



## Report to the 2021 CIPHI Annual General Meeting

### Introduction:

The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) is the Charitable Division of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). The EHFC was founded in 1989 by motion of the CIPHI membership at their annual general meeting. The EHFC is a “working board” made up of volunteer trustees who support environmental public health education and research through collaboration, connection, and recognition with internal and external partners. The board has a hands-on role with the administrative functions of the organization such as financial management, strategic planning, social media, and fundraising. The EHFC Honorary Chair is Dr. David Jones who served as the first Chief Public Health Officer of Canada from 2004 to 2013.

### Mission:

To operate as the independent charitable division of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors dedicated to advancing environmental public health protection in Canada and internationally through the development and support of public education, research, and the development of aid projects.

### Programs & Projects:

- Develop and distribute environmental public health educational products.
- Sponsor environmental public health professional development.
- Support environmental public health research.
- Provide awards that acknowledge the outstanding work of CIPHI members.
- Carry out fundraising activities.

### Board of Trustees:

The activities of the EHFC are coordinated by a Board of Trustees who come from the environmental public health profession, educational institutions, government, and industry. During the past year the following Board members gave their time, experience, and expertise to the administration of CIPHI's Charitable Division and were appointed in accordance with the EHFC Regulations.

Pamela Scharfe (ON), Chair  
Ralph Stanley (ON), Vice-Chair  
Lena Parker (AB), Secretary  
Mike LeBlanc (MB), Treasurer  
(vacant) Past Chair  
Bradford Giesbrecht (SK) NEC Rep.

Melissa MacDonald (NS)  
Laurie Pike (NS)  
Victor Odele (ON)  
Gord Stewart (BC)  
Fatih Sekercioglu (ON)

In 2021 the Board welcomed at their February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting two new Trustees:



**Gord Stewart, CHI(C)** graduated from BCIT and was certified in 1982. Gord started his career in the Chinook Health Region in Fort Macleod Alberta, where he worked with the regional districts and towns to develop a solid waste authority. He actively taught food safety to the food industry and community.

Gord was the Chief EHO prior to his departure in 1990. Gord and Tammi and their two boys returned to BC to the Boundary Health Unit in White Rock, when the health unit transitioned to the South Fraser Health Region. Gord took on the responsibility of the Food Inspection program and Foodsafe. Gord promoted Foodsafe to the chef's teaching in the secondary schools and had it incorporated into the school curriculum.

Gord has recently retired as the Manager for the Burnaby and New Westminster areas and was the Emergency Management program lead for Fraser Health Region. Gord has been an active CIPHI volunteer serving as branch councillor, BOC examiner, exam coordinator, board member and as the Board Chair. Gord has recently completed two terms on the CIPHI BOC National Exam Panel.



**Faith Sekercioglu, CPHI(C)** graduated from Ryerson University in 2004. He holds a master's degrees in food safety and quality assurance from the University of Guelph and business administration from Wilfrid Laurier University. He completed his doctoral studies in geography at Western University.

Fatih is an assistant professor in the Ryerson University School of Occupational and Public Health and Director of the Planetary Health Research Lab. He also holds an adjunct professor appointment at Western University's Schulich School of Medicine Dentistry.

Before joining Ryerson University in July 2019, he was a lecturer in the Department of Geography at Western University and an environmental health manager with the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Throughout his 15-year public health career, he also worked as a child and family health manager, and vector-borne disease program coordinator and public health inspector.

Fatih has been a CIPHI Board of Certification (BOC) examiner for ten years and was a CIPHI National Exam Panel member (2012-2019). He was also appointed as the CIPHI ON Branch BOC Committee representative between May 2018 and July 2019.

Our ten-member, volunteer Board of Trustees dedicated numerous hours of their time in the past year to further the work of CIPHI's charitable division through three committees:

**Executive Committee:** consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

**Advancement Committee:** purpose is to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to funding and external awareness, including providing advice on fundraising, securing individual and corporate donors, communications, and marketing.



**Governance Committee:** purpose is to ensure that the board fulfills its legal, ethical, and functional responsibilities through adequate governance policy development; Trustee recruitment strategies, training programs; monitoring of board activities; and evaluation of board members performance.

During the past year the Board of Trustees have:

- Hosted a 2020 annual general meeting virtually for the first time on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. The Board were pleased to have the CIPHI National President, President-Elect and Past President participating. The Board moved from teleconference meetings to a ZOOM format in 2020. Board virtual meetings were held on February 28, April 25, and June 28, 2021. Another meeting is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the date of the 2021 EHFC annual general virtual meeting will be held in late fall. A notice will be issued via the CIPHI Listserv, on the EHFC website ([www.EHFC.ca](http://www.EHFC.ca)), and via the EHFC social media accounts.
- Reviewed and audited our 2019-2021 strategic plan for 2020 and began discussions about planning for the period 2022-2024
- Developed a draft term of reference for a NEC Rep to the EHFC Board of Trustees as requested by the CIPHI National Executive Committee.
- Hosted a ZOOM meeting with faculty representatives of the five CIPHI accredited post secondary institutions to discuss student research projects and connections with the field. Meetings are planned quarterly going forward.
- Exploring several education initiatives including Black History month; a project with indigenous educators through outdoor learning for Canadian children JK to 8 and summer camps about the importance of our water; promotion and recognition of septic maintenance programs across Canada.

#### **Board Recruitment:**

There are currently five vacancies on the Board of Trustees as our board limit is fifteen (15) trustees. We welcome and encourage CIPHI members (regular, retired, and honorary) from the following CIPHI Branches to consider this rewarding professional opportunity: BC, AB, MB, NB, & NL. Please contact any Board Trustee, your CIPHI Branch President or for more information contact the Board Chair at [EHFCChair@gmail.com](mailto:EHFCChair@gmail.com).



Financials:

**2020 Financial Statement  
(Compared to 2019)**

Prepared by Mike LeBlanc, EHFC Treasurer

REVENUE			EXPENDITURES		
Donations			Expenses		
	2020	2019		2020	2019
Restricted	4,390	14,062	Scholarships/Awards	0	12,501
Not Restricted		410	Direct Project Expenses	0	5,164
Board Trustee Donations	2,649	6,310			
Branch Donations	650	6,730			
Fundraising	0	2,136	<b>Management &amp; Operations</b>		
Interest	0	1,750	Honorarium	0	0
			Operating expenses	2,197	7,840
			Board Trustee Expenses	0	3,090
			Return to NCCEH Award \$*	2,400	n/a
<b>Sales</b>					
Temp Safe Products	0	0			
Septic System Brochures	0	0			
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$7,689</b>	<b>\$31,398</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$4,597</b>	<b>\$28,595</b>

\*The National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (NCCEH) are reviewing the criteria for the Ron de Burger Student Research Award and requested that the EHFC return the funds held in trust for future awards

In 2020, the EHFC assets increased by **\$3,092**

**Assets as of December 31, 2020**

Chequing Account	\$ 24,554
Investments	\$ 160,901
	<b>\$185,455</b>

**Assets as of December 31, 2019**

Chequing Account	\$ 21,462
Investments	\$ 160,901
	<b>\$ 182,363</b>



The EHFC investments are endowed/entrusted funds from donors over the years for various awards and projects and can therefore only be used as per the instructions of the donor.

The EHFC 2020 annual report to the Charities Directorate of Revenue Canada has been submitted and accepted.

**Awards:**

The Board of Trustees administers seven (7) awards that acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding work of individual CIPHI members as follows:

- Canadian Water & Wastewater Association Safe Water Award
- Clifford Van Alstyne Communications Award
- Dr. R. Neil Lowry Recreational Water Award
- EHFC Continuing Education Award
- Lilli Ann Zahara Public Education Award
- Hedgerow Software Ltd Leadership in Environmental Health Award
- NSF Food Safety Award

In consultation with our award partners the Board of Trustees decided in early 2020 to postpone the awards due to the pandemic and due to the cancellation of the National CIPHI AEC. However, as supported by our award partners there will be the potential for two recipients in 2021 for each award. The recipients will be announced at a virtual award ceremony this fall.

The Board also administers the Len Hiebert - Environmental Health Review (E.H.R.) award which was created to encourage student participation in research leading to possible publication in our professional journal. Len was well recognized for his contribution to the public health profession. Len was editor of the E.H.R. for seven years followed by nine years as the editor of the CIPHI BC Branch newsletter. The award is presented to a student or team of students conducting a research project during the academic year in each of the five CIPHI accredited public health inspection programs in Canada. The student recipients will be announced at the EHFC virtual award ceremonies.

**Fundraising:**

In 2019, the EHFC celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> year as CIPHI's charity. The financial goal set by the Board was to raise \$30,000 and all funds raised to be used to create two new endowment funds (1) to support students enrolled at one of the CIPHI accredited academic institutions, to attend the national CIPHI AEC up to \$5,000 annually, and (2) to partner with a like-minded charity or public health group to support an annual aid project in Canada or internationally that focuses on but not limited to food safety, hygiene, sanitation, and water safety.

The Board decided in 2020 to continue with the current fundraising 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary project until we reach 100% of our \$30,000 goal. We are thrilled to announce that as of July 9<sup>th</sup> we have raised \$28,214 (94% of our goal). On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to acknowledge the generous donations in the past year from:

- the CIPHI BC, AB, SK, MB, and NB Branches,
- individual CIPHI members,
- Friends of the Foundation, and
- the EHFC Board of Trustees.

Colleagues from across Canada who donate to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising campaign will have their photo be part of an anniversary mosaic banner that will be unveiled at the 2022 CIPHI National AEC hosted by Durham Region Public Health, Ontario.

#### International Aid Project:



The Board of Trustees approved financial support of an international aid project and donated \$5,000 to COMMIT (Canadian Outreach Medical Mission Team) which is a group of dedicated volunteers from Southwestern Ontario working under the umbrella of the Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation. This donation came from the monies raised as part of our 30th anniversary \$30,000 fundraising goal.

The team's mandate is to provide long-term support to some of the poorest villages in Nicaragua. Their focus is to provide medical clinics, and other outreach services such as clean drinking water, sanitation, ecofriendly stoves, sustainable agriculture as well as educational and social support. The Board of Trustees have discussed developing a food safety and hygiene program that could be utilized by the Team when visiting villages.



Typically, the Team visits twice a year (Feb. & Oct.) but their visits have been limited because of the pandemic. They have a small team going down this Sept to evaluate the various projects they have ongoing and are hoping that a larger team can go down in the spring of 2022.

Through the generous donations to CIPHI's Charitable Division our financial support of the COMMIT water project has changed the lives of over 1,000 families not only in their health but in many more opportunities of these Nicaraguans. There are now five wells drilled and three

distribution systems to pipe water to convenient parts of the village for better access. Electric pumps have also been installed in all but one well in a village that has no electricity, so a hand pump has been installed. More information on this project will be provided in our 2021 EHFC newsletter.

There are opportunities for public health inspectors to join the team on one of their future trips. For more information on this group, you can find a ppt at [EHFC.CA/Support Us/Fundraising Initiatives/2020 Nicaragua](https://ehfc.ca/support-us/fundraising-initiatives/2020-nicaragua).

For more information you can also contact the EHFC Chair at [EHFCChair@gmail.com](mailto:EHFCChair@gmail.com)



### Student Sponsorship to Attend CIPHI National AEC:

In 2019 the Board were able to financially support 11 students to attend the CIPHI National AEC, Dartmouth, NS by covering the cost of their conference registration. Between 2010-2019 the EHFC Board has sponsored a total of 87 students, in the amount of approximately \$18,000.

There was no activity with this project in 2020 and will not be again this year as the CIPHI National Annual Education Conference has been cancelled two years in a row due to the pandemic. The Board of Trustees will decide in early 2022 how many fourth year/graduate student conference registrations they will financially support in the anticipation that the 2022 CIPHI National AEC will be held.

### TempSafe Products:



The EHFC have for sale the TempSafe® educational food safety materials which are available in magnets, clings, stickers, label buttons and large display formats. There is an option to include health agency information at the top of the product chosen for a nominal fee. The products are currently available in English, French and Spanish. The Board continues to offer large discounts for orders of 1,500 or more which allows for health agencies to combine orders to take advantage of the savings. A sample of the products can be mailed to interested agencies. The EHFC receives a small percentage of all sales from the current printer.

**Septic System Maintenance Products:**



The EHFC produced several years ago an educational brochure and video targeting home owners planning to install a conventional gravity flow sewage disposal system and on how to care and maintain the system. The brochure is available for a minimal cost. The BCIT Library – MediaWorks digitized our video so it could be added to their electronic library and the video is available on our website [www.EHFC.ca](http://www.EHFC.ca) under Education/Products/Septic Systems.

This report is submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees and satisfies the annual reporting requirements of Section 5A of CIPHI By-Law No. 10.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela L. Scharfe*

Pamela Scharfe, CPHI(C)  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Environmental Health Foundation of Canada  
The Charitable Division of CIPHI

Date: September 7, 2021