

Environmental Health Foundation of Canada  
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Dear Ms. Scharfe, EHFC Board Chair

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Ms. Debra Mooney for consideration for the 2022 Safe Water Award supported by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada.

Collectively we have had the delight to work with and support Debra for over 20 years in the area of environmental public health across a multitude of topics and roles. In addition to performing her role at an exemplary level, Debra has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to her community, her profession and every Albertan.

Debra commenced her career within Alberta Health after roles in the former Calgary Health Region as a public health inspector, to lead the West Nile Program within the Provincial Health Office. After successfully developing this program, she was quickly assigned a more diverse portfolio that focused on all aspects of water quality, safety and quantity. This portfolio includes but is not limited to swimming pools and features, recreational water, water reuse and drinking water. A small sample of Debra's accomplishments and work include:

- Consolidating and aligning inspection and sampling protocols for field based public health inspectors who assist Albertans in having a safe water drinking supply. This includes common approaches on failed bacteriological and concerning concentrations of chemicals in their water supply. She was also instrumental in the development of Alberta's (and Canada's) first Environmental Public Health Field Manual for Safe Drinking Water, and the [public health guidelines for non-municipal drinking water](#).
- Strengthening and broadening microbiological and chemical testing of small system and private (individual) drinking water supplies. Her work has led to trace metals being routinely tested as part of water samples submitted to Alberta's Centre for Toxicology.
- Developing regulatory requirements for smaller drinking water systems (e.g., schools, country residential development) not included in Alberta's environmental protection legislation over larger systems.
- Leading special projects focused on regional drinking water issues, for example [Beaver River Basin Study](#) focused on naturally occurring arsenic and Parkland Country Program which measured and studied the presence of manganese and arsenic in private drinking water wells.

- A critical supporter to the development of the [Domestic Water Quality in Alberta](#) data release and visualization highlighted on the Alberta Environmental Public Health Information Network (AEPHIN).
- Coordinating with First Nation Inuit Health (Indigenous Services Canada) and Alberta Indigenous Relations to strengthen and support the development or renewal of safe water drinking sources for First Nations communities.
- A pioneering force of the Working Well Program that organizes workshops to help private well operators maintain their water supply in a safe manner. This program supports the Water for Life goal of safe, secure drinking water for all Albertans.

Debra has also played critical roles in the assessment of wastewater including for the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as measurement of the pesticides and pharmaceutical products.

Fondly known as the 'go-to' for all things water, Debra receives calls or emails daily from colleagues across the province and other jurisdictions who call upon her experience and knowledge for information and advice. Over the last 20 years, we have known Debra to be a fantastic colleague and is a true champion for environmental public health. She is always optimistic, detail orientated and celebrates not only the large and small successes but drives us forward when challenges persist.

From these efforts and too many others to list, Debra Mooney has not only earned this nomination but also the respect and gratitude of those she works with across Alberta and Canada. As only some of those peers who she has inspired and motivated to service, I strongly urge you to award her the Safe Water Award.

Sincerely,

Merry Turtiak, MSc., CPHI(C)  
Doug Everett, CPHI(C)  
Karah Harvey, CPHI(C)  
Olu Motajo, MPH, CPHI(C)

Attachment: EHFC Nomination Form