

Environmental Health Foundation of Canada 2021 Awards Nomination

Clifford E. Van Alstyne Award Communication Award

Meaghen Allen, CIPHI Alberta Branch President, has been a great leader and advocate for the profession. In addition to her full time job as a public health inspector she has admirably performed her duties as Alberta Branch President throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She has continually ensured Branch members are aware of the actions of the Branch and CIPHI National during these trying times through email updates and virtual engagement sessions.

During spring 2021 Meaghen initiated conversations with several media outlets (newspaper, radio and television- links below) regarding the unacceptable harassment and hostility faced by Public Health Inspectors in Alberta during the COVID-19 pandemic, in spite of experiencing harassment herself during day to day work. These interviews and articles have been shared on the CIPHI National socials, contributing to efforts to raise the profile of the profession across Canada. Meaghen's outstanding leadership in the face of hostility has demonstrated her courage and commitment to the field.

Outside of the pandemic response, Meaghen has been a leader in her position with Alberta Health Services for many years. Since 2015 Meaghen has been the team lead/coordinator for a team of 17 public health inspectors on the Safe Built Environments Team. This team is responsible for a variety of programs, primarily inspecting rental housing, aquatics, personal services and child care facilities. In addition to performing the regular duties of her role, she has always fostered a positive learning environment for practicum students, promotor of mental health awareness within her team, as well as built and maintained vital working relationships with professionals from various provincial and municipal agencies to tackle public health issues. Prior to her current role, Meaghen was the Childcare Specialist for Edmonton Zone Alberta Health Services, and the Senior Coordinator- Stakeholder Relations for the Alberta College of Family Physicians.

Meaghen's dedication, leadership and courageous advocacy on behalf of the profession illustrate the characteristics which qualify her for this award. Her outstanding contributions should be recognized and celebrated by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada and the profession.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Cheung, CPHI(C) & Karah Harvey, CPHI(C)

Media Coverage Links:

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/health-inspectors-in-alberta-face-increasing-amounts-of-harassment-threats-and-hostility-1.5429776> (May 15 2021)

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/turmoil-time-health-inspectors-step-up-personal-security-amid-backlash> (May 13 2021)

<https://omny.fm/shows/ched-mid-morning/public-health-inspectors-facing-threats-harassment> (May 11 2021)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/public-health-inspectors-facing-threats-harassment-during-covid-19-pandemic-1.6016988> (May 7 2021)