

## NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR

### 2007-2008 Executive

President:	Penny Ralph RN CIC
President-elect:	Merlee Steele-Rodway RN
Secretary:	Dorothy Turpin RT
Treasurer:	Lynn Mercer BN

**No. of Members:** 31

**Geographic Area Served:** The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

### Membership

We are a small but very active and energetic group. Our membership spans the continuum of care, from community/public health to acute care and long term care. We are fortunate to have representatives from laboratories and industry as well. Many of our members work in regional health authorities which serve large geographical areas. This year we had two members retire and had several new members join.

### Meetings

Nine meetings were held last year, eight through the provincial teleconference system and our AGM was held during the provincial conference. Teleconference meetings consisted of a business session followed by an educational regional report.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Education

- A two-day education conference and annual general meeting were held October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Grand Falls-Windsor. This year's conference theme was *Infection Control CSI: Challenging, Stressful, yet Interesting*. The conference was very successful with over 120 health care workers attending, including infection control practitioners, nurses from community, hospital and long-term care settings, and service providers from different work settings including housekeeping and plant maintenance.
- We are currently planning our 2008 Provincial Conference entitled *The Changing Faces of Infection Prevention and Control* which will be held in Corner Brook on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2007 our teleconference format changed to include a report from each of the provincial health authorities and the Department of Health. Each month a different CHICA-NL member provides a report from their health authority. This provides an opportunity for all members to participate in the teleconference sessions. The change in format has received very positive feedback and increased attendance. We plan to formally evaluate the teleconference sessions this year.
- Webber Teleconferences are provided to the CHICA-NL membership by the provincial government.
- Our chapter provided funding for seven members to attend the CHICA-Canada National Conference in Edmonton and 12 members to attend the CHICA-NL Provincial Conference in Grand Falls-Windsor during 2007.
- Donna Ronayne and Merlee Steele-Rodway were awarded Virox Scholarships in 2007.
- The current CHICA Canada President, Marion Yetman, and the current CHICA Canada Director of Education, Donna Moralejo, are both members of CHICA-NL.

- Four CHICA-NL members, Marion Yetman, Donna Moralejo, Penny Ralph, and Merlee Steele-Rodway, are currently on the National Scientific Planning Committee for the CHICA-Canada 2009 conference to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland.
- One CHICA-NL member successfully completed CIC re-certification and three members are preparing to write the certification exam this year.
- Three CHICA-NL members have completed the Queen's University program for Infection Prevention and Control and one member is currently enrolled in the program.

### **Government**

- The Auditor General's Report on Hospital Acquired Infections was released in January 2008. CHICA-NL executive formally met with the Provincial Minister of Health's Office to discuss the audit report, specifically resource and education issues related to Infection Prevention and Control. This was a first for our executive. It was a positive learning experience and we feel the meeting was well received and very beneficial for all those involved.
- A Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Team, PIC-NL, has been formed to develop province wide policies and standards for infection control.

*Penny Ralph RN CIC  
Chapter President*