



Environmental Health
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne
de l'hygiène du milieu

Awards Overview

Each year, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) proudly recognizes outstanding individuals, organizations, and initiatives that demonstrate leadership, innovation and excellence in Environmental Public Health. These awards recognize and celebrate the contributions that advance and promote Environmental Public Health in communities across Canada.

How to Apply:

Nominations open on April 15, 2026, and close on June 01, 2026. To nominate an individual or team of individuals, complete the [form](#) at www.efhc.ca/award-descriptions. Describe in no more than 500 words how your nominee fulfills the award criteria and upload your nomination letter to the form. Award recipients will be announced at the CIPHI National Annual Education Conference. If you are nominating a person for more than one award, please complete a nomination form and provide a nomination letter for each award. Past nominations that did not receive an award can be resubmitted using the current nomination form.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must hold a Certificate of Public Health Inspection (Canada) CPHI(C)
- Must be a 2026 Regular or Retired CIPHI Member
- Must be currently working in the field of environmental public health or retired within the last five years

Restrictions:

- One form per nominee, per award is permitted. If you are nominating more than one person or a team for an award please send an email to EHFCChair@gmail.com in addition to completing this form.
- An individual may receive any one of the awards only once.
- No current member of the EHFC Board of Trustees or current member of the CIPHI National Executive Council is eligible for nomination.

T. Duncan Ellison Safe Water Award



Sponsored by the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association

\$500

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the promotion of safe drinking water, wastewater management, source water protection, and beach water monitoring. The recipient will receive \$500 which is generously donated by the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA). 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.

T. Duncan Ellison was the Executive Director of the CWWA for 16 years and also designated Honorary Member of the CWWA. He was an EHFC Board Trustee for over 20 years holding the positions of Board Chair and Secretary. In 2008, Duncan was awarded Honorary Membership in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) for his volunteer service as member of the EHFC. Duncan was also inducted into the American Water and Wastewater Association's Hall of Fame for his long-term contributions to the drinking water services sector. Duncan was designated the first Emeritus Member of the Council of Public Health Consultants of NSF International for his 20 years of volunteer with the Council.

Clifford E. Van Alstyne Communication Award



Supported by the Environmental Health Foundation

\$1,000

This award recognizes the commitment, involvement, or innovation in the field of environmental public health, with a focus on communication in all its forms within the national environmental public health community. The recipient will receive \$1,000. Funds for this award were, for many years, donated by the family of Cliff Van Alstyne to reflect Cliff's national contribution to public health and his long-standing work to initiate and nationalize the professional journal, the Environmental Health Review. Today, the EHFC continues to support this award in remembrance of that legacy.

Cliff received his Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada) #804 in 1952 at the age of 25 and became a life-long member of CIPHI. Cliff worked in several rural Manitoba towns and was a member of the Manitoba Branch Executive and held the positions of Councilor, Secretary, and Vice President. Cliff believed that the Institute needed to improve communicating with its members, so he

encouraged a newsletter which was supported by the Branch and Cliff became the first Editor of the Manitoba Branch newsletter. In 1967 Cliff moved his family to BC to take a position with the BC Ministry of Health and transferred his CIPHI membership to the BC Branch. He was elected as a CIPHI National Executive Councilor in 1968. Cliff then joined the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada and became a strong supporter of Federal Environmental Health Officers. In 1977, when Len Hiebert retired as the Editor of the CIPHI Environmental Health Review, Cliff became joint editor of the EHR for two years. He, along with two colleagues took on the role of Editors and Publishers of the BC Branch Page from the Winter 1979 to the Spring 1982 issues.

Dr. R. Neil Lowry Safe Recreational Water Award



Sponsored by the Lowry Group

\$2,500

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of safer and healthier recreational water (*pools, spas, and waterparks*) in Canada to protect the public's health in their community. This could be through public health education and safety, innovative operational guidance or technical programming.

Dr. R. Neil Lowry founded the Lowry School of Pool & Spa Chemistry in 1980 which has become the most comprehensive chemistry course in the industry. He was also the original author of *Pool & Spa Chemistry: A Testing & Treatment Guide*, which is widely recognized as the authority on water quality management. He was principal-in-charge of Lowry & Associates, a nationwide distributor of specialty chemicals, which has exclusive representation of Taylor Technologies water testing products in Canada since 1989. Dr. Lowry was a fierce defender of the integrity of the industry when it came to water treatment and loved to teach water chemistry and proper sanitation to PHIs/EHOs and pool managers.

Environmental Health Leadership Award



Sponsored by Hedgerow Software

\$500

This award recognizes a PHI/EHO in any position who has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities to inspire excellence and professional integrity in the field of Environmental Public Health. This person has consistently demonstrated leadership qualities of trust, commitment, and courage, and gives freely of themselves to coach, mentor and inspire others. They value and actively promote a culture of respect, empathy, openness, and inclusion, while upholding these values for themselves, their colleagues, and clients.

Hedgerow Software Ltd. provides an Environmental Health Technology platform for agencies. They believe in the work of Environmental Public Health Professionals and respect the vital role of each PHI/EHO in keeping our communities healthy and safe. This ongoing commitment is fueled daily by those who inspire and empower each other toward excellence and who demonstrate professional integrity within the field of Environmental Health.

Lilli Ann Zahara Public Health Education Award



Supported by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

\$500

This award is presented to a recipient who is recognized for displaying the highest level of dedication, commitment, inspiration, and leadership in the field of environmental health, particularly with a focus on food safety and/or public health education. The recipient will receive \$500 which is made possible through the generosity of EHFC donors and the CIPHI Alberta Branch which was a founding member of this award and a long time supporter.

Lil Zahara graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and received her CPHI(C) in 1967. She started her career in Ontario, but her love for the west brought her back to Alberta in 1970 where she worked for several years as a PHI and then specialized in Health Education. From 1976-1982 Lil held the position of National CIPHI Secretary-Treasurer. After several years as an employee of the Calgary Board of Health, she left to begin a career as an Environmental Health Consultant. Lil was appointed to sit as a member of the Calgary Board of Health by the then Mayor of Calgary, Ralph Klein. Lil was also a member of the Canadian Public Health Association, an Honourary Member of the Canadian Restaurant Association, received an award from Academy of Chefs, and in 1977, was awarded the Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal by the Governor General of Canada. Lil died in 2004, after a courageous two-year battle with cancer.

Food Safety Award



Sponsored by National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)

\$1,000

This award is presented to a recipient who has made outstanding contributions primarily in the promotion of food safety in Canada. The recipient displays the highest level of dedication, commitment, inspiration, and leadership in the field of environmental health, with a focus on food safety.

NSF have been dedicated to protecting and improving global health since 1944. Manufacturers, regulators, and consumers look to NSF for the development of public health standards and certification programs that help protect the world's food, water, consumer products and environment. Their professional staff of engineers, microbiologist, chemists, and public health experts provide services in 180 countries across major industries. The NSF mark assures consumers, retailers and regulators that certified products have been rigorously tested to comply with all standard requirements. NSF also offers customized training and education, risk management and consulting services.