memory of Dan to Canadian Diabetes Association.
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Thank you to my editing team: Lance, Vicki, Laurie-Anne, Phi and Voytek for your keen eyes and support.

These past 5 years as Editor have been a labour of love growing the ABN into what it has become. I am truly proud and appreciative of the work my editing team. This edition however, is my last, as I resign for the position of Editor and leave the Newsletter committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you and celebrating the excellent public health work being done across our membership from Alberta, Arctic and Health Canada.

I am hopeful that whomever takes over as Editor will bring their own fresh flare to the ABN while continuing to celebrate our outstanding yet humble members in this amazing profession I have been blessed to be part of. I wish the ABN team all the best moving forward.

Respectfully,

Pamela Kutuadu (Stewart)

ABN Editor

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.”

Seneca