

# Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

*The Research and Education Arm of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors*

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## **Ninth Annual Report** for the **Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors** Annual General Meeting **August 24, 1998**

On behalf of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (E.H.F.C.) I am pleased to present this report to the members of the C.I.P.H.I. The 9th annual meeting of the Foundation was held on April 28, 1997 during the C.I.P.H.I. conference in Banff.

Since the last AGM the Board of Trustees regretfully accepted the resignation of Mr. Bruce Fortin as a Trustee of the Foundation. Bruce is one of the founding members of the Foundation which was inaugurated in 1989. He helped guide the Foundation through its early growing pains of being registered as a charity and the first projects such as sponsoring the education of the aboriginal public health inspectors (environmental health officers) at BCIT.

During the 1997 EHFC Annual General Meeting Barry Morgan was approved to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. He brings to the Board extensive experience in food safety issues from his career with CFIA in B.C. as Chief of the Inspection Division, Western Region. In addition, Bryan Walton, who is with the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Western Region, was also approved by the Board as a Trustee. Bryan brings a very important industry perspective to the work of the Foundation. Bryan was instrumental in the development of the M.U.S.T. food safety programme which targets the grocery outlet food handlers ( i.e. deli, meat, bakery, and related departments). Both Barry and Bryan have provided excellent input into the work of the Foundation, along with the work of the other trustees and is much appreciated . Ron de Burger and John O'Laney were approved to join the Board as Trustees this past May (1998). Both Ron and John have a well known history with the Institute and Public Health and are welcome additions to the Board. We look forward to their input and expertise into existing and new projects.

The officers of the Foundation Board of Trustees currently are as follows:

*Chair — Klaus Seeger*

*Vice-Chair — Tim Roark*

*Secretary — Peter Rogers*

*Treasurer — Charlie Young*

A summary of the progress of activities of the EHFC since the last annual report follows.

### **"Septic System Maintenance Pure & Simple" Video and Education Programme**

Approximately 2000 videos and over 40,000 pamphlets have been distributed since the package was first produced. The package includes the video: a pamphlet which provides advice, in easy to

understand language; how to maintain a private sewage disposal system; a large poster for promotional purposes; and transparencies which are available to accompany the video to enhance any presentation which is given. The components of this package are applicable for the home owner, and agencies who work in the programme and wish to provide seminars on the subject. Tim Roark & Charlie Young have done a lot of work to get this project off the ground and on the road to success. We thank them for their efforts.

This educational package is available from any of the Branches or directly from the Foundation. The pamphlets, video and a poster are also available individually.

### ***Ground-water Video***

The script and the first cut of the video have been completed. There are enough funds available for its completion. However, additional sponsoring funds are still needed for the packaging and distribution. If you know of an interested sponsor please let any of the Trustees know ASAP.

### ***Food Safety Temperature Symbols***

It's official!!! All four of our temperature symbols are now trade-marked. Samples are being produced and pricing will be available shortly. Clear windshield type, 'that indicates next oil change' electro static strips, and fridge magnets will be available. Safety is Cold....4°C, Safety is Hot....60°C and Safety is Frozen....-18°C all with the appropriate graphics have numerous applications for use in a food premises, grocery stores and at home. More information will be sent out to health units soon.

### ***Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education***

The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education (CPCFSE) has been formed to develop a national umbrella food safety education campaign. The Goal of the CPCFSE is to: Contribute to the reduction of foodborne illness in Canada by increasing awareness of safe food handling practices through the coordination and delivery of food safety education programs focused on the consumer. The objectives and terms of reference are available upon request. The Partnership became incorporated as a non-profit association under the Societies Act of Canada; and had discussions with the U. S. partnership, who had established the Fight BAC campaign, to obtain the licencing rights and Canadianize the program (except for changing the logo and the key messages). Membership is open to organizations who share the common goal of reducing foodborne illness in Canada through consumer food safety education.

The Partnership is a new coalition of more than twenty industry, health, environmental, government and consumer groups. The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada is a founding member and is recognized on all letterhead as such. The Foundation is a voting member and was elected to the Board of Directors. There are different levels of membership participation ranging from \$10000, \$5000, and \$1000 with voting privileges, to in-kind contributions without voting privileges.

The Fight BAC program will be launched in the fall through a high-profile food safety awareness campaign across Canada. The information and action kits will be made available to all partners,

health departments, and other interested bodies. The logos, artwork for the four key messages (CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK, & CHILL) will be included and are meant to enhance current food safety programs, not replace them. The intent is to have a common thread of national information available everywhere to reinforce existing food safety messages.

The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board is also a founding member. ASPHIO and the CIPHI (Ontario Branch) have recently agreed to share a voting membership.

### ***HACCP Evaluation Project***

While HACCP has become a standard in the food processing industry, models being employed at the local food service level have been implemented but not evaluated to determine their comparative effectiveness. The need for various agencies to provide this evidence is especially critical at a time when resources are shrinking and different levels of government have assumed responsibility for funding.

An initiative to address these issues began in the fall of 1996. Participants in the project involved health departments from southwestern Ontario (Central West Food Safety Network), the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada, and Central West Health Planning Information Network. Phase I has been completed and consisted of an extensive compilation of existing information about food safety programming at the food service level. The results indicated that there is support among all stake-holders for a HACCP-based approach to food safety at the food service level. However, it was felt that HACCP has never been adequately adapted to the food service sector, nor evaluated to determine its potential impact on both compliance, and the burden of foodborne illness in the community.

The EHFC Board of Trustees has recently endorsed Phase II of this project which will develop a model HACCP-based program for the food service industry and will be tested for effectiveness against existing interventions. The implementation of Phase II of this project is dependent upon achieving sufficient funding to enable its completion. A sponsorship campaign has been implemented and a detailed prospectus with a proposed budget is available. If you are aware of a government or commercial organization that may be interested in this valuable research, please contact the Chair.

### ***Aboriginal Student Sponsorship— Environmental Health Programme***

This is one of the Foundation's first major successful projects. The Foundation is still exploring different strategies to continue in sponsoring aboriginal students or programmes. Participation by funding sponsorship, the development or implementing different strategies is welcome and greatly appreciated.

### ***EHFC WEB Page***

The Foundation WEB page is nearing completion. The EHFC will be a link to the main page and will include descriptions of the Foundation projects, how to participate, and links to other

environmental health sites. It is our expectation that with a more 'worldly exposure' the Foundation's projects and activities will receive continued support in both a financial and participatory form. It should be available in cyberspace within 30 days from the end of the conference.

### ***Bob Herbison Bursary***

The *Bob Herbison Bursary* has met its goal to become a self sustaining bursary at BCIT.

Should other Branches wish to start a similar bursary, to honour the memory of public health inspectors who are exemplified by their contribution to their profession, please contact the Foundation for suggested guidelines and criteria. All donations are tax deductible when funds are received through the EHFC.

### ***Donations to the EHFC***

Funds for the operation of projects may be donated, bequests made, given as a gift, or provided through a trust or an inheritance. Donations can also be directed for specified projects. All monies received are tax deductible and an official receipt will be issued. ***Our charitable organization registration number is 87096 8377 RR 0001 Please send your donation of \$50, \$70, \$100 or more to support projects of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada to P.O. Box 5367, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3J1.***

### ***EHFC Board of Trustees***

The members of the Board of Trustees for 1997-98 are:  
in alphabetical order

Dr. Gerry Bonham  
Mr. Ron deBurger (new May '98)  
Mr. Bruce Fortin (resigned Dec. '97)  
Mr. Barry Morgan  
Mr. Pat Murray  
Mr. John O'Laney (new May '98)  
Mr. Michael Reid  
Mr. Tim Roark, **Vice-Chair**  
Mr. Peter Rogers, **Secretary**  
Mr. Klaus Seeger, **Chair**  
Mr. Keith Smith  
Mr. Bryan Walton  
Mr. Charles Young, **Treasurer**

I would like to thank the Trustees for their hard work and input into the Foundation's projects. It is all volunteer time and work that allows the projects to become a reality.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or Foundation Trustee on the Board, please contact Tim Roark or myself. Please refer to the EHFC pamphlet for further information about the Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Klaus Seeger  
Chair