

NOMINATION- Hedgerow Software Ltd. Award for Leadership in Environmental Health

Peter Parys has worked in Environmental Public Health for over 30 years. He has been in a leadership role for the majority of his career. Peter is professional and passionate about public health and although a leader, his outlook has always taken into consideration the standpoint of a field inspector.

His first leadership position with Public Health Inspectors was with the City of Winnipeg Environmental Health Services where he held the position of Manager. He led a large staff of over 30 Public Health Inspectors through the years, worked with many Medical Officers of Health, City Administrators and elected officials. During his time, he oversaw and led the creation of the Bylaw Enforcement Unit for the City of Winnipeg, including the legislative component that combined 18 Bylaws into one Neighbourhood Liveability Bylaw and the Special Constable training that came with a new staff complement. Peter is approachable, inclusive, and always takes the time to understand everyone's point of view. His staff meetings encourage discussion and Public Health Inspectors feel valued and heard. Peter also gives credit where credit is due and trusts his staff with their expertise.

In 2010, Peter retired from the City of Winnipeg to start his new career with the Province of Manitoba as the Director of Food Protection. His position evolved over time and he now carries another position title Director of Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness that encompasses not only safe food, safe housing and safe recreational water, but also personal services, tobacco control, dental health and emergency preparedness.

In 2012, as the Director of the Environmental Health Program, Peter was instrumental in the transfer of the City of Winnipeg Public Health Inspectors to the Province of Manitoba. This entailed constant contract negotiations with unions and government and human resources. This enabled all PHIs in the province to be housed under one roof and to provide a province-wide health inspection program service delivery.

Peter has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities to inspire excellence and professional integrity in the field of Environmental Public Health. Still to this day, Peter inspires his staff to share in his passion for environmental public health and strive for a high level of achievement. Peter continues to support his staff and has their best interest. His commitment to ensuring a solid delivery of the public health inspection program continues to this day even as the program is undergoing recruitment and retention challenges. He has always had the courage to advocate on behalf of the Public Health Inspectors to those superior to him and is tenacious in achieving positive results. He communicates with respect and empathy, whether it is a staff member, a client, a colleague or with other levels of government. Peter values and promotes participation, continuing education, and has been a mentor and coach for all those who have worked under his leadership. He has been a CPHI(C) member in good standing for 40 years. For these reasons, we believe that Peter Parys should received the Hedgerow Software Ltd. Award for Leadership in Environmental Health.

Sincerely,

Julie Swanlund, CPHI(C) and Natalie Lowdon, CPHI(C)

MB Branch