

Dr. Brian P. Emerson  
Medical Consultant  
Population Health and Wellness Division  
Ministry of Health  
4-2 1515 Blanshard St.  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 3C8

Dear Dr. Emerson,

Please accept this letter as the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors' response to the "Conversation on Health" with respect to the Consultation Public Health Act – Version 2. We wish to express our gratitude for your recognition of our association as a stakeholder in this process, as we believe our members contribute significantly to the health and well being of all British Columbians. Through the Public Health Act our members have been able to provide key preventative health intervention services and taken measures that have resulted in substantial positive impacts in British Columbian communities and, at times, reached significance at national and international levels.

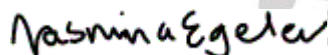
The new Public Health Act has recognized several key provisions contained in the former PHA regarding matters of relevance to our members such as: powers and duties; health hazard inspection and abatement; regulation of activities which may cause health hazards; and communicable disease control. We concur with the importance of acknowledging and retaining these significant provisions, and enthusiastically welcome new provisions concerning: mandated public health promotion planning; broadening of health assessment and surveillance; and clarification of public health emergency provisions. The new initiatives recognize the fluidity and pace of socio-cultural, ecological and epidemiological change, and are well served to lead future public health initiatives. In addressing evolving public health issues, ensuring consistency between the MHO's and the PHO is desirable in ensuring a consistently effective response.

With respect to improving aboriginal health our organization welcomes challenges that may present themselves in achieving this goal. We believe that all persons in British Columbia should be able to have good health and good quality of life. Our organization has professional recognition both nationally and internationally, and we have members that have historically, and presently provide effective public health services within aboriginal communities.

Since our national organization has embarked upon and is committed to professional accreditation, we will be in a position to ensure continued provision of qualified professionals through our certified members. We consider education and advocacy as key principles and so welcome the opportunity to provide further information on our professional accreditation initiative, with respect to the proposed mechanism in the PHA for the Minister to regulate our profession. We believe that our national level professional accreditation will meet or exceed the Minister's expectations and thereby allow our organization to be self governing, as is with other professional bodies operating within British Columbia.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the review of the BC Public Health Act Renewal. It is comforting to see that the proposed Act maintains the roles for Environmental Health Officers and expands the scope to be dynamic with the changing health challenges that lie ahead, including the important role we can play in health promotion activities. We look forward to continued involvement in this process of Renewal.

Respectfully submitted,



Jasmina Egeler, B.Tech., CPHI(C)  
President, BC Branch  
CIPHI

