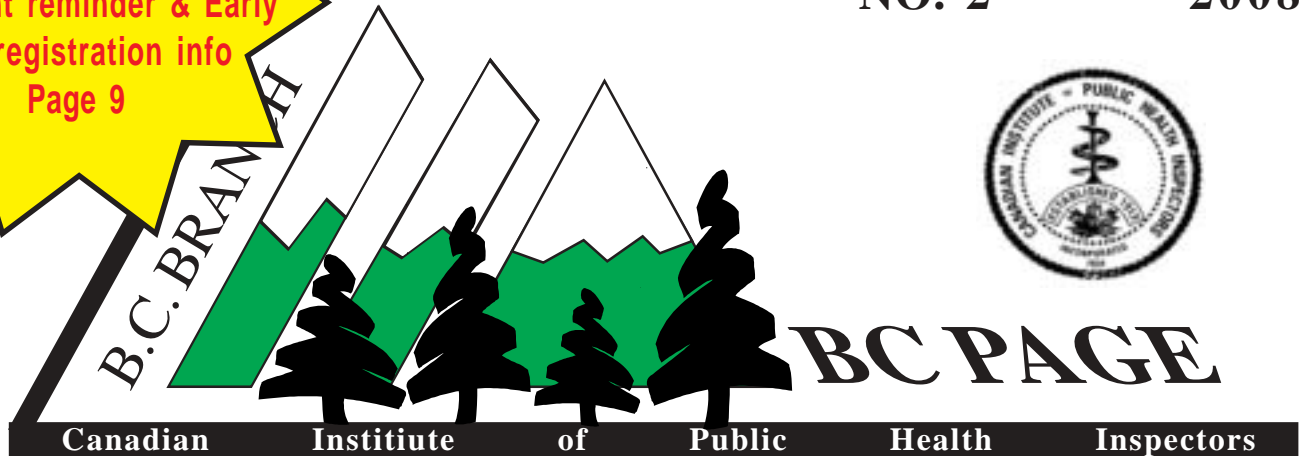


**BC Branch Education
Conference 2008
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Bird registration info
Page 9**

**Summer Edition
NO. 2 2008**



BC Branch and Open School BC Partners with FOODSAFE Secretariat

The FOODSAFE Secretariat is now offering on-line FOODSAFE Level 1 to learners across Canada. This new undertaking offers both the BC Branch of Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) and the Open School of BC (OSBC) a unique partnership with the FOODSAFE Secretariat.

In planning to offer a nation wide on-line course, the BC FOODSAFE Secretariat needed an authority to issue FOODSAFE Level 1 for out of province participants. The BC regional Health Authorities were approached and unable to take on the additional responsibility. The BC Branch of CIPHI was asked and is pleased to announce that they will be processing and issuing the On-Line FOODSAFE Level 1 certificates for out of province learners. This new and exciting partnership provides benefits to all involved. The Branch will be provided with a new revenue stream and its partnership will help maintain the integrity and security of the FOODSAFE program. On behalf of the BC Branch, Jasmina Egeler, Branch President would like to thank both Steve Chong and Keir Cordner for participating in the initial teleconference call to discuss this opportunity.

Continued on p. 7 - See Online Foodsafe

New Executive Director of Health Protection, Ministry of Health

As you may know, we have been working on recruiting for the position of Executive Director, Health Protection for quite some time now. My intention and hope had been to recruit a candidate who possessed both a strong background in population health and health protection, as well as well-developed senior leadership abilities. I'm very pleased to announce that our recruitment efforts have been successful and that Tim Lambert will be joining the Population Health and Wellness Division on April 1, 2008 as the new Executive Director of Health Protection.

Tim joins us from Calgary where he is currently the Manager, Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Management for the Calgary Health Region. In his current role, Tim has led the development of partnerships with all levels of government in both Calgary and the rest of the Province in the promotion of public health perspectives in decision-making. He is also an adjunct Professor with the Department of Community Health Services at the University of Calgary and has held numerous positions with the Canadian Public Health Association. Tim holds a Ph.D in Medical Sciences and an MSc in Environmental Science, both from the University of Alberta, and a B.Sc in Biochemistry from the University of Calgary. I know that Tim will provide the Health Protection Branch with excellent leadership and bring strategic direction and support to our health protection initiatives so that we can ensure their long-term success and sustainability.

Continued on p. 2 - See Tim Lambert

Highlights...

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Sewerage Deregulation	p. 10
Kathryn Small Retires	p. 17
Memorium: Fred Alcock	p. 19

Message from the Editor



If this issue had a theme, it would be called the ever-changing face of Environmental Health. Of course, for the veteran PHIs/EHOs, the many facets of our occupation are always changing...which is nothing new. A wise person once said: *"Change forces us to adapt, and adaptation is how we survive"*...or something along

those lines. In our occupation, change doesn't always mean life or death. However, there are some things that can have a greater impact on how we go about our day to day work.

In this issue, we have brought you many important updates, announcements, and news about our profession. On page 6 you will find an update regarding the Bow Valley College – Environmental Health Technician program, which of course is still a hot topic. We invite you to read about one major change which took place a few years ago which involved the creation of the Sewerage System Regulation in BC. You can read about how this new regulation brought about some challenges for public health and safety on page 10.

A couple of changes that are more on the positive side are the availability of the Online FOODSAFE through Open School BC, and the appointment of Tim Lambert as our new Executive Director of Health Protection at the Ministry of Health.

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I hope you enjoy reading about all these changes and updates, as much as we enjoyed putting this issue together for you.

Alex Kwan - Editor

Tim Lambert (from cover page)

I'll also take this opportunity to thank both Paul Bailey and Lucas Corwin for the tremendous leadership and support they have provided to the Health Protection Branch over the past number of months. Lucas has expressed to me how fortunate he feels to have been able to work with the Branch and with the many health protection "partners". I hope you'll join me in wishing him well as he moves to the Ministry of Forests where he'll be taking a leadership role with the Forestry Roundtable. Paul looks forward to continuing to work on the many challenging files he shares with you and thanks you for the support you've provided the Branch during this transition.



Above: Tim Lambert

Please join me in welcoming Tim to the team and in thanking Lucas and Paul for their excellent support.

Andrew Hazlewood
Assistant Deputy Minister
Population Health and Wellness
Ministry of Health

A bit more about Tim Lambert...

Without a doubt Tim Lambert has taken on many initiatives towards research and public health advocacy. For example, he was the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board under the Peoples Health Commission in which he evaluated the health risks associated with Sydney Tar Ponds. Also Mr. Lambert reviews the articles submitted to Elsevier science journal, Canadian Medical Association Journal, and Environmental Health Perspectives. In 2006, he wrote an undergraduate course in Environmental Risk Management for Athabasca University. Prior to this, in 2005 Mr. Lambert was the recipient of the Alberta Centennial Medal. Tim possesses both a strong background in population health and health protection that is clearly evident in his more than 15 published reports and 25 presentations.

NEWS FLASH

In the recent cabinet shuffle, the Liberal Government of BC has created a ministry called the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. This new ministry is headed by Minister Mary Pollock and Deputy Minister Grant Main. The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport has a portfolio of legislation which includes Drinking Water Protection, Food Safety, Milk Industry, Public Toilet, Special Accounts Appropriation and Control, Tobacco Control, Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery, and Venereal Diseases.

BRANCH UPDATE

The time for afternoons on the beach, lounging around the pool, beach volleyball and soccer games, camping and rafting trips, and sunbathing is here. This wonderful time I speak of is the one and only ... summer! With the plentiful vacation destinations in beautiful British Columbia, I'm sure many of you will be frequenting various areas around the province. However, for the BC Branch executive, there are still many matters to attend to during the summer months.

The BC Branch Education Committee is hard at work preparing for the upcoming annual Educational Conference at the River Rock Casino in Richmond, BC on September 23rd and September 24th. For those interested in attending and enjoying this valuable experience, be sure to register as soon as possible.

To all the delegates who are attending the 74th CIPHI National Educational Conference "Beyond the Horizon" in Newfoundland this summer, I want to wish you safe journeys and a wonderful conference experience. I have had the privilege of attending previous national educational conferences and they have all proven to be memorable events for me.

Sticking with the theme of conferences, I would like to acknowledge the team of delegates who represented CIPHI and Canada at the recent International Federation of Environmental Health World Congress in Brisbane, Australia. The team did an excellent job of not only representing CIPHI, but also promoting the upcoming 2010 World Congress in Environmental Health in Vancouver, BC. The conference was a huge success and provided an excellent framework to model our 2010 conference after.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the students who successfully completed their Board of Certification requirements this spring. I am sure that the process was strenuous and difficult but very gratifying in the end.

Best Regards,

Shawn Parhar
BC Branch Vice- President



******* TO ALL BC BRANCH CIPHI MEMBERS *******

BC Branch is seeking nominations to join the Branch Executive.
The Executive is comprised of:

- Maximum 10 Councilors
- 6 table officers:
 - President
 - Past President (N/A)
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Recording Secretary
 - Corresponding Secretary (vacant)

We have several vacancies within the Executive with long-serving members stepping down, and are looking for new volunteers to play an important, active role in promoting the profession. The BC Branch of CIPHI is the only professional association representing the interests of Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Public Health professionals across British Columbia and the Yukon.

CIPHI's mission is to:

"CIPHI advances the profession, science and the field of environmental public health through certification, advocacy, education and setting standards. We protect the health of Canadians and represent environmental public health professionals across Canada."

If you are interested or know of someone that would be, please complete the nomination form and fax to 604-233-3175, Attention: Steve Chong, or mail to:

**BC Branch CIPHI
c/o Steve Chong
Richmond Health Services
8100 Granville AVE
Richmond, BC V6Y 3T6**

Nomination Form can be found on the next page.

Note that it is a requirement for nominees and nominators to be members in good standing. If you have any questions, please contact: Steve Chong

Past President, BC Branch CIPHI
Tel. 604-233-3172
Fax. 604-233-3175
Email. steve.chong@vch.ca





**Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
BC Branch**

Executive Nomination Form

Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

Name of Nominator:

Date:

Name of Seconder:

Date:

Signature of Nominee

By signing above, you agree to let your name stand for election and confirm that you are a member in good standing.



Back Row (L to R): Vitaliy Rudakov, Chris Russell, Darrell Belanger, Gurinder Saini, Kathleen Martin, Jeremy Donaldson, Lisa Kirkham, Dionne Neuman, Jade Yehia, Jessica Lau
 Middle Row (L to R): Ashwin Din, Ravinder Monga, Binny Sivia, Dianna Hayden, Eddie Fung, Casey Neathway, Gordon Moseley, Samson Wong
 Front Row (L to R): Mansi Jhawar, Selena Jung, Andy Chan, Amber Golosky, Sarah Craig

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN UPDATE

Bow Valley College has proceeded with a second phase of the needs assessment regarding the potential for a diploma program for Environmental Public Health Technicians. Areas of focus for this phase of the needs assessment include clarifying roles and responsibilities between Public Health Inspectors and Technicians, recruitment of applicants for the diploma program, and possible alternate employment opportunities for Technician graduates. Results of this work will be available in September 2008. If the outcomes are positive and if Alberta Advanced Education approves the Diploma for Bow Valley College, then the College intends to begin offering the Environmental Public Health Technician Diploma program in September 2009. This process will be closely monitored to ensure a positive outcome for individuals, the industry, and the College, and to effectively address any issues that may arise during the implementation.

If you or your members have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Janet Hyde of Abiogenesis Consulting Limited
 email: janet.hyde@abiogenesisconsulting.com phone: 403-278-1739
www.abiogenesisconsulting.com

ONLINE FOODSAFE (continued from page 1)

The following insert has been kindly provided by the FOODSAFE Secretariat from the *FoodSafe News - May 2008 Issue Number 13*:

Since the implementation in March 2007, FOODSAFE Level 1 Online has been a tremendous success. To date, over 600 participants from all over the BC/Yukon region have completed the online course—and the program continues to gain momentum.

In July 2007 it became clear that the existing systems for the delivery of FOODSAFE Level 1 Online through the cooperative efforts of the Secretariat and BC campus would not be sufficient to support continued growth. At that time, [the FOODSAFE Secretariat] began to seek an 'end-to-end' solution to the administration of FOODSAFE Level 1 Online that would maintain or improve upon the integrity, security, and efficient delivery of the online program.

We are pleased to announce that [BC FOODSAFE has] formed a partnership with OSBC, for the delivery of FOODSAFE Level 1 Online. ...

FOODSAFE Level 1 Online went on a brief hiatus through March, as [BC FOODSAFE] made the transition from BC campus to OSBC and tested the new systems and procedures. Since opening the OSBC online course in April, almost 200 people have registered for the online course.

OSBC is part of the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, as cost-recovery organization, specializing in the design, development and delivery of high quality educational materials. As a division of the Queen's Printer, OSBC is a leader in the growth of distributed learning over the past seventy-five years, including the delivery of online services for over ten years.

The collaboration between the different organizations allows the FOODSAFE level 1 course to reach a greater audience. The improvement in accessibility allows both individuals and businesses to use the automatic registration and payment processing. For example, managers can create an account to register and assign seats for multiple staff members. Each virtual classroom incorporates discussion boards, instructor interaction, and student to student communication for teaching up to 35 students. OSBC provides a simplified invigilation process with a list of pre-selected and pre-screened invigilators from across BC and Canada for both the student and FOODSAFE Secretariat. Also, the OSBC provides reports on individual FOODSAFE user's status (including marks) to the BC regional Health Authorities. This delivery, allows the Health Authorities to issue the certificates to successful candidates, and the users outside of BC will be reported to the BC Branch of CIPHI.

Ami Dagan, Project Co-ordinator of OSBC provided BC Page with insight on the future needs, course costs and benefits of the online course:

We are also anticipating international FOODSAFE users. With the 2010 Winter Olympics coming to BC, people from around the world may be interested in working at the Games. There are many opportunities in the hospitality industry where the FOODSAFE course is a necessity. We expect to see international users register online for FOODSAFE Level 1 because they will be able to complete their training before arriving in Canada.

The price for FOODSAFE Online for BC residents is \$95, which includes a certified online instructor, access to an account manager and WebCT (our web based learning management system that houses and delivers the course online), an invigilator and the final exam. The out-of-province price (other Canadian provinces) is \$125.

FOODSAFE online has the following benefit:

Flexibility Some business owners or students may not have the time or flexibility to take a one-day course. FOODSAFE online is available anywhere, anytime.

Convenience and comfort FOODSAFE online users may complete the eight-hour course at their own pace, in their homes, or even at a café.

Continued on next page...

Carbon neutral FOODSAFE online eliminates carbon emissions:

- Involved with paper manufacturing, printing and shipping.
- From heating and lighting a classroom
- From traveling to and from a training location.

Open School BC FOODSAFE information and registration pages can be checked out at:

Info Page:

www.openschool.bc.ca/foodsafe/infopage

Registration Page:

<https://www.openschool.bc.ca/cgi-bin/foodsafe/REGISTER/index.pl>

BC Page, on behalf of BC Branch, would like to thank all those involved in expanding a unique 'made in BC' food safety course across Canada. A special Thank You is given to Toni Burton, FOODSAFE Secretariat; Ami Dagan, Project Co-ordinator for OSBC; and Lynn Wilcott, Food Safety Specialist for BCCDC for providing the information and photos for the article.

Prepared by Isher Deol.

Meet the FOODSAFE Secretariat Team



L to R: Sally Coates, Program Assistant; Kait Cavers, EatSmart Coordinator; Trudy Baird, Program Assistant; Toni Burton, FOODSAFE Secretariat Coordinator.

A Reminder from your BC Branch Education Committee...

Dear colleagues,

The CIPHI BC Branch Education Committee is pleased to announce our 2008 Conference:

*Exploring Future Public Health Needs
September 23 & 24 at the River Rock in Richmond, BC.*

The River Rock Casino Resort has beautiful recreation facilities (pool and gym), walking trails along the river & ocean and of course restaurants, lounges and other entertainment www.riverrock.com.



Register by July 22nd and take advantage of early bird registration fees. Please note - final registration is August 22nd.

Conference delegation registration forms as well as BC Branch membership forms (new and renewing) can be found on pages 23 - 27. Forms are also available at www.ciphi.bc.ca.

Conference agenda, hotel and additional information will be posted shortly to our website at www.ciphi.bc.ca.

We look forward to seeing you there,
Education Committee

SEWERAGE DEREGULATION IN BC

Sewage System Backgrounder

In 2005 the Sewage Disposal Regulation of BC was rescinded and replaced with a new Sewerage System Regulation. With the stroke of a pen we moved from a strong government regulated process that directly involved approval and inspection by Public Health Inspectors to a self-regulated industry-focused regulation that completely removed any oversight by the health authorities and Ministry of Health. Three years have now passed and during that period of time a number of problems and potential flaws have become apparent in the new regulation and process. For example, under the previous regulation health officials followed prescribed minimum separation requirements and could require greater separations distances if warranted to protect wells or bodies of water where adverse site conditions, large sewage flows, etc. existed. No minimum separation distances are included in the new regulations and industry now discusses how close you can install a system to a well or body of water.

There is confusion in the industry regarding the role of health authority staff at the “filing” stage and their ability/responsibility to take pro-active action as they had done so under the former regulation. The Health Authority (HA) now has no ability to intervene on the basis of technical merit at the planning or file submission stage, even if the HA is confident that future negative health or environmental impacts will result. Compliance with “standard practice”, as required in the regulation, places total discretion for the system design, installation and approval with the industry. Several homeowners and persons in the industry have now expressed serious concerns to their MLAs and/or the press regarding problems that have already arisen.

As a result of the increasing concern expressed by a number of members of the BC Branch and the public, the Branch Executive agreed that the matter should be studied further and that contact should be made with other public health and environmental bodies to see if they had any concerns. Contact was made with members of the Public Health Association of BC, the BC Shellfish Growers Association, and several other groups. All were unaware of the changes made to the “sewage” regulation and were very concerned about the long-term public health and environmental implications. As a result, a loose-knit coalition was formed which was named the Sewerage System Regulation Improvement Coalition. The coalition’s sole purpose is to, ***“to identify the major deficiencies with the new Regulation (and its administration), and to propose to government a set of solutions to correct those short-comings before environmental and public health problems result.”***

On February 18, 2008, after much consultation with coalition representatives and association executives, the following Brief was sent to the Minister of Health, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population Health & Wellness and the five Directors of Environmental Health. Subsequently copies were also sent to the Chair of the Health Officers Council for distribution to all members of that organization, the executive and board of the BC OnSite Sewage Association (BCOSSA), and several other organizations. A response has now been received from John Rowse, Executive Director of BCOSSA, in which he states, ***“The BC Onsite Sewage Association agrees with many of the issues and potential solutions as outlined in your note.”*** We certainly appreciate we do not agree on all the problems and proposed solutions. Recently two representatives of the coalition were invited by David Fishwick, Project Manager, Public Health, Ministry of Health, to participate in a conference call on behalf of the Sewage System Leadership Council of the Ministry to discuss our brief further. We found that dialogue very useful and positive. We have also been contacted by several concerned homeowners, MLAs and the press seeking more information on this issue.

The BC Branch has carried out a survey of all provinces and territories in Canada to determine how onsite sewage disposal is regulated and administered in those jurisdictions. The results of the survey are attached and indicate a significant variation across Canada. However, it is clear that the model chosen for BC has far less government oversight than all other jurisdictions in Canada.

The Executive of the BC Branch fully acknowledges that members of the Branch have strong and differing opinions on HA and PHI involvement in onsite sewage disposal and the broader issue of land development. We are also very cognizant of the serious concerns expressed formerly by Chief PHIs (now the Directors of Environmental Health) regarding the lack of adequate funding, staffing and training to ensure the proper functioning of the onsite sewage disposal program and the broader land development program. We are, therefore, not suggesting the government return to the old Sewage Disposal Regulation, however, it appears the pendulum has swung too far from a regulated process to a process with very little government oversight. There needs to be balance somewhere in between. There must be greater government or independent third party oversight. Clearly HAs and PHIs have a great deal of experience and expertise in this matter and remain involved due to other requirements of the Health Act. Thus, if this increased oversight can be done by health authorities with proper funding, this would appear to be a good solution. If this is

Continued on next page...

not agreeable to the Directors of Environmental Health and the Ministry of Health then another independent third party agency such as the BC Safety Authority, employing appropriately qualified staff, may need to be considered as an alternative.

As we have mentioned to the Ministry of Health and industry officials, the public, MLAs and the press, our goal is to work with both industry and government to ensure the best possible regulation that will provide the best protection for the environment and health of the public now and in the future.

We invite your comments and suggestions which will be crucial our to future discussions and proposals.

Tim Roark, REHO
Representative
BC Branch, CIPHI



MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

THE EFFECTS OF SEWERAGE DEREGULATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Prepared by the Sewerage System Regulation Improvement Coalition
February 18, 2008

BACKGROUND

The regulation of small-sized, non-municipal sewage disposal systems used to be governed by the Sewage Disposal Regulation under the Health Act. On May 31, 2005, the old Regulation was replaced by the new Sewerage System Regulation. As a result, a number of substantive changes were made to the form and substance of government oversight of small-scale sewage systems. The Sewerage System Regulation Improvement Coalition (SSRIC) believes that without immediate amendments to the Regulation, serious long-term environmental and public health problems will inevitably result.

PROBLEMS WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION

The SSRIC has identified a number of problems with the new Sewerage System Regulation. The critical deficiencies are:

- **Loss of public health protection:** The new regulation has seriously reduced the level of protection for the public and to the environment. Certain essential, minimum and enforceable requirements (such as minimum set-backs of sewer systems from wells and bodies of water such as streams and lakes) and a prohibition of certain types of systems found in the old regulations have been replaced with an “outcome-based, industry-focused relation” and a reliance on vague and unenforceable “standard practices”.
- **Lack of oversight:** The new “self-regulatory” model with only after-the-fact enforcement by local health authorities does not provide the same degree of public protection as existed under the old regulation with its plan approval and construction oversight by health officials. For example, the new Regulation requires that systems be designed and installed following “standard practice” which is highly subjective and not defined within a Manual that is used by only some of the registered practitioners. Public health officials no longer make decisions on public health risks.
- **Deregulation results in greater confusion:** The lack of specific requirements in the new Regulation has necessitated the production of a Standard Practice Manual by the industry that is nearly 300 pages in length and is even more detailed, complex, prescriptive and confusing than the old regulations. Under this approach, it is possible that a sewerage system could be designed and installed right next to a community drinking water well.

Continued on next page...

- The over-prescriptive Manual has had unintended effects: The detailed and prescriptive Standard Practice Manual has become the *de facto* regulation for non-engineer registered practitioners because the regulatory body for these practitioners (the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC) requires its members to comply with this manual while, to date, the engineering profession has not adopted a set of sewerage construction standards that engineers must follow. This has created a non-level playing field and resulted in further confusion and disagreement.
- No public accountability: The Ministry of Health has effectively abdicated any meaningful oversight of the small-scale sewerage industry, because it has failed to ensure that there are effective accountability mechanisms built into the new system. A severe dichotomy has resulted between allowing innovation and creativity, and utilizing accepted procedures which were supposed to ensure public health and environmental protection.
- Greater costs to the public: The substantive changes in the regulatory regime for small-scale sewer systems have resulted in significantly greater costs to members of the public who want to install a sewerage system on their property, but arguably with less health benefits to the broader community than were provided under the previous more prescriptive regime.
- Many illegal installations: It is estimated that a substantial number of all new sewerage systems are now being improperly if not illegally installed, and many are being built without proper or complete filing.

The Coalition believes that, unless corrected soon, these problems will inevitably lead to contamination of the environment and harm to the public's health. This will lead to greater litigation and substantial costs for correction. Appendix "A" lists additional problems.

SOLUTIONS

To address these serious problems, the SSRIC proposes the following solutions:

1. The Ministry of Health undertakes a complete review and rewrite of the Sewerage System Regulation to correct numerous problems and deficiencies that have been noted since its approval in 2005. In particular, it is essential that minimum separation distances that are necessary to ensure the protection of the public's health and safety (many of which existed in the old regulation) be returned as enforceable requirements.
2. The Ministry develops a new Standards of Practice Manual that will be appropriate for and followed by all persons involved in the installation of sewage disposal systems under the revised Regulation. This would involve input from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, the BC OnSite Sewage Association, identified public health and environmental organizations, and in particular the general public.
3. The Ministry establishes a separate inspection, auditing and enforcement agency that is arms-length from the industry-dominated BC OnSite Sewage Association.¹ This new small-scale sewerage inspection agency must report to the Minister of Health on an annual basis as to the status of sewerage system regulation within the province. The Minister should have the authority to appoint all members of the board of this new agency, including a minimum of one half public representatives who have no links to the sewerage industry.

1 Assigning the enforcement of a revised Regulation to the BC Safety Authority may be a viable alternative.

About the Coalition

The SSRIC is a coalition of individuals and professional associations concerned about the new Sewerage System Regulation, and is made up of the following (in alphabetical order): (a) BC Shellfish Growers Association; (b) Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, BC Branch; (c) Public Health Association of BC.

The purpose of the SSRIC is "to identify the major deficiencies with the new Regulation (and its administration), and to propose to government a set of solutions to correct those short-comings before environmental and public health

Continued on next page...

problems result.” Members of the coalition would be pleased to participate in a process to resolve the current serious situation. To speak to a representation of the Coalition, please contact:

Ms. Jasmina Egeler, President

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (BC Branch)
PHONE: 604-675-3800 / EMAIL: president@ciphi.bc.ca

Mr. Tim Roark, Representative, CIPHI (BC)

PHONE: 604-467-4745 / EMAIL: Tim.Roark@shaw.ca

Appendix “A”

Additional Problems with the current Sewerage System Regulation

1. Currently a knowledgeable homeowner can build his own home in BC but no longer has the right to install his own sewage system.
2. Currently sewage system plans are no longer “approved” by health authority staff but a copy of the plans must be “filed” by the Authorized Person installing the system with the local health authority. Staff with the health authority have no authority to intervene at the file submission stage or during installation of a sewage system even though it may be believed the installation could create a health hazard or environmental pollution in the future. This is a source of significant concern and confusion within the industry.
3. The Standard Practice Manual was developed by the BC OnSite Sewage Association and is owned and printed by the Ministry of Health, but it has been developed with little or no input from outside the industry.
4. The Sewage System Leadership Council that was established by the Ministry of Health of provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation does not contain a balance of representatives from the sewage industry and recognized public health and environmental organizations whose mandate is to protect and enhance the health of the public and the environment. Additional representation from public health and environmental organizations is needed on this Council.
5. Currently there is no independent auditing process to ensure that the small scale sewage systems being installed across BC are actually being (a) installed properly, and in accordance with their design and good engineering practice, and (b) built by qualified and registered contractors and professionals with appropriate experience in the installation of on-site sewage systems, hydrogeology, soil analysis, etc.

Sewerage Regulation Across Canada

Province	Department Responsible	Additional Info
British Columbia	Ministry of Health	No permits required, System to be installed and designed by a Qualified Person. No final inspection or approval needed. PHIs handle complaints. EHO’s at Health Canada handle sewage on Indian Land.
Alberta	Municipal Affairs	Permits issued by Municipality or Alberta Permit Pro. Contractor should be Certified. Systems are inspected and receive final approval. Mostly on acreages. EHO’s handle complaints.

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Province	Department Responsible	Additional Info
Saskatchewan	Ministry of Health, Health Protection	EHO's issue permits, carry out inspections and approve all systems and deal with complaints.
Manitoba	Environment Officers within Provincial Conservation Department	Program was delivered by EHO's however with the transfer of Health protection programs out of Conservation the Land Use program stayed behind. Legislation: Onsite Wastewater Management System, Environment Act. Env. Officers issue permits and do inspections of systems and issue final approvals.
Ontario	Legislation through the Ontario Building Code - administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Enforced by some health units, conservation authorities and local municipal building inspectors for systems < 10,000 litres per day. Sewage complaints may be handled by the public health inspector of local health unit & order written if health hazard identified. If remediation or upgrade of system is needed the agency who enforces the Building Code related to sewage system, would get the referral. MOE handles systems that are > 10,000 litres per day.
Quebec	Municipalities, the Environment Dept in rural areas, Local Environment Officers for the Cree and Inuit territories and Health Canada	In municipalities, housing inspectors issue the permits and do the inspections. Throughout the rest of Quebec Local Environment Officers do the inspections, etc. except for Oka and Maniwaki Indian lands where Health Canada EHO's handle sewage disposal.
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Department of Environment	Permit applications processed by DoE staff (EHO's or Technicians). Qualified contractor must be used for installation. Final inspection may be done based on situation. Auditing of installations occurs. Complaints handled by EHO's
PEI	Department of Environment plus Communities, Cultural Affairs & Labour	Two options are available. (1) Permit, plus final inspection or audit of systems being installed and Certificate of Compliance. Inspections by DoE. (2) Certified Site Assessors (Contractors) install system and notify for final inspection. Inspections or audits may be done.

Continued on next page...

Province	Department Responsible	Additional Info
New Brunswick	Department of Health EHO's approve/inspect Licensed installers carry out system installation.	EHO assesses property and provides written approval to install. Final inspection carried out prior to cover. Currently 100% of systems inspected, however with new regulations coming into force EHO's are hoping to move to audits/spot checks of installations. Licensed installers do the work, however owners can do their own installations (this is discouraged). Applicants submit a 4 page application with technical specifications.
Newfoundland/Labrador	EHO's within Department of Government Services	1. Approve on site sewage disposal designs. 2. Inspect installation of systems. 3. Approve backfilling. 4. Investigate malfunctions.
Nunavit	Territorial Government -EHOs involved if problems with sewage disposal	No private septic systems installed. All systems are community collection systems or pump and hall systems.
Northwest Territories	Territorial Government -EHOs involved if problems with sewage disposal	Virtually no private septic systems installed. All systems are community collection systems or pump and hall systems.
Yukon	Dept. of Health and Social Services, Environmental Health Services	EHO's carry out inspections, approve sites, issue permits, authorize approval to backfill and issue final authorizations.

TIM ROARK
President



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Environmental Health Consultants

20898 Meadow Place
Maple Ridge, BC V4R 2M8
Tel/Fax 604 467 4745
Email Tim.Roark@shaw.ca

ISOLATED COMMUNITIES GET NEW MEAT TRANSITION SUPPORT

VICTORIA – Meat producers in remote and isolated communities are receiving additional assistance in the transition to becoming fully licensed, announced the ministers of Health and Agriculture today.

“B.C. is one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to make the transition to full licensing and inspection. Our provincial meat inspection regulation is vital to help protect the health and safety of all British Columbians,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “Having a system in place to track any problems also helps protect producers and processors from the devastating impact that can be caused by one case of disease that cannot be tracked or contained.”

Class C transitional licenses have been available to meat producers working toward becoming fully licensed, with submission of a construction plan. The license allows meat producers to continue offering limited, direct sales (such as farm gate sales) to consumers. Meats produced under a Class C license are not inspected, cannot be resold or used in any commercial operation such as a restaurant, and must be labelled as uninspected.

Government is now providing additional support for small operators applying for a Class C license in isolated and remote areas that do not have access to licensed slaughter capacity. New applicants who meet these criteria can now qualify for a Class C license immediately, and will have until Dec. 31, 2009 to submit their construction plan.

“With the assistance we’re introducing today, local producers and processors in isolated communities will have some added flexibility, making it easier for them to obtain Class C

transitional licenses and ultimately full licenses,” said Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell. “Since the regulation was announced in 2004, we have more than quadrupled the number of licensed provincial meat processing operations, and these new changes will help remote communities and preserve the ability to buy locally.”

A second update to the regulation provides support to those who have already made significant investments in becoming fully licensed, by providing a 100-kilometre protective zone, or 15 nautical miles if separated by marine waters, around fully-licensed plants (classified as established, Class A or B licensed operator). Within this zone, new transitional Class C licences will not be approved. New Class C transitional licenses will only be considered in areas where there is no local licensed capacity already in place.

“This amendment will assist those very isolated areas of the province to enhance their slaughter capacity and is another step towards having a fully sustainable meat industry in B.C.,” said Nico Human, CEO of the British Columbia Food Processors Association. “It also supports established plants that have invested in the future of our industry.”


Government recently announced an additional \$3.8 million for the Meat Transition Assistance Program (MTAP), bringing the total commitment to producers to \$8.8 million. These funds support new and current meat processors in communities across B.C. to become fully licensed, supporting new construction or upgrades necessary to meet health and safety requirements.

There are currently 51 provincially-licensed producers in B.C.; 31 of them are fully licensed and 20 hold a Class C license. In 2004, only 12 producers were provincially-licensed. The number of federally-licensed producers remains unchanged at 13.

Government is committed to the promotion of B.C. agriculture and food products at the local and provincial levels, and through the B.C. Agriculture Plan, is working to strengthen community food systems while maintaining high standards for health and safety.

Information on the meat inspection regulation and MTAP is available on line at www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/meat_inspection.html.

Source: Ministry of Health
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands




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BC BRANCH UPDATES

Kathryn Small Retires!

On April 2, 2008 friends and colleagues gathered at the Shark Club in Burnaby to celebrate the career of Kathryn Small and wish her "Bon Voyage". Over 50 people from around the province attended the event, with Karen Rehbein and Glen Embree each providing toasts to Kathryn's achievements. On behalf of the attendees, Mariannina Cusano presented Kathryn with several retirement gifts, including a "nostalgic" photo album, a keepsake compass engraved with Kathryn's favourite saying - "Assume Nothing!", and a sizeable travel voucher. It was an evening enjoyed by all!



A little bit about Kathryn...

After completing the BCIT Environmental Health Technology program, Kathryn began her career in 1981 as a Public Health Inspector with the Corporation of the District of Burnaby. With her background in education (B.Sc. UBC, 1970; B.C. Teaching Certificate SFU, 1971; Diploma in Adult Education UBC, 1990), Kathryn became well known and respected as an advocate of food safety training and as an instructor of the BC FOODSAFE course. More recently, Kathryn was involved in the review and delivery of the Food Safety Initiative program for non-federally registered food processors. Kathryn's passion for teaching was unsurpassed, earning admiration from her students and colleagues alike!



Above: Glen Embree providing his toast at Kathryn's party.

Outside of work, Kathryn is a talented performer and travel aficionado. She has performed in 29 amateur musical theatre productions with the North Shore Light Opera Society. Kathryn traveled around the world in 1975 including stops in Europe, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. She has also traveled across Canada twice (once by train, once by car), and has been to Greece, Iceland, the Grand Canyon, Northeastern USA and the Maritimes, Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa), Yukon and Alaska, Spain, Hawaii, the Western coast of the USA and just about every corner of BC!

Continued on next page...

In retirement, Kathryn plans to continue performing and traveling - in fact, she is touring Great Britain as this tribute is being written! Best wishes to Kathryn from all her colleagues at Fraser Health.

The following original and clever poem was composed by Susan Plath and was recited by Stephen Yeo at Kathryn's retirement tea.

- Rod Asplin

Photos courtesy of Mariannina Cusano & Kim McLennan



A Retirement Poem for Kathryn by Susan Plath

As you prep to retire You should pause and reflect On the thousands of people You've helped to protect	May no rodents traverse Through your Douglas Road gate As a last parting gift... Help yourself to some bait
Now we'd like to extend A few wishes to you As a way to say 'thanks' Just before your work's through	May your air be smoke free And your bugs be controlled May your bathroom walls never Know one spore of mold
May you have some fun trips To Nepal and Bombay May you never get that Cube of ice with Hep A	Those reports that you wrote? Know that you did them well But then you went to school When they taught how to spell!
If you go to the beach May the balmy warm breeze Be greater than or equal to Thirty degrees	Never think about work Once you walk out that door Toast the day you've forgotten What HACCP stands for!
At a jungle café Once you push through the thicket May the first thing you see Be a framed FOODSAFE ticket	Please don't worry for us We will all do just fine For your nice window seat There's already a line
When you jump with both feet In a pool that is strange May the filter be clean And the pH in range	We have time to resolve EH problems so weighty By the time we retire They'll make us turn Eighty
Should you cut your long hair If you ever decide May you not choose a place With that fake Barbicide!	Write your own ticket now Have some fun, have a rest And know that your co-workers Wish you the best

IFEH, 10th World Congress on Environmental Health - Brisbane, Australia

It was a real privilege to attend the IFEH conference on behalf of the BC Branch along with 9 other organizing committee members. The conference was held in Brisbane May 11th to May 16th and attracted over 600 daily delegates representing over 50 countries. This was by far the largest conference I've attended and it opened my eyes to the amount of work that will have to be done for September 2010.

Our main objective was to market Canada, British Columbia and of course Vancouver – the next host city. We set up a booth in the exhibit hall to provide information to the conference delegates and to entice them to come to 'the best place on earth'. I am quite confident that we succeeded. We were tasked with hosting Canada Night on the final social evening. We celebrated all things Canadian – complete with hockey skills competitions, photo ops with RCMP look-alikes and Maple Leaf tattoos. The night would not have been complete without Canadian music and Moosehead beer. The end of the evening was marked by giving away our 'trademark' red Canadian t-shirts.

We look forward to welcoming our international colleagues to the IFEH Vancouver Conference in 2010.

Thanks to all the committee members who worked so diligently to make this trip a success.

- Jasmina Egeler



Above: Lower Mainland Delegates - Claudia Kurzac, Nick Losito, Jasmina Egeler, Shawn Parhar, Mark Ritson, Joanne Lum, Roopy Khatkar, Tara Hluchy, and Pam Rydings

IN MEMORIAM**Frederick Alcock**

On December 8th 1915, Raymond Frederick Alcock was born in Kamloops, British Columbia. 1948 was the beginning of Fred Alcock's public health career. During his 30 years of service Mr. Alcock contributed tremendously to the awareness and implementation of many key public health issues within BC, especially in the '60s and '70s. Those working during that time would have quickly learned that Fred was an influential leader in our profession. Mr. Fred Alcock kept a very busy life both personally and professionally as described below by one of his son's; posted in the obituary section of the Capital News on April 6, 2008 (p: A30).

Raymond (Fred) left us peacefully this Easter, March 24, 2008 at the age of 92 ... survived by his only remaining brother Walter of Sechelt, BC, many nephews and nieces, his six sons Dale (Elaine), [of] Peachland; Barry (Brenda) [of] Penticton; Wayne (Bonnie) [of] Kelowna; Steve (Tricia) [of] Melbourne, Australia; Jonathan (Sharon) [of] Kelowna; Douglas (Janet) [of] Vernon, 19 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

[In 1936, Fred] married Alice Kinnaird of Penticton ... in Vancouver, BC [who was] predeceased in 2002. [Fred] was schooled in Vancouver, [and] worked with his father in the plumbing trade then at Fred Deeley's Bicycle Shop. In his youth he was a gymnast, a track star, a top bicycle racer, a [football player] with the Vancouver Meralomas. [He also] became a purist fly fisherman along many rivers and streams of south coastal BC.

During World War II, [Fred] worked at Boeing Aircraft of Canada in the engineering department; making the first 'bow gun turrets and side gun blisters' for the B29 bombers, and the first 'wing floats of the Canso Flying Boat (PBY) amphibious aircraft.' After the war he created the 'Aero Venetian Blind Company'. In 1948, after working on the Fraser Valley Flood for the Government of BC, he and his family moved to Kelowna where he worked as a Health Inspector.



In [Fred Alcock's posting as a Health Inspector] he was instrumental in bringing in meat and dairy inspection, clean domestic water systems, appropriate waste disposal and sampling of: water, fish and wildlife, swimming pools, packing houses, schools and restaurants. He initiated many baseline studies of mainstream Okanagan whilst doggedly protecting our water and environment. He considered it 'most rewarding' to work with his friend and colleague Dr. D Clarke in 'Preventative Medicine', 'Epidemiology' and 'Environmental Health'. [Fred] retired in 1978 as Chief Public Health Inspector for the South Okanagan Health Unit.

[Mr. Alcock] was a loving, caring and compassionate father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He believed in the golden rule and lived by it. He was a scientist with the soul of a sage; an artisan working in wood and metal; a fly fisherman who tied his own flies enough for anyone else that needed them. He was a deadly shot at game birds on the wing. He picked up musical instruments and worked out his favourite songs on mandolin, tenor banjo, guitar and harmonica. In his retirement, gardening was a gift [by] growing fruit trees, 'Fred's Giant Zinnias' and [the] award winning Chrysanthemums. He enjoyed gold panning and fly fishing with his friends and family, always looking for that 'Big Nugget' or to land that big 'Rainbow Trout.'

Continued on next page...

Above: Fred Alcock, Right, chief public health inspector at Kelowna, was presented with a fly fishing rod and tackle ... in commemoration of his 30 years of service in the public health field. Making the presentation was Tim Roark of Vancouver, president [at the time] of the BC Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. A number of guests were on hand at the special evening to recognize the achievements of Mr. Alcock, who [retired in 1978] after serving as chief inspector since 1966 and with the unit since 1948.

His sons and their families would like to thank his friend and caregiver Joyce Young, for her commitment and dedication. Thank you also to the staff at the Village at Smith Creek – for the excellent care he received. No service at his request, a memorial [was held on July 5, 2008]. In memory of Fred, donations can be made to the Interior Alzheimer Society at 211-1889 Springfield Road, Kelowna, BC V1Y 5V5. Acknowledgements c/o Wayne Alcock.



Fred Alcock is greatly missed by his family, friends and professional colleagues. The following is a quote in memory of Mr. Fred Alcock from his son, Jonathan Alcock:

“I could not have asked for a better Father/role model/ inspiration, he is what I aspire to as a father now to my children. I have so many great memories of the things we did together and talked about. My brothers all feel the same.”

Cards for the family may be sent to: **Jonathan Alcock**
 2225 Saucier Road
 Kelowna, BC
 V1W 4B8

Many thanks to Jonathan Alcock, Randy Ash, Terri Alcock, and Greg Baytalan for photos and information.

Prepared by Isher Deol



Top Left: Fred participating at a public health panel

Top Right: Fred & Alice and Dot & Bud.

Mid-page: Fred and Alice

Bottom Right: Dave Barrett (left) (Premier of BC at the time) presented Fred with a certificate and pin for his 25 years of service with the provincial government.

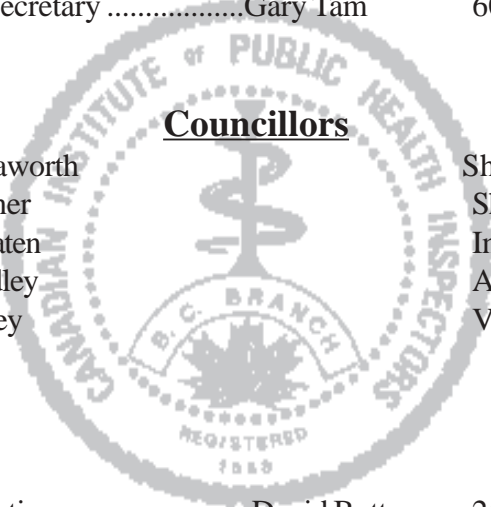
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The views, comments, or positions within the contents of the BC Page are those of the Editorial Team or the author and do not necessarily reflect those of either the BC Branch or the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

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

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- That I have an obligation to the Public whose trust I hold and I will endeavour, to the best of my ability, to guard their interests honestly and wisely. I will be loyal to the profession and Institute to which I belong.
- That the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.
- That being loyal to my profession, I will uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and will, at all times, conduct myself in a manner worthy of my profession.

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