

CHICA-OTTAWA REGION

2007 Executive:

President:	Ms. Donna Baker RN CIC
President-elect:	Ms. Janice Banford RN
Secretary:	Ms. Nancy Todd-Giordano RN CIC
Treasurer/Membership:	Ms. Allyson Shephard RN

2008 Executive:

President:	Ms. Janice Banford RN
Past President:	Ms. Donna Baker RN
Secretary:	Ms. Nancy Todd-Giordano RN CIC
Treasurer/Membership:	Ms. Allyson Shephard RN

Geographic Area Served: Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and the Outaouais Region

Membership: A total of 84 members with representation from acute care, long term care, community and industry.

Meetings: We meet five times throughout the year with round table discussion and education sessions following the business portion of the half-day meetings.

Highlights

The educational components of our meetings included “A Preview of the Core Competency Modules for Acute Care”, something the members were very eager to get a look at; a report on the “Hand Hygiene Pilot Project” in progress at The Ottawa Hospital; “Feasibility of Implementing an Influenza Decision Aid to Increase Influenza Immunization Vaccine Among Healthcare Workers” presented by a research assistant from Elisabeth Bruyère Research Institute (a partnership between University of Ottawa and SCO Health Service); a presentation from Inviro Medical on their InviroSNAP needle-less system; and a presentation on Line Sepsis.

Ten members were able to attend the excellent CHICA-Canada conference in Edmonton. Our Chapter provided funding assistance for two members.

During National Infection Control Week, October 15-19, as different activities were being held at individual facilities, a number of members also had the opportunity to attend a two-day education conference on “A Healthy Environment in our Health Care Centers: A Challenge” held in Montreal on October 15-16. Very positive feedback was reported back by those who attended.

During National Infection Control Week, on October 18th several members had the privilege of participating in the inaugural National Infectious Diseases Day, a collaboration of partners (AMMI Canada, CHICA-Canada, CACMID, ICID and numerous industry representatives) that succeeded in bringing attention to the need for National Strategies to control infectious diseases. Some 60 parliamentary members were met to discuss the issues facing Canada’s health care, where our shared commitment to prevent, treat and control infectious diseases was stressed. There were CHICA members from across the country, the majority came from our region, where 10 infection control professionals took time away from their primary duties to assist in ensuring the messages were passed, and the day was a resounding success as per the planners’ feedback. There are plans to pursue further events to carry on from this national event.

Many members are partaking in the Ministry and other educational opportunities via videoconferencing through our Regional Infection Control Network (RICN) or through individual institutional access through Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). Members are very pleased with the increased availability of educational opportunities.

Members of CHICA Ottawa Region remain very active on the Regional Champlain Infection Control Network Steering Committee and/or on the four subcommittees: Education, Surveillance, Outbreak Management and a Scientific Advisory Group.

We held a very successful educational symposium on November 1st and 2nd with over 100 attendees at both events. November 1st focused on issues facing health care providers in the community enticing community physicians and care providers from clinics, and as such selected topics included Active and Latent Tuberculosis; Community-associated MRSA, a New Challenge for Health Practitioners; and Facts and Fiction about Influenza. November 2nd was a full day of Infection Prevention and Control topics for the health care provider on “Handling New Challenges in Infection Control” including presentations on Infection Control and Patient Safety: on the Right Track; Clinical Virology for the Front Line Healthcare Professional; Influenza Vaccination in Healthcare Workers; Regional Trends – MRSA/VRE; an interactive presentation “Take the Challenge: Infection Control Core Competencies”; and MDRO vignettes including MDR-TB, MRSA in Long Term Care, and CA-MRSA in a pediatric population. We appreciated having the interest and the support of 15 exhibitors at our full day education event.

Our Chapter has begun another CIC Study Group with 11 participants to write the exam in 2008.

*Donna Baker RN CIC
Chapter President 2007*