

The B.C. Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors  
invites you to attend the

**March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
**Hilton Vancouver Metrotown**  
**6083 McKay Avenue**  
**Burnaby, BC**

Presentations will be delivered by various organizations such as Health Canada, BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health... just to name a few! There will also be dynamic motivational Keynote Speakers each day. The finalized agenda will be sent out soon.

Join other Environmental Health professionals in discussing issues that are currently relevant in our Regional Health Authorities.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Roopy Khatkar at (604)736-2866 ([roopy.khatkar@vch.ca](mailto:roopy.khatkar@vch.ca)) or Jasmina Egeler at (604)983-6860 ([jasmina.egeler@vch.ca](mailto:jasmina.egeler@vch.ca)).



# BC Branch Executive 2004

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

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The BC Page is published by and for the B.C. Branch of the  
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

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**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

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## BC Branch Update: December 2004

It is that time of year again when we can reflect on our accomplishments in 2004 and commence thinking about our goals and opportunities for 2005. The BC Branch is certainly in full swing setting goals for the upcoming year and ensuring that our membership is well informed and well represented. One of our goals for the coming months is to increase our membership. Hence, all members and non-members were sent information on the Branch's activities and successes. Since so many of the activities CIPHI is involved with are not tangible or readily visible it is important to communicate the important work CIPHI BC Branch carries out. Hopefully, this will answer the question we are asked so often – what exactly does the Branch do? Without your membership and active participation our Institute becomes ineffective. Although the executive makes the Institute function, it is the supporting members who make the Institute progress.

As we proceed with our membership drive, it is also a great honor to recognize those who have been members of CIPHI for 25 years or more. Congratulations to **Sally de la Rue Brown, Graham Cobb, Lori Frame, Dan Moreau, Michael Riefman, and Lorraine Woolsey**. Thank you for your continued support and membership in CIPHI!

The BC Branch is also busy planning the finer details of the Annual Education Conference to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Burnaby, on March 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful to see all of you there as delegates. An agenda will be available in next few weeks to outline some of the great speakers committed to present. Mark your Calendars!

The BC Branch organized another successful Christmas Luncheon on December 8, 2004. Although attendance was not as high as expected, the crowd was jovial and hungry and the spread of turkey and all its trimmings were a hit. A 50/50 draw, wine and Starbuck's goodies were given away as prizes. It was also fantastic to have our retired members and BCIT staff among us. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped organize this event. You did a fabulous job.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our two new additions to the executive, Kuljeet Chatta and Caroline Yarjau. We look forward to your participation and enthusiasm which you both will bring to our team.

Lastly, I also want to remind everyone that Environmental Health Week starts on January 3 until January 9, 2005. The purpose of Environmental Health Week is to recognize all the hard and important work Environmental Health Professionals carry out. We are hoping to gain media and public attention across this Country to bring our profession to the forefront. So take the time to advocate for our profession. Take the time to reflect on the important role we play daily in protecting the health of the public and our communities. It is so easy to get lost in the daily grind of our work that we forget to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done.

I wish each and everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and all the Best for a Prosperous and Healthy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmina Egeler, BC Branch Vice President

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November 23, 2004

Sewerage Regulation Steering Committee

Dear Committee Members:

RE: Inclusion of Public Health Inspector/Environmental Health Officers as “Authorized Persons”

First I would like to thank John Rowse and the Regulation Steering Committee for inviting the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) to the upcoming meeting scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. Our organization was disappointed at not being involved in the process from the start, but is glad to have this opportunity to present an issue which impacts our members.

The issue that I wish to discuss is with the omission of PHI/EHO’s as “authorized persons” under the proposed regulation. Our profession has and still does play a major role in the approval of sewerage systems throughout BC. As the enforcement officers of the current regulation, our members must have complete technical knowledge of sewerage systems from their design, installation, and maintenance.

So, our argument is, why are only registered practitioners and professionals recognized as qualified individuals to design, install, and maintain these systems. Has the criteria changed from yesterday to today, that would exclude our members?

It is CIPHI’s position that the regulation be amended to include holders of a Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) as an “authorized person”, alongside registered practitioners and professionals. Furthermore, I would recommend that holders of a Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) hold a valid B.C. Certificate of Registration issued by the Board of Registration of CIPHI, which holds members to a professional code of ethics (attached).

I would argue that our educational background exceeds the basic requirements to design systems under the new regulation. Members graduating from Environmental Health Degree programs are equally, if not better trained, in soil analysis, sewerage system design, and maintenance than those attending a 1½ week certification course held at Royal Roads University.

For example, the following courses are part of the current Environmental Health Program curriculum at BCIT:

- ENVH 1210 Soils (15 weeks)
- ENVH 1220 Hydrogeology (15 weeks)
- ENVH 2210 Sewage Disposal Methods (15 weeks)
- ENVH 3250 Land Use (10 weeks)

It is clear that members of CIPHI have the history, expertise and knowledge base to not only enforce the Sewerage Regulation, but also act in the same capacity as a registered practitioner or professional.

Respectfully,



Steve Chong  
BC Branch President

*Editor's Note: this letter is part of the Branch's lobbying to have PHI's/EHO's recognized as 'Authorized Persons' under the new Sewerage System Regulation.*

## Harsh Thakore Appointed Regional Manager, Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme, B.C & Yukon, Health Canada



The following announcement was issued a short time ago by Henry Ip, Regional Director, Healthy Environments & Consumer Safety Branch, BC-Yukon Region, Health Canada.

We pleased to announce that Harsh Thakore was successful in the competition for the BC Yukon HECSB position of Regional Manager, Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme.

Harsh began his career with Health Canada's Medical Services Branch on July 21, 1975 as an Environmental Health Officer in Prince Rupert BC and moved to Vancouver in the same capacity a year later. As an EHO, Harsh joined the Occupational Health and Safety Agency of Health Canada which

later became the Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme in the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch. Harsh managed the Vancouver team of WHPSP as the Professional Services Manager from January 1999 to 2002 and has been acting Regional Manager for the BC Yukon Region since January 2002.

Harsh has done an outstanding job in his leadership role and is extremely dedicated and professional in his dealings with staff, management and clients. Being a proponent of healthy workplaces, Harsh has fostered a transparent management style by being considerate, flexible and fair. He is extremely supportive of all his team members, from staff to managers, regional managers, the HECSB Regional Director, REC and national counterparts. Throughout a transitional period resulting from branch reorganization, Harsh successfully organized the transfer of responsibilities from the Western region to the BC Yukon region and has facilitated the implementation of many national WHPSP initiatives. Harsh's organizational and financial management skills are excellent and have been a tangible benefit to WHPSP, HECSB and Health Canada.

Please join us in congratulating Harsh on his continued success.

*Editor's Note: in addition to his work with Health Canada, Harsh has also been a strong supporter of CIPHI, serving for many years on the BC Branch Executive, as Co-Editor of our national journal the Environmental Health Review and most recently as a member, Vice Chairman, Chairman and now Past Chairman of the BC Board of Registration.*

## BEAVERS WEAVE STOLEN CASH

Beavers found a bag of stolen bills from a casino, tore it open and wove the money into the sticks and brush of their dam on a creek near Baton Rouge.

"They hadn't torn the bills up. They were still whole," said Maj. Michael Martin of the East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.

The money was part of at least \$70,000 taken last week from the Lucky Dollar Casino in Greensburg about 50 kilometers northeast of Baton Rouge.  
(Victoria Times Colonist – Nov. 16/04)



## Health Inspector Puts Out Restaurant Fire

It was just another normal day at work for **Tim Little**, Public Health Inspector for the Fraser Health Authority in Maple Ridge; that was until he reached the Bella Vita Restaurant. It was Tuesday October 5 and Tim had an inspection of the Bella Vita Restaurant in downtown Maple Ridge on his list for that afternoon. Everything seemed to be going fine during his inspection until about 2 p.m. when a customer in the restaurant shouted there was a fire in the ceiling fan in the ladies washroom.

According to Maple Ridge Fire Chief Peter Grootendorst, "The inspector had the knowledge to grab a fire extinguisher and put out the majority of the fire before we arrived. His efforts prevented major damage to the restaurant."



Fire damaged a bathroom stall, the wall around it and part of the ceiling around the fan, the Fire Chief said. The washroom and washroom area of the restaurant sustained smoke damage.

Owner, Bill Voukelatos, indicated he was most appreciative of the assistance by the Inspector.

Tim was taken to Maple Ridge Hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation and released a short time later.

We salute **Tim Little** for his quick thinking and professionalism under "fire". His actions clearly saved many thousands of dollars damage to the restaurant.

7 X

**The number of times you should wash your hands daily to increase the likelihood of staying healthy.**

*Source: Professor Marilyn Lee, Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, Toronto.*



# Smuggling their own products for increased profit

On July 9, 2004 Philip Morris International agreed to pay the European Union \$1.25 billion US over 12 years to settle charges of money laundering and smuggling. Similar charges are still pending against R.J. Reynolds. The companies knowingly sell cigarettes to international smugglers in part to increase market share, but mostly as an effort to pressure governments to reduce taxes. About one-quarter of internationally traded cigarettes enter the illegal market, with much of the proceeds funneled directly into terrorist groups all over the planet.

On the same day, executives of JTI-Macdonald, Canada's third-largest tobacco company, made a brief court appearance on smuggling charges. The Canadian government had filed a lawsuit in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on Aug. 13, 2003 for \$1.5 billion in damages for fraud, deceit, fraudulent misrepresentation, document destruction, and civil conspiracy. Also charged were about a dozen related companies including JTI-Macdonald's parent company Japan Tobacco and its former parent company, R. J. Reynolds. But the case was put over until Nov. 4, 2004 for pre-trial discussions, with preliminary hearing dates set for next year. JTI-Macdonald (then called RJR-Macdonald) and Imperial Tobacco sold the cigarettes in the early 1990s to US smugglers who then smuggled them back into Canada, mostly via the Akwesasne Mohawk reserve straddling the St. Lawrence Seaway. Lost revenue in evaded cigarette tax is estimated to be over \$3-billion, giving then-finance-minister Paul Martin an excuse to slash cigarette prices in half in Eastern Canada in 1994, which resulted in Quebec's youth smoking jumping to 34% from 19% in 1991 and the billion dollar loss in tax revenue. Until running for MP in 1988, Martin was a top director of Imasco, Imperial's parent company at the time.

Larry Miller, currently serving 17½ years in a US prison for smuggling \$1-billion of RJR-Macdonald's cigarettes back into Canada, has admitted he regularly met with RJR-Macdonald executives who told him how to move their smuggled product in Canada. The RCMP seized about 1,200 boxes of records in a 1998 raid of RJR-Macdonald's Montreal headquarters, and filed criminal smuggling charges in Ontario on Feb. 28, 2003 against JTI-Macdonald and eight of its top executives.

On Tuesday, August 10, 2004, the Quebec government assessed tobacco giant JTI-Macdonald Corp. almost \$1.4 billion for lost taxes because of cigarette smuggling in the 1990s, and obtained a Superior Court order on Wednesday August 11, 2004 ordering immediate payment by JTI-Macdonald.



Tribune Media Services by Mike Peters



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# BCIT 2004

## Environmental Health Graduating Class

Back row, left to right: Bill Pottruff, Darren Molder, Kevin Wu, Gary Tam, Jas Johal

Middle row, left to right: Joanne Edwards, Anita Ely, Pam Rydings, Van Hang, Shume Lee, Lydia Tsai

Front row, left to right: Albert Wong, Andrea Angus, Amardeep Kambo

Missing: Harry Dhaliwal, Luke Lee

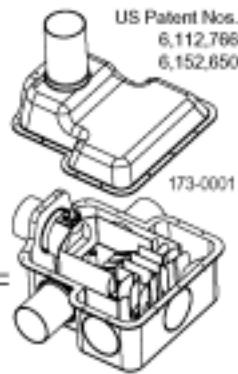


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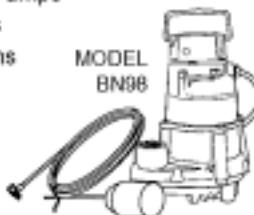
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## Food poisoning: home is where the hazard is

If you've ever been sick with "food poisoning" you will know how brutal it can be. The symptoms can lay a person up for days or even weeks, and in some cases, the results can be fatal.

Marilyn Lee, a professor with Ryerson's School of Occupational and Public Health, conducted a study to determine the sources of food poisoning, and the results were surprising.

While many people might worry about an undercooked piece of chicken in a restaurant, for example, Professor Lee found that half of all reported cases of gastrointestinal illness in Ontario originate from our own kitchens. Only 25% of illness stems from travel. "We need to be aware that food safety starts in the home because that's where a lot of outbreaks occur", she says.

Using data from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Professor Lee looked at 44,451 cases of illness found in Ontario from 1997 to 2001.

She discovered that we are most likely to make ourselves sick by improper refrigeration, cooking or cross contamination. She also pinpointed the time of year it's most likely to happen – from June to September, prime barbecue and picnic season. Professor Lee's findings were published in the Journal of Food Protection in June 2003.

She says it's important that health agencies understand the true nature of where the problem starts, so they can develop countermeasures. At present, Professor Lee says most public health efforts in the food-borne illness arena are directed at the restaurant sector.

"Health Inspectors are looking at restaurants – and not everyone ends up running a restaurant," says Lee. "How do you tackle the issue of food-borne disease if you don't know where the problems are?"

*Editor's note: Professor Lee is a graduate from the Public Health Inspection program at Ryerson University in 1980 and holds a CPHI(C) as well as a graduate degree in pathobiology from Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

*Article courtesy of Kira Vermond with the Alumni Magazine at Ryerson University.*



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## Coordinator appointed by VIHA

Vancouver Island Health Authority is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Robin Gear as the Regional Drinking Water Coordinator based out of the Nanaimo Public Health Office. Robin's role is to ensure the consistent and fair implementation of the *Drinking Water Protection Act* by Environmental Health staff across the region.

Robin began her career as an Environmental Health Officer in British Columbia in 1989 working for the Simon Fraser Health Unit in Coquitlam, followed by a move to the Upper Fraser Valley Health Unit in Abbotsford. In 1992, Robin accepted a position as Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector for Central Fraser Valley Health Unit that was later amalgamated into the South Fraser Health Region. Following the formation of the current health authorities, she became one of eight Managers for Environmental Health Services in the Fraser Health Authority. Robin held this position from 2002 until April of 2004 when she was lured to Island life with the offer of the position for Regional Drinking Water Coordinator with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.



Robin has been responsible for a number of water protection issues including:

- A Founding Member of an International Multi-Agency Committee for groundwater protection of the Abbotsford Aquifer.
- Coordinated a field trip and board room discussions with two mayors and municipal councils, related to local groundwater contamination and groundwater protection of the Abbotsford Aquifer;
- Facilitated a large multi-agency public forum dealing with local groundwater contamination and groundwater protection strategies.
- Collaborated with Environment Canada, Technical University of Nova Scotia and Faculty of Soils Sciences of British Columbia and under the sponsorship of the Federal Fraser River Action Plan, in the design and monitoring of a study, to examine septic effluent impacts on groundwater down gradient of an on-site sewage disposal system located on the unconfined Brookswood aquifer.
- Participated in the Fraser Valley Groundwater Study.
- Participated in the development and production of an award winning Groundwater Protection Video sitting on a multi agency and Non Government Organization Project. The Groundwater Video was later expanded as a teaching package and has been distributed to all libraries and schools in British Columbia.
- Managed the South Fraser Health Region Drinking Water Program for seven years.
- Partnered with Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection as a pilot project for water supply system assessments.

The new *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Regulation encourages all level of Government and Industry to follow best management practices to protect drinking water supply systems, in addition to putting more accountability on Water Suppliers as well as Health Authorities. Some initiatives that are being planned for Vancouver Island are:

- Re- structuring the drinking water program to ensure a consistent progressive approach to inspections and interactions between the Health Authority and the Water Suppliers
- Newsletters to the water suppliers
- Water Supplier/Industry information sharing events
- Web site information and links for the public regarding all aspects of drinking water.

Robin sees this as an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with other government agencies, water suppliers and industry to create a standard of excellence in drinking water.

*Note: Many thanks to Dena Page, Editor of Watermark for sharing this article with us.*

## Brent Zaharia

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Brent graduated from the Environmental Health Program at BCIT in 1988. He was appointed as a BC Branch Councilor in 2004. He has previously served as a BC Branch Councilor and also BC Branch Vice-President from 1989-1995.

Brent is currently employed as a Public Health Inspector for the Interior Health Authority, in the Thompson/Cariboo/Shuswap area. He has 15 years of experience in the Environmental Health field between Capital Regional District, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Interior Health Authorities.

In his spare time, Brent enjoys cycling and camping.

## Gordon Stewart

Fraser Health Authority  
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Gord graduated from BCIT's Environmental Health Program in 1982. He has been a Councilor on the BC Branch Executive for 3 years and an Examiner for the Board of Certification for 12 years.

Gord began his career at the Chinook Health Unit in Alberta and worked there for 6 years. He has spent the past 14 years in BC with Boundary/South Fraser/Fraser Health. He is currently the Practice Consultant for the Fraser Health Authority.

In his spare time, Gord coaches minor hockey, and also plays hockey, baseball, volleyball and golf. He enjoys gardening, fishing, skiing and taking out the garbage for Tammi, Collin and Kyle.



Left: Mariannina Cusano receiving the School of Health Sciences Dean's Recognition Award from Elisabeth Riley, Dean, June 2004.

## Lynn Richards

Yukon Government

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Lynn graduated with a Diploma in Environmental Health (Honours) from BCIT in 1989; and upgraded to a Bachelor of Technology (Environmental Health) through the distance education program offered by University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) in 2002. She received UCCB's prestigious silver medal for highest academic achievement in the Bachelor of Technology program. Prior to getting into the field of environmental health, Lynn managed swimming pool programs and was a graphic artist in business forms design.



Lynn has been on the B.C. Branch Executive for 8 years and is also one of the founding members of the Yukon Public Health Association. She is currently employed as the Manager / Health Officer, Environmental Health, for the Yukon Government and has been working in Yukon for the past 13 years. Prior to relocating to Whitehorse, she worked as a Public Health Inspector in Edmonton.

Lynn has recently married and has two teenage stepchildren. During her non-work related time, she enjoys playing indoor soccer with her son. For her 50th birthday, Lynn soothed her "midlife crisis" and bought a 3-person jet ski, which she uses to "slalom water-ski", while the rest of her family enjoys tubing!

## Neil Nabata

North West Health Service Delivery Area

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Neil graduated from BCIT Environmental Health Program in 1991. He has been on the BC Branch Executive for the past 4 years.

He is currently employed as an Environmental Health Advisor for the Northern Health Authority in Terrace. He has been working in the Environmental Health field for 13...going on to 14 years.



In his spare time, Neil enjoys hiking around the northwest region. Keep an eye out for some pictures from his hiking treks. We look forward to the pictures Neil!

## Kuljeet Chattha

South Fraser Health Service Delivery Area

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Kuljeet was born in New Delhi, India and moved to Canada in 1988. After completing her diploma in the Food Technology at BCIT, she worked in the food industry as a Quality Assurance Supervisor for 3 years.

In 2003, she graduated with honours in Environmental Health from BCIT. She currently works as an Environmental Health Officer with Fraser Health Authority in Surrey.



In her spare time, you can find Kuljeet indulging on chocolate, taking yoga classes or shopping. Kuljeet is certainly a welcomed new addition to the Branch Executive.

## Caroline Alexander

Northeast Health Services Delivery Area

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Caroline graduated from BCIT with a Bachelor of Technology degree in Environmental Health in 2002. She is currently employed with the Northern Health Authority as the Drinking Water Leader.

In her spare time, she enjoys antiques and collectibles, traveling to those great lonely planet haunts, and is addicted to reality television shows like Survivor, Amazing Race, and the Apprentice.



She loves her job and enjoys going in to work due to the great team around her. We welcome Caroline to the Branch Executive as one of our newest Councilors.

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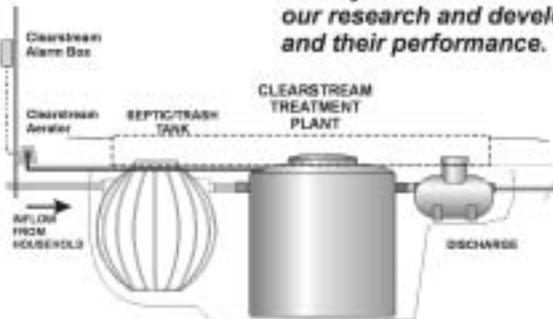
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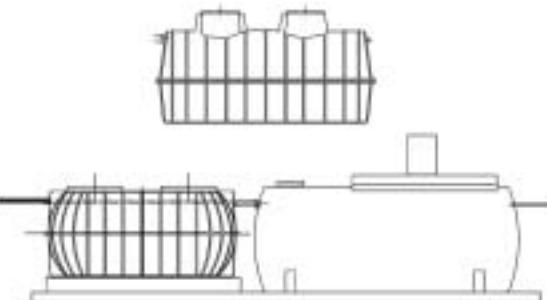
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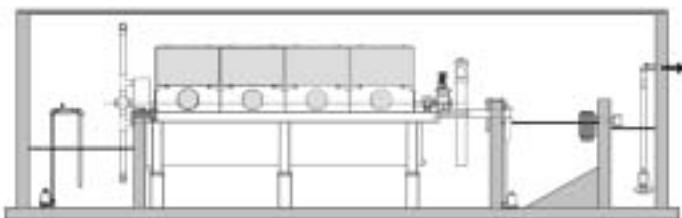
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