

# Season's Greetings!



For the full scoop and more pictures from the 2006 Christmas luncheons, turn to pages 13 and 14. *Pictured above: Lower Mainland Christmas luncheon. Picture to the right: Victoria Christmas luncheon.*

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## Message from the Editor



Wow, the last 12 months sure went by fast. There were a lot of ups and downs in 2006.

Throughout the year there were a lot of exciting social gatherings and a successful conference set up by BC CIPHI and their social committee. There were also several well deserved retirements for some of our colleagues and

friends. In the latter part of the year we also saw some unusually windy, rainy, and snowy weather! Many of us take for granted the mild weather we usually enjoy here in BC, but I'm sure a lot of us will not soon forget the great power of Mother Nature.

In November the rain brought about an unprecedented boil water advisory for the Lower Mainland. Despite the advice from the Health Authorities and the GVRD, many people are still worried about their drinking water. These days there are a lot of gimmicks and gadgets out there that may not always help the public obtain the

"clean" water they strive for. In this issue, I would like to share with you the CWWA Director's Report, by Bob Smith, which talks about how advertising is misleading the public about two products that supposedly help provide clean potable drinking water. In addition, I also introduce to you an interesting abstract from Krista Wilson's report on "*The Influence of Disinfecting a Tap Prior to Collecting a Water Sample for Bacterial Analysis*".

Now that 2006 is behind us, it is time to look ahead into 2007. CIPHI's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Educational Conference is fast approaching. This year's conference will be held in Kelowna, BC. The conference committee is calling out for papers. If you would like to submit a paper the complete details are outlined in this issue on page 7.

Lastly, I would just like to wish everybody a Happy New Year. Let's make 2007 even better than 2006.

Alex Law - Editor



**Tim Roark**  
*President*

**Tim Roark & Associates**  
**Environmental Health Consultants**

20898 Meadow Place  
Maple Ridge, BC V4R 2M8  
Tel/Fax 604 467 4745  
Email [Tim.Roark@shaw.ca](mailto:Tim.Roark@shaw.ca)



## BRANCH UPDATE

As this year is coming to a close I am proud of all our achievements in 2006. The Branch Executive has been hard at work on its many committee's with each Committee Chair and the members completing important tasks which have benefited not only the Branch Membership but our entire profession. There have been many achievements throughout the year and it should be noted that Environmental Public Health Week was a huge success back in January as was the BC Branch Annual Education Conference in Sun Peaks in May. It is the dedicated, volunteer work by our branch committee members that have made these events and the many other CIPHI achievements such a success in 2006. I look forward to all the great things 2007 will bring.

Looking to the near future, the 2007 Environmental Public Health Week is upon us, during the third week of January. This is an excellent opportunity for CIPHI members to promote and educate the public as to the important work we do. I encourage all of you to be actively involved and participate in the promotion of our profession. In June 2007, the CIPHI National Conference will be held in sunny Kelowna. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the beauty of British Columbia to the rest of the country. CIPHI members from across the country will gather in Kelowna to learn about the many interesting topics that will be presented at this conference.

I would also like to congratulate all of the students who successfully completed their Board of Certification requirements this fall. I am sure that the process was long and arduous but very gratifying in the end. Good work!

At this time, I would like to close by wishing all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season and all the best in 2007.

Best Regards,

Shawn Parhar  
Vice President, BC Branch





## CWWA Director's Report

### MISLEADING ADVERTISING UNDERMINES EFFORTS

**By Bob Smith CWWA Director**



CWWA has been leading a national communications campaign to convince Brita Canada, and now Canadian Tire, that certain advertising campaign materials are false, misleading and disparaging of the municipal drinking water services. Many in our

service sector will have come across the particularly disparaging Brita 'Glass' commercial on TV where a glass of water empties and refills to the off-stage sounds of a toilet flushing and refilling, or visited the web site [www.youdeservebetter.ca](http://www.youdeservebetter.ca), or seen the advertisements comparing tap water to water used to mop the floor or irrigate the grass. You may have recently noted the Canadian Tire advertisement introduced under the headline "100,000 tonnes of pollutants were released into Canadian waters. We find that hard to swallow." The fine print then goes on to extol the wondrous contaminant removal capabilities of Lotuswater Sanitizing Systems.

Both of these campaigns rely on misleading the viewer by stating 'facts.' Tap water and toilet water (i.e., water that flushes the toilet) come from the same source – of course they do, they come from the same water main and into the building in one pipe – but the connotation is deliberate and misleading. Yes, Statistics Canada has estimated 100,000 tonnes of pollutants enter Canadian waters each year – but the connotation is that this is significant and harmful. Neither speaks of the hard work of municipalities and their teams of professional and dedicated personnel to make the water potable, and to meet drinking water requirements.

AWWA, BCWWA and OWWA (as well as Dr. Blatherwick, Medical Officer of Health for the

Vancouver Coastal Region) all have written to Brita in support of the CWWA initiative. The Canadian Water Quality Association (of manufacturers of these devices) has also written to Brita. CWWA filed a complaint with Advertising Standards Canada (ASC), and CWQA filed a complaint under the Competition Act. CWWA thinks we are winning in the Brita case, but is not sure yet, since the ASC has not publicly announced its decision. Canadian Tire has not yet responded to CWWA complaints, nor has Maclean's magazine, which most recently carried the advertisement (page 65 of the July 31 edition). Depending on the outcome of these interventions, CWWA will file a complaint to the ASC about the Lotuswater advertisements.

Fortunately, some in the media are recognizing these advertisements as disgusting and outrageous, and we are likely to win out in the longer term. But, in the meantime, consumer confidence in municipal drinking water supplies is fragile and subject to misinformed rumors as to the value and safety of our efforts to produce good, clean and safe water.

*This article was provided courtesy of BCWWA.*

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- Outbreak Management • Injury Prevention
- Onsite Sewage Disposal Assessments • Landuse Management
- Infection Control & Communicable Disease Consultation

*"Protecting the Health of Canadians"*



To learn more about our profession, our organization and career opportunities in the field, contact your local health office and visit us on the web at [www.ciphi.ca](http://www.ciphi.ca)



## LIFE 100 YEARS AGO

**What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1906.**

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage in 1906 was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.

Ninety percent of all doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as “substandard.”

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into the country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, “Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.”

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A!

**Now try to imagine what life will be like in another 100 years.**



Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

L'Institut canadien des inspecteurs en santé publique

# CALL FOR PAPERS



**CIPHI CONFERENCE 2007  
KELOWNA BC  
JUNE 17 - 20, 2007**



# JOIN US IN KELOWNA!

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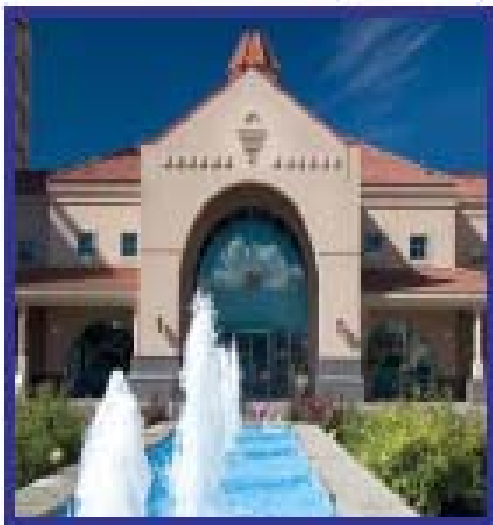
## Visiting The Core ~ Building The Future

Dear Potential Speakers, Sponsors, Exhibitors , Delegates:

The BC Branch, CIPHI, in conjunction with the Interior Health Authority, is excited to invite the environmental public health profession to Kelowna, British Columbia for the CIPHI Conference 2007 (Annual Educational Conference) June 17 to 20, 2007. The Conference theme will allow delegates to critically examine core competencies for public health inspectors and environmental health officers with a view to preparing a base upon which to face our future challenges.

The triple stream conference will be held at the beautiful Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort & Conference Center and will offer a tailored professional program focusing on Air, Food, Water and Community Sanitation. The CIPHI Awards Luncheon, Networking Lunch and traditional President's Banquet will be supplemented by after-hours and partner activities including golf, optional tours and a trademark wine tasting evening.

Ken Christian - Chair  
Roger Parsonage, Domenic Losito - Co-Chairs  
CIPHI Conference 2007, Kelowna, BC



"Golf Course" courtesy of Tourism Kelowna - British Columbia 2006





# CALL FOR PAPERS

## WELCOME TO OUR NATIONAL EVENT

This Annual Educational Conference is the showcase CIPHI event for environmental public health (EPH) professionals and other environmental health officials in Canada.

## ABOUT OUR EVENT

We are focusing on core competencies in a number of thematic areas including:

- Food Safety
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Community Sanitation
- Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Response
- Injury Prevention
- EH Management Competency

## WHO WILL BE ATTENDING?

We expect up to 300 delegates, including:

- National and International Environmental Public Health Professionals
- Municipal, Regional, Provincial and Federal government representatives
- Medical health officers & other partners in health protection, prevention & promotion
- Directors, managers and decision-makers in health protection organizations
- Professionals in consulting and engineering

## INTERESTED IN BEING A SPONSOR OR EXHIBITOR?

### Basic Exhibitor Package

\$1500 Early Bird; \$1750 after April 30, 2007

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship opportunities available, ranging from \$10,000+ to \$2500. Donations of merchandise and/or sponsorships below \$2500 gratefully accepted.

For Sponsorship or Exhibitor Information or to request a sponsorship/exhibitor contract package please e-mail Brent.Zaharia@interiorhealth.ca or telephone CIPHI National Office at 1-888-245-8180.

## WHY SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR CIPHI CONFERENCE 2007?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you have a manuscript, research report or experience that relates to the conference theme by touching on the core competencies of environmental public health, while preparing delegates for the challenges the future will bring?
- Does it fit under one of the thematic areas listed to the left?
- Do you want to lead the knowledge transfer that will make this conference a success?

Then don't just sit there! Submit your abstract today, utilizing the form and instructions on the back of this Call for Papers. We're looking for evidence-based practices that you can share with your counterparts, based on up-to-date research and your own real-life experiences.

### Expectations:

If your abstract is accepted, all we ask is to submit the completed manuscript, abstract and your photo and biography (all in electronic format) by May 23, 2007 so they can be included in the Conference Program and the CD of Conference Proceedings.

### What's in it for you?

Besides the admiration of your co-workers and conference attendees, we have some wonderful incentives if your presentation is selected:

- Free Daily Registration on the day you present
- Designation as a Speaker on your ID badge
- Recognition in the Conference Binder

SO, What Are You Waiting For? We know you're busy, like the rest of us. Just take a little time to complete the attached form, generate an abstract and submit them electronically to our Education Committee [roger.parsonage@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:roger.parsonage@interiorhealth.ca) or by fax to CIPHI National Office at 604-543-0936 prior to January 31, 2007. See you in Kelowna!



**Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors  
73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Educational Conference  
June 17 to 20, 2007**

Please submit your abstract (using Microsoft Word) along with "Abstract Submission Form" by e-mail to [roger.parsonage@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:roger.parsonage@interiorhealth.ca) by January 31, 2007. Lead presenters will receive confirmation of receipt of abstracts. The Conference Educational Committee will contact lead presenters by March 31, 2007 to confirm acceptance of their submissions and identify tentative presentation date and time.

<b>Abstract Submission Form</b>			
Title of Abstract			
Author(s) and affiliated organization		Author: Organization:	
Lead Presenter		Name: Position/Title: Organization: Mailing Address:  Contact Information: Day Phone: Fax: E-mail:	
Presentation Preference (circle 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice)		Poster	1 <sup>st</sup> choice    2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
		Oral Presentation	1 <sup>st</sup> choice    2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
		Workshop	1 <sup>st</sup> choice    2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
Relevance to Conference Sub-theme(s) (Circle the relevance of your abstract to one or more of the sub-themes)		Food Safety Air Quality Disaster Response/ Emergency Management Injury Prevention	EH Management Community Sanitation Water Quality Health Inequities
Abstract Submission		The abstract must be submitted as one paragraph, single-spaced, with no indents in MS Word. The abstract must not exceed 300 words (a table is equivalent to 30 words and a graphic equivalent to 60 words)	
Brief Description of Abstract		Submit a separate page with a one or two sentence description of your abstract to assist in the preparation of the Conference Program and other promotional items	
Information regarding the provision of audio-visual equipment will be provided to speakers at a later date, along with details of complimentary daily registration.			
Special Note		All presenters will be required to: a) provide an electronic copy of their presentation at least 30 days before the conference date b) duplicate any hand-outs they wish distributed to delegates c) complete a speaker registration form	



## A Review of Environmental Health Articles

### The Influence of Disinfecting A Tap Prior to Collecting a Water Sample for Bacterial Analysis - By Krista Wilson

#### Abstract

Water samples are collected from water supply systems for bacteriological content to ensure that the drinking water is bacteriologically safe and that standards are not exceeded. With numerous bacterial outbreaks in drinking water, sampling is important in preventing waterborne diseases such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7. To protect the health of the public, a positive water sample result must reflect contaminated water in the distribution system, not a contaminated tap or improper sampling technique.

This study was designed to compare the effectiveness of disinfecting versus not disinfecting a tap prior to collecting a sample for bacterial analysis. Water samples were collected and analyzed from stand pipes in the township of Chilliwack, British Columbia. Two different collection techniques were used when collecting the water samples, for a total of sixty-six samples. The first technique involved running the tap for three

minutes, without disinfecting the tap prior to sampling. The second technique included disinfecting the tap with a chlorine solution of 200ppm, with a contact time of 30 seconds, and running the tap for three minutes prior to sampling. These water samples were then enumerated for total coliforms and fecal coliforms using the Membrane Filtration technique. Based on the results of the bacterial analysis, it does not appear to matter whether or not the taps are disinfected when sampling for total coliforms or fecal coliforms. The mean coliform count of water samples collected from a disinfected tap was not different from the mean coliform count of a water sample collected from a non-disinfected tap and the probability value was found to be 0.3000. Until such time that another study refutes these findings, it is recommended to disinfect a tap prior to collecting a water sample for bacterial analysis.



Krista Wilson is an Environmental Health Officer working for Interior Health Authority in Kelowna, BC. She is currently working as the Communicable Disease Focus PHI for the Okanagan Service Area. She graduated with honors from the direct entry program at BCIT in June 2006 and is planning to start her masters in Environmental Health Studies in September 2007. She can be reached at [kristawilson@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:kristawilson@interiorhealth.ca)

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## Gov't Retirees Rally on the steps of the Legislature



On October 2, 2006 members of the BC Government Retired Employees Association (BCGREA) rallied on the steps of the Legislature in Victoria. The rally was in support of the legal action initiated by a member of the association against the Liberal Government which cancelled various extended health and retirement benefits for retiring government employees. The weather couldn't have been better and many retired government employees came from the Greater Victoria area as well as the Lower Mainland and from communities up Vancouver Island. In rousing speeches, Lawrence Johnston, President of the association and John Shields former BCGEU President told the group how the cuts in benefits were hurting many retirees and urged the government to quickly meet its previous commitment to pay their portion of these benefits.

Several NDP MLAs attended the rally and stood together on the front steps of the Legislature. A spokesperson for the NDP party told the rally that they fully supported the retirees and they would do what they could to get the government to change its position. No representative of the Liberal Government was present.

On November 30th, 2005, Justice Melvin of the BC Supreme Court handed down a 24 page judgment in favour of the application by a member of the BCGREA and had **certified** the action as a **Class Action Suit**. Since then the Provincial Government (the defendant) has appealed that decision. After almost a year, lawyers representing the association and government appeared in the B.C. Court of Appeal on October 19th and 20th, 2006.

Association President Lawrence Johnston encourages all retired BC Government employees to write letters to the editors of local newspapers to ensure they are informed about the issues. In addition, retirees were asked to communicate directly with MLA's to make sure they understand that this issue will not be dropped and must be resolved sooner rather than later. Johnston reiterated, "Our members are hurting and need these benefits reinstated now."

Tim Roark, Member  
Golden Ears Branch  
BC Government Retired Employees Association

NOTE: Ed Bodner, one of the retired members at the rally and a former BCGEU executive member asked if I was with the RCMP since I was taking several pictures of the group. I assured him I was also a retiree and taking some photos for our local branch of the BCGREA.





### **CIPHI Christmas Luncheon Held In the Lower Mainland**

This year's BC Branch Christmas Luncheon in the Lower Mainland was held at **Santorini Taverna Restaurant** in Coquitlam. Well over 150 people showed up for the event including our regular members, retirees, our colleagues from Health Canada, Health Protection, and BCIT. Andy Kailay from Vancouver Coastal Health was the big winner in the 50/50 draw. In addition there were a number of great door prizes handed out to some lucky attendees. Recognition was given to Claudia Kurzac, Domenic Losito, and Lis Vallaster for the recent awards and hard work they all put into our profession. Many thanks to the BC Branch Social Committee and all of the volunteers for putting together another memorable Christmas luncheon.





## CIPHI Christmas Luncheon Held In Victoria

The **5th St. Bar and Grill** was again the site of the BC Branch Christmas Luncheon in Victoria. A total of 31 members and non-members from around Victoria and up the Island as well as one from Gabriola Island enjoyed the great food and fellowship. Fred Rockwell, MHO from Nanaimo, colleagues from CFIA and several retirees including Bert Caine, P. Eng. joined the group. Bob Scott, our “Senior” CIPHI Life Member, helped by picking the lucky 50/50 ticket. He assured us he wouldn’t look in the envelope and pick his own ticket. Dan Moreau was the happy recipient of \$40.00. Maxine Marchenski and Dan Moreau handled the distribution of 5 great door prizes to the attendees as well. As usual the food was both plentiful and great. Many thanks to Maxine and Dan for organizing things.

Tim Roark





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## UPDATES

### Greg Baytalan Goes to Victoria



Greg Baytalan is on an 11 month secondment from the Interior Health Authority to the Ministry of Health in Victoria, Population Health and Wellness. While located in Victoria, Greg will be working in the areas of sewage and drinking water. During this term Greg will be working as Project Manager, Land Use, Health Protection; essentially working on the implementation process and associated concerns, issues and problems with the new Sewerage System Regulation. Greg comes to the Ministry of Health from his position as a Senior Public Health Inspector with the Interior Health Authority in Kelowna. In 2005 Greg assisted with the Tsunami relief effort in Thailand, and this past winter did volunteer work in India on a water and sewage project for Rotary International.

## AWARDS

### Kevin Li Receives Bob Herbison Award

At the recent BCIT Scholarship Ceremony on November 6<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Li was awarded the Bob Herbison Award from the BC Branch, Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Congratulations Kevin.

Pictured is Shawn Parhar, Vice President of the BC Branch presenting the award to Kevin.





**RETIREMENT**

**Steve Martin Retires**

After 35 years as a Public Health Inspector in Alberta and then B.C., Steve Martin has retired. Steve's retirement party was held at Newlands Golf and Country Club in Langley, B.C. on June 22, 2006. Family, friends and co-workers joined in wishing Steve a long and happy retirement. Dr. Guasparini, Bill Koberstein, Tim Shum and others spoke highly of Steve's dedication to the Environmental Health field. Steve will now be able to spend many enjoyable days in his garden, or volunteering with the track and field community. We wish you well Steve.



**Dave Coombe Retires**

After 35 years of service in environmental health including time in Kindersly, Saskatchewan, plus Fernie, Prince George, Cranbrook and Nanaimo, Dave Coombe has decided it's time for a well deserved retirement. Just back from a Mediterranean cruise, Dave and Louise joined family and many colleagues for an October 14 retirement celebration at the Nanaimo Golf Club. A great time was had by all. Happy retirement Dave!







## In Memoriam

Stan Dubas, former BC Deputy Minister of Health for much of the late 1980s, passed away on December 14, 2006 after a brief battle with Cancer. Stan had just achieved his black belt in Okinawan Karate at the age of 70 and was nearing completion of his Ph. D. His career path included Director General with Health and Welfare in Ottawa and the Deputy Director of the Treasury Board Secretariat. In BC Stan was appointed Director of Management Operations for the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs followed by Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health and Chairman of the Emergency Health Services Commission. Most recently he has been the Executive Director of the James Bay Care Center in Victoria.



Stan is survived by his wife Helen and daughters Deborah Groom, Heidi Britnell, Krista Wansbrough as well grand children as well as brothers and sisters.

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## BC Branch Executive 2006

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

President .....	Jasmina Egeler	604-983-6860
Past President .....	Steve Chong	604-233-3172
Vice President .....	Shawn Parhar	604-675-3824
Treasurer .....	Salima Kassam	604-675-3800
Recording Secretary .....	Sonia Hundal	604-675-3800
Corresponding Secretary .....	Brent Zaharia	250-851-7334

### Councillors

Kuljeet Chattha	Roopy Khatkar
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Board of Registration .....	David Butt	250-428-3605
Registrar .....	Debra Losito	604-543-0999
Corresponding Member B.O.C. ....	Gord Stewart	604-870-7932
Webmaster .....	David Butt	250-428-3605

### **BC Branch Address:**

c/o Jasmina Egeler,  
5th Floor - 132 W. Esplanade  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 1A2  
FAX: 604-983-6707



## Editorial Team

**Associate Editor:**

Tim Roark  
20889 Meadow Place  
Maple Ridge, BC V4R 2M8  
[Tim.Roark@shaw.ca](mailto:Tim.Roark@shaw.ca)

**Editor:**

Alex Law  
Fraser Health Authority  
537 Carnarvon St.  
New Westminster, BC V3L 1C2  
[alex.law@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:alex.law@fraserhealth.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.

### **Submission Deadlines For 2007**

April (Spring Issue).....March 16, 2007  
July (Summer Issue).....June 15, 2007  
October (Fall Issue).....September 17, 2007  
January (Winter Issue).....December 14, 2007

## 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.