

## The Benefits of Attending the CIPHI Annual Educational Conference

Prepared by Elisabeth MUKAMANA

Submitted to: The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

The 2018 CIPHI Annual Educational Conference took place in Saskatoon from September 16 to 19, 2018. CIPHI members attended the conference from all provinces of Canada. As a student CIPHI member, I was given the opportunity to attend as well.

As an environmental health student, I found attending the conference beneficial in terms of understanding what the profession is really about. It was great to meet and exchange with different public health inspectors each one at a different stage of their career. As a student, I was interested in learning all that I could from those men and women who have different experiences, and work in various areas and conditions. It was very interesting because although their main mission of protecting the health of the public is essentially the same, laws and regulations are not the same in each province of Canada. This variation results in different approaches being taken in the face of a similar issue and this brings about a different experience altogether.

Attending the conference allowed me to learn and think about new trends in public health protection practices as they sometimes come with new challenges that public health inspectors have to face and overcome in their daily duties. In addition, the general public lifestyles constant changes also dictate how environmental health services are delivered. It was very encouraging to hear different stories of how people choose to embark in the environmental health career field and why they stayed with it. It is also very encouraging for someone like myself who is going to start a career in the field to see dedicated professionals with such enthusiasm and who genuinely love what they do. It showed me that being open minded and easily adaptable to change is very important in order to be successful in this field.

During the conference, I spoke to former public health inspectors who have subsequently progressed into different career paths. In terms of future career development this was also beneficial because it showed me how environmental health knowledge can work with other areas such as education and climate change for instance. I liked to listen to presenters without a background in environmental health but whose work is positively contributing to the field.

During the conference it occurred to me that many people volunteered their time to organize and ensure that the conference went as planned. As a CIPHI member, it was beneficial to learn about volunteer opportunity within the organization because I would like to be part of it in the future.

In conclusion, attending the conference was a great learning experience to me both on a professional and a personal level. It was a great opportunity for professional networking as it gathers professionals from everywhere in Canada. I am grateful to the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada for the bursary opportunity because it is what made it possible for me to have such a great experience.



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### **CIPHI ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

As a student, I felt honoured to be sponsored by Environmental Health Foundation of Canada to be in the midst of Public Health Inspectors from across Canada and the privilege to participate in the Annual Education Conference and 84th CIPHI National Annual General Meeting that took place on Sept 16-19, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon. The conference program was embedded with different topics and activities that were comprehensive, educative and informative for the practice of Public Health Inspection.

The topic discussed during the conference included Small drinking water system: How to ensure the provision of safe drinking water and source protection, False positive *E. Coli* result, A growing menu of ethnic foods in Canada, inspection of food eating establishments, BOC Guidelines for practicum training, Be dog smart: Dog bite prevention initiative, The success of cross-collaboration during a rabies outbreak, BOC introduction of new instructional objectives, Aboriginal Health and Reconciliation, Bugs, Bugs, Bugs which are good and which are bad, Lyme disease, Built Environment to mention in few.

The discussion on the false positive *E. Coli* result: How to make an informed decision presented by Nelson Fok gave detailed information about Escherichia coli (*E. Coli*) and the Maximum Acceptable Concentration of None detectable per 100ml. *E. Coli* monitoring should be in conjunction with other indicators as part a multi-barrier approach to producing drinking

drinking water of an acceptable quality. If *E. coli* is detected, system owner/operator should resample and if resampling and testing confirm the presence of *E. Coli*, the next is to issue a boil water advisory. The conference introduced me to many new things including Be dog smart program, Bug, Bug, Bug, Workplace Violence and Harassment and BOC introduction of new instructional objectives.

- Be dog smart is an interactive teaching package curriculum developed by SHA Regina for the students to help easily identify prevention for the dog bite. The purpose of this program is to decrease the number of animal bites and the severity of bites over time.
- BOC introduction of new instructional objectives- The BOC works to ensure they provide the requirement for learning opportunities and program content, academic hours and scheduled learning activities that will reflect Public Health Inspection practices sufficient to ensure that all the instructional objectives are met.
- Workplace Violence and Harassment- It was reported that the majority of Public Health Inspectors faced a lot of challenges such as harassment, verbal abuse, physical attack, threatening behaviour during their day-to-day activities. The presenter explained further that the workplace violence for the Public Health Inspectors can be controlled through the screening of clients, flagging system, prepared a work plan, communicate with designated contact and back up.
- Bug, Bug, Bug- There are edible insects that someone can eat such as cricket. It was reported that eating of edible insects is a traditional practice in many nations such as Africa, Latin, American, Asia and Pacific. It was also reported that Toronto restaurant specializing in Colombian street food serve an insect menu such as cricket empanadas, cricket kebabs, cricket brittle, spicy insect spoon with silkworms and agar and cricket gamish.

I was so excited to attend the CIPHI Annual Education Conference to learn about these public health issues and to meet with my colleagues in the field.

Thanks to Environmental Health Foundation of Canada for this opportunity to participate.

Abimbola Olaobaju