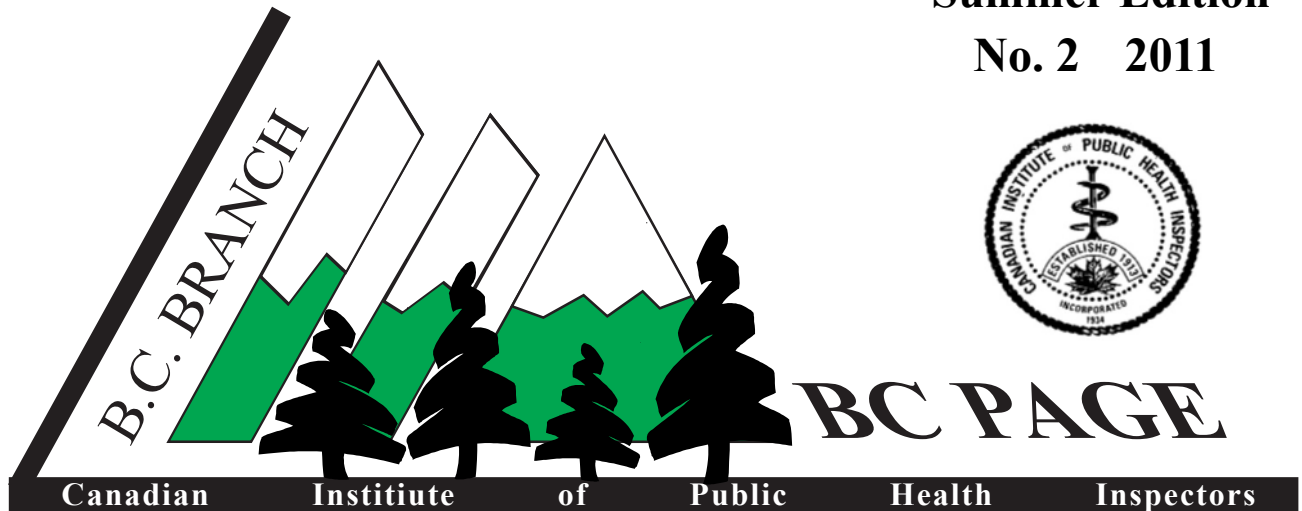


Summer Edition

No. 2 2011



77th Annual CIPHI Conference

The Nova Scotia/PEI Branch hosted the 77th Annual CIPHI Conference this past June in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Highlights...

Union Summary: On the Issue of Wages	4
BC Branch Fall Workshops	6
Fish Pedis	9
Conference Photos	15

Message From The Editor

It's hard to believe that not only is it summer already but we're also a good part of the way through summer. As I'm sure is the case with most of you, it's been a busy season so far. Not only have I been occupied with the normal work that comes with this time of year but Northern Health has also been focusing on embracing the Ministry of Health's Healthy Family initiatives and looking at how we can implement them in our work.



Public Health has always been about reducing the burden of disease on the population as a whole. For many years the burden of disease was largely communicable diseases. We worked to ensure all had safe water to drink, safe food to eat, that public spaces and gathering were not locals of outbreaks and so much more; and we got good at what we did. Now the burden of disease on society is no longer communicable disease. While this will always be an important part of what we do we also need to shift our focus to the

arising public health issues. Over the next few months it will be interesting to see what new things come out for Public Health to help us reduce the burden of disease.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend the 77th Annual CIPHI Conference this past June in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was not only a great opportunity to learn and educate myself as well as network with Environmental Public Health Professionals but it was also a homecoming of sorts for me. Although I have lived in British Columbia for about 4 years now, and consider it home, I originally grew up on the east coast and studied Public Health at Cape Breton University. It was great to see old classmates, eat fresh lobster and experience some good old east coast hospitality. The Nova Scotia/PEI Branch did a wonderful job of organizing the conference. For those of you who have not attended a National conference in some years, or ever, I strongly urge you to consider the upcoming conferences either in Ontario or the 100th year anniversary conference in Winnipeg. It's a great way to network with colleagues both old and new, learn about key things now in Public Health and experience a bit of local culture.

Respectfully,
Sarah MacDougall,
Editor



TIM ROARK
President

Tim Roark & Associates
Environmental Health Consultants

3301 - 164 A Street
Surrey, B.C. V3S 0G5

Tel/Fax 778-574-1188
Email Tim.Roark@shaw.ca

BRANCH UPDATE

Wearing sunglasses for the whole day, listening to soothing waves on sandy beaches, enjoying the warm sunshine on patios, having tasty burgers from friends' weekend barbecue parties; these are what nice activities we expect in our summer holidays. Similarly, engaging in conversations with peers, participating in quality presentations and workshops, witnessing and acknowledging the hard work of the conference committee over years of planning; these are the successful elements entailed in educational conferences.

The 77th CIPHI Annual Education Conference held in Halifax was certainly a huge success, and was planned by many dedicated members of the Nova Scotia & PEI Branch. I was fortunate to have met many professional delegates around Canada, engaged in quality conversations about upcoming movements of the National CIPHI in various meetings, and celebrated achievements of previous CIPHI leaders. One in particular, our past President, Ms. Jasmina Egeler, received the President Award this year for her ongoing dedication to the national and provincial offices these past years.



BC Branch President Elect Gary Tam (left) with Branch President Keir Cordner at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia.

Several branch executives had attended the one-day Public Health Ethics & Engagement workshop established by the National Collaboration Center for Healthy Public Policy during the Conference. It was a great opportunity to have met our

speaker, Mr. Chris McDougall, to understand the contents around Public Health Ethics, and to finalize the details of the BC Branch Annual Education Workshops.

After the meeting, many executives, including myself, were very excited about the workshops which will be held on October 4, 5 & 6, 2011 in Surrey, Prince George, and Kelowna respectively. We are also delighted to invite Mr. Phi Phan, our CIPHI National President, to participate in the workshop and talk about the CIPHI Codes of Ethics. These eventful workshops will provide great opportunities for delegates to mingle with their peers, to broaden the perspectives on ethical issues related to public health, and to engage in conversations with CIPHI executives regarding the current developments of various CIPHI-related initiatives and programs. Therefore, please stay tuned for the promotion of the workshops which will be started in August.

I hope to see many of you in the upcoming workshops. Until then, enjoy your summer vacations wherever you have planned to go. Or if you are like me, staying in the community, let us wait for the summer we have been longing for since last fall.

Best regards,
Gary Tam
President-Elect



SUMMARY OF JUNE 9, 2011 BCGEU MEETING

Upon request of the associate editor of the BC Page this article is a summary of the meeting that was held on June 9, 2011 between Fraser Health Authority PHIs and representatives of the BCGEU. The meeting was initiated to discuss the growing wage and mileage disparities of B.C. PHIs compared to other Provinces and the Federal Government. The meeting was attended by about 40 PHI's from the Fraser Health Authority. The BCGEU was represented by Steven Morgan (BCGEU local 402 Chair and bargaining committee member), Monique Wemhof (BCGEU Staff Representative) and Joni Pauls (BCGEU Local 804 Chairperson). The meeting began with an explanation of the internal structure of the Paramedical Professional Bargaining Association. The Association consists of 5 Unions including the HSA which comprises the largest number of members, BCGEU, CUPE and a small number from HEU and PEA. Upon ratification of a new collective agreement, the HSA receives 7 votes and the other 4 unions receive 4 votes total. Since the HSA holds a majority the BCGEU must receive support from HSA in order to negotiate any improvements for its members. This is problematic for PHI's because HSA members being hospital based have different issues from community workers; therefore, issues such as mileage are often low priority. In addition, PHIs overall represent such a small number of members, our vote on any collective agreement will have little effect on the outcome of the vote.

A wage disparity chart was presented which outlines significant wage gaps between BC PHIs and comparable Provinces and the Federal Government:

PHI Wage Comparison Summary

Location	Hourly Wage	Annual Salary	Percent Diff.
BC – Province Wide	\$33.88	\$63,423.36	
AB – Various Regions	\$43.55 - \$46.47	\$79,261 - \$84,575.40	25 – 33%
ON – Various Locals*	\$39.13 - \$41.42	\$68,636 - \$75,384.40	8 – 19%
SK – Province Wide+	\$38.63	\$75,328.50	19%
Health Canada		\$78,031.00	23%
BCNU	\$40.42	\$75,666.24	19%
Calgary Health Region - <i>Trainee</i>	\$36.59	\$66,593.80	5%

* Several locals receive a market adjustment
+ Receive market supplementation

<http://www.hsa-sk.com/assets/files/strike/Memorandum%20of%20Agreement%20July%208%202011.pdf>

http://www.hsa.ca/agreements_bargaining/collective_agreements/provincial_collective_agreement_2008_-_2011.pdf

<http://jobs.ciphi.ca/>

http://fhapps/fha_hr/internal_job_posting/internal_job_posting_employee/internal_job_posting_employee.asp?search=all

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/activit/career-carriere/index-eng.php>

The above noted wages are based on the top step of entry level PHI positions. All PHI positions have comparable educational requirements and similar job descriptions. PHIs expressed dissatisfaction and frustration with our current wage as it compares to our colleagues from across the country. It was pointed out that our current wage is not consistent with any profession which requires a bachelor's degree as well as certification from a distinct professional organization (CIPHI) whether in the public or private sector. Questions were raised to determine how such massive disparities could grow over a relatively short period of time. PHIs pointed out that back in the early 2000's, we were amongst the highest paid in Canada

continued on page 5

Union Meeting continued

and roughly on par with BC Nurses. Steven Morgan who has been with BCGEU for 30 years and who has been on the bargaining committee through the past 4 collective agreements, blamed an ideologically driven government and no “perception” that PHIs were prepared to take strike action if necessary to fight for wage improvements. PHIs also asked why the BCGEU recommended we vote in favour of the previous collective agreement which provided no relief to our wage and mileage situation. No distinct response was received.

Vehicle reimbursement was also compared with counterparts from other Provinces as well as from other union contracts within BC. It was found that BC PHIs receive the lowest mileage compensation when compared with other community workers within BC and in other Provinces. Many workers receive the maximum non-taxable rate from the Canada Revenue Agency which is currently 52 cents per kilometer. In addition, many workers receive a monthly stipend from their employer for bearing the costs of providing a personal vehicle for work purposes. As well, many workers receive a daily amount or a minimum round trip amount to help cover the costs of providing a vehicle for workers in urban settings. Some community workers in BC still receive a portal to portal benefit (we lost this benefit several contracts ago) which provides a maximum of 32 kilometers for bringing a personal vehicle to work. BC PHIs receive 50 cents per kilometer with a minimum round trip amount of \$2. Urban PHIs expressed concern that their annual mileage only covers a fraction of the rising cost of providing a vehicle. PHIs are required to provide a personal vehicle as a condition of employment as the employer generally does not provide vehicles. The links below outline vehicle compensation for many of our colleagues and other government workers who use a personal vehicle to carry out the employers business.

Nurses: Section 57.02

50 cents a km and \$50 month stipend

http://www.bcnu.org/contracts_services/provincial_contract/pdf/NBA%202010-2012%20v-15.4%20Apr-18-11%20draft-02%20accepted%20exc%20new%20lang%20und%20&%20sub%20to%20appr.pdf

Master Agreement: section 27.11

50 cents a km and up to 32km of portal to portal (see pg. 63)

<http://www.bcgeu.ca/sites/default/files/15th%20MA%20100727%20standard%20size.pdf>

Land Titles: section 27.8

47 cents a km but they also retain up to 32km portal to portal

<http://www.bcgeu.ca/files/LandTitle&Survey2010.pdf>

Community Health: section 27.11

50 cents a km and minimum trip of \$4

<http://www.bcgeu.ca/files/Health-Community.pdf>

Health Science Professionals: section 26.01

50 cents a km and a \$2 minimum trip (half the community sector) and no portal to portal

http://www.bcgeu.ca/files/HSPBA_HEABC_Final_Y9.pdf

http://www.hsa-sk.com/assets/files/agreements/saho/Final_CA_Dec_18_07_web.pdf

http://www.hsa.ca/agreements_bargaining/collective_agreements/provincial_collective_agreement_2008_-_2011.pdf

PHIs expressed concern that we were not receiving adequate representation from BCGEU as evidenced by the wage and mileage disparities outlined above. Steven Morgan essentially confirmed this by stating that union staff do not research and work behind the scenes to identify members with large wage disparities such as PHIs. It was pointed out that many other members face large disparities as well, although PHIs situation is quite severe. PHIs asked what we could do to help our situation and what the BCGEU could do to help us. The response was sadly familiar. PHIs were asked to submit the usual “bargaining questionnaire sheets” in the fall when bargaining for 2012 will commence. The “questionnaire” ask members to rank the issues they want to see improvements and the union will collate the responses and put them forward to the bargaining committee. Steven Morgan suggested we all rank wage and mileage at the top to send a strong message to the bargaining committee. PHIs expressed fatigue and frustration with the usual process pointing out that this process has resulted in our current situation and a new way of working with the union was desired. The union representatives suggested we should organize meetings with union reps around the Province and send a strong message to the union that we are willing to take strike action and fight for improvements in the 2012 collective agreement. Steven expressed his personal view that the employer would not give us anything unless we go on strike in 2012.

continued on page 7



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale

Ethics in Action

a one-day, hands-on workshop
for practicing Environmental Public Health Professionals

You Need

ETHIC-EZE!

Empower yourself with the
highest ethical standards.

One workshop is all it takes!

Sunrise Golf Centre - 5640 -188th Street, Surrey

Tuesday, October 4th, 2011

8:30 - 4:00

Prince George - Native Friendship Centre - 1600 3rd Ave

Wednesday, October 5th, 2011

8:30 - 4:00

Kelowna - Kelowna Rotary Centre for the Arts - 421 Cawston Ave

Thursday, October 6th, 2011

8:30 - 4:00

Registration:

CIPHI Members \$149/Non-Members \$179

Registration includes post workshop appetizers/snacks
so make sure you stick around!



This workshop qualifies for 6.0 Professional Development Hours for the Continuing Professional Competencies Program.

Union Meeting continued

The only potentially positive news for BC PHIs is the current and on-going reclassification process for Paramedical Professionals. PHIs were represented by Dean Scoville, Steven Morgan, Stephen Pope and CUPE rep at a meeting last year in order to create our job profile and qualifications. It was agreed that reclassification to a higher grid level is our best shot at getting a wage increase. PHIs asked what we could do to increase our chances of gaining wage improvements via reclassification. It was suggested that we do anything to raise our public profile. I believe it is critical for PHIs through CIPHI and through our Health Authority Directors to lobby and educate the Minister, the Premier and the general public. PHIs play a crucial role in the BC public health system and provide incredibly cost effective preventive services. Our role in monitoring and preventing food-bourne and water-bourne illness outbreaks as well as our role in community health, sanitation and safety cannot be understated. In order for our profession to attract experienced and qualified people and to keep our talented veteran PHIs, we need to have comparable wages with our colleagues.

In closing, it is my sincere view that our profession is significantly undervalued in BC. We do difficult and seemingly thankless work, we subsidize the employer by providing personal vehicles for far less than cost and are paid the lowest amongst comparable Provinces and the Federal Government. Remember, they also receive a defined benefit pension, great vacation entitlement and sick leave, extended health and dental benefits. Consider PHIs earning up to \$21,000 per year more than you...over a 30 year career that works out to \$630,000! Further, our pensions are based on our wage, therefore, one earning \$21,000 per year more will enjoy a much higher standard of living through their career and through retirement! Yet, we all have the same educational requirements and job descriptions...how is this acceptable to BC PHIs? No one would argue that BC has the highest cost of living in Canada and we have fallen so far behind any measure of a fair going rate for PHIs in Canada. I ask all BC PHIs to consider our situation and decide for yourselves if this is what we are worth. Do not read this article and assume there are people working behind the scenes on your behalf because this is it. We have an opportunity right now to influence our place within the Paramedical Professional classification. You can attend and speak at a local union meeting, let your manager or director know our situation is unacceptable, find a way to raise our public profile. I recall a recent newspaper article from Ottawa in which the Provincial Health Officer endorsed a pay raise for PHIs. We all need to pitch in and be prepared to fight. I wrote this article because I care about our profession and am gravely concerned for its future in BC. I hope you all share my concern and do what you can to change the momentum in a positive direction.

Sincerely,

The research for this article was completed by Mike Fafard, Tim Little(left) and Nav Mahanger(centre) of FHA.

Len Strelezki
Public Health Inspector



Video Link: How Close to a Railway is Too Close

Click on the video to the left to see an interesting set up for a temporary food market. Would you shop here? It would certainly make for an interesting inspection!

<http://www.wimp.com/vegetablemarket/>

Andy Hazlewood Retires



Pictured Andy with Ian Potter of Health Canada

Over 70 colleagues, friends and family members gathered at the Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort on May 27 to celebrate Andy's long and very successful career plus wish him all best in his forthcoming retirement. MC for the gathering was David Galbraith, ADM, who worked closely with Andy when they were in the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. Speakers from within the Ministry of Health, Health Canada and Grand Chief Doug Kelly spoke in glowing terms about Andy's accomplishments during his tenure as ADM for Population & Public Health. His support for and cooperation with the aboriginal community was especially recognized by Grand Chief Kelly. Andy received a number of retirement presents including a digital camera and a beautiful medallion presented by Joe Gallagher of the First Nations Health Council. Also there to wish Andy all the best were retired PHIs Barry Willoughby, Larry Copeland and Tim Roark.

Former Deputy Minister and now Vancouver City Manager, Penny Ballem, sent a letter in which she stated the following. 'I just want to remember a few things about Andy - first when I came to the ministry I looked at the org chart and realized

that whoever this guy Hazlewood was, he obviously had big mitts because he was dealing with just about everything that wasn't hips and knees and hearts! From dog pounds to sewer regs to child care to addictions to HIV drugs to mental health, and on and on - it was unbelievable - so at some point we chatted and when I asked him what he really wanted to do - his eyes lit up and he said I love public health!! What an understatement!! So we shuffled and chucked and renovated and threw some things over the side and created his empire.



Pictured Andy receiving the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service from Tony Knowles, President of BCIT and the Chair of the Alumni Association

It is hard to catalogue the impact Andy has had on this province and how much strategy was behind his successes - an amazing ability to move complex agendas, drive innovative visions and get the bread and butter policies and statutes in place which will protect our public health for BC through all the famines and droughts that may lie ahead. And while he was doing all that, he was such a leader in our organization for his staff engagement and empowerment. I remember the weekend they painted their offices and everyone was so envious!! - how did you get that done?? Andy grinned and said just a pot or two of paint and some brushes and a quiet weekend on Blanshard street!! So Andy - whether it's our tobacco framework, or our regulations for sewer, childcare, water, swimming pools, or the BCCDC which was clearly your vision, or Action Schools and ACTNow, or the BCHLA, or the new school of public health, or our renovated public health act with its core programs - on and on - you never gave up on any important agenda - you waited for the "window of opportunity" to open and we are all the better for it - the citizens of BC and Canada are so lucky to have had you as a public servant - and I feel so



Pictured Andy with his wife Kathie and two sons

continued on page 12

Fish Pedis – New & Fun but what about the risk?

There was a time when personal services were the typical hair styling, aesthetics, piercing and tattooing. No longer is this true. Today we see a wide range from indoor or fake tanning to branding or scarification. While many of these are regulated by Regional Health Authorities with some direction from the Ministry of Health, there are a few that have been classified as prohibited due to their relative risks. One example of this is ear candling which Health Canada has deemed illegal. Another service that has been prohibited in the province of BC is fish pedicures.

Fish pedicures are an emerging service and have been increasing in availability and popularity. A fish pedicure involves soaking ones feet in a basin containing fish. The water loosens the skin and the fish come along and pull off, or feed, on the dead skin. This leaves the skin soft and tender.

When Ministry of Health officials became aware of the issue of fish pedicures they studied the research and contacted other jurisdictions to determine if there was a health risk. The conclusion reached was that there is no adequate way to clean or sanitize the fish after a session and therefore, there is no way to ensure the fish do not pass an infection from one client to another. Several other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States have also banned this procedure. These findings were taken to the Regional Health Authorities and it was agreed across the province that these procedures would not be approved.

This was put to the test on Vancouver Island recently when an Environmental Health Officer became aware of a facility offering fish pedicures and required them to cease the practise. So far this has been the only case in BC of fish pedicures being offered to the public, however, it is likely not the last case as fish pedicures have been increasing in popularity worldwide for the past several years.

As EHOs in the province of BC it is important for us to be aware of these procedures and be on the look out for establishments offering such services so we may educate operators and continue to help prevent the spread of infections and disease.

Food Safety Training Options In British Columbia



Meeting BC Provincial Regulations, Available in class or online, High quality,
Supported nationally across Canada, Price competitive with FoodSafe.

INTERESTED?

In British Columbia Contact:

Domenic Losito

dlosito@traincan.com

Phone: 604-543-2007 Fax: 604-543-2013



Across Canada Contact:

Jim Kostuch

jkostuch@traincan.com

Phone: 416 447 9588 or 1 888 687 8796

Servicing the foodservice, food retail, educational, public health and food processing sectors since 2002.



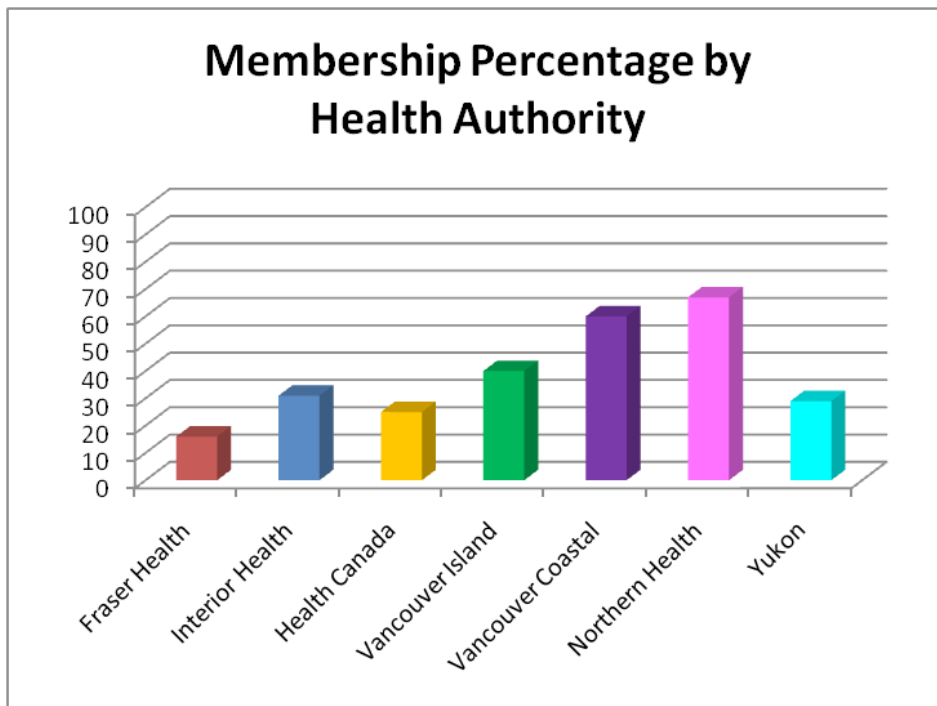
Presidents Award Recipient Jasmina Egeler

Jasmina Egeler was presented with the Presidents Award at the National CIPHI Conference. Jasmina is a past president of the BC Branch and has dedicated many hours to the profession and to CIPHI. In particular her work on the National Executive Council was recognized.

Congratulations Jas!

Pictured is Jasmina Egeler being presented the Presidents Award by Jason MacDonald, Alberta Branch President.

Membership Numbers at a Glance



Agency	# of Members
Fraser Health	14
Interior Health	23
Health Canada	7
Vancouver Island	17
Vancouver Coastal	51
Northern Health	18
Yukon	2
CFIA	2
BCIT Faculty	5
Retired	14
Corporate	2
Student	14
Fraternal	2
Life	5
Honourary	8
Other Regular	14

Mike Pichichero Retires

On May 31st this year, Mike Pichichero completed his 35 years of public service with the Federal Government and on July 29, 2011 he retired. Mike started with National Health and Welfare - Medical Services Branch in Prince Rupert, BC as an EHO on May 31st 1976 and in 1979, Mike moved to the Victoria office. In 1982, he took a leave of absence to finish his degree in Biology at SFU and returned to work at the Vancouver office until 1985, when he moved to Yellowknife, NWT as an EHO. While in Yellowknife, Mike married Gail in 1986. During the mid 80s, Mike also did a three month stint as an EHO in Churchill Manitoba.



FNIH as an EHO, where he remained until his recent retirement.

Mike was one of a very few Environmental Health Officers across Canada who also hold the designation as a 'Certified Industrial Hygienist' (CIH).

Mike was born in Southern Italy but moved to Canada when he was very young and has few memories of that time. However, he recently reconnected with his extended family in Italy and is looking forward to more trips to his country of birth and learning Italian. Mike grew up in the lower mainland where his mother and siblings still reside. Mike lives in Victoria with his wife Gail and together they have two grown children, Lauren and Aaron. Mike is an avid reader, and in his retirement Mike intends to pursue his passions' for travel and music particularly playing the classical flamenco guitar.

When the NW Territories assumed delivery of their own health services, Mike returned to Victoria with Medical Services Branch in 1990. In 1995 when the Medical Services Branch split into two programs; First Nations & Inuit Health, and Environmental and Occupational Health Services, Mike choose to join the EOHS arm of Health Canada. However, in 2002 Mike returned to



Many thanks to Peter Mazey for the write-up and Neil Nabata plus John Gibb for the photos.

Photos top, clockwise: Mike at his Party; Mike's Retirement Cake; Peter Mazey Presenting a Gift to Mike on Behalf of His Colleagues; Mike with his Friends and Colleagues at His Retirement Party



**Retirees over the
Past Year**

**Ray King
Chuck Smith
Pat Holmes
Serge Zibin**

Graham Cobb Retires



Graham Cobb

Vancouver Health has lost another of its top inspectors with the recent retirement of Graham Cobb. Originally from England, Graham moved to Canada many years ago. Prior to settling in Richmond he lived in Oliver, Edmonton and Vancouver. Graham was a graduate of the BCIT class of 76 and received his CPHI(C) shortly thereafter. His career started with the Edmonton Local Board of

Health but the winters were very cold in Edmonton and often lasted a full 9 months. Graham soon decided living his life in a winter parka was not for him so he joined the staff at the Vancouver Health Department where he stayed for the next 34 years. During that time he advises he's done a little of everything in Environmental Health and worked with a fantastic team of colleagues.

Looking back Graham says, "three of the best decisions in my life were, emigrating to Canada, becoming an E.H.O. and marrying my wife Elena." He stated, "life is short, remember to take your coffee breaks and go salsa dancing as much as you can." "Many thanks to all for an interesting and fulfilling career."

Congratulations to Graham on a long and successful career and all the best for a great retirement!

TR

Andy Hazelwood Retires continued

proud to have had the privilege to work with you - I wish you all the very best in your retirement." PB

As Andy recently indicated he was born and raised in Burnaby. He graduated from BCIT in the class of 1972 and then he and Kathie moved to Saskatchewan to start his career in Public Health Inspection in the Regina Rural Health Region. In a relatively short period of time Andy was appointed the Provincial Director of Public Health Inspection. While in Saskatchewan he had the great opportunity to take a leave of absence and move to Toronto to attend Ryerson Polytechnic University where he obtained his degree in Environmental Health Sciences. In 1986 he moved to BC as Director of the Public Health Inspection Branch with the Ministry of Health. In 1990 he was promoted to Executive Director of a new Health Protection Branch. It was not long until Andy was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister including a stint as BC's first Provincial Director General of Population Health and Wellness along the way. In recognition of his significant contribution to the field of Public Health Inspection and his longstanding support for the Institute, Andy was presented the BC Branch Member of the Year Award in 1990. In 2003 he was awarded the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service.

In concluding an enjoyable evening Andy indicated how much he enjoyed his career and particularly his time in the

Ministry in Victoria and that he will miss the job plus the many friends and colleagues he had made over the years. He indicated that he and Kathie were heading to Italy for an extended vacation and they would take lots of pictures with his new camera.

TR

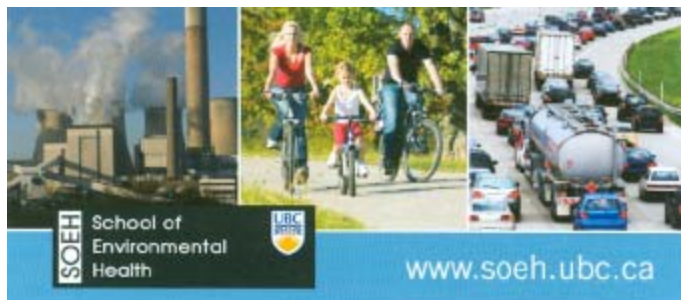


Andy with Joe Gallagher of the First Nations Health Council displaying the lovely gold medallion which he received from Joe and Grand Chief Doug Kelly

Online Air Quality Educational Opportunity

The UBC School of Environmental Health has been offering an online Air Quality course since September 2009. This opportunity is available only until August 31, 2011; see below or check out the following link for more information.

http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education



Outdoor Air Quality and Health and the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)

What is the course format?

This web-based course features multimedia content and extensive text content developed in consultation with air pollution and health experts. A discussion forum and "Ask an Expert" enable learners to further explore topics.

What is the course goal?

The course is designed to provide physicians and other health professionals with an understanding of:

- the basics of air pollution including common air pollutants and their sources;
- health effects associated with air pollution, susceptible populations, and mechanisms by which air pollutants exert their effects;
- a general scheme within which health professionals can advise their patients/clients on actions to reduce the adverse impacts of outdoor air pollution on their health;
- the AQHI as a risk communication tool designed to provide advice regarding the short-term impacts of air pollution.

How long does it take to complete the course?

3 to 4 hours (if completed in a single session; multiple sessions are permitted) plus time in an asynchronous discussion forum to discuss case studies and other course content with other learners and a subject matter expert.

This course is available online from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011.

Is there a cost to taking the course?

This course is free, made possible by funding support from Health Canada.

Are there continuing education credits?

College of Family Physicians of Canada
This program has been accredited by The College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 3 Mainpro-M1 credits.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This program has been reviewed and approved by UBC Division of Continuing Professional Development.

CE credits from the following professional organizations are also available.

Canadian Network for Asthma Care
Canadian Nurses Association
College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta
American Board of Industrial Hygiene
Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists

Outdoor Air Quality and Health and the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)



In partnership with the UBC Centre for Health & Environment Research

Funding provided by Health Canada

Canada

Beginning September 1, 2009, the University of British Columbia School of Environmental Health presents a bilingual, on-demand and online course on outdoor air quality and health and the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).

Access course link at

http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education

Why is this course important and is it useful to physicians and health professionals?

Health Canada estimates that 6,000 premature deaths per year in Canada are caused by air pollution. Many common health conditions, such as asthma, COPD, and cardiovascular disease are exacerbated by air pollution. Ambient air quality affects not only individuals with heart and breathing problems but also pregnant women, the very young and the elderly. Rigorous research has shown that individuals are experiencing adverse health effects from air pollution even at exposure levels lower than current standards and guidelines. Physicians and other health professionals can become better informed on the principles and applications of air quality and health effects.

Developed by UBC SOEH in consultation with leading air pollution and health experts who are researchers, physicians and public health professionals, this course provides a comprehensive overview of air pollutants, the health effects of air pollution, and how to advise patients. It also consists of a section that explains how the new AQHI works, how it is different from the AQI, and how it can be used in clinical practice.

Inquiries: ce@soeh.ubc.ca

tel +1(604) 822.9599

Complete list of available continuing education credits at http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education

CIPHI 2011 Conference Report

It was my privilege, with some assistance from the BC Branch, to be one of the 250 that attended the 77th CIPHI National Education Conference 2011 held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Pictured above Michael Riefman with wife Gayla Baranieski in their sou'westers.

The co-chairs, Doreen Mackley and Gary O'Toole and other members of the Nova Scotia/PEI branch did an excellent job in organizing a well balanced educational program and social events that were packed with maritime hospitality.

The theme for the conference was "Building Bridges" through collaboration and partnership. Bridges was an apropos metaphor for the bridges that span the beautiful Halifax harbour.

Each of the three keynote speakers provided unique perspectives. Professor Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Food Safety Officer and Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada, described the convergence of a biological storm that is brewing on a global scale. He gave numerous examples of international trends contributing to this storm. He concluded with some solutions and food for thought.

The second day keynote speaker, Dr. Ewan Todd, gave a colourful description of his extensive career in food safety dating back to the mid 70s. He has sat on a committee that



coauthored many publications of the International Association for Food Protection "Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness" including the most recent sixth edition.

Final day keynote speaker Ray Ivany, President and Vice Chancellor of Acadia University, suggested that Public Health Professionals may find themselves in

conundrums. For example, we face risks with severe

consequences and low probability. However when something goes wrong, a previously apathetic public suddenly have great expectations.

The splitting of the day sessions into three categories, our profession, our environment, and our food, gave attendees numerous choices to match their interest. My interest leaned toward the presentations with an international theme.

The CIPHI annual AGM was held in conjunction with the conference. A motion was passed to raise the CIPHI regular membership dues by \$25.00 commencing January 1, 2012. The finance committee anticipated additional operation and maintenance costs associated with the Continuing Professional Competencies Program Membership Services Centre and bilingual services.

Several notable awards were handed out at the conference.

Mark Durkee of the NS/PEI Branch was awarded the 2011 CIPHI Life Member Award.

Jasmina

Egeler received the President's Award for her past work on the National Executive Council while serving as the BC Branch President.

Overall, I gained some valuable knowledge and had a great time at the conference. I met many new colleagues and caught up with some not so new (like me). I can now add some valuable education credits for my continuing competency.

Michael Riefman



CIPHI Conference Photos



A special thanks to Gary Tam and Michael Riefman for providing the photos.

Pictured left - (left to right) Phi Phan, Keir Cordner, Ann Thomas, Gord Stewart, Gary Tam

Pictured below - (left to right) Ann Thomas, Tim Shum, Sarah MacDougall, Crystal Brown, Gary Tam



Pictured above Greg Baytalan



Pictured (L to R) VCH delegates Dalton Cross (Richmond), Angela Meyer (Coast), Jonathan Choi (Richmond), Kimiko Banati (Vancouver), James Whalen (Coast)

CIPHI Conference Photos

Lobster Dinner in Sou'westers



Pictured left to right: Branch Presidents - Ken Diplock, Ontario; Keir Cordner, BC; Darcy Chrisp, Manitoba

Pictured left to right: Yvonne Liang, Crystal Brown, Sarah MacDougall and Darrell Belanger



Groups of delegates enjoy dinner.

BC Branch Executive 2010

www.ciphi.bc.ca

President	Keir Cordner	250-331-8603	keir.cordner@viha.ca
Past President	Jasmina Egeler	604-675-3810	jasmina.egeler@vch.ca
President Elect	Gary Tam	604-233-3217	gary.tam@vch.ca
Treasurer	Kuljeet Chattha	604-675-3919	kuljeet.chattha@vch.ca
Recording Secretary	Isher Deol	604-675-3843	isher.deol@vch.ca
Corresponding Secretary	Juliana Gola	250-364-6219	juliana.gola@interiorhealth.ca

Councillors

Greg Baytalan	250-980-5050	greg.baytalan@interiorhealth.ca
Rory Beise	250-737-2010	rory.beise@viha.ca
Crystal Brown	250-719-6533	crystal.brown@northernhealth.ca
Jeremy Chow	604-949-7703	jeremy.chow@fraserhealth.ca
Cole Diplock	250-737-2010	cole.diplock@viha.ca
Sarah MacDougall	250-263-6049	sarah.macdougall@northernhealth.ca
Grace MacIver	250-470-5144	grace.maciver@hc-sc.gc.ca
Paul Markey	604-983-6813	paul.markey@vch.ca
Sabrina Sandhu	604-675-3846	sabrina.sandhu@vch.ca

Registrar	registrar@ciphi.bc.ca		
B.O.C. Member	Gord Stewart	604-918-7561	gord.stewart@fraserhealth.ca
Webmaster	David Butt	250-428-3605	david.butt@interiorhealth.ca

BC Branch Address

c/o Keir Cordner
 1200-601 West Broadway
 Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
 FAX: 604-736-8651

Editorial Team

Associate Editor:

Tim Roark
3301 - 164A Street
Surrey, BC V3S 0G5
Tim.Roark@shaw.ca

Associate Editor

Isher Deol
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
1200 - 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
isher.deol@vch.ca

Editor:

Sarah MacDougall
Northern Health
10115 110 Ave.
Fort St John, BC V1J 6M9
sarah.macdougall@northernhealth.ca

Editorial Policy

The objective of this newsletter is to keep the members of the BC Branch and other colleagues informed of local and national events that are of interest and importance to them.

The views, comments, or positions within the contents of the BC Page are those of the Editorial Team or the author and do not necessarily reflect those of either the BC Branch or the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Editorial team reserves the right to edit material submitted, solicited or unsolicited, for brevity, clarity, and grammatical accuracy.

Advertising Policy

The BC Branch will accept advertising relating to health & environmental issues, products, and services. Advertisements which the Editorial team concludes are contrary to good public health practice, environmental protection goals, are offensive or not in good taste will not be accepted.

Advertising Rates

FULL PAGE.....\$75 per issue
HALF PAGE.....\$50 per issue
QUARTER PAGE.....\$30 per issue
BUSINESS CARD.....\$20 per issue

There is a 25% discount for a commitment of at least six consecutive issues. Changes can be made in the ad format or content during this period. Ads should be camera-ready; any extra costs necessary to prepare the ad material for publication may be charged to the advertiser.