

Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

Fondation Canadienne de L'Hygiene du Milieu

The Research and Education Arm of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
RR# 3 Auburn, Ontario N0M 1E0 tel.: 519-482-3416, fax: 519-482-7820 Email: ehfc@ciphi.ca

Tenth Annual Report for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors Annual General Meeting May 11, 1999

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 10th annual meeting of the Foundation was held on August 23, 1998 during the C. I. P. H. I. conference in Ottawa.

Since the last Foundation meeting Bryan Walton retired from the Board. Bryan has been a valuable resource to the Foundation and his perspective as an industry representative from the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors provided a needed insight for the completion of projects.

Duncan Ellison was endorsed as a trustee during the May conference call of the Board. Duncan is the Executive Director of the Water and Waste Water Association. We welcome his perspective and insight towards the work of the EHFC.

The Board of Trustees completed a strategic planning process which allowed for a thorough review of our mission statement, objectives, the timelines for completing our projects; and a criteria for identifying and selecting new initiatives was also developed. A more focused mission statement was approved and now reads:

"The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing environmental health in Canada and internationally through the development and implementation of education and research initiatives"

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

This important video and education programme continues to be popular. In Ontario one county purchased enough videos so that every branch of its library system had one available

for clients interested in properly maintaining their sewage system. Some people book the video to learn how this type of sewage treatment works. 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, available individually or in a package, are applicable for the home owner, and agencies who work in the programme and wish to provide seminars on the subject. This educational package is available from any of the Branches through Richard Bader, President, Saskatchewan Branch, CIPHI, or directly from the Foundation.

Ground-water Video

The video is now finalized and several processes for marketing and making it available to schools and libraries are being explored. The final touches on the pamphlet are being made and will also be available with the video. The Foundation is named on all aspects of this project as a sponsor.

Food Safety Temperature Symbols

Various types of products depicting the temperature symbols are being made as this report is written and will be available for purchase shortly. A French version will also be available. There are numerous applications for use in any food premises, and at home.

Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education

The Goal of the C. P. C. F. S. E. (Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education) is to: *"Contribute to the reduction of food-borne 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 Partnership became incorporated (1998) and has obtained the licensing rights from the U. S. partnership for a Canadian version of the *Fight BAC!*™ campaign. The Partnership is a coalition of more than 60 industry, health, environmental, government and consumer groups. The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada is a founding member, is a voting member, and has a seat on the Board of Directors.

The *Fight BAC!*™ campaign was launched in November, 1998 in five Canadian cities, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax. Radio, television, daily and local community weekly newspapers provided additional coverage of the campaign launch. The events consisted of a press conference to announce the campaign followed by kitchen food safety demonstrations. The Foundation participated in the activities which occurred in Toronto. Since November many organizations and health units across Canada have initiated their own version of the campaign. In May the retail sector is planning to increase the awareness momentum through the use of the messages in flyers, PSA's and partnering with interested public health inspectors.

Phase II of the *Fight BAC!*™ is in the planning stage and will include an education curriculum package aimed at the K-3 grades and a second package targeting grades 4-6. Research is taking place on the content of the secondary school food safety package. In all instances the Canadian Partnership is using the U. S. version as the starting point. Very little work is needed to Canadianize the curriculum. A strategy is being developed to determine the best methods for distribution.

EHFC WEB Page

The Foundation WEB page has been a link to the CIPHI site since December 1998. A description of the Foundation's projects, funding needs and merchandise available for purchase provides the surfer with information about the EHFC and its link with the Institute. 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. Visit us in cyberspace at <http://www.ciphi.ca/ehfc/mainmenu.htm>. Thanks goes to Michel LeBlanc, the CIPHI Webmaster, for helping to make the EHFC site a reality.

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 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 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 food-borne illness in the community.

The EHFC Board of Trustees has 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 is dependent upon achieving sufficient funding to enable its completion. A sponsorship campaign has begun 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 supporting this valuable research, please contact the Chair at ehfc@ciphi.ca.

Books for Tanzania Fund

The IFEH (International Federation of Environmental Health) is looking to acquire books for a new school of Environmental Health in Tanzania. The challenge is out to provide the

necessary dollars to enable the proposed school to obtain the required books to help get the programme going. In partnership with the CIPHI the Foundation is taking up the challenge. To-date \$600 has been received of which, the BC Branch has raised \$200 and committed \$200 which was matched by the EHFC. All other Branches are challenged to raise an equal amount. All donations through the Foundation are tax deductible and will receive a tax receipt.

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

Mr. Rob Bradbury **President CIPHI**
Mr. Ron de Burger
Mr. Duncan Ellison (newly appointed Feb. 1999)
Mr. Barry Morgan
Mr. Pat Murray
Mr. John O'Laney
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 Web site for further information:
<http://www.ciphi.ca/ehfc/mainmenu.htm>

Respectfully Submitted,

Klaus Seeger
Chair