

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION OF CANADA CHAIR



**Environmental Health
Foundation of Canada**

**Fondation canadienne
de l'hygiène du milieu**

The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) is the charitable, research and education arm of CIPHI. The Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting of the EHFC will be held on June 23rd, 2013, in Winnipeg, MB. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the following is a summary of the activities of the Foundation since the previous AGM in September, 2012.

Any significant decisions taken at the June 23rd, 2013, EHFC AGM will be reported orally to the CIPHI AGM.

Trustees

There were no changes in the membership of the Board of trustees during the past year

Officers

The elected Officers are: Ron de Burger (ON) as Chair, Pamela Scharfe (ON) as Vice Chair, Cameron Coulby (ON) as Secretary, Klaus Seeger (ON) as Past-Chair and Tim Roark (BC) as Treasurer.

Meetings

The EHFC Trustees held a half day strategic planning session on September 15th, 2012. In preparation for the planning session, the Trustees reviewed material provided by one of their fellow Trustees who attended four sessions on "All About Boards": Board Basics; Financial Fitness; Build Your Best Board; and Big Picture Thinking for Boards. The strategic planning discussions focused on: opportunities and challenges; succession planning; marketing; and discussed several other ideas that require further discussion and planning. The Trustees have committed to continue the strategic planning discussions during 2013.

During the period following the AGM in Collingwood, the Trustees held three teleconference meetings to continue their work. The "Summer" meeting and AGM will be held on Sunday, June 23rd, 2013. The Annual General Meeting is open to all CIPHI members.

Organization and structure

There have been no changes to the structure and organization of the Foundation. Existing committees are still in place.

The following reports summarize any germane activities or decisions in respect of the Committee activities.

Finance Committee

The Chair of the Finance Committee is the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. Currently, this position is held by Tim Roark. The 2012 Financial Report indicates that the financial resources of the Foundation

have increased again this past year but the Foundation has not yet reached a sustainable base for its Awards and Scholarships.

The financial resources of the Foundation at December 31st, 2012, totaled \$126,586.74, representing a net increase of \$17,462.75 over the year ended December 31st, 2011. This was largely due to the sale of TempSafe® products as a result of a promotion with health agencies in Ontario plus increased individual donations to the foundation.

Of the total funds of \$109,123.99 held by the Foundation, \$71,283.29 is held in a segregated endowment fund to provide for the awards administered by the Foundation. These are the: **CIPHI – EHFC Continuing Education Award**; the **Len Hiebert EHR Award**; and the **Lilli Ann Zahara Award**. With continuing low interest rates these awards are not self sustainable and a real effort is needed to double this amount held in trust to ensure these awards continue for many years more. The **NSF International Food Safety Award** is supported annually by a \$1,000.00 grant from NSF International, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Our thanks to them for their continuing support of our Foundation.

The 2012 financial records for EHFC were subject to a detailed review by the appointed auditors and I am pleased to state that the statements were approved. The annual Charitable Organization Report to Revenue Canada, which is based on the audited annual financial statement, was submitted within the allowed time frame.

It is expected that 2013 will continue on the same moderate upward financial path. New TempSafe symbols and a continued promotion of these food safety education symbols with industry and government across Canada should pay positive dividends in the coming year. The TempSafe program had a net profit of **\$7,408.41** in 2012. This is mostly due to the promotion in Ontario and support from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. We look forward to it continuing and expanding in the future.

The above-noted project plus initiatives such as the Clinica Verde Project, the Mosaic Banner / WaterCan Project and the NCCEH Student Awards raised additional donations and funds for the EHFC. Our overall EHFC surplus for 2012 was **\$17,462.75**.

Additional Finance Comments:

- CIPHI Branch financial support was strong in 2012.
- The EHFC provided \$100.00 each in financial support for 9 PHI students (6 from Ryerson University and 3 from First Nations University) to attend the National Education Conference in Blue Mountain, Ontario.
- PayPal was initiated as a method of donating to the EHFC in 2012 and was added to the homepage of the Foundation website. Service charges are close to half those charged by the credit card companies.
- Collaborated with the NCCEH regarding the issuance of five student awards in 2012 with more to be issued in 2013 and beyond.
- Assisted with the implementation of the Mosaic Banner Project by collecting donations from participants and supporters. The funds will be distributed in 2013 to a safe drinking water project in Africa developed by WaterCan, another Canadian charity.
- Provided financial support for an initiative by two PHIs in Alberta working on the development of safe food handling procedures, hand washing and safe drinking water for Clinica Verde, a public health clinic in Nicaragua.
- Ongoing support for the CIPHI-EHFC Continuing Education Award needs to be reviewed, it cannot continue without the support of CIPHI National.

Awards Committee

The Foundation has six award categories managed by the Awards Committee chaired by Len Gallant and Gary Gallivan. The Awards Committee has published the various criteria for these awards. The awards and their status are as follows:

The CIPHI / EHFC Continuing Education Award:

The CIPHI / EHFC Continuing Education Award of \$500 is presented to a member of CIPHI who is registered for continuing education.

The Len Hiebert EHR Award:

The Len Hiebert Award of \$250 each is administered through each of the five colleges and universities for aspiring students training to become Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers. The total annual value of this annual award is \$1,250.

Lilli Ann Zahara Award

The Lilli Ann Zahara Award of \$500 is to commemorate the contributions made by Lilli Ann to environmental health in Canada and recognize a candidate showing *“dedication, commitment, inspiration and leadership in the field of environmental health, particularly with a commitment to food safety and / or health education”*. (not awarded in 2012)

NSF International Award

An annual award of \$1,000 for studies displaying excellence in the area of Food Safety is awarded. (not awarded in 2012)

Canadian Water and Wastewater Association Safe Water Award was a new award created in recognition of outstanding contributions to the promotion of drinking water, recreational water or wastewater safety in Canada. This award is generously sponsored by Duncan Ellison, EHFC Trustee, and former Executive Director of CWWA (1992-2011). The CWWA was founded in 1986 to address Canadian water and wastewater issues at the national level. The CWWA is a non-profit national body representing the common interests of Canada's public sector municipal water and wastewater services and their private sector suppliers and partners. CWWA is recognized by the federal government and national bodies as the national voice of this public service sector. A \$500 award and certificate will be presented annually to a CIPHI (regular) member. Applicants must be working in the environmental public health field and a CIPHI member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years.

The EHFC partnered with the National **Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH) on a Student Project Award** for students enrolled in environmental health programs across Canada. The award objectives are: to promote evidence-based practice and policy among students and schools; recognize quality student work; and share quality student projects with EH professionals across the county. Five awards of \$200 each were presented in 2012. A total of 15 student projects awards of \$200 are expected to be awarded in 2013. Additional information regarding the NCCEH Student Project Award can be found at http://www.ncceh.ca/en/practice_policy/student_projects

Winners of the awards are posted on the EHFC Website, Facebook page, Twitter and announced in the annual EHFC e-newsletter.

Food Safety Committee

TempSafe Products

In the spring of 2012, the EHFC invited the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to participate in the Foundation's TempSafe® campaign in Ontario. The MOHLTC agreed to provide a grant of \$5000 to the EHFC to encourage participation of the health units to use the TempSafe® symbol products. A portfolio package with magnet and static cling samples was prepared for local

health agencies and information provided in a presentation at the spring ASPHIO meeting. In addition, the Foundation's printer cut the cost by 50% to encourage participation.

With the \$5000, the EHFC provided to the first ten health units who responded a credit of \$500 towards the purchase of TempSafe® symbols when they made a \$1500 order. The health unit would then pay only \$1000 and therefore save 33%. In addition, special pricing had been obtained from the printer for this campaign for further cost reduction. So, for \$1000 a health unit would receive 5000 symbols. Since there are six versions of the TempSafe® symbols, there were various combinations that were used.

The EHFC has extended another proposal to the MOH<C to partner with the EHFC for a three year partnership to achieve a goal of engaging 100% of the Ontario health units in using the TempSafe products.

This promotion has been endorsed by the National Executive of CIPHI to encourage use of the TempSafe® symbols to enhance (not replace) current food safety education strategies and to provide consistent food safety temperature symbols that all Canadians will come to recognize. The Foundation will continue to promote the use of our TempSafe® products and look forward to additional sales in 2013 and beyond.

Clinica Verde

Michael Sidra and Sharon Regimbald (EHOs from Alberta) proposed a partnership project to support Clinica Verde in Nicaragua. This is a country that is the second poorest in Latin America. As much as 47% of its residents live in poverty. Many environmental health issues play a role in this statistic, with the most obvious being the lack of potable water, poor sanitation and safe food handling. Nicaragua does not have a strong environmental health governmental run program. Most environmental health activities are organized and run by non-profit organizations such as Clinica Verde.

The partnership will allow the EHFC to work with operators of Clinica Verde in two ways: through a financial contribution and by a food safety course (translated into Spanish) developed by Sharon Regimbald and Michael Sidra. Through their fundraising efforts and a contribution by the EHFC, more than \$4200 was forwarded to Clinica Verde towards food safety, water safety and general sanitation education efforts. Clinica Verde marked a brick in their building with the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada on it as appreciation for this support! We thank Michael and Sharon as they continue their fundraising efforts. Your support is still needed!

Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education

EHFC is a founding member of the Partnership and maintains its membership. Pam Scharfe represents EHFC in the Partnership and was recently elected to their Board of Directors giving the Foundation greater input into the Partnership.

Water Safety Committee

This Committee was formed to look at ways the Foundation can contribute to promote the use of potable drinking water and where possible to assist with the provision of safe drinking water in third world countries. The Foundation has worked with the Ontario Branch and has made a significant contribution to assist their project to provide safe water to a school in Serra Leone.

Communications Committee

This Committee reviews all EHFC publicity activities, brochures, website updates, and maintains the EHFC Facebook page and Twitter account. In 2012, the Committee undertook the following initiatives:

- revised award certificates
- maintained the EHFC website
- 2012 e-newsletter was circulated via the CIPHI listserve
- created an EHFC Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/CIPHI-Environmental-Health-Foundation-of-Canada>
- created a Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/ehfcca>

The Future

The Trustees of the Foundation are committed to expand the Foundation's activities and influence in the coming years. The continuing hiatus in the annual financial contribution by CIPHI to the EHFC for the CIPHI-EHFC Continuing Education Award has hindered the needed growth of this important award. The Foundation recognizes the financial constraints faced by the Institute but hopes it will soon renew its annual contribution to this award.

We look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with all CIPHI Branches and National in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Trustees,

Ron de Burger, CPHI(C)
EHFC Board of Trustees Chair

