

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

I am writing to nominate the Public Health Inspection Practicum Development Group (PDG) of Ottawa Public Health (OPH) for the Environmental Health Leadership Award.

This dedicated team, comprised of Thomas Pelletier, Alison Samuel, Jacqueline Chalifoux, Viki Calogeracos, Zach Gidge, and Keith Leung, has demonstrated exceptional commitment and innovation in redeveloping OPH's Public Health Inspection Practicum program. Their efforts have profoundly impacted our organization, enhancing recruitment and retention, supporting trainee certification, and providing unique learning opportunities beyond traditional fieldwork.

The group's work began with the redevelopment of the PHI practicum program, which included creating and implementing a comprehensive curriculum based on the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors learning objectives. This curriculum has been instrumental in equipping trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their roles. The team's dedication to this project has ensured that are trainees are well-prepared to meet the challenges of public health inspection.

Moreover, the group's initiatives have significantly supported our trainees in successfully obtaining their certifications. They ensure that trainees gain experience with various PHIs as mentors, providing them with a comprehensive overview of programs, inspection styles, and methodologies. They provide trainees with mock oral examples and organizing various field trips, which offers invaluable hands-on learning experiences. These opportunities have allowed trainees to gain practical knowledge and insights that extend beyond the classroom, enriching their overall learning experience. In addition, the group has played a pivotal role in enhancing the organization's recruitment and retention strategies. Their innovative approach and unwavering commitment have made OPH an attractive and supportive environment for aspiring public health inspectors. Their leadership and dedication have not only improved the learning experiences of our trainees but, have also strengthened our organization's capacity to serve the community effectively.

The team's strategic thinking and innovation have expanded the trainee program, allowing for more trainees to be trained within a calendar year, thereby supporting both recruitment and retention efforts, and demonstrating their commitment to the profession and protecting public health. Furthermore, they have developed a framework that standardizes a set of guidelines to guide leadership decisions and PHI trainees as they progress toward lower-risk independent work. These efforts have ensured an increase in capacity during seasonal surges, emergency responses, and other critical periods.

The PDG has provided leadership and oversight to 11 PHI trainees over the last few years, with the majority remaining with the organization after obtaining their certification. In recognition of their outstanding contributions to PHI training and development, I wholeheartedly recommend that PHI Practicum Development Group for this award. Their exemplary work and commitment to excellence make them truly deserving of this honour.

Thank you for considering this nomination if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dom B', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dominique Bremner
Director, Environmental Health & Infectious Disease
Ottawa Public Health