

I would like to nominate Dale Nelson for the EHFC Food Safety award. Dale has worked in Environmental Public Health in Alberta for 28 years and for over 20 of those years has been a Coordinator in the various versions of what is now Alberta Health Services Calgary Zone. As a Coordinator, Dale's role has always been to support field staff with difficult issues, and over the years he has developed a great deal of expertise in food safety in particular. When AHS merged into one health authority, Dale was an original member of the new provincial food committee and was closely involved in the development of provincial food program standards to achieve consistency province wide. Dale was the primary author of many key provincial operational food standards still in use today in topics including; Farmers' Markets, Public Markets, Mobile Food Vending units, Food Permit Restrictions, Food Premises Risk Assessment, Food Establishment Plan Checking, Time as a Public Health Control, and Preparation and Service of Donairs. He has also developed many guidance documents over the years to assist inspectors in dealing with difficult and emerging food issues such as; canning, sous vide, kombucha, fermentation, caterers, and alternate sanitizers.

Dale's role as a Coordinator has meant he has assisted EPH staff and partner programs work through complex and difficult food safety issues, enforcement, and outbreaks throughout the years. He has formed partnerships with industry and municipal, provincial and federal partners to help achieve common goals in food safety. Dale has been involved in many high profile investigations and outbreaks in Alberta, including, E coli in donair, illegal slaughter and butchering, raw milk, E coli in pork, scombroid, Vibrio in oysters, and norovirus in oysters

Today, Dale maintains a prominent and influential role as one of the longest serving members of Alberta's provincial food committee. He also acts as Chair of the province's Food Industry Advisory Team and is the Alberta member of the national Fermented Foods Working Group. He continues to expand his knowledge in emerging food issues and is recognized and consulted by staff and management province-wide as a valuable reference for complex food safety issues.

Dale's contribution to the safe food program in Alberta is significant and longstanding and I feel he is deserving of the food safety award.

Peer Mikkelsen  
Manager, Environmental Public Health  
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