

## **PREHOSPITAL CARE INTEREST GROUP**

2010 was a time of re-grouping for the Prehospital Interest Group. Due to workload pressures associated with pH1N1, the productivity of the group waned. However, by the CHICA-Canada conference in May, the group was able to re-focus and return to higher levels of productivity. Natalie Hiltz from Peel Police Service was appointed to the co-chair position, with Jennifer Amyotte. The meeting format for the conference was revised.

At the Vancouver 2010 annual conference, the draft position statement on cleaning and disinfection of emergency vehicles in the prehospital environment was presented which includes an appendix was to help emergency services evaluate new cleaning products. Group members gave an oral presentation on the development of the Personal Protection Strategy model, and presented two posters related to the development of IPAC programs in Peel Region's emergency services.

Other highlights include the invitation from the CHICA Scientific Committee for the PHCIG to present two concurrent sessions at the 2011 conference to be held in Toronto. The first presentation will be a video of a three-tiered response to a motor-vehicle collision which will ask the audience to identify incorrect IPAC practise. Peel Police and Paramedic services and Caledon Fire Department have volunteered their time, equipment and personnel for this video. The second session will present the position paper with a discussion on how to choose appropriate cleaning and disinfection products. We wish to thank the Scientific Committee and the CHICA board for this opportunity.

Other accomplishments for 2010:

- Hosted three teleconferences in 2010, each resulting in movement forward of various projects.
- Revision of the PHCIG Terms of Reference, including a new way to obtain quorum.
- Confirmation of the effectiveness of ambulance ventilation for prevention of airborne transmission.
- Provision of feedback on the RPAP document from PHAC
- Inform a presentation by the Paramedic Association of Canada to the Senate Committee on Canada's response to pH1N1.
- Creation of the Designated Officers' IPAC manual by the Region of Peel Designated Officers' Working Group which is now being shared nationally through the PHCIG.
- The creation of a national network of designated officers in law enforcement.
- Creation of a draft presentation on IPAC in PHC to be shared through our national networks.

A work plan for 2011 will include working with PPE manufacturers to better understand the special needs of emergency medical service personnel and the creation of a position statement on recommended immunization for all prehospital care providers. The group plans on meeting by teleconference in February and March to establish timelines for our current projects and presentations and develop an agenda for the PHCIG Meeting in Toronto. The group will continue to remain focused on providing support to prehospital services to advance the importance of infection control as it relates to the patient care we provide.

*Jennifer Amyotte ACP*

*Const. Natalie Hiltz*

*Co-Chairs, Prehospital Care Interest Group*

*Report prepared by Alexis Silverman*