



# RICHARD TAKI RETIRES

Richard Taki started his career in Environmental Public Health in October of 1987 in Alberta. After a stint in AB, Richard moved to Vancouver to further his career on the west coast. Richard had a great deal of success as he moved into a Supervisor position by 1996. After 17 years as a Supervisor, he continued to climb the ladder. He was Manager from 2003-2008, a Regional Director from 2008-2010, and finally, Executive Director from 2010—2023. Richard has always been known for supporting

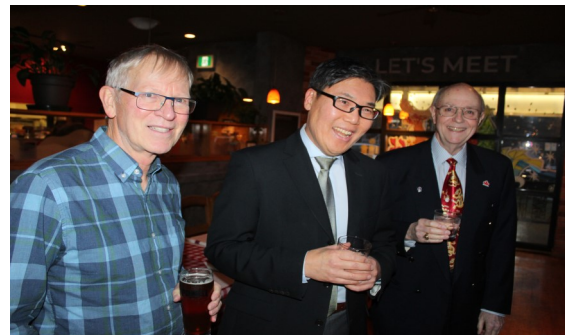


his VCH team and promoting the work that Environmental Public Health professionals do. Richard celebrated his last day in the office with a Retirement Tea with colleagues in November 2022. A larger celebration was held in February 2023 with colleagues and family. Please see the memo from Dr. Patricia Daly on Page 12 to read more about Richard and his career.

## Congrats, Richard!



(L to R) Richard, Gord Stewart, and Jim Walmsley.



(L to R) Bob Weston, Steve Chong, and Tim Roark.



(L to R) Jonathan Choi, Steve Chong, Richard, Olga Bitzikos, Randy Ash, and Jennifer Docker.



Richard and his two sons.

## **Meet your President:- Valerie Jackson**

Valerie started her post-secondary education at the University of Winnipeg with a degree in Bio-Anthropology. After graduating and working in the research field she decided to follow her passion for public health and obtained her Bachelor of Environmental Public Health at Concordia University of Edmonton and became a CIPHI certified Public Health Inspector. She has completed the Infection Prevention and Control course from Queens University and plans to sit her IPAC exam this year. Valerie moved to beautiful BC and began working as an Environmental Public Health Officer (EHO) with first Nations Health Authority in Aug 2021. She is grateful to live, work, and play in the traditional territory of the Syilx and Okanagan nations in beautiful West Kelowna. She previously lived in Manitoba where she worked with Indigenous Services Canada as an EPHO in remote, Northern and rural Manitoba First Nations. Valerie sat as President elect and did a brief stint as president for the Manitoba CIPHI branch. She has been an active CIPHI volunteer since 2018 and is involved with the National advocacy and policy committees.



Valerie loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking, yoga, and spending time with her family, friends, and 3 dogs (she is told she is not allowed any more). Valerie is passionate about health equity, food security, and public health in general. She is excited to be part of the BC/Yukon team and looks forward to working with the wonderful executive here!

## **Hello Spring**

Soon we will be warming up to sunnier days and warmer weather. This year has been flying by! First off, we want to send our appreciation and gratitude to all of our members here in BC! Thank you for everything you do.

As Environmental Public Health Officers (EHOs) we have many different program areas to manage, and it can be easy to forget about self-care and wellness. In professions like ours we focus so much on others health, that ours sometimes takes a backseat, so here's a reminder to take some time, breath, and care for yourself as well! I am very grateful to be in the position of president for CIPHI BC/Yukon and look forward to serving the Executive the best I can. Our branch has many dedicated members, and it exciting to see the direction we as CIPHI are heading in. I look forward to the benefits we will see from all the hard work that is done.

We have a very dedicated hard-working team on our BC/Yukon Branch executive and would love to welcome new members to volunteer.

We currently have 3 councillor positions open, and the role of president-elect for anyone that may be interested in joining this great team and getting involved with CIPHI. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to me.

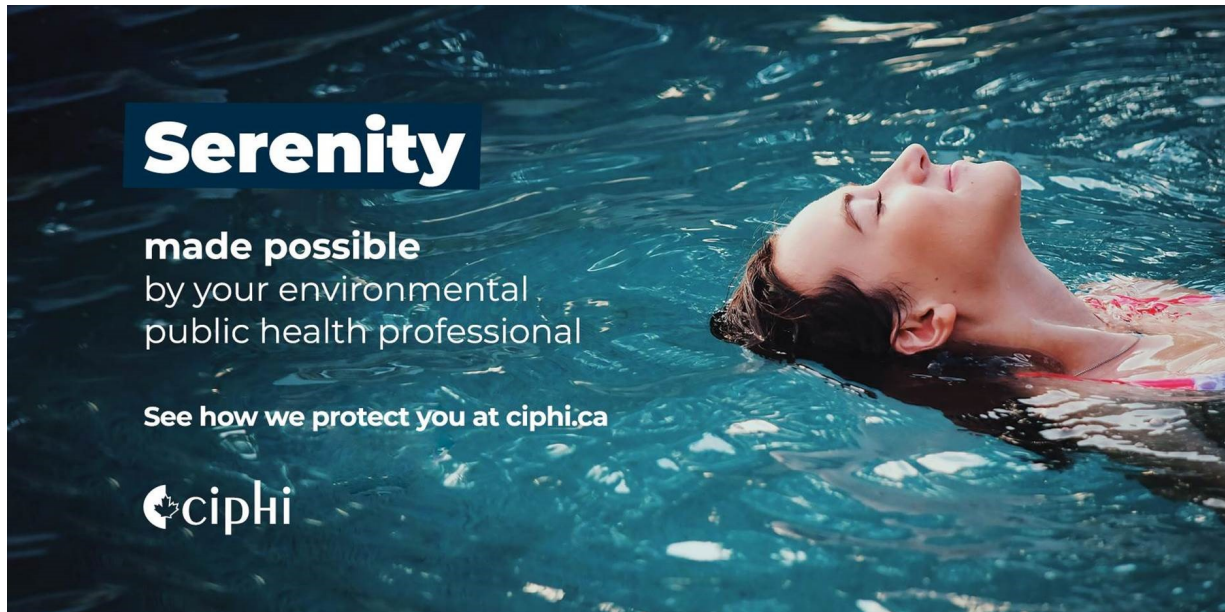
## **Advocacy Update**

I hope everyone saw the wonderful campaign that CIPHI and Be the Change Group put on last year! We were able to get some billboards up in the Vancouver and Kelowna areas and hope we were able to help bring some awareness to the wonderful work our profession does. Here is an example of the media images we now have access to from that campaign.

*... Continued on Page 4*



BC Branch Update continued...



Keep an eye out for some new developments on the advocacy front as 2023 will be focussing on exploring recruitment strategies.



The main focus of CIPHI advocacy for 2023 will be;

- Partnering with schools to promote EPH programs, Career fairs
- Support EPH students
- Provide content in both official languages
- Information for Employers
- Recruitment Campaign

It is very exciting to see our profession get more recognition and understanding. Keep an eye out for the wonderful work CIPHI Advocacy has been doing and get involved if you can; share materials and help spread the word.



# Celebrating 50 Years with CIPHI



Gord Stewart presents Tim Roark with the 50 Year Membership Award in August 2022. Tim Roark is a household name if your on the up-and-up with CIPHI. Tim has been a dedicated member of CIPHI participating in the BC Branch Executive, the National Executive, the Retirees Advisory Committee, and so much more. We can't forget that Tim is also our Branch Historian and he has dug up, retained, and shared CIPHI's rich history on countless occasions through our BC Page and in so many other ways. Congratulations, Tim. Cheers to many more years!

**Keep up to date on the latest news at the BC Branch website:**

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

The page also contains information on membership, conferences, career opportunities, documents, and much more. Check it out regularly.

**Did you know the BC Branch is on Facebook and Twitter?**



Click on the icon to find the BC Branch on Facebook and *Like them*.



Click on the icon and *Follow* the BC Branch on Twitter.





Steve Chong was announced as VCH's Executive Director role in early January. Please see Dr. Patricia Daly's announcement below.

Congrats Steve!

January 13, 2023

I am extremely pleased to announce that we have completed the recruitment process for the Executive Director, Health Protection, and Steve Chong is the successful candidate. With Richard Taki's recent retirement, Steve will assume the position this month. The regional Health Protection program includes the following teams: Environmental Health, Community Care Facilities Licensing, Tobacco and Vapour Control, Environments and Climate Change and Communicable Disease Control (enterics and vector-borne).

Steve has 30 years experience in environmental health, all with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Most recently he has been the Regional Director of Environmental Health, working out of our Vancouver office and with responsibility for Environmental Health across the region. Altogether he has 17 years of leadership experience on the Health Protection team as a Manager and Director, and has the distinction of managing teams in all VCH Communities of Care. Steve has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University and an Environmental Health Diploma of Technology (with Honours) from the BC Institute of Technology.

In his career to date and in particular in his previous leadership positions, Steve has been integral to the success and evolution of the Health Protection program across VCH, which is one of the finest in the country. His work has included implementation of the Hedgehog.net information system, development of regional workflows, and a consistent focus on quality indicators and outcomes. Steve is deeply committed to the well-being and ongoing professional development of Health Protection staff.

Steve has also been a highly valued member of the Senior Leadership Team in the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer, and I am very pleased this will continue. In addition to providing important leadership in our public health response to COVID-19, I have always appreciated Steve's calm, wise counsel on public health issues, and his ability to communicate in an extremely cogent and clear manner.

With Steve moving into the Executive Director position, he will now commence recruitment of his replacement in the role of Regional Director of Environmental Health.

Please join me in congratulating Steve on his new role!

Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

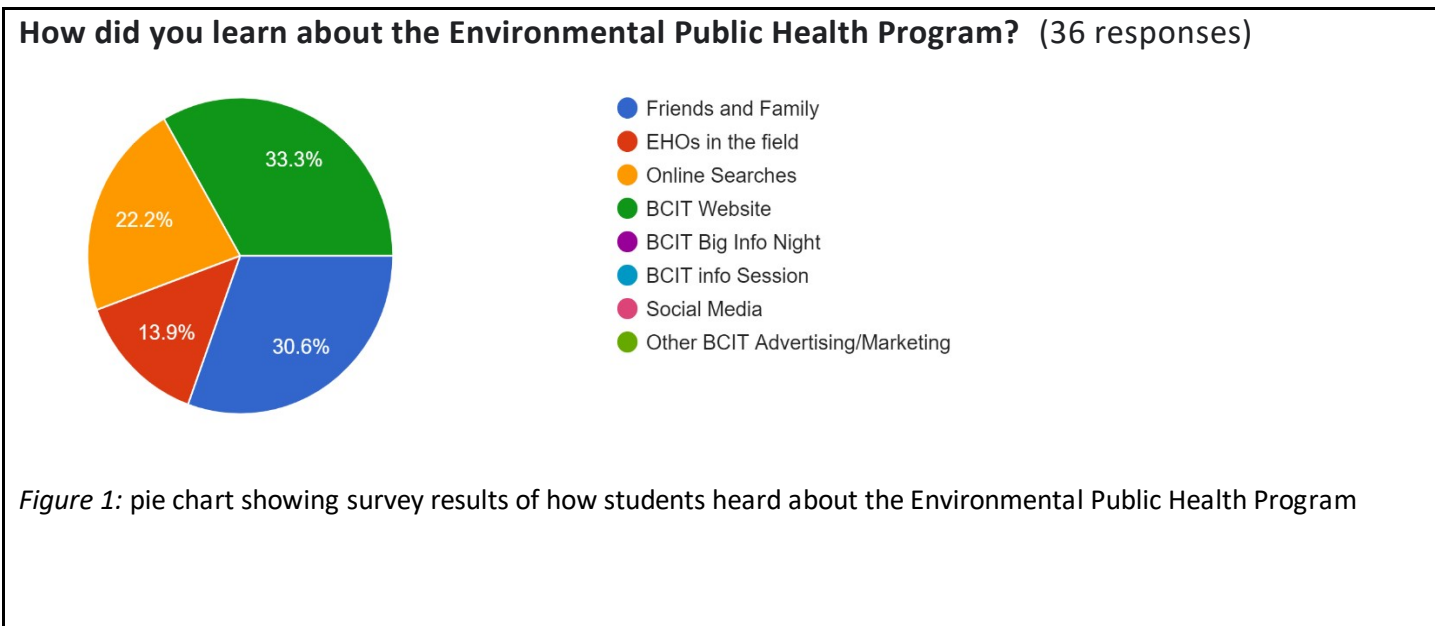
## BCIT Environmental Public Health Program Marketing Survey

Vanessa Karakilic, Assistant Instructor, BCIT Environmental Public Health Program

As part of our ongoing effort to help new individuals in finding out about our program and profession, a marketing survey was recently sent to current students as well as graduates from the past 3 years to determine various ways students heard about the program. Out of approximately 100 eligible students and graduates, 36 responded to the survey. One of the questions asked those surveyed about how they learned about the program (as shown in Figure 1). What was interesting, was that 30.6% of respondents learned about the program from friends or family. Comments indicated that many of these were EHO's or those who directly knew an EHO. In addition, 13.9% heard of the program directly from EHO's in the field. We have heard many stories from students who entered the program because they were inspired by an EHO while working at a restaurant or swimming pool during inspections. Thank you very much for promoting the program and please know that your efforts are much appreciated and needed.

If you know of anyone interested in the field of Environmental Public Health and the program at BCIT please feel free to refer them to Dale Chen, Program Head ([dale\\_chen@bcit.ca](mailto:dale_chen@bcit.ca)) or to the BCIT Environmental Public Health website (below). We offer onsite tours, meet the staff/attend a class, online and in-person information sessions (for e.g. in-person BCIT Big Info Sessions occur twice annually and on-line sessions are posted on the program's website).

If you have any suggestions on program promotion, please email [dale\\_chen@bcit.ca](mailto:dale_chen@bcit.ca).



[BCIT Environmental Public Health Program website:](https://www.bcit.ca/programs/environmental-public-health-bachelor-of-environmental-public-health-full-time-8520benvh/)

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The CoPE crew got together for their face-to-face meeting in Victoria, BC on March 10th and 11th. (L to R) Karen Edgar (NS/PEI Rep), Khatija Essaji (NL Rep), Jennifer Guth (AB/NWT/NU Rep), Cameron Weighill (Chair), Jessica Crawley (NB/QC Rep), Karen Hann (Vice-Chair), Wendy Pons (ON Rep), (Back) Garth Gosselin (National Rep), Debbie Hylton (ON Rep), (Back) Waheed Mehmood (SK Rep), (Front) Stacey Sowa (BC/YU Rep).

**YOU KNOW WHAT  
REALLY GRINDS MY  
GEARS...**



**“How every personal services facility operator reports they are cleaner, safer, and better than any operator they know...”**

Please submit your “heard it a thousand time before one-liners” that you hear in the field over and over and your EPHP pet peeves to [bcpageeditor@ciphi.bc.ca](mailto:bcpageeditor@ciphi.bc.ca). Let’s all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.

# SAVE THE DATE

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS  
2023 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

INSTITUT CANADIEN DES INSPECTEURS EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE  
CONFÉRENCE ÉDUCATIVE ANNUELLE 2023

Saint John, New Brunswick  
September 17-20  
Delta Hotels Saint John

[aec2023info@ciphi.ca](mailto:aec2023info@ciphi.ca)



SAINT JOHN

Saint-Jean, Nouveau-Brunswick  
17-20 Septembre  
Delta Hotels Saint John

[aec2023info@ciphi.ca](mailto:aec2023info@ciphi.ca)

Credit: Discover Saint John



## Update from EOCP

### **The Environmental Operators Certification Program and its Strategic Priorities**

*By Kalpna Solanki CPHI(C) BSc MBA*

A favourite quote comes to mind when thinking of the trajectory the Environmental Operators Certification Program is on:

*"A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more."* — Rosabeth Moss Kanter, American sociologist and Professor at Harvard Business School

AT the EOCP, that is what we strive for, to better our organization, so that it is better positioned to serve the public interest, now and in the future.

With this in mind, we developed several strategic priorities that involved our staff team, current and former board directors, as well as several ministries, and other stakeholders.

This is what we developed collaboratively:

*... Continued on Page 9*





# EOCP 2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

## Vision

A Canada where all people have access to safe tap water and effective wastewater management. We are committed to making this a reality.

## Mission

To protect human health and the environment by investing in Operators and facilities through increased knowledge, skill, and proficiency in all matters related to the water cycle.

## Strategic Priorities

# 1

Encourage sustainability of our industry by promoting the Operator profession, education, training, and recruitment.

1. Develop regional specific promotional campaigns to reach the general public
2. Evaluate existing education programs and training providers to assess gaps
3. Increase outreach to potential students to promote water industry careers
4. Outreach to education programs to promote the water industry as 'the' career of choice

# 2

Advocate to strengthen the industry, with a focus on vulnerable communities.

1. Advocate support for small and vulnerable communities
2. Bridge connections with key stakeholders
3. Build capacity within the industry

# 3

Develop and promote existing and new certification and classification programs.

1. Assess the industry to seek new opportunities for certification and/or classification
2. Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure programs are in the public interest
3. Oversee classification and certification for more jurisdictions
4. Continually assess and improve certification and classification programs

# 4

Continue to develop the CRM as our primary data collection, reporting, and communication technology.

1. Prioritize the CRM to improve reporting functions
2. Increase data sharing and communication
3. Capture all facility classifications, including SWS and SWWS

...Continued on Page 10

The Environmental Operators Certification Program and its Strategic Priorities continued. . .

What does this mean we are doing and/or will do?

1. The career of Environmental Operator seems to be the best kept secret. We are working towards changing that by:
  - a. Collaborating with organizations and education institutions to launch the [Fundamentals of Water and Wastewater Operations](#) program in the Lower Mainland where the need for Operators is the most acute;
  - b. Promoting the career of Operators via transit ads in the areas where the Operator training schools are located;
  - c. Providing scholarships;
  - d. Collaborating with a cross-Canada group on the development of a [Workforce Guidance Document](#);
  - e. Promoting the career to educated newcomers to Canada.
2. There are many many small communities in British Columbia who often fall between the cracks. To better support these communities, we:
  - a. Are working on an advisory capacity with the [Small Water Systems Online Help Centre](#) with Westbank First Nation, Interior Health, and TRU;
  - b. Changed an Operator board position to an Operator who works in a small community.
3. Our external environment is changing, so we need to as well. We launched and are in the midst of launching new certification programs related to:
  - a. The [Building Water Systems](#) certification with the goal of better controlling legionella outbreaks;
  - b. The Stormwater Collection Systems certification in 2023;
  - c. Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester certification in 2024.
4. Our Customer Relationship Manager is considered to be 'best of class' in North America for a classification and certification body. We currently have the largest repository of information in BC and YK related to water and wastewater facilities and the Operators who work there. But our work is not done, and this system that we own, is constantly evolving to better meet internal and external needs, including:
  - a. Working with our stakeholders on data mining initiatives to support matters of public interest;
  - b. Improving reporting functions that then enable us to ensure that facilities are classified and staffing is commensurate with the classification level of the facility.

We enjoy working with our partners at the ministry level (Health, Environment, and Municipal Affairs) as well as the Health Authorities. We know can do more, we can do better, and we are here to help... seriously!





The Manitoba Branch continues to excel with advocacy for CIPHI. Cristina Bueti, MB Branch President and Kiran Sidhu, MB Branch President-Elect were featured on CTV Morning Live on April 4th. Check out their videos at the links below.

Kiran Sidhu: [Safest ways to cook Easter dinner | CTV News](#)

Cristina Bueti: [CIPHI shares ways to control pests in the home | CTV News](#)

Kiran Sidhu: [Ways CIPHI monitors nails salons | CTV News](#)

Cristina Bueti: [Best practices for spring cleaning | CTV News](#)

Kiran Sidhu and Cristina Bueti: [What you may not know about CIPHI | CTV News](#)



Environmental Health  
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne  
de l'hygiène du milieu

## BOARD VACANCIES

The Charitable Division of CIPHI, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) has new Board vacancies. The EHFC was established in 1989 by the CIPHI membership, to advance environmental public health in Canada and internationally through charitable, education and research initiatives. The activities of the EHFC are coordinated by a Board of Trustees. Members come from the environmental public health profession, educational institutions, government, and industry. The Board members give their time, experience, and expertise to the administration of the Foundation. This is a rewarding volunteer opportunity.

### Pre-requisite includes:

- CIPHI Regular, Retired, or Honorary Members
- Interest and time to devote to the work of this voluntary board.

### General:

- Term is for a minimum of two years with a minimum of four virtual board meetings per year.
- Required to sit on one of two committees (Advancement or Governance) with a minimum of four virtual meetings per year.

For additional information on the work of CIPHI's charity please view the EHFC website at [www.EHFC.ca](http://www.EHFC.ca) and follow us on Twitter-Facebook-Instagram-Linkedin

Please send an expression of interest via email to [EHFCchair@gmail.com](mailto:EHFCchair@gmail.com)

The Board Chair Lena Parker, CPHI(C) will follow-up to provide you with additional information so you can make an informed decision on joining the Charitable Division of CIPHI.



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Vancouver BC V5Z 4C2  
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## Memorandum

Date: November 16, 2022  
To: Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer, SET  
From: Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer  
Cc: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer

**Re: Executive Director, Health Protection**

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It is with mixed feelings that I announce that Richard Taki will be retiring from his position of Executive Director, Health Protection with Vancouver Coastal Health. After a career of more than 35 years, this is truly the end of an era.

As a leader, Richard has built one of the finest Health Protection programs in Canada, a source of immense pride to all of us. As a colleague, he has consistently brought passion, skill and humour to his work, which we will dearly miss. In addition, over the last three years, he led his staff in providing critical public health support during the pandemic and demonstrating unbelievable commitment to the population we serve. Thanks to his leadership, VCH is well positioned to address the environmental health challenges of the future.

Please join me in thanking Richard for all his contributions to public health and VCH, and wishing him and his family all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Richard's last day in the office prior to vacation will be November 25, 2022 and his last day with VCH will be near the end of January 2023. Recruitment of a new Executive Director, Health Protection is currently underway. On an interim basis, Steve Chong, Regional Director of Environmental Health, will serve as Acting Executive Director.



# BC Branch Executive 2021

www.ciphi.bc.ca

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## Editorial Policy

The objective of this newsletter is to keep the members of the BC Branch and other colleagues informed of the local and national events that are of interest and importance to them.

The views, comments, or positions 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.

## Advertising Policy

The BC Branch will accept advertising relating to health & environmental issues, products, and services. Advertisements that the editorial team concludes are contrary to good public health practice or environmental protection goals, or those deemed offensive or not in good taste, will not be accepted.

### Advertising Rates

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There is a 25% discount for a commitment of at least six consecutive issues. Changes can be made in the ad format or content during this period. Ads should be camera-ready; any extra costs necessary to prepare the ad material may be charged to the advertiser.