

CHICA-NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-NEO)

2010 Executive

President:	Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC
President-elect:	(interim) Laurie Boyer RN BSN Med (cand) CIC CNOR CPN(c)
Secretary:	Rachelle Swayne RN
Treasurer:	Vicky Willet RN CIC

2011 Executive

President:	Vicky Willet RN CIC
President-elect:	Isabelle Langman RN CIC
Secretary:	Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC
Treasurer:	Natalie Marcello RN

Geographic Area

Northeastern Ontario is the second largest region in Ontario in terms of land area, spanning 31% of the provincial total. Four cities have populations greater than 40 000: Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, and Sault Ste. Marie. These four make up less than half of the overall population, with the remainder based in smaller centres, most of which have populations less than 5 000 people. The total population is just under 600,000 with a population density just over 2 persons per square kilometer compared to over 100 in southern Ontario

Membership

In 2010, our membership grew to 72 members. The membership is comprised of individuals from diverse educational and professional backgrounds such as nurses, public health inspectors, first responders, front line workers or administrators. These represent a variety of sectors including acute care, long term care, complex continuing care, community/public health, mental health, government (regional infection control network) and industry.

Meetings

All CHICA-NEO chapter meetings are offered via videoconference. Four meetings were held in 2010: February 25, May 13, October 15 and December 9. Meetings generally include both a standard agenda and education components. 2010 Education Highlights:

Meeting	Topic	Presenter
February	Just Clean Your Hands Update	Clare Barry, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
May	Renovation, Construction and Mould in Health Care Facilities Summary of Ontario Hospital Association Medical Devices Conference	Bryan Wilson, Golder and Associates Brenda Wehbe, Hôpital de Sudbury Regional Hospital
October	PIDAC Best Practice Guidelines Update New Environmental Cleaning Education Toolkit	Isabelle Langman, Laurie Boyer Northeastern Ontario Regional Infection Control Network
December	Management of Carbapenem-resistant Gram-negative Bacilli Public Health's Role in Institutional and Facility Outbreak Prevention and Control	Brenda Wehbe, Hôpital Regional de Sudbury Regional Hospital Diane Pustina, Porcupine Health Unit

Standing agenda items provide members with an opportunity to share challenges and successes as well as receive updates from the executive, CHICA-Canada and the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control (NEOINC). Partnership with the NEOINC is strong and ongoing. The support of the network in terms of teleconference access, sharing of resources, educational tools, mailing lists, etc. is invaluable.

Highlights

- In February, CHICA-NEO members were invited to participate in an online interest survey. The objective of the survey was to obtain members' feedback on chapter issues such as meetings, educational needs, future events, etc. Response to the survey was positive.
- The chapter was well represented at the CHICA-Canada 2010 National Education Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Planning for next year's chapter educational conference is underway. The two-day event will be held in Sudbury in September 2011.
- During the fall recruitment campaign, the Executive successfully enlisted three new members for the positions of membership director, conference coordinator, and treasurer.
- CHICA-NEO chapter members continue to actively participate in CHICA-Canada through committees and interest groups.

Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC
Chapter President