



ANNUAL REPORT 2008
RAPPORT ANNUEL 2008

CHICA-CANADA 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President	1
President-elect	7
Past President	8
Secretary-Membership Director	9
Director of Finance.....	11
Physician Director & Government and Public Affairs Committee.....	12
Director of Education	14
Director Standards & Guidelines.....	15
Director of Programs & Projects	17

INTEREST GROUPS

Community Healthcare Interest Group.....	20
Dialysis Interest Group.....	21
Healthcare Facility Design & Construction Interest Group.....	22
Long Term Care Interest Group	23
Mental Health Interest Group	24
Oncology Interest Group	24
Pediatric Interest Group.....	25
PreHospital Care Interest Group.....	26
Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group.....	27

OTHER POSITIONS

Web Communications Manager	28
Web Board.....	29
Editor in Chief, CJIC.....	30
Archivist	31
International Federation of Infection Control.....	32
Membership Services Office	34
Conference Planner	35

CHAPTER REPORTS

CHICA-Vancouver Island.....	37
CHICA-British Columbia.....	38
CHICA-Northern Alberta.....	39
CHICA-Southern Alberta.....	41
CHICA-SASKPIC.....	43
MANITOBA	44
CHICA-Northwestern Ontario	46
CHICA-HUPIC	47
CHICA-HANDIC.....	48
TPIC	50
CHICA-Southwestern Ontario	52
CHICA-Ottawa Region	53
COPIC	55
CHICA-Renfrew County.....	56
CHICA-Northeastern Ontario.....	57
CHICA-Eastern Ontario	58
CHICA-Montreal.....	60
New Brunswick/P.E.I.	63
CHICA-Nova Scotia.....	64
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	65

Membership Charts and Audited Financial Statements

PRESIDENT

Let me begin by offering my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of CHICA-Canada for the support and friendship during this past year. Being President of CHICA-Canada has been a great honour for me and certainly one of the most significant highlights of my career in infection prevention and control.

To expand member services to meet the needs of CHICA-Canada membership the president participated in the following meetings:

- Chapter Presidents' teleclass in January
- Voices of CHICA teleconferences in February & September 2008
- Executive meetings June 27 and September 2

- Provided representation of CHICA-Canada at the Canadian Patient Safety Institute's Meetings
 - Represented CHICA-Canada at the Round Table on Patient Safety
 - Co-hosted by Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation
 - Members included in Appendix A
 - Opportunity to present the CHICA-Canada' top three initiatives for patient safety (Appendix B)
 - Member of the Standardized Measures for Infection Control Working Group
 - Organized by CPSI & Accreditation Canada
 - Facilitated by the Public Health Agency of Canada
 - Purpose: to understand Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance across Canada with an aim for consistency on surveillance definitions
 - Attended teleconferences to develop national definitions for surveillance for MRSA & CDI
 - Involved in the development & approval of surveillance definitions in December 2008
 - Member of the infection control subcommittee for the development of infection control stream of the CPSI's Pan-Canadian Patient Safety Learning Forum for April 2009
- Participation in the National Infectious Disease Day (NIDD) Coalition teleconferences during the summer & fall in preparation for NIDD October 23 (which was cancelled due to the fall election)
- Member of CHICA-Canada's National Education Scientific Committee
 - Representative of Public Health at 2009 Committee
 - Conference Chair for Vancouver 2010 Committee
 - Attended meetings and teleconferences for both

- CHICA-Canada's representative on the Certification in Infection Control Board (CBIC)
 - Attended meetings in February & September 2008
 - Presented on CHICA-Canada activities and feedback from members regarding the CIC exam
 - Meeting (teleconference) with CNA in December 2008 regarding CNA endorsement of the CIC for nurse members
 - Further follow-up ongoing

To expand CHICA-Canada's influence and profile nationally and internationally as a leader in infection prevention and control:

- Attendance at the APIC Conference – Denver, Colorado – June 2008
 - Presentation to the APIC Board of Directors on the activities of CHICA- Canada
 - Meeting with the APIC President, APIC Executive Director, President of IPS from England to discuss common issues facing membership
 - Meeting with representatives of APIC, IPS re the dissolving of support for International Infection Control Committee I2C2
 - Meeting with APIC's Marketing Manager to explore mutually beneficial advertising strategies for CHICA-Canada & APIC
 - Represented CHICA-Canada at the awards luncheon, international best practices forum & the International Attendees Reception

- Attendance at the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) meeting in Santiago, Chile, October 14-18, 2008
 - Meeting with the IFIC Board & representatives of other infection control societies
 - Discussion on how member societies could facilitate increased awareness of IFIC activities
 - Acknowledgement of CHICA-Canada's support through the "Run for IFIC"
 - Displayed CHICA-Canada's posters which depicts the activities of CHICA-Canada
 - Meeting with Carol Goldman, CHICA-Canada's official representative to IFIC – Carol is an excellent ambassador for CHICA and is very actively involved with the IFIC organization as its secretary. She also did two presentations at the conference
 - Meeting with the President of the Australia Infection Control Association and with the Editor of the Australian infection control journal – Healthcare Infection
 - Recruited Dr. Elizabeth Henderson to serve on the Editorial Advisory Committee of their journal

To develop an enhanced infrastructure required to support the strategic direction:

- Participated in the review of candidates for the strategic planning process beginning in November 2008

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION (NACI)

Submitted by Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC liaison member to the Committee.

Suzanne Pelletier was appointed as CHICA-Canada representative on the NACI for a three year period beginning September 2008. NACI is a scientific advisory committee for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Immunization and Respiratory Infections Division. NACI meets three times per year. The October meeting was the first meeting of 2008 attended by the new CHICA-Canada liaison member. Discussions held during the October session focused on advisory statements to be published in 2009, including:

- Combination MMRV Vaccine Statement
- Herpes Zoster Vaccine Statement
- Conjugate Meningococcal Vaccines Statement
- Recommendations for the Management of Bat Exposures to Prevent Human Rabies Statement

Work of the committee on the Varicella Vaccine Two-dose Recommendations Statement is ongoing.

INTERNATIONAL INFECTION CONTROL COUNCIL

Submitted by: Pat Piaskowski RN HBSn CIC and Sandra Callery RN MHSn CIC

The International Infection Control Council (IICC) originated in 1998 and over the past 10 years has had a rich history of collaboration on international infection prevention and control projects and development of resources for infection control professionals. These projects and publications include:

- 1998 Global Consensus Conference on Infection Control Issues related to Antibiotic Resistance with publication of over 70 recommendations
- 2002 Infection Control Toolkit for Pandemics and Disasters
- 2006 Infection Control Practices for Patients with Extended Spectrum Beta. Lactamase Enterobacteriaceae,
- 2007 Infection Control in Emergencies and Disaster (revision of 2002 document)
- Recommendations from successful August 2007 Consensus Conference on *C. difficile* hosted by the International Infection Control Council were published and presented at the 2008 CHICA Canada conference.

IICC also hosted a display table at the 2008 CHICA conference to display other previous works and products.

In 2008 the three organizations (CHICA-Canada, APIC and IPS (Infection Prevention Society/ formerly the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA)) reviewed their goals and objectives and decided to disband the IICC as of December 31, 2008.

With our past history of successful collaboration through the IICC the council has requested a meeting with the organizations to discuss ideas for future international collaboration.

CANADIAN COMMITTEE ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE (CCAR)

The following update submitted by Nora Boyd RN MEd CIC

The Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR) was formed in 1998 to coordinate Canadian efforts to control the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. CCAR would not be able to lead in this area of Antibiotic Resistance were it not for the support of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Accomplishments this year include:

- Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care, Home and Community Care including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics published in 2007 was translated into French and posted on the CCAR web site: www.ccar-ccra.org
- A final curriculum for antimicrobial resistance for veterinary education
- Collaboration has begun between CCAR and AMMI on developing an antimicrobial resistance stewardship curriculum for medical education led by Dr. Jim Hutchison
- Updating the Susceptibility Testing Guide for microbiology labs is being done by Dr. Edith Blondell-Hill
- Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Veterinary Clinic and Companion Animal Hospitals is completed and on the CCAR website: www.ccar-ccra.org
- Participation in Safer Health Care Now Phase 2 Campaign specifically the MRSA Bundle
- Hiring of new executive director, September 2008: Margaret Litt who replaces Jane McIvor

The CCAR contract comes to an end in June 2009. CCAR is currently working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to engineer a series of consultations with key stakeholders working in the field of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The aim of the consultations is to inform current and future discussions within the PHAC on future AMR governance models and key technical/scientific issues.

INFECTION CONTROL ONTARIO

The following report is submitted by Inez Landry, Chair, Infection Control Ontario 2009

Infection Control Ontario (ICO) is an Allied Group Member of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). Much discussion has been generated about the role of this group since the Regional Infection Control Networks have been developed in Ontario.

Active Members 2008

CHICA – Eastern Ontario	Janet Allen/ Kathleen Poole
CHICA - HANDIC	Barb Shea, Past Chair,
CHICA – Northwestern Ontario	Nancy Robertson
CHICA – Northeastern Ontario	Isabelle Langman
CHICA – Ottawa Region	Inez Landry, Treasurer, Vice Chair
HUPIC	Nancy Brown
RCOPIC	Pat Ripmeester
SOPIC	Jo-Ann Vandierendonck
TPIC	Sharon O’Grady

Infection Control Ontario Terms of Reference are under review.

Activities and Accomplishments in 2008

- Inez Landry continues as ICO representative on the Joint OHA/OMA Communicable Diseases Surveillance Protocols Committee. These protocols are available at www.oha.com.

- ICO provided comments to Ministry of Health & LTC on draft documents on best practice for Hand Hygiene, Infection Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control Programs in Ontario, In All Health Care Settings, Best Practices for Surveillance of Health Care-Associated Infections in Patient and Resident Populations
- Nancy Brown was on the planning committee for OHA Infection Prevention & Control education day in October 2008. Topics presented were: What's New in Infection Prevention and Control: Public Reporting the Next Frontier; Update from Ministry's Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion; Public reporting in infection control indicators; Just Clean Your Hands Initiative: Next Steps, Expanding on the Just Clean Your Hands Initiative, what was learned from the sessions, Next steps: Patient Visitor: Your Healthcare Be Involved: Patient Education on Prevention of HAIs, Information on Launch of OHA/MOHLTC campaign aimed at educating patients on HAIs; Community Acquired MRSA: A Cause for Concern? Epidemiology for Ontario, Data collection and how to report...can we report? Lessons learned; One Hospital's Story: Accessing the True Losses of C difficile, Lessons learned, Screening and preventing C diff; Understanding the Fundamentals of Surveillance and Data Collection, The basics of surveillance, Enablers, Touch on the use of technology; Networking Luncheon/Round Table Discussion, Hot topics; Green Cleaning; Occupational Health & Safety and Infection Prevention and Control, Building a Relationship Between Infection Prevention and Control Departments and Senior Administration
- Inez Landry chaired the Infection Prevention and Control/ Occupational Health and Safety session at OHA HealthAchieve 2008. Topics presented were: Collaborative Programs Between Occupational Health and Safety and Infection Prevention and Control; Infection Control and the Pregnant Health Care Worker; Indoor Air Quality and Infection Prevention and Control; Province-wide survey of IPAC Resources commissioned by the RICNs.
- Kathleen Poole was welcomed as a new ICO member. Inez Landry is chair for 2009.

APIC TEXT COMMITTEE

The following update submitted by Linda Adam RN BScN CIC

The 2004 edition of the APIC text is now five years old. The APIC text committee re-convened in August, 2008. All chapters are being reviewed and updated as needed. The 2009 edition of the text will be available for purchase at the 2009 APIC education conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in June. As with the previous edition, the text consists of two volumes: basic practice elements, and advanced practice elements. A third volume will contain the table of contents, the list of authors and reviewers, and the CD edition of the text.

*Marion Yetman RN BN MN CIC
President 2008*

Appendix A
 Member organizations of the CPSI Round Table

National Organizations		Provincial Representatives
Canadian Nurses Association	Canadian Home Care Association	Group Vigilance - Quebec
Canadian healthcare Association	Canadian Medical Association	Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety
Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations	Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists	Ontario Hospital Association
Canadian Pharmacists Association	Health Council of Canada	Provincial Health Quality Council, Saskatchewan
Canadian Nurses Protective Society	Health Reciprocal of Canada	Ontario Health Quality Council
Canadian Medical Proactive Association	Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada	Nova Scotia Department of Health
CHICA Canada		

Appendix B

Top three current organizational safety initiatives and progress to date

Initiative	Progress to date
<p>1. The power of one!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A CHICA-Canada grant of \$50,000 towards research in <i>Clostridium difficile</i> that will provide new knowledge in the practice of Infection Prevention and Control ▪ A challenge to the Federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to match \$1 for every Canadian for a research fund aimed at the prevention, control and eradication of <i>Clostridium difficile</i> ▪ A 2008 poster contest for CHICA-Canada members with the theme: The Power of One! Your role in Infection Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applications have been received and are under evaluation. Fund allocation(s) will be made by the Board in November 2008. ▪ The challenge to government has been published. Meetings with the Minister of Health were postponed because of elections. An introduction of CHICA-Canada to the new Minister of Health will be made and the challenge re-issued. ▪ Call for submissions sent to CHICA-Canada members. Winning poster to be launched at 2009 conference in St. John's.
<p>2. National Infectious Diseases Day (NIDD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership with the Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases (CFID), the Association of Medical Microbiologists and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI), the Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, (CACMID) and Industry with a goal of reducing MRSA and <i>Clostridium difficile</i> by 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a position paper on reducing Healthcare Associated infections ▪ Informing members re NIDD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September -Teleconference with members - information regarding NIDD provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speaker -Dr. Raphael Saginur ○ Information in CJIC re position paper ○ October 2008 – preparation of a communication package for members of the partner organizations to provide key messages to candidates during the October 2008 federal election ○ Position paper available on www.nidd.ca ▪ Congratulatory communication with new Minister of Health will introduce the coalition. Further communication will re-distribute the position paper. Further meetings of the coalition are scheduled for late 2008 to determine the next steps.
<p>3. Education of Infection Control Practitioners Basic Infection Prevention and Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivery of CHICA-Canada course through the University of Calgary ▪ Endorsement of similar courses taught through Queens University and Centennial College ▪ Initiative to deliver the CHICA-Canada course through other universities and colleges both in person and on-line <p>Participation in the Canadian Patient Safety Institute Pan-Canadian Patient Safety Learning Forum April 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CHICA-Canada's Distance Education Coordinator responsible for the review, revision and delivery of the CHICA-Canada course curriculum through the curriculum advisory committee ▪ Member of the planning committee for the Infection Control stream

PRESIDENT-ELECT

The role of president elect has been exciting and informative. I would like to thank the board, Gerry Hansen and especially Marion Yetman for all her help on preparing for the role of president in 2009. The following are a summary of the office of President-Elect for 2008.

- Maintains a liaison with the Chapters
 - Chaired the CHICA-Canada chapter president's teleclass in January 2008
 - Facilitated at the Chapter President's meeting at the national conference in Montreal, Quebec, May 30, 2008
 - Arranged for discussions at the chapter president's meeting on conference planning
 - Sent out the chapter presidents newsletter
 - Maintained contact with the chapter presidents through e-mail
- Maintains a liaison with the Special Interest Groups
 - Participated as an ad hoc member of the special interest groups
 - Presented the terms of reference of the newly established Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest group to the Board of Directors
 - Approved November 2008
 - Ongoing e-mail communication with all the special interest groups.
- Reviews CHICA-Canada by-laws
 - By laws reviewed and recommendations presented to the board at the November 2008 board meeting.
 - Recommendations to be furthered reviewed by legal counsel
- Other activities as required
 - Participated in the selection of Virox scholarships
 - Participated in board discussions including Safer Health Care Now, National Infectious Disease Day, upcoming conference planning, and "Power of One" campaign.
 - Represented CHICA-Canada board on the CCAR meeting planning committee

*Cathy Munford RN CIC
President-Elect*

PAST PRESIDENT

The following highlights the activity within the Past-President's portfolio for 2008:

- Chaired the nominating committee for selection of new Directors of the Board. The portfolios of President-Elect, Director of Finance and Physician Director were filled.
- Continued to sit on steering committee for National Infectious Diseases Day, which is a coalition of various stakeholders. Due to the election call, the plans for 2008 were shelved. Planning for 2009 continues with an emphasis on a lobbying plan that will include the respective chapters of the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada (CHICA-Canada)
- Chaired Strategic Planning Committee with the main objective to retain the services of a strategic planner to help CHICA-Canada. Interviews of a short list of three candidates were carried out and a strategic planner was hired. The strategic planner has been working closely with the Executive Director to aid the Board of Directors to develop a new plan during the 2009 educational conference.
- Participated in discussions with the Public Health Agency of Canada on how CHICA-Canada and PHAC can work together toward common goals.
- Reviewed previous policies and new policies for updates and/or adoption.
- Participated as a steering committee member of the Molson Canada and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome memorial fund as administered by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.
- Participated on the national educational conference scientific committee for 2009.

*Joanne Laalo RN BScN CIC
Past- President, CHICA-Canada*

SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

General Membership

It is my pleasure to report that once again membership to CHICA-Canada has increased over previous years. As of November 1, 2008, there were 1547 members in CHICA-Canada. Please refer to the attached graphs for information regarding membership by province, institution and discipline.

Institutional Membership

There are currently 284 facilities holding institutional membership, with over 882 representatives.

Patron Members

On behalf of the Board of Directors of CHICA-Canada I would acknowledge the continued support of our Patron members in 2008:

- 3M Canada
- Abbott Laboratories
- Arjo Huntleigh (formerly Arjo Canada)
- Baxter Canada
- BD Canada
- Covidien (formerly Tyco)
- Deb Canada
- Ecolab HealthCare
- Ethicon, a Division of Johnson & Johnson
- Laura Line Skin Care
- Les Entreprises Solumed
- Maxill Inc.
- Medline Canada
- Rubbermaid
- SciCan
- STERIS Corporation
- The Stevens Company
- VernaCare
- Virox Technologies Inc
- Wood Wyant

Patron Members have been sent information/benefits and application forms for the re-vamped Industry Member category, which replaces Patron Membership. Response has been very favourable.

3M Chapter Achievement Award

Congratulations to Toronto Professionals in Infection Control, winner of the 3M Chapter Achievement Award for 2008. An appreciative thank you to 3M for their continual interest and support in the educational needs of our members.

Virox Technologies National Conference Scholarship Fund

Again in 2008, Virox Technologies granted scholarship to 10 CHICA-Canada members to assist with the costs of attending the CHICA-Canada National Conference held in Montreal. Thank you to Virox for their continued support.

Chapter of the Year Award (Previously awarded by CBIC)

This award has historically been provided by CBIC and will now be continued by CHICA-Canada to chapters with the largest increase in CIC holders. The first award will be presented at the St. John's conference.

2008 Ecolab Poster Contest

Ellen Otterbein won for her submission with the theme: Antibiotic Resistant Organisms – A Call to Action! Thanks to Ecolab for their ongoing support of the annual poster contest.

Honourary Membership

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson was awarded honorary membership in CHICA-Canada for the many years she has volunteered her time and expertise to CHICA-Canada and her contributions to infection prevention and control. A presentation will be made to Dr. Henderson at the St. John's conference. Congratulations Dr Henderson!!

Bug-a-Doc Campaign

The Bug-a-Doc Campaign successfully continued into 2008. At the end of November, 2008 a record twenty –one new physicians had joined CHICA Canada. The Membership Core Committee is currently investigating methods to target other disciplines for membership into CHICA-Canada.

On-Line Registration

On-line registration is up and running for both members registering for membership and the annual conference.

*Bern Hankinson RN BN CIC
Secretary/Membership Director*

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

It has been my pleasure to be the Finance Director for CHICA-Canada for the last six years. During that time the organization has grown substantially and, along with it, the financial responsibilities. When I first started in the role, I performed all of the bookkeeping functions including entering transactions, printing cheques and licking the stamps. Now CHICA Canada has a bookkeeper to perform most of these functions and stamps are self adhesive!

Significant financial milestones for the year 2008 include funding of \$50,000 for the CHICA Canada Power of One Research Fund to increase our knowledge of the prevention and control of *Clostridium difficile* and funding for a Distance Education Coordinator. Due to effort made this year and financial support in previous years, in 2009, members will be able to complete on-line membership and conference registrations. CHICA-Canada continues to fund member representatives on over 30 organizations and committees related to infection prevention and control. The Journal of Infection Control and CHICA Canada's website continues to expand and be revenue generating for the organization.

The annual National Education Conference held in Montreal, a joint conference with AIPI, provided enriched learning opportunities for both new and seasoned infection control professionals. This was the sixth year Virox Scholarship funding enabled and assisted many of our members to attend the annual CHICA-Canada Educational Conference.

I personally would like to thank all of the wonderful CHICA Canada Board Members, Chapter Treasurers, Gerry Hansen and Kelli Wagner. I have been fortunate enough to work with over the past six years for all of their support and cooperation.

Cindy Plante-Jenkins MLT BSc(MLS) CIC

**PHYSICIAN DIRECTOR
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

CHICA, PHAC, Accreditation Canada & CPSI Partnership for National Harmonized Definitions for Nosocomial Surveillance

The Government and Public Affairs Committee members, and CHICA members in general, expressed concern over the growing number of disparate definitions and requirements for nosocomial infection surveillance and reporting to a wide variety of government and non-government organizations. I brought this to the attention of Accreditation Canada, CPSI and PHAC and was able to negotiate a partnership to begin to address the issue. CPSI generously supported a preliminary meeting in August 2008 and PHAC/CNISP supported the development of harmonized minimum definitions for MRSA, VRE and *C. difficile* surveillance. A working group was established to assist with these definitions and they are now in their final versions. The next step will be for CHICA and its partners to promote these to CPSI, Accreditation Canada and to each province that requires reporting etc. I suggest that PHAC and CNISP may be able to assist in promoting these to the provinces. Consideration should be given to a paper to accompany these definitions to explain their purpose and the advantages of a national set of harmonized minimum definitions. An agreement will have to be hammered out to make it clear how these definitions are maintained over time. I recommend a working group of the partners involved to work through CNISP to do this as CNISP has a long history of success in national surveillance.

CCHSA Accreditation Standards and CHICA Partnership

CCHSA has changed its name to Accreditation Canada. As the designated representative to Accreditation Canada on behalf of CHICA-Canada I have been working with their accreditation specialists to consider new Required Organizational Practices (ROPs). Under consideration are:

1. Documentation of the education provided on infection prevention and control to staff
2. Objective monitoring of environmental cleaning with fluorescent marker
3. Antimicrobial stewardship
4. Compliance with MRSA and VRE screening cultures

At CHICA's request the ROP for pneumococcal vaccination has been amended to apply to long term care environments only.

I will be seeking input from CHICA members on the current Accreditation Canada standards with a view to providing feedback to Accreditation Canada.

I have recently joined the ranks as a surveyor for Accreditation Canada.

The "Power of One" Campaign to eliminate CDAD

At the CHICA Board meeting in Montreal in June 2008 I proposed a resolution for a CHICA research fund dedicated to *C. difficile* control. This motion was supported at the Board and ratified at the AGM. Applications were accepted and funds were awarded to the successful application. It is important that CHICA-Canada is seen to be leading in the battle against *C. difficile* and funding new research is a very important way to do this especially as the publicly funded research base for nosocomial infection research is very limited in Canada.

Also at the last Board meeting I proposed that CHICA issue a challenge to the federal, provincial and territorial governments to create a research fund on *C. difficile*. This too was supported by the Board and ratified at the AGM in Montreal. The intent is to ask for one loonie per Canadian in the fund for a total of \$35 million. Given the political environment in the later half of 2008 in Canada it was not possible or wise to formally issue this challenge but we must go forward with this some time in 2009.

Industrial Relations Committee (IRC)

At the annual CHICA-Canada conference in Edmonton, we met with Patron Members and proposed our new Industrial Membership policy including a new membership fee structure. As well terms of reference for an Industrial Relations Committee was discussed at the Board meeting and pitched to prospective Industry Members. We sent the package out for comment from Industry Members. The major issue identified is ability of smaller companies to afford the entry level package of industrial membership. The draft Industrial Membership Policy, and the Terms of reference of the Industrial Relations Committee will be used for a year to assess progress and then be reviewed.

The inaugural meeting of the IRC was successfully held at the Montreal meeting in June 2008. Membership was selected and terms of office determined by lottery. Issues to collaborate on included the speed and quality of product review by Health Canada and negative incentive to product development such as Natural Health Products Directorate reviewing alcohol hand sanitizers with a very slow process. Concerns exist that the quality of product review is not stringent enough as well. It was felt that this would be a good issue for CHICA IRC to work on. But it will require a well prepared review of the issues in advance by IRC experts in this area.

Long Term Care Resources for Infection Control (LTC RICH)

The study, funded by CHICA with support from 3M, ArjoHuntleigh and Tyco Healthcare, is completed and was published in the March 2009 issue of AJIC.

Acute Care Resources for Infection Control III (Acute Care RICH III)

This PHAC sponsored project is complete and published in the December 2008 issue of AJIC.

Reflections of 12 Years as Physician Director

It has been my privilege to serve CHICA-Canada and its membership as Physician Director and Board member for the last 12 years, almost half of CHICA's history. Much as has been accomplished and there remains much to do. CHICA has matured and grown into an important force for change. We have a revamped industrial relations and membership structure that will serve industrial members and CHICA well and provide many new exciting opportunities. CHICA Canada is now a key partner with Accreditation Canada, CPSI and PHAC. CHICA has been represented well internationally and is highly respected for its advocacy and efforts across the country and globe.

I wish my fellow Board Members success, courage and tenacity as they lead CHICA in the future. I also encourage all CHICA members to contribute to and stay involved with the work and life of CHICA Canada. There is no finer organization anywhere!

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Zoutman MD FRCPC
Physician Director

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

CHICA SPONSORED BASIC EDUCATION IP&C COURSE

A Distance Education Coordinator, Ms. Karen Dobbin-Williams, began work part-time in February 2008. Her main focus for the year was review and evaluation of the CHICA Basic Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Course, which was developed by an Advisory Committee and has been offered once a year at the University of Calgary since 2005. She completed a survey of the students who completed the course in 2007 and has begun data collection from students who took the course in 2005 and 2006. She has also been reviewing the course content. Once the evaluation/review are completed, a composite report will be drafted with recommendations. The goals for 2009 are to: 1) complete the report of the evaluation and review, 2) discuss revisions with the original Advisory Committee and proceed with making revisions, and 3) develop and initiate a plan for rolling out the course to other sites for delivery.

CHICA ENDORSEMENT OF COURSES

A few basic IP&C education courses have been historically endorsed by CHICA-Canada but the process for doing so was not standardized. Preliminary criteria and a process have been reviewed by the Board and by legal counsel. The goals for 2009 are to: 1) establish an Advisory Committee for Endorsement Basic Education Courses, including Terms of Reference, and 2) implement the endorsement process.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Terms of Reference and draft Rotation Plans for the National Conference Scientific Program Committee were ratified by the Board and are in place, with replacements for the 2010 conference committee recruited from the general CHICA membership. Preliminary informal feedback from a number of sources has indicated that the national committee structure is satisfactory in terms of representation of chapters and has facilitated the conference planning process. Feedback was obtained from chapters, via chapter presidents, regarding strategic planning for future conferences. The goals for 2009 are to: 1) establish a basic curriculum for the Novice Practitioner Day that could be offered over two years in rotation, and 2) update the Conference Planning Manual to be consistent with the revised process using the national committee and online registration.

CHICA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES

The 2008 conference with l'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections (APII) in Quebec was successful. The program for the 2009 conference in St. John's is being finalized, and the preliminary program for the 2010 conference in Vancouver is being established.

CHICA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Representatives from a number of chapters met at the Education Committee meeting in Montreal. Goals for 2009 are to: 1) establish a core group to work on key projects; 2) develop a curriculum for the annual conference Novice Practitioner Day; and 3) develop plans for Chapters to assist PHAC in pilot testing new educational tools for teaching Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.

COLLABORATIVE GRADUATE TRAINING PROPOSAL

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson and a team from various universities were unsuccessful in obtaining CIHR funding for a Collaborative Training Program, to Infection Control Professionals at the graduate level (M.Sc. and PhD). The group has met again to identify other possible sources of funding and approaches to follow to be more successful. The goal for 2009 is to follow up with other sources.

*Donna Moralejo PhD
Director of Education*

DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

1. **Activities of the Core Committee**

A core committee was established in late 2006 to work with the Director on issues related to Standards and Guidelines for CHICA. This committee is representative of geographic and disciplines within CHICA and has met by teleconference approximately monthly through 2008. All minutes and products of the meetings are posted on the CHICA website in the S&G section.

2. **Position statements:**

A number of position statements were reviewed and the list of priority issues for position statements was continued. This list was reviewed with the S&G full committee at the June meeting in Montreal and several additions were made. The list is posted on the CHICA website.

The following position statements were reviewed or approved in 2008:

1. Toys: revisions sent back to Pediatric Interest Group; no revised statement received yet.
2. Healthcare Facility Design Position Statement- reviewed, revised and published
3. Review of Audit tools- ongoing
4. Hand Hygiene revision: undertaken by the Core Committee and approved and published
5. Screening for AROs in Dialysis units- recently received from Dialysis Interest Group. Under review.

3. **Update of the CHICA Compendium**

With the excellent help of Shirley McDonald, Clare Barry and the Core Committee the CHICA compendium was completely revised and updated in 2007. The new version contains many hyperlinks to allow for quick access to reports and papers and is posted on the CHICA website. Periodic updates were made through 2008 to the on-line version as new material becomes available and the updated version published in the CHICA Member and Source Guide.

4. **New Projects**

At the annual meeting in Montreal several other initiatives were suggested and the idea of developing a clearinghouse or summary site for research in IPC that is being done across the country was revisited. Solicitation from members to populate this site will be sent out before the 2009 conference.

5. **Director Activities**

The Director has been involved in responding to many queries from individuals, chapters and media around infection prevention and control issues and the work of CHICA. She also Chairs the Core Committee and brings forward items to the committee for review including new IPC guidelines from PHAC as well as participating in Board activities, including the initiation of the Power of One campaign. She has been in this position for four years now and will step down at the annual meeting. She will broadcast to members the Board position vacancy and actively work to recruit a new voice to the CHICA Board table.

Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program

The following update submitted by Barbara Amihod N NDA CIC

The CNISP annual meeting took place on Nov. 17 and 18, 2008. The following is a brief update on the core projects:

1. The Clostridium difficile-associated infection (CDI) surveillance. The CDI surveillance will now consist of surveillance of:

- A targeted two-month combined clinical/lab surveillance for patient outcomes, selected severity variables and lab characterization of C. Difficile isolates for adults (≥ 18 years)
- Twelve-month combined clinical/lab surveillance for patient outcomes, selected severity variables and lab characterization of C. Difficile isolates

2. The ESBL Surveillance This is a lab-based surveillance program and is to continue another six months as the case-control quota has not yet been reached. The data will be analyzed at the end of the surveillance.

3. MRSA Surveillance MRSA Surveillance is an ongoing project. The data has shown that the MRSA infection rate has steadily increased; in 1995 it was below 0.5 per 1000 admissions and in 2002 it was 1.4 per 1000 admissions. There are three levels of surveillance that require different data collection:

- a. positive results from screening specimens will be tabulated as a line-listing and aggregate data will be submitted on a quarterly basis.
- b. clinical specimens (not including blood) will have a questionnaire completed and a specimen sent to the NML.
- c. Blood culture isolates will have a different questionnaire completed and a specimen sent to the NML.

In addition all isolates from any patient with a diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis or necrotizing pneumonia due to MRSA will be sent to the NML.

4. The Point Prevalence Survey The survey was conducted in February 2002. The data was analyzed to examine characteristics of the hospital that were associated with the prevalence of NI and patient characteristics are related to the occurrence of NI. The rate per 100 patients in a pediatric setting is 7.8 and in an adult setting 10.2. An increased risk was associated with an increase of age. There was no significant difference in the prevalence of NI by gender. Patients surveyed who were admitted to a medicine/pediatric unit were less likely to have a NI when compared to other medical services. In addition, patients admitted to either an ICU or transplant medical unit were 5 times more likely to have a NI. Several other patient characteristics were positively associated with the prevalence of NI, these include:

- a. antibiotic use
- b. ET tube with or without ventilation
- c. intravascular devices
- d. indwelling catheter
- e. MRSA colonized or infected.

There are plans to repeat this survey in 2009.

5. Severe Respiratory Illness Surveillance. Surveillance will start November 1, 2008 and end May 31, 2009 for all laboratory-confirmed influenza in hospitalized adults admitted to hospital. All hospital wards are included in the surveillance. The objectives are to:

- a. describe the incidence, outcome, epidemiology and infection control measures for hospitalized patients
- b. describe the epidemiology of hospital-associated outbreaks of influenza

6. VRE Surveillance This continues to be an ongoing project. Questionnaires for both “newly identified” colonized and infected VRE cases will be submitted but only isolates from confirmed infections will be sent to the NML.

*Bonnie Henry MD MPH FRCPC
Director, Standards and Guidelines*

DIRECTOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

1. 2009 Ecolab Poster Contest

The 2009 Ecolab Poster Contest is being hosted by CHICA Manitoba. The poster theme proposed by the Chapter for the 2009 Ecolab Poster Contest is “The Power of One – Your Role in Infection Control”.

2. Programs & Projects Working Committee

The working committee continues to meet monthly. The working committee currently consists of 15 members.

Current projects

a) CHICA Audit Toolkit

As this has developed into a very time intensive project, a proposal was submitted to the Board to obtain the services of two contract ICPs to assist in moving this project forward in a consistent manner. The Board has approved hiring two experienced ICPs:

- An Audit Toolkit Writer with the responsibilities for:
 - Standardized audit tools that reflect the continuum of health care settings
 - Ensure audit tools meet current best IPAC practices

Mary Le Blanc has been contracted into this temporary position.

- Audit Toolkit Graphics and Formatter with the responsibilities for:
 - Create audit tool templates to format all completed tools and an assembled toolkit.
 - Create audit tool templates that contain the key requirements for a specific audit that can also be customized for the user, while restricting deletion of key audit components
 - Create a toolkit with leading-edge look
 - Create a toolkit that can be either accessible on line or in hard copy format

Shirley McDonald has been contracted into this temporary position.

The current Project Leads are Anne Bialachowski (CHICA-HANDIC) and Karen Clinker (CHICA-NWO).

b) CHICA Canada Web Site a Source for IPAC Learning:

The Programs & Projects working committee continues to review ideas to enhance the availability/links of IPAC tools for members.

c) CHICA Booth Ideas

A CHICA-Canada free-standing banner, portable booth and table cloth are being developed.. CHICA members were asked to submit high quality pictures for the CHICA free-standing banner. The working committee has considered other promotional items for giveaway at the CHICA Booth for the 2009 national conference.

d) IPAC Image Library

Karen has asked CHICA chapters to provide IPAC images (from various practice settings) to put up on the CHICA web site for use by all members.

e) IPAC Games

The working committee is reviewing the possibility of the creation of a new IPAC games CD for subsequent sale at the CHICA booth.

Industry Partnerships

a) **BD and CHICA**

In 2008, Roadshows were held in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. The "Road Show Seminars" were designed to educate healthcare professionals and healthcare administrators on decreasing the rate of healthcare-associated infections with the focus on Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*).

BD has expressed interest in continuing to work CHICA in 2009 to provide further webinars and roadshows aimed at reducing healthcare associated infections.

For 2009 BD and CHICA launched a multi-pronged educational leadership initiative, to include regional webinars, and regional road shows to help with CHICA's commitment to the reduction of *C. difficile* and educate on the topic of CR-BSI's in Canada.

The fourth in the MRSA/*C. difficile* Roadshow series will be held in Halifax in February 2009. The fifth in the series will be held in North Bay in June 2009. An additional Roadshow in Western Canada is under consideration depending on budget.

Three webinars are planned to take place in early 2009 dealing with Catheter Related Blood Stream Infections (CR-BSIs) to cover the topics of:

- Overview of Issue, Care & Maintenance
- Split Septum Technology
- Mandatory Reporting and Surveillance

Information for members on all of these CHICA/BD initiatives has been posted on the main CHICA page under Knowledge Resources.

All presentations from the 2008 and 2009 Road Shows and Webinars have been archived on the CHICA website.

b) **Envision and CHICA**

Envision, Inc. currently has 32 active Infection Control and Prevention programs in their library . Since the 2008 National Conference, six chapters have been involved in reviewing three of Envision's IPAC educational CDs.

The aim of this activity was the possible adaptation of a selection of Envision's Infection Prevention and Control programs to include language appropriate for a Canadian audience. Envision is a US company.

Feedback from was received from CHICA Montreal, Manitoba, Vancouver Island, Northeastern Ontario, Newfoundland/Labrador and HANDIC. The Envision CDs that were reviewed with favourable reports were:

- Clostridium Difficile – A Growing Threat
- Screening for MRSA – How to Swab
- Infection Control for General Orientation

At this time the CHICA Board has decided to review this project further following the completion of the CHICA audit toolkit.

c) **Sudsy 2**

Bruce Gamage and CHICA BC/PICnet are exploring the feasibility of making a new Hand Hygiene CD for adults. It will require collaboration with different organizations across the country who already have educational programs on hand hygiene in place. It is also needed to find funding sources. Deb Canada has expressed interest in assisting with funding for this project.

AROs - Across the Spectrum of Care (English and French) and Just Wash 'Em - (the children's handwashing video) have been placed on the Members side for free use by CHICA-Members. The videos will still be sold to non-members.

*Karen Clinker Med BScN CCOHN CIC
Programs and Projects Director*

COMMUNITY HEALTH INTEREST GROUP

Since the CHICA/AIPI conference in Montreal, activities by the Community Interest Group have included:

- Approval of Terms of Reference of this interest group submitted to CHICA board at their November 2008 meeting
- Networking and sharing various documents/draft guidelines and discussions (by e-mail distribution) including:
 - "How to Manage MRSA in the Community"
 - "How to clean and disinfect transfer belts and B/P cuffs" – community application
 - "Use of disinfectant wipes on hard, nonporous surfaces" – community application;
- Final teleconference of this year held Oct. 30 (1 ½ hours) with 15 attendees. There have, thus, been three meetings in total this year (April 9/08 teleconference, plus in-person meeting at the Montreal Conference)
- Establishment of standing agenda items for our meetings
- Invited guest speakers at teleconferences.
- Interest from members in the establishment of a Positions Statement Working Group. Tentative plans include meeting by teleconference in early December 2008;
- Setting a teleconference for next year on Thursday, March 5, 2009 to prepare for the in-person meetings at the St. John's CHICA conference
- Announcement of plan to seek nominations at the in-person meeting in St. John's since current Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary have been in place since inception of this interest group. There are plans to stagger the Chair, Co-chair and Secretary positions to maintain continuity

*Shelley Sing RN BSN(C) OHN
Chair, Community Health Interest Group*

DIALYSIS INTEREST GROUP

The Dialysis Interest Group continues to grow, currently there are 76 members. The following highlights work to date:

Dialysis Interest Group Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Screening Recommendations

The DIG has been developing a document on ARO screening recommendations for dialysis patients. Recognizing that hemodialysis patients may play a significant role in the emergence of ARO's, it is in the best interest of key stakeholders to ensure all appropriate strategies are in place to prevent further transmission within our hemodialysis settings. The DIG continues to revise their current working draft recognizing that the approach to the prevention and control of antibiotic resistant organisms must be tailored to the specific needs of the high-risk hemodialysis population and their various individual institutions.

Hemodialysis Central Line Care Audit

Throughout the year various questions arose regarding hemodialysis catheter care across the country. An audit was developed by Stephanie and sent to the DIG membership. Twelve audits were returned and the results were compiled and have been posted on the DIG site.

DIG Annual Meeting in Montreal, May 2008

A large group was in attendance for the annual meeting. The following highlights the meeting:

- 1 hour education session related to Surveillance in the Hemodialysis Setting. The session included:
 - ✓ Elements of surveillance
 - ✓ Targeted surveillance
 - ✓ Surveillance methodology
- DIG communication and response will continue according to our current practice. The DIG member who poses the questions will summarize all answers, disseminate to the membership and Shirley McDonald, CHICA webmaster will post on DIG site.
- DIG members will continue to keep their local chapters current regarding DIG information/communication
- Review of Terms of Reference
- Continue to develop ARO Screening Recommendations
- Merlee Steele-Rodway will continue to work with Paul Weber regarding dialysis teleconferences

Future Goals discussed by the group were as follows:

1. TB screening in the hemodialysis population. This would include:
 - a. Admission screening (entrance to the dialysis program)
 - b. Contact screening/tracing and the role of the ICP and Public Health
 - c. TB conversion as related to the immunocompetent patient such as HIV
2. Collaboration with Renal Partners. Members voiced the importance of a collaborative relationship and open dialogue with our renal partners. This may include:
 - a. Canadian Society of Nephrology
 - b. Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses & Technologists

Ongoing activity

The DIG continues to be an active and supportive group who support DIG members with ongoing hemodialysis issues and concerns.

Stephanie Trowbridge RN BScN (C) CIC Chair

Deborah Hobbs RN BScN Co-Chair

HEALTHCARE FACILITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INTEREST GROUP

The Toronto and Area Practitioners in Infection Control (TPIC) chapter with the help of the Construction Committee and other chapters of CHICA created a position statement on Healthcare Facility Design and Construction. It was posted in December 2008 and has been well received. The document includes statements on single room requirements, infection control involvement in design and construction, sink specifications and placement guidelines among a list of other topics.

Karen Stockton (Toronto) and Sharon Wilson (Edmonton) as representatives of CHICA continue to contribute to the Canadian Standards Association standard for Design and Construction of Canadian Healthcare Facilities. The next meeting is in February 2009 in Montreal.

Karen Stockton as a representative of CHICA has participated in the review of Canadian Standards Association Z317.2 Special Requirements for HVAC Systems in Health Care Facilities. This standard's revision has been for public review and is slated for publication in 2009.

As per comments from the CHICA conference in Edmonton a draft audit toolkit for construction site review was submitted to Karen Clinker for consideration to be added to the CHICA audit toolkit collection.

The interest group regularly circulates questions to other interest group members across the country to help support ongoing learning and best practices in healthcare facility design and construction related to infection prevention and control.

Co-Chairs – Karen Stockton BSc MHS CIC and Barbara Shea MLT ART CIC

LONG TERM CARE INTEREST GROUP

The Long Term Care Interest Group met in Montreal at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 10:30h – 12:00h, May 31, 2008 with 29 members/guests in attendance.

Agenda items included discussion on:

1. Nursing Home Acquired Pneumonia guidelines (NHAP)
2. Foot Care
3. LTC Topics for 2009 Conference
4. Round Table Discussions

NHAP

Chair Sara Holland presented the Alberta Medical Association Guidelines for NHAP. One area that needs to be added to the document is that of the importance of oral care. Those present received a copy. The chair also mentioned that Alberta has TB Surveillance criteria and a revised UTI Algorithm available for sharing. Contact an Albert LTC member to obtain.

Foot Care

Discussions centred around outside foot care specialists (podiatrists) coming into LTC and the concern that the PHAC Guidelines for sterile items were not being followed. In AB the health standards for LTC state that foot care instruments should be sterile.

LTC Topics for 2009

Lee Hanna asked members to send her suggested topics and speakers for the 2009 Conference in Newfoundland.

Round Table Discussions

Still ongoing discussions in LTC regarding cleaning care items. Also concerns on handling AROs in a secure LTC Unit. Discussions reinforced the use of Routine Practices and risk assessment for all clients/residents no matter what their ARO status maybe.

Report submitted by Mary LeBlanc

MENTAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP

Jim Gauthier is now the past Chair of the interest group, and Ms. Alexis Silverman and Ms. Rebecca Yu are now co-chairs.

The group met for three hours in Montreal in June of 2008. The minutes are available on the CHICA-Canada website.

Planning continues for the Mental Health pre-conference half-day at the CHICA-Canada conference in St. John's this June. The agenda has been set and speakers are being confirmed.

Rebecca Yu has sent out a questionnaire to all Mental Health Interest Group members asking detailed questions about how Infection Prevention and Control is practised and supported in their institutions. The goal is to analyse the results in a report for presentation at either the 2009 or 2010 CHICA-Canada conference.

Continuing the work that Jim Gauthier started, Alexis Silverman and Rebecca Yu will carry on correspondence with group members via e-mail. This will include summarizing and posting responses to pose questions on infection control issues on the CHICA-Canada website in the Mental Health Interest Group area, under Frequently Asked Questions. The past chair continues to request that members who don't mind sharing their answers to use the "Reply to All" aspect of their e-mail program, those that do not want their names on the web are asked to reply to the sender only.

*Alexis Silverman RN BA BScN CIC
Rebecca Yu RN BScN
Co-Chairs, Mental Health Interest Group*

ONCOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

- Met at annual meeting in 2008
- Members list with demographic data was updated

Discussion included:

- Sharing tools, policies and processes
- E-mail as a method of communication was used successfully with the group across the country last year. This year there was minimal communication through this format and although we discussed posting Q & A through the CHICA Web Board it did not materialize.

Kay has worked with the local cancer centre through the past year to further develop the pandemic plan and will share this with the group once this revision is complete.

It is hoped that further discussion at the 2009 national conference around the "Safer Healthcare Now" initiative will aid the group in deciding what role this should play in Oncology.

The development of a survey for the group to determine the types of oncology services provided by each healthcare institution should be drafted at the spring meeting.

*Kay Cranston RN CON(C) CCRP
Co-Chair, Oncology Interest Group*

PEDIATRIC INTEREST GROUP

The position statement for toy management in the pediatric setting was completed and submitted in October 2008.

Outstanding items from the May 31, 2008 meeting in Montreal include:

- Cleaning and disinfection of infant feeding implements;
- Cleaning and disinfection of newborn hearing test ear probes
- Changing the terms of reference to Neonatal / Pediatric Interest Group.

We continue to network with each other across Canada via the e-mail list. New issues include:

- Skin antisepsis for neonates; and
- Policies for visitors / staff in Level III nurseries

These issues will be discussed at the meeting in St. John's.

Kellie McLean

Chair, Pediatric Interest Group

PREHOSPITAL CARE INTEREST GROUP

2008 was an exceptionally busy year for the Prehospital Care Interest Group and this was a result of taking on the project of planning and delivering a Prehospital PreConference program at the CHICA conference in Montreal. The end of 2007 was focussed on pre-conference planning and this carried on into the beginning of 2008. Following the Montreal conference the interest group was able to re-focus on our projects that had been deferred due to conference planning. The group's primary projects for 2008 were:

- Montreal 2008 Pre-Conference half day planning
- Prehospital Care Infection Prevention and Control Survey
- Prehospital Care Infection Prevention and Control Audit tool

The following is a chronological listing of the interest group's activities

- February 8 2008- Working Group teleconference for pre-conference planning
- March 17 2008- Working Group teleconference for pre-conference planning
- March 31 2008- Working group teleconference for pre-conference planning
- May 31 2008- Prehospital Care working group meeting at the Montreal conference
- May 31 2008- Prehospital Care Interest Group meeting at Montreal conference. Discussed pre-conference agenda, discussed progress on audit tool and survey and new co-chair elected.
- July 2 2008 – Working group conference call (follow up from conference, continue with audit and survey)
- September 18 2007 – Working group conference call (begin work to finalize audit tool)
- December 4 2008 Working Group conference call (Audit tool finalized, work on distribution)

At the interest group meeting at the Montreal conference there was also a co-chair election. Greg Bruce was elected to continue as one of the co-chairs and Grant Moir was nominated and elected pending his acceptance. Grant accepted his nomination and was confirmed as the co-chair on our teleconference July 2, 2008. The group expresses it's heartfelt thanks to Barb Goulet for her past service as co-chair. Suzanne Rhodenizer-Rose was also acclaimed as recording secretary.

The pre-hospital group expresses its appreciation to the board and the 2008 conference planning committee for the opportunity to have the pre-conference half day dedicated to prehospital care. This was an exciting and challenging event for the group to undertake and everyone in the group worked very hard to put together and execute an informative program. We have received a lot of positive feedback from many of the conference delegates and request for some of the presentations. The exposure the prehospital care received as a result of the pre-conference day is directly responsible for an increase in the membership of the group. In particular we are pleased to announce our working group membership increased from seven members to 18 members after the conference.

The group has also provided the audit tool developed to Karen Clinker and the Programs and Projects committee to be incorporated into the audit tool work this group is completing.

As we look forward to 2009 the group will be continuing to work on distribution of the audit tool and survey to prehospital services across the country. The group will meet by teleconference early in the New Year in order to establish priorities for the next projects and create a work plan to complete meaningful projects with the assistance of all the new members. 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.

Grant Moir EMT Paramedic

Greg Bruce AEMCA

Co-Chairs/CHICA-Canada Prehospital Care Interest Group

SURVEILLANCE & APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

Report on Activities since the CHICA/AIPI 2008 Conference

An executive has been formed as follows:

Co-Chair: Christine Weir

Canadian Nosocomial Infections Surveillance Program, Public Health Agency of Canada/Agence de la santé publique, Ottawa, ON

Co-Chair: Bronwen Edgar, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre , Toronto, ON

Secretary: Anne-Luise Winter, Infectious Diseases Branch , Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Toronto, ON

CJIC Liaison: Diane Wallace, Grand River Hospital , Kitchener, ON

In addition to the executive, a working group of 18 volunteers from the larger interest group has been formed to develop priorities and move projects forward. This working group includes representation from individuals working in various disciplines and organizations across Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. The working group continues to seek out representation from other provinces/territories.

The working group met in September to discuss the next steps for the interest group. The following initial deliverables have been established:

- Develop a surveillance tool depository – survey CHICA members for information (ie. what surveillance they are currently conducting, what tools they are using, and to identify gaps in surveillance)
- Develop an audit tool depository (ie. for hand hygiene, environmental cleaning)
- Establish annual pre-conference education day for surveillance and applied epidemiology during the annual CHICA conference

A timeframe of Spring 2009 (in time for the next annual CHICA meeting) has been set for these deliverables.

While standardizing case definitions was highlighted as a priority at the May conference, it has been brought to the attention of the interest group that there is an existing national workgroup for this area. As a result, this priority has been deferred for the time being. The SAEIG would like to connect with this national group to stay current with their developments.

The SAEIG has been added to the CHICA website http://www.chica.org/Members/members_surv.html
Here CHICA members can find the group's Terms of Reference and minutes from past meetings.

Please contact us for more information:

Co-Chairs:

Christine Weir – Eastern Ontario (EO) Chapter

christine_weir@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Bronwen Edgar – Toronto and Area Professionals (TPIC) Chapter

bronwen.edgar@sunnybrook.ca

Secretary:

Anne-Luise Winter – Toronto and Area Professionals (TPIC) Chapter

anne-luise.winter@ontario.ca

CJIC Liaison:

Diane Wallace – Hamilton and Neighbouring District (HANDIC) Chapter

diane.wallace@grhosp.on.ca

WEB COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Website Activity

Website statistics for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 showed the following:

- **Number of unique website visitors for 2008:** 103,723 (100,069 in 2007)
- **Total number of website hits (including repeats) for 2008:** 259,332 (259,950 in 2007)
- **Average hits per day (including weekends) for 2008:** 710 (712 in 2007)
- **Number of first time visitors for 2008:** 62,128 (61,919 in 2007)

Initiatives

A. New/Ongoing Initiatives

• Members Area

- New webpage for Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group
- New webpage for Membership Information
- Online Member and Source Guide

• Chapter Websites

- CHICA-Northern Alberta launched March, 2008
- CHICA-Southern Ontario launched November, 2008

• New Web Pages

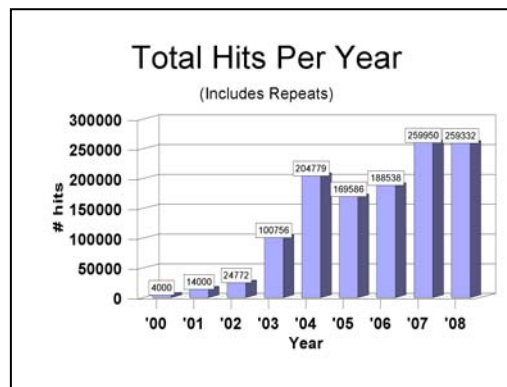
- MRSA Roadshows/Webinars
- CIC Chapter Achievement Award
- Industry web pages updated to reflect new structure of industry membership

• Other

- Website survey administered in September, 2008
- Home page redesigned with more quick links to Professional and Knowledge Resources
- CJIC back issues now available on public site
- Improvements in distribution of member emails from Membership Services Office and posting in Members area
- Online membership renewal is in place for 2009

B. Future Plans

- Results from the 2008 website survey indicate that the CHICA-Canada website is well-utilized, with positive comments regarding content, navigation and ease of use. Some comments:
 - *'It is the place to go for infection control info in Canada'*
 - *'A trusted source of infection prevention material'*
 - *'It is one stop shopping for infection prevention and control'*
 - *'Top notch, credible information on best practices for infection control'*
 - *'It is a source that I trust'*



Suggestions for improvement from the survey are being addressed by the website team and should be in place prior to the 2009 conference.

- A meeting of chapter website liaison members/chapter webmasters is planned for the 2009 conference, to allow networking and discussion of issues common to all chapter websites
- New information web page for long-term care, home care and community care

Shirley McDonald, Web Communications Manager/CHICA-Canada Webmaster

WEB BOARD

The web board is still active, but not seeing as much activity as it should. There will be a meeting at the St. John's conference to discuss both the website and the web board. It is hoped that if there are issues with the web board, they will be discussed at this meeting and suggestions made for improving the use of this discussion area.

Instructions for registering on the Web Board and how to use it were posted to the website early in 2009 for all members to see.

Jim Gauthier MLT CIC

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (CJIC)

We have had an increase in the number of articles accepted for publication, from eight in 2007 to 12 in 2008. There are currently eight articles in draft and final review form awaiting publication in CJIC.

The 2008 CJIC meeting held at the annual conference in Montreal provided more feedback and ideas from those in attendance.

Once again, following the conference a letter was sent to abstract presenters encouraging them to publish their findings in CJIC.

The Editorial Board membership has been reviewed and additional members have been added to review the increased numbers of articles.

We have ensured that CJIC is appropriately listed on various medical library search tools such as PubMed and the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature. This may assist in attracting more scientific content to the CJIC.

Members and chapters are to be congratulated for continuing to promote provide interesting and important content for CJIC.

*Pat Piaskowski RN HBScN CIC
Editor in Chief*

ARCHIVIST

The 2008 conjoint education conference was co-hosted by the l'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections (AIPI) au Québec and CHICA – Canada in Montreal from May 29 – June 5. This conference lived up to its theme. There was truly a “*Mosaic*” of culture, with representatives attending from eight countries. Registrants numbered over 725 which in itself is a great CHICA conference accomplishment. A wide variety of disciplines attended, across the continuum of care, with a great range of expertise. This made the networking opportunities very rich in enhancing infection prevention and control knowledge.

In addition to the conference registrants, over 100 exhibiting companies along with several not-for-profit organizations made visiting 110 booths a marathon. There were 24 oral and 58 posters, displaying that evidence-based practice is alive and well in Canada and other countries. It's this commitment to sharing that encourages us to preserve in our practice and attend our national education conferences.

On the topic of networking, an inaugural meeting took place called the “*Network of Networks*” where invited provincial representatives met with representatives from existing provincial networks to discuss similarities and differences in reaching the common goals of infection prevention and control programs. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) representatives attended and spoke of surveillance initiatives across the country.

The chapter presidents met with various CHICA Board Members to be appraised of board activities. The presidents shared the highlights from each of their chapter's yearly activities. In addition, numerous interest groups met to network, share experiences, hear education presentations and build relationships. A new group met for the first time, the Applied Surveillance and Epidemiology Interest Group. This year the conference planning allowed for the majority of interest group meetings to be held before the main education sessions began. This format provided more time for collaboration within special IP&C practice areas.

Numerous members were acknowledged for their achievements over the past year. The Best First Time Abstract Winner was Julia Carboneau, Ste Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec for her abstract *Le triage informatise: une approche proactive d'endiguement d'une eventuelle pandémie*. Solumed sponsored two oral presentations and the winners were: Melody Cordiviz, Edmonton, AB on her presentation: *Lights, Camera, Action: Being an Infection Control Paparazzo (ICP)* and Lina Moisan, Laval, Quebec on her presentation “*Do you know what's on your hands and pagers? Or; how to sensitize Healthcare Workers to the importance of Hand Hygiene*. The 2008 Ecolab sponsored Infection Control Week Poster Contest was won by Ellen Otterbein, Waterloo, ON. Jennifer Grant, from Vancouver and Johanne Gagne, from Montreal were both winners for their poster presentations. The 2007 Editorial Award went to Larry Chambers, Anne Mc Carthy, Annette O'Connor, Frank Knoefel, Jane Sutherland, Donna Pierrynowski, Donna Baker, Joanne Villeneuve, Paula Arnold, for their article on: *Development and evaluation of a decision aid about influenza prevention for healthcare workers* (CJIC Vol.22, No.4, Winter, 2007). The Toronto Professionals in Infection Control were winners at the 2008 conference, winning the 3M Chapter Achievement Award. Numerous CHICA members were recognized as being the recipient of Virox Technology Partnership Scholarships.

The third annual Run for IFIC was held in beautiful Old Montreal on Monday, June 2, 2008. Despite an early morning mist, 26 hardy 5K runners and 2.5K walkers laced up to raise funds for the scholarship program of the International Federation of Infection Control. A donation of \$3300.00 from pledges and \$2500.00 from the Board of CHICA-Canada has been sent to IFIC. Thanks to Frederica Gaspard and CHICA-Montreal chapter for their assistance in coordinating the 2008 Run for IFIC.

Mary E LeBlanc RN BN CIC
Archivist

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFECTION CONTROL (IFIC)

BOARD ACTIVITIES:

The board met twice during 2008; the first time in February in Essen, Germany and the second time in Santiago, Chile before the 9th congress. There were four Executive Committee meetings via Skype telecons, as well as hundreds of emails!

A significant undertaking for the executive was the drafting of an Administrative manual (policy and procedures) that has never existed for the Board and was sorely needed. Thanks go to the CHICA Board for allowing IFIC to use CHICA's manual as a model.

PUBLICATIONS:

Basic Concepts in Infection Control is available from the web site in PDF format. This publication is available in hard copy at no cost to individual members from BD Diagnostics a Strategic Partner. Check the IFIC web to contact BD.

International Journal of Infection Control: As was reported last year, a comprehensive journal web site for the *International Journal of Infection Control* was created (www.ijic.info). Dr Judith Richards (Board member) has accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief and a formal editorial board has been created. Two issues were published in 2008.

IFIC e-News editions were continued to be an important communication tool for members and was published in January, April, July and September.

The web site at www.theIFIC.org continues to be improved to make it as user friendly as possible and further changes are envisaged in the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP:

IFIC has **75** members from **60** countries. The only consistent income to IFIC is from membership fees. The membership year starts at the beginning of each calendar year.

At the 2008 AGM a change in membership category was approved. Associate Members are now "Individuals professionally involved or interested in Infection Control as well as non-commercial organizations". Membership fee for this category is £25 per year, however, to meet IFIC's continued mandate, for those from under resourced regions/countries free associate membership is in place for individuals in countries reported by the World Bank to have a GNI per capita of <\$10,000.

The board also wants to acknowledge our Strategic Partners 2008: 3M Worldwide, Baxter Worldwide, BD, Covidien and Enturia and our Patron Members 2008: Soapopular, Virox and Oxoid.

EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVOURS:

The 9th Congress of IFIC was held from October 14-17 in Santiago, Chile and I am delighted to report (again) that this was the most successful conference to date. Over 900 delegates from 50 countries attended the three-day conference. As well as the outstanding planned programme, the scientific committee accepted a total of 197 original oral and poster presentations. And as always, IFIC was able to support delegates (10 this year) from low resource countries through its scholarship fund that Moira Walker continues to chair.

To encourage more networking among member societies at this year's congress IFIC invited member societies to present a poster describing their mandates etc. CHICA's submission was excellent. It is hoped that this will become an event at all IFIC congresses.

Future IFIC Congresses:

Tenth Congress – Vilnius, Lithuania, October 8-11 2009.

INITIATIVES:

IFIC continued to work with the World Health Organization to ensure success of the Global Patient Safety Challenge, especially its hand hygiene component and at the 9th Congress IFIC held workshops with the WHO leaders in this endeavour.

For the first time, IFIC invited representatives of member societies who are key contributors and supporters to IFIC to attend a round table discussion with the Board. Marion Yetman aptly represented CHICA. The purpose of this meeting was to assess any areas where we can further strengthen our joint collaboration and to brainstorm between us. A recurring theme during this meeting was the need for better communication to member societies and that more awareness is needed among these members as to what IFIC is and what it does. One initiative coming from this was the idea that member societies would be invited to sponsor a session and a speaker at IFIC conferences – in order to bring in diverse experiences for all our members. At the writing of this report, invitations have already been extended to members, and CHICA has accepted this challenge for Lithuania 2009!

As always, I continue to be grateful to CHICA-Canada for affording me this opportunity.

Carol Goldman RN BScN CIC

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICE

In 2008, assistance was provided to the Executive, Board and membership of CHICA-Canada in day-to-day administration as well as coordination of special projects.

General activities included membership services, input into publication of the quarterly journal, *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*, and the 2008/2009 Member and Source Guide, publication of the 2007 Annual Report, 2008 and 2009 Poster Contests, input into website information, and promotion and sales of the Just Wash 'Em Video, the Toolkit for Emergencies and Disasters, the ESBL Toolkit, the Webber Teleclass CDs, and the Infection Control Audits Toolkit.

In 2008, I worked closely with the Director of Programs & Projects in the development of the 2009 MRSA Roadshows/Webinars with BD Canada. I also negotiated marketing programs with potential industry partners and arranged for follow through with successful projects. I gave some assistance to revision of the Audit Toolkit.

Communication has been ongoing with industry partners regarding Industry Membership and the Industry Relations Committee.

Other activities included facilitation of the 2008 Virox Technologies Partnership Scholarship Fund, the 2008 3M Research Grant, and the 2008 3M Chapter Achievement Award. The third Chapter Presidents Teleclass was held in January of 2008 and the Voices of CHICA, hosted by Webber Training, were held in March and September 2008.

Special projects included participation on the Communications Committee of the National Infectious Disease Day in Ottawa (October), and on the Core Committee of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute Patient Safety Forum (April 2009, Toronto). Online Membership Registration was launched in December 2008; work continued on Online Conference Registration which is anticipated to be launched in January 2009.

I attended the 2008 APIC conference in Denver and managed a CHICA-Canada information booth. Thanks to colleagues Karen Clinker, Ellen Otterbein, Sandra Callery, Marion Yetman and Paul Webber.

It was also my honour to be invited to attend the spring Board meeting of the International Federation of Infection Control in Essen, Germany (February). Assistance has been provided to IFIC on policy development and conference planning.

I would like to express my thanks to the Board for its support during the past year and for providing a challenging and fulfilling work environment. I especially thank Kelli Wagner for her invaluable assistance in all projects during the year.

*Gerry Hansen BA
Executive Administrator*

CONFERENCE PLANNER

2008 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Mosaic/Mosaïque

Palais des Congrès, Montreal – May 29-June 5, 2008

The 2008 National Education Conference was an historic partnership of CHICA-Canada, CHICA Montreal, and l'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections (AIPI). Over 700 attendees enjoyed a high quality, dynamic education program and networking opportunities. 110 exhibit booths were occupied by industry and not-for-profit partners. The special event gala evening, *Mosaïque au clair de lune*, was a magical event with dining and dancing to the wee hours of the morning.

I would like to thank and commend the Core Planning Committee for their dedication to offering a strong education opportunity. The Core Planning Committee were: Karen Hope, CHICA-Canada Chair, Dr. Donna Moralejo, CHICA-Canada Scientific Program Chair, Danielle Goulet, AIPI Conference Chair, Lyne St-Martin, AIPI Scientific Program Chair, and Frédérica Gaspard and Ramona Rodrigues of CHICA Montreal. Thank you especially to the many volunteers who ensured the success of the event.

The 2008 CHICA-Canada Scientific Program Committee is to be recognized for their input into the planning of the education sessions by acting as speakers and mentors. Thank you to Dr. Elizabeth Henderson, Karen Hope, Jim Gauthier, Marion Yetman, Dr. Diane Roscoe, and Dr. Donna Moralejo.

The 3rd Run for IFIC netted a donation of \$6,000 CDN to IFIC. Thank you to Frédérica Gaspard and her colleagues at CHICA Montreal for organizing this fun and worthy event.

Sincerest appreciate to Kelli Wagner for her diligence and support in the management of the conference.

2009 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Solid Foundations...Shifting Horizons

Delta St. John's/St. John's Convention Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador

May 9-14, 2009

In 2008, I worked with the Scientific Program Committee, chapter members, and industry in the facilitation of the 2009 conference. The 2009 Scientific Program Committee is comprised of Conference Chair, Joanne Laalo; Scientific Program Chair, Donna Moralejo; Scientific Program Co-Chair, Jim Gauthier; Acute Care Representative, Molly Blake; Long Term Care Representative, Lee Hanna; Community/Public Health Representative, Marion Yetman; Microbiology/Infectious Diseases Representative, Dr. Diane Roscoe; and CHICA Newfoundland Labrador representatives, Penny Ralph and Merlee Steele-Rodway.

2010 NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Golden Opportunities – Soaring to new heights

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Vancouver BC

May 29-June 3, 2010

In October 2008, I met with the 2010 Scientific Program Committee to start organization of the 2010 conference. The 2010 Scientific Program Committee is comprised of Marion Yetman (Conference Chair), Jim Gauthier (Scientific Program Chair), Zahir Hirji (Scientific Program Co-Chair), Molly Blake (Acute Care Representative), Lee Hanna (Long Term Care Representative), Amanda Knapp (Community/Public Health Representative), Dr. Pamela Kibsey (Microbiology/ID Representative), and Louise Holmes and Linda Kingsbury of CHICA British Columbia.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Board has recognized the value of a nationally-appointed, geographically-diverse Scientific Program Committee in providing expertise and continuity to the planning of national conferences. It also recognizes that with the growth of CHICA-Canada's national conferences not all chapters will be fortunate enough to have a national conference in

their area, mainly because the capacity of many local venues is not large enough to accommodate the conference. The Board has decided that, starting with the 2011 conference, the Scientific Program Committee will include one member from the local chapter and one member-at-large, chosen from CHICA-Canada chapters in rotation. The rotation is flexible but has been suggested to be:

Year	Conference Location	Member at Large from:
2011	Toronto (venue/date TBA)	CHICA Eastern Ontario
2012	Saskatchewan (city/venue/date TBA)	CHICA Renfrew County
2013	Location to be determined	CHICA New Brunswick/PEI
2014	Location to be determined	CHICA COPIC
2015	Location to be determined	CHICA Northeastern Ontario
2016	Location to be determined	CHICA Newfoundland Labrador
2017	Location to be determined	CHICA Northwestern Ontario
2018	Location to be determined	CHICA HUPIC

The roles and responsibilities of the local chapter, the chapter committee member and committee member at large will be described fully at the time the conference location and national committee members are identified. Chapters not on the list are considered to be in locations with venues suitable for a future CHICA-Canada Conference.

INTERNATIONAL INFECTION CONTROL COUNCIL (I2C2)

I attended a meeting in Denver regarding the future of the International Infection Control Council (I2C2). Agreement was made with APIC and ICNA to disband the Council and focus on other projects with international partners. The President and Secretary of the Council have proposed a continuation of the Council and discussions will continue in St. John's.

Many thanks to the committees, chapter members, conference attendees, industry representatives and allied associations who work hard alongside the CHICA Conference Planning Office to ensure dynamic educational and networking opportunities. Thanks also to Kelli Wagner for her selfless dedication to the success of our conferences before, during and after the events.

*Gerry Hansen BA
Conference Planner*

CHICA-VANCOUVER ISLAND

Executive 2008

President: Joanne Baines
President-elect: Vacant
Secretary: Kim Zboyovsky
Treasurer: Susan Sinclair

Executive 2009

President: Joanne Baines
President-elect: Lisa Young
Secretary: Kim Zboyovsky
Treasurer: Susan Sinclair

Geographic Area Served: Vancouver Island

Membership

We continue to be a small but energetic group of practitioners working to support care providers. We continue to actively network with those in Community Care and other non-traditional areas who have a responsibility for Infection Prevention and Control. Benefits of CHICA membership is encouraged at each meeting.

Meetings

Meetings consisted of a mix of formal and informal business. Corresponding members gave formal review of CHICA national activities and conference highlights. Members were encouraged to use the web-board section of the Members Only Area of the CHICA web site to ask questions and share issues.

Highlights

Two members attended the 2008 National Education Conference in Montreal; three members will be going to the 2009 conference in St. John's.

Other Issues

A number of other issues were discussed at each meeting: education for ICPs, and outbreak management in a variety of settings including the use of different precautions. Local issues were reviewed. All members were encouraged to share success stories, useful tools, and other initiatives with each other and the Canadian Journal of Infection Control. There was also discussion concerning getting new members into the chapter.

Joanne Baines

Chapter President 2008

CHICA-BC

2008 Executive

President: Gail Busto RN BSc CIC
President Elect: Coleen Reiswig RN BSN CIC
Past President: Mary McNaughton RN BSN MSA CIC
Secretary: Jacquie Hlagi RPN BPN, CIPC
Treasurer: Tracy Lanier RN BSN CIC (up to September 08)
Joy Pyett, RN BSN CIC (from September 08)

2009 Executive

Many thanks to Mary McNaughton who is leaving the executive after three years of leadership.

President: Coleen Reiswig RN BSN CIC
President Elect: Robyn Hunter RN BSN

Geographic Area Served:

All of British Columbia, with the exception of Vancouver Island, which is a separate chapter.

Membership:

As of December 2008, CHICA-BC had 137 members.

Meetings:

One of our main goals for 2008 was to increase the participation of, and services to, members outside the Lower Mainland of Vancouver. A number of approaches helped in this regard:

- Although all meetings have been available by teleconference for some time, we continued to try to improve on the effectiveness of this strategy.
- Three business meetings were held in conjunction with other educational opportunities, attended by many out of town members.
- Two executive members were recruited from the Interior Health Authority.
- The annual Education Day was organized and hosted by members from the Interior Health Authority in Kelowna.

In total six CHICA-BC meetings were held, all with a business and an education component.

1. February 6 – held at CHICA-Canada’s “MRSA Roadshow”
2. March 26 – Gerry Hansen presented “2010 National Conference Planning”
3. May 9 – held at PICNet’s Educational Conference “Building Bridges Between Occupational Health, Public Health, and Infection Prevention and Control”
4. June 25 – Ms. Sydney Scharf presented “An ICP’s Experience in South Africa”
5. September 25 – held at CHICA-BC’s Education Day “Emerging Issues in Infection Control in British Columbia”
6. November 26 – Ms. Linda Kingsbury presented “Reprocessing Policy, Guidelines and Audit Overview”

Highlights:

Our Fall Education Day was successfully held in Kelowna with over 70 attendees from across the continuum of care. Speakers included Ms. Judy Mori (IP&C), Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill (Medical Microbiology/Infectious Disease), Ms. Julie Hamilton RN, Dr. Dwight Ferris (Infectious Disease Consultant), and Dr. Paul Hasselback (Medical Health Officer). Many thanks to all who contributed their expertise, and congratulations to the members who organized the meeting.

Finally, early this year we received the exciting news that Vancouver will host CHICA Canada’s 2010 National Education Conference. CHICA-BC members are starting to organize for this event, and are looking forward to the 2009 conference in Newfoundland, and welcoming everyone here in 2010.

*Gail Busto RN BSc CIC
Chapter President*

CHICA-NORTHERN ALBERTA (CHICA-NA)

Executive 2008:

President: Alan Hope
President Elect: Samantha Woolsey RN BScN CIC
Past President: Liz Werner RN
Secretary: Melody Cordoviz RN BSc BScN CIC
Treasurer: Shelley Winton RN BScN

Executive 2009:

President: Samantha Woolsey RN BScN CIC
President Elect: Denise Sorel RN BScN CIC
Past President: Alan Hope
Secretary: Melody Cordoviz RN BSc BScN CIC
Treasurer: Shelley Winton RN BScN

Number of Members: 93

Geographical Area served: Northern Alberta

Membership:

CHICA-Northern Alberta increased its membership to 93 members. The membership includes representation across the continuum of care, industry, occupational health & safety, microbiology, and education. We have been excited to have new members join our group and saddened to see several retire from Infection Prevention and Control, and some who have moved from the region.

Meetings:

CHICA-Northern Alberta held nine meetings in 2008 as well as one joint meeting with CHICA-Southern Alberta. A different member at alternating facilities hosts meetings each month. Education sessions make up the first hour of meetings with the balance being the business portion.

The annual meeting held in September with our sister chapter, CHICA-Southern Alberta was well attended and was held the day before the two-day conference hosted by CHICA-SA. Members from both chapters presented their poster presentations from the National Conference.

CHICA NA education sessions resumed in October with round table discussions and IPC week. The annual Christmas luncheon in December is an opportunity to complete the business of the year, to network and to celebrate, and to say goodbye to those members retiring and leaving the group.

Highlights 2008:

- The Province of Alberta has created one board, what role the CHICA Chapters will have has not been clearly defined as of yet.
- The chapter continued with a formal Strategic Plan to assist in maintaining focus in order to move toward meeting annual objectives.
- Teleconferencing was provided at six of the nine meetings. From one to four members who otherwise would not have been able to participate, were able to take advantage of the service at those meetings.
- Four of our members successfully completed their recertification in infection control, and another has successfully written for the first time.
- A Member Satisfaction Survey was distributed to the membership in October/November. Results of the 35% who responded and outcomes were discussed early in 2008.
- Work has been completed on the chapter web page and was posted on the CHICA-Canada website in early 2008.
- Denise Sorel from our chapter was given an award from APIC for Heroes of Infection Control
- Work is in progress to complete a comprehensive list of past members of the Executive of this Chapter.
- The chapter continues to look for opportunities to increase awareness in the community.

Thank you CHICA Canada and the membership of CHICA Northern Alberta for allowing me to be the first industry representative to hold the position of chapter president. It has been both an honour and a privilege to fulfill the duties as president, and I would like to thank all my membership for the guidance and invaluable assistance throughout the year.

Alan Hope
Chapter President

CHICA-SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Executive 2008

President: Kathryn Bush MSc MLT
President-elect: Debbie Lam-Li BSc CIC
Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN BScN OHNC
Treasurer: Eileen Stamp RN BSc

Executive 2009

President: Debbie Lam-Li BSc ART CIC
President-elect: Deb Doe RN CIC
Secretary: Heather MacLaurin RN BScN OHNC
Treasurer: Eileen Stamp RN BSc

Number of Members: 56

Geographic Area Served:

Southern Alberta, this includes all areas from Red Deer south to the US border, west to the BC border and east to the Saskatchewan border.

Membership

CHICA Southern Alberta is comprised of members with varied backgrounds representing several sectors in health care including acute care (adult and pediatric), continuing care, home care, community, public health, industry and education.

Meetings

The chapter meetings are held in Calgary, on the first Wednesday of the month. There are eight meetings annually (no meetings in July, August or December). Next year the chapter will be investigating the use of technology to facilitate meeting attendance for out of town chapter members.

Our new chapter meeting format trial is over to great success – last year we decided to re-format our chapter meetings to offer different areas of focus at each meeting.

- Two meetings are devoted to annual chapter business.
- Three meetings focus on education with an invited guest speaker. Education offerings this year included a presentation on C.difficile from Canadian expert (and CHICA-SA member) Dr. Tom Louie.
- Two meetings that we call “Networking” where we focus on chapter projects. This year, those projects included seminar planning; website development, including plans for a CHICA-SA archive section (for members’ stories and pictures of past chapter events). Another meeting was a focus group format to provide feedback on future CHICA-Canada conference planning and education needs.
- The June meeting is a social event with a catered lunch and CHICA-Canada Conference debriefing for members. It’s a great social time and members bring along any posters they presented at the conference for the rest of group to view. This year, Dr. Sandy Black from the Calgary Zoo spoke to membership about Infection Prevention and Control in that venue, to the delight of the membership.

Highlights

Several of our chapter members have contributed much of their time to committee work. Some of this work is highlighted below:

- Nancy Alfieri represents CHICA-SA as a Co-chair of the Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Committee.
- Karen Hope continued to serve on CHICA-Canada as the co-chair for the 2008 Conjoint CHICA and AIPI conference in Montreal. In addition, she effectively participated in lobbying for the development of the National Infection Disease Strategy.

- Dr. Elizabeth Henderson has been actively involved with the CHEC and CNISP programs as Chair of the Data Quality Sub Committee and SSI Point Prevalence committee. She also serves as co-chair of the newly formed Epidemiology Interest Group for CHICA-Canada
- Wendy Runge served as national faculty member for the Canadian Patient Safety Institute campaign, 'Safer Health Care Now!' (ARO initiative). Wendy is also a member of the Alberta Expert Review Panel for Blood Borne Infections in Health Care Workers and the Calgary Health Region IPC representative on the Provincial 'Delivery of Healthcare Services in Correctional Facilities' working group.
- Eileen Stamp will lead a chapter working group to create a 5-year budget plan for the chapter.
- Several of our chapter members are actively involved in CHICA interest groups and sub committees and several members presented at the Montreal CHICA-Canada conference.

In March, CHICA-Canada and BD-Canada presented the Calgary stop of the MRSA Roadshow. Speakers included Calgary experts: Dr. Marie Louie, Dr. Tom Louie and Nancy Alfieri (Calgary Health Region IPC Director). Bernice Heinrichs from Alberta Health and Wellness gave some insights on new provincial IPC standards and guidelines, and Dr. David Tison from Tacoma Washington offered an American perspective. The chapter thanks CHICA-Canada and Becton Dickinson for sponsoring the event and Gwyneth Meyers for her role as local coordinator.

Strong ties exist between the Alberta chapters, CHICA-SA and CHICA-NA. For example, the David Thompson Health Region straddles the borders of the two Chapters so IPC professionals from that region can belong to either chapter. There is a provincial networking meeting with CHICA-SA and CHICA-NA every September in Red Deer, halfway between Calgary and Edmonton. The chapters also collaborated on a letter to the Alberta Minister of Health on the potential role of CHICA chapters in IPC education in the province. This collaboration highlights the provincial cooperation that already exists with IPC professionals in the province and the future for provincial networking appears bright. Since the joint meeting in September, CHICA-NA and CHICA-SA members interested in exploring the future of IPC under AHS, have formed an Interest Group (lead by Denise Sorel, CHICA-NA). The meetings are by teleconference every second Friday morning.

Education:

This year, the CHICA-SA education seminar took place on September 11 and 12, right after the joint Alberta Chapters meeting. "Under the Microscope: Improving Infection Control Practices" was a timely offering following the Alberta Health and Wellness release of new provincial IPC Standards, and was a tremendous success. Alison Devine and her seminar planning team afforded the 187 participants (front line health care providers or managers from Acute Care, Continuing Care, Emergency Services, Public Health, Community Care, Medical Clinics, Rural Health Care, Mental Health, Infection Prevention and Control, and the Medical Industry) insights into infection prevention and control in acute care, community care and EMS. Conference participants also included the Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health Services: DTHR, the Vice President of Public Health & Infection Control Executive for the David Thompson Health Region of Alberta Health Services. Representatives from provincial groups were present, such as Alberta College of Paramedics and Alberta Health and Wellness.

On the final seminar day the participants were divided into workgroups based on the health care service area in which they practice. The groups included Emergency Medical Services, Home Care and Community Clinics, Acute Care, Continuing Care, Rural Health Facilities, and Infection Prevention and Control. Discussions were facilitated and summarized by each of these groups regarding the practices of infection control in their sector of care. The conference served as a beginning of a networking structure: the EMS participants have now established a provincial communication group for EMS to continue these discussions. As well, the participants from Home Care and Medical Clinics from across the province have now established their own email network to continue their discussions.

I would like to thank all the people I have worked with this year as Chapter President. It has been a great learning experience and a pleasure to serve this chapter; 2009 promises to be another exciting year.

*Kathryn Bush MSc
Chapter President*

SASKATCHEWAN PRACTITIONERS IN INFECTION CONTROL (SASKPIC)

2008 Executive

President: Michelle Luscombe RN CIC
President-elect: Donna Wiens RN BScN CIC
Secretary: Ivy Scobie RN BScN
Treasurer: Vi Burton RN BScN

2009 Executive

President: Donna Wiens RN BScN CIC
President-elect: Joy Kellen RN, BN, MSc
Secretary: Ivy Scobie RN BScN
Treasurer: Vi Burton RN BScN

Number of Members: 63

Geographic Area Served: Saskatchewan

Membership

CHICA-SASKPIC has a diverse group of members with backgrounds in acute, long-term care, public health, medicine, community health, environmental services, laboratory and infection control. We saw an increase of two members this year.

Meetings

This year our chapter held an education session/chapter meeting in March by telehealth. With the large geographical location of our members we could reach our members without having our members travel great distances. Our annual general meeting was held following our Fall CHICA-SASKPIC conference.

The executive met six times throughout 2008.

Highlights

- On March 6, 2008, we held our first telehealth session named “Hand Hygiene and Compliance” with 3M providing assistance with the speakers. Following the hour telehealth session we held a short chapter meeting. Positive feedback was received from members to continue this avenue of meetings in the future.
- On September 19 we held our annual fall conference and AGM in Saskatoon. This year our conference was called “Stop Bugs Now-Your Role in Infection Control”. We had a very successful conference with 125 registrants attending.
- As a chapter we were able to fund our president’s and treasurer’s attendance to the National CHICA Canada Conference in Montreal. This year, we also had sufficient funds to assist two additional CHICA-SASKPIC members to attend the national conference in June.
- Our chapter has set aside monies for an education fund to assist SASKPIC members in obtaining various education needs such as CIC designation or various Infection Control courses.

*Michelle Luscombe RN CIC
Chapter President.*

CHICA-MANITOBA

Executive 2008

President: Betty Taylor RN BN MScA
President-elect: Monique Liarakos RN BA BN
Secretary: Janice Brigg, RN BN MSN
Treasurer: Maureen Matheson RN BN

Executive 2009

President: Monique Liarakos RN BA BN
President-elect: Nina Williams RN
Secretary: Janice Briggs RN BN MSN
Treasurer: Krista Maxwell RN

Number of Members: 61.

Geographic Area Served: The province of Manitoba

Membership

Membership includes those who work in positions at urban and rural Manitoba acute and long term care facilities, rural health complexes/health centres, Manitoba Health/public health/Health Canada FNIB, regional health authorities, community colleges, community health clinics, rehab center for children, Cancer Care Manitoba. Membership also includes consultants and industry representatives.

Meetings

The Chapter meetings were held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July, August, and November. Meetings consist of a one hour education session and a two hour business meeting.

Highlights

- CHICA Manitoba Chapter members worked towards accomplishing initiatives that were developed in the strategic plan. The actions taken included education sessions, developing job descriptions for key positions, forming a study group for certification, continuing work with Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety in planning for National Infection Control week.
- The CHICA Manitoba Chapter, with the support of Manitoba Institute of Patient Safety, worked very hard to promote Infection Control Week. Our slogan was “Clean it up, Stop the Spread of AROS”. Campaign materials included an infection control week campaign letter, media release, posters, tent cards and a toolkit. The campaign materials can be found on the CHICA-Manitoba website. Manitoba Health submitted a letter commending CHICA-Manitoba and the support of Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety for promoting greater awareness to activities health care professionals and the public can do to help prevent the spread of AROS. The president and president elect went on the local Big Breakfast TV Channel on October 20, 2008 to promote Infection Control Week.
- The chapter continued to participate in Webber Teleclasses making access available from Riverview Health Centre.
- The CHICA–Manitoba chapter received several requests for routine practices-hand hygiene education. Some of the chapter members have volunteered their time to provide this education. Education has been provided to occupational therapy students, health care aides, laboratory students, and Manitoba Hydro.
- CHICA-Manitoba Chapter arranged to have a booth display at Bug Day, an education day for health professional held on October 21, 2008.
- CHICA-Manitoba chapter supported five organizations by giving a small donation to each.

Educational Presentations at Monthly Meetings:

The following educational presentations were given to membership by guest speakers:

- Roberts Rules
- Microbiology: Lab Related Issues
- Regional Pandemic Influenza Update

- Email Etiquette
- Scabies –Video
- Overview Incident Command System

CHICA-Manitoba Chapter Conference:

The CHICA-Manitoba Chapter Infection Prevention & Control Conference was held on June 20, 2008 at the Victoria Inn with approximately 180 attendees. The conference was open to infection prevention and control professionals and other health care professionals interested in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections, communicable diseases, and health issues in acute, long term and community care.

Topics included: Emerging Pathogens-presented by Dr. John Embil; Collecting a Proper Specimen, presented by Dr. Paul Van Caesele; Cleaning and Disinfection, presented by Christine Bowes; *Clostridium difficile*, presented by Dr. Greg Hammond; Pets Visits-Therapy & Research, presented by Dr. Legace-Weins; and Ask the Expert – a panel of experts from across the spectrum of health care.

We recruited one new member from this conference.

CHICA National Conference:

The following members attended the 2008 CHICA National Conference in Montreal, Quebec: Betty Taylor, Brenda Dyck, Molly Blake, Davenna Conrad, Shari Szeremley, Judi Linden, Karen Retha, Monique Liarakos, Elizabeth Omeniuk, Genevieve Thompson.

CHICA Manitoba Retreat Day:

CHICA Manitoba Retreat Day was held on November 7, 2008. This day is planned as an education day for CHICA Manitoba Chapter Members. Topics for this year’s retreat included: TB from a National/Laboratory/ Clinical perspective; Anti-vaccination Movement “Vaccination Why Some People Refuse”; Listeria; and a fun session with a life coach: “Learning How to Take Care of Yourself”

CBIC:

Three members wrote the CBIC exam and became certified. We continue to encourage those not certified to gain certification.

*Betty Taylor RN BN MScA
Chapter President*

CHICA-NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-NWO)

Report not available at time of printing.

CHICA-HUPIC

2008 Executive:

President: Jo-Anne McConnell RN BScN CIC
Vice-president: Beverly Morgan MLT
Secretary: Susan Shular RN
Treasurer: Brenda Tanner RN CIC

2009 Executive:

President: Jo-Anne McConnell RN BScN CIC
President elect: Bev Morgan MLT
Secretary: Susan Shular RN
Treasurer: Brenda Tanner

Membership

CHICA-HUPIC chapter has 16 members.

Geographical Area Served: Grey Bruce and Huron Perth Counties

Our membership consists of a variety of professionals with various backgrounds. The majority of members are employed by acute care hospitals and long term care facilities. All have the responsibility of managing infection prevention and control in their facilities. Our small chapter membership has the advantage of all members being engaged and this has promoted enhanced communication between the infection prevention and control professionals between each facility throughout the area. For those members who have limited institutional resources and dedicated time for infection control, our membership supports those persons with assistance in problem solving, education and the sharing of resources. We also have several members from the local health unit who bring a wealth of community knowledge to our meetings. Our membership is also strongly supported and attended by our Regional Infection Control Network Coordinator and Educator.

Meetings

Meetings are held quarterly with an additional full day dedicated to education. Our meetings consist of news from CHICA, news from the Regional Infection Control Networks, news from Public Health, HUPIC recruitment strategies, upcoming educational opportunities, discussion of Best Practice documents, and end with a round table discussion on infection prevention and control issues and practices in our various organizations. We try to add an educational component to our meetings by having a guest speaker. During the past year we have had guest speakers from public health presenting sexually transmitted diseases and follow up.

Highlights

The highlight of 2008 was our annual education day on October 16, 2008 entitled "All Hands on Deck". Dr. Michael Gardam was our keynote speaker. Other speakers included Henrietta Van Hulle, Liz Van Horne and Tim Cronsberry. Although we only had 30 participants, the day was enjoyed by all and was very informative.

Three HUPIC members attended the annual CHICA conference in Montreal and felt it was very worthwhile. We hope more members will be able to attend the 2009 CHICA conference.

Congratulations to two of our HUPIC members who attained their Infection Control Certification in 2008.

*Jo-Anne McConnell RN BScN CIC
Chapter President*

CHICA-HANDIC

Executive 2008

President: Barbara Shea MLT ART Microbiology, CIC
President Elect: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN (C)
Secretary: Andrea Iacurti RN
Treasurer: Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART

Executive 2009

President: Barbara Shea MLT ART Microbiology, CIC
President Elect: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN (C)
Secretary: Andrea Iacurti RN
Treasurer: Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART

Number of Members: 144

Geographical Areas Served:

Hamilton and District (Hamilton, Niagara, St. Catherines, Mississauga, Oakville, Fergus, Cambridge and Brantford)

Membership:

The CHICA-HANDIC membership includes novice and experienced professionals from varying disciplines: nurses, public health inspectors, medical laboratory technologists and industry representatives of varying backgrounds. The majority of members hold positions in infection prevention and control in acute care, long term care, community health, public health and Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN's).

Meetings:

Full day meetings are held in February, April, July, September and December which consist of the morning devoted to chapter business while the afternoon consists of an educational component which is provided by an invited guest or chapter member. Standing agenda items for chapter business includes celebration of CIC and SARE successes, alerts and outbreak reports from members as well as reports from the President, Treasurer, special interest groups, CHICA- Canada, Infection Control Ontario and the RICN's.

In addition, questions from the membership are circulated and discussed to provide valuable networking and sharing of experiences and advice related to infection prevention and control issues. Implementation of PIDAC Best Practice Documents and other applicable guidelines are discussed as they become available.

Highlights:

- The CHICA HANDIC annual education day held in June was very successful. This year's theme was "Battle of the bugs. A Call to Action". There were 350 participants and feedback was very positive. The Mississauga Halton, Waterloo-Wellington and Central South RICN's provided sponsorship for two well known guest speakers: Dr. Michael Gardam and Jim Clemmer (author of Mouse on the Table). Our industry partners again supported this successful annual event financially and by providing booths allowing participants an opportunity to see infection prevention and control related products.
- The first CHICA HANDIC chapter-specific award known as the "The Hygiea Award" was presented to Anne Bialachowski who demonstrated outstanding achievements in five areas. The award is based on five quintessential elements as they relate to infection prevention and control (fire- sparking enthusiasm; earth-promotion and awareness; water - creativity and innovation; air- communication; and star matter – performance excellence).
- The chapter provided educational assistance to several members including the president to attend the CHICA conference in Montreal, Quebec.
- Our July meeting is always reserved as an informal type gathering at a member's home providing good food, opportunities to network and a debriefing of the annual education day.
- Topics and speakers for educational sessions included :
 1. Meningitis: Kim Baker
 2. Just Clean Your Hands Program : Liz McCreight
 3. Outbreak Binder: Stephanie Ralph

4. Surveillance Tool Kit for long term care : Risa Cashmore
5. Review of CHICA's General Orientation DVD
6. Epidemiology software overview – Sue Allard
7. Influenza DVD Conference Presentation – Dr. Alison McGeer

Barb Shea MLT ART CIC, Chapter President

Risa Cashmore RN BSc CCHN(C) President- Elect CHICA-HANDIC

TORONTO AND AREA PROFESSIONALS IN INFECTION CONTROL (TPIC)

Executive 2008

President: Maja McGuire BSc MLT CIC
 President-elect: Victoria Williams BSc BSc CIC
 Secretary: Melanee Eng-Chong MLT BComm CIC
 Treasurer: Joan Osbourne Townsend RN BScN MN CIC

Executive 2009

President: Victoria Williams BSc BSc CIC
 President-elect: Vydia Nankoosingh MLT CIC
 Secretary: Charmaine D'Souza RN CIC
 Treasurer: Joan Osbourne Townsend RN BScN MN CIC

Geographic Area Served: Greater Toronto Area (GTA) bounded by Mississauga (West), Barrie (North), and Oshawa (East).

Membership: TPIC continues to support and recruit ICP's as the membership has grown to 320 members as of December 31, 2008. The membership is comprised of individuals from diverse educational backgrounds and work experiences such as: acute care, long term care and rehabilitation centers, community care, public health, industry, and the Regional Infection Control Networks. On average, 47 members attend the meetings.

A needs assessment was sent out to chapter members in December 2007 to determine how we can meet the needs of our members. The results were summarized and presented to the membership in January 2008. The findings of the needs assessment identified areas for improvement such as improving communication and finding a better meeting place.

TPIC ensures that the members are informed by sending communications in a timely manner using e-mail. In addition, members are provided an opportunity to host meetings at their place of work. The inclusiveness and a break of routine engages the members.

Meetings: Seven meetings were held in 2008: January 15, February 12, April 15, June 10 (summer get together/barbecue), September 16, October 28 and December 16 (including our Christmas social)

Standard meeting format:

Committee Meetings 0900-1000 (Executive, Education, Marketing, Construction)

Business Meeting 1000-1100 (includes any CHICA committee members present)

Networking 1100-1200

Lunch (informal networking) 1200-1300

Education Session 1300-1600

Guest Speakers:

<p>January 15</p>	<p>Topic: <i>Management of incontinence due to Infectious diarrhea</i></p> <p>Presenters: <i>Catherine Milne</i></p>
<p>February 12</p>	<p>Topic: TB in Pediatric Patients</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Ian Kitai, The Hospital for Sick Children</p>
<p>April 15</p>	<p>Topic: Product Evaluation, Understanding Label Claims, Evaluation of Hand Hygiene Products</p> <p>Presenters: <i>Nataly Farhait & DRRH IPAC Team, Nicole Kenny (Virox), Dean DeCarlo (GOJO), Simone Wartman (Medline), David Green (Deb Canada)</i></p>

June 10	B.B.Q Topic: No Formal Presentation
<i>September 16</i>	Topic: Poster/Oral presentations from recent conferences Presenters: TPIC members
October 28	Topic: MRSA roadshow Presenters:
December 16	Christmas Social Topic: Digging in Israel Presenters: David Arthur Douglas and Carol Goldman

2008 Highlights

This was a busy and rewarding year for the TPIC. Chapter members have been actively involved in many facility, local, regional and provincial initiatives. At the facility level members have been implementing the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) “Just Clean Your Hands” program and continuing to work on the “Safer Health Care Now!” Initiative. Members continue to provide instruction and mentorship to the Centennial College Infection Prevention and Control course. TPIC’s LTC interest group in conjunction with Toronto Public Health and the MOHLTC held its annual Long Term Care Infection Control Education Day to continued success. Several facilities within our geographic area also hosted education events which drew large numbers of TPIC members as well as members from other chapters. TPIC also had the opportunity to host the MRSA Roadshow.

At the provincial level TPIC members continue to participate in the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) and work within the MOHLTC providing input on many best practice guidelines. Members were also involved with the development of the General Output Specifications (GOS), guidelines for renovations and construction of new healthcare facilities. TPIC members were also part of Infection Control Resource Teams (ICRTs) established by the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to provide assistance to facilities with outbreak investigation and management.

TPIC members also remained active in CHICA interest groups and committees throughout the year. The Healthcare Facility Design Position Statement was coauthored by TPIC members. In addition, TPIC members were also involved in the development of the new Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology interest group.

Nationally and internationally TPIC members also presented posters and oral presentations at a number of conferences including SHEA, APIC, CHICA, and IFIC. At the CHICA conference in Montreal several TPIC members received awards for their abstracts and TPIC was awarded with the 3M chapter achievement award.

Victoria Williams BSc BAsC CIC
Chapter President-Elect

CHICA-SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-SWO)

Executive 2008

President	Anna Hunt BScN BA CIC
President Elect	Laura Fraser BScN CIC
Secretary	Brenda Prouse RN CIC
Treasurer	Nancy Brown MLT BSc CHE

Executive 2009

President	Laura Fraser BScN CIC
President Elect	Brenda Prouse RN CIC
Secretary	Amanda Proctor RN
Treasurer	Nancy Brown MLT BSc CHE

Geographic area served: Kitchener, Ontario to Windsor and Goderich, to Lake Erie.

Meetings and Highlights

- A monetary donation was submitted in support of several Third World initiatives which included:
 - \$1000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation
 - \$500 to IFIC
 - \$500 to Lesotho
- The chapter agreed to support four (4) of its members to attend the National CHICA Conference (\$500 each)
- President and president-elect attended two (2) chapter meetings with APIC – Greater Detroit in order to forge a new partnership with the hope that we can discover whether there are any shared commonalities or issues
- CHICA-SWO website has now been developed on the CHICA website.

Educational Topics of our five (5) meetings included:

- Outbreak Management – across the healthcare spectrum panel discussion
- Synopsis of the OHA “Train the Trainer” Hand Hygiene Initiative Panel Discussion
- CCHSA – What You Need to Know About Accreditation
- Tuberculosis – Dr. Michael John, Section Head, London Health Sciences Centre
- Help Lesotho – A Unique Experience, Dr. Peg Herbert, Executive Director, Help Lesotho
- Mass Decontamination – Major Steven Purie, MScN, Commanding Officer, Canadian Forces Medical Services School
- Foodborne Illnesses and Food Safety – Dr. Scott McEwen, University of Guelph
- HACCP Auditing of Dietary Departments within Long Term Care – Lori McNeil, Public Health Inspector, Lambton Community Health Services

Anna Hunt BScN BA CIC

Chapter President 2008

CHICA-OTTAWA REGION

2008 Executive:

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

2009 Executive:

President: Janice Banford RN
President -elect: Nancy Todd-Giordano RN CIC
Secretary: Katherine Defalco R.N.
Treasurer: Allyson Shephard RN MScN
Membership: Judy Dennis RRT

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

Membership: A total 85 members with representation from acute care, long term care, community and industry.

Meetings: The chapter meets five times throughout the year with round table discussion and education sessions following the business portion of the half-day meetings. An additional (2) meetings were held by the executive committee.

Highlights

Educational components of CHICA-Ottawa Region meetings included:

- A committee member presentation, which was very informative detailing expectations and experiences regarding their “*Ministry of Labour Inspection*” relative to infection prevention and control.
- The members of the educational sub-committee designed a questionnaire re: “*Educational Needs Assessment*” for the membership to complete and presented the feedback noting areas of interest. A committee member demonstrated and with membership participation introduced an educational game called “*Infection Control Jeopardy*”
- A presentation was provided by one of our members on “Urinary Tract Infections”
- Ecolab visited and presented a “Non-Observational Hand Hygiene Audit Tool”
- The group thoroughly enjoyed Shirley MacDonald’s detailed walk through the CHICA-Canada Website Education, which was followed by our Christmas luncheon with members.

Round table discussions are very popular and members enjoy sharing information and exchanging of ideas great opportunities to dialogue.

Approximately 15 members attended the excellent 2008 CHICA-Canada Conference in Montreal. Our chapter provided funding assistance for six members to attend the conference.

During National Infection Control Week in October, different activities were being held at individual facilities & in our health care centers.

The Champlain RICN helped to kick off the week by providing organizations with an audit template to identify and educate their facilities re the availability of alcohol based hand gel at Point of Care.

Members participated in the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care and other educational opportunities via videoconferencing via the Champlain Infection Control Network (CICN) or through individual institutional access through Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) throughout the year CICN sponsored sessions such as:

- Francophone Symposium in partnership with the Northeastern Infection Control Network “Les bibites et nous” & was also available to members by videoconferencing;
- One day Construction & Renovations Course given by Canadian Safety Association - the evaluations from the day were excellent

- Video conference on ESBL Management.
- Surveillance Essentials; OHA video conference Hand Hygiene;
- Webber teleclasses are available at the CICN for those interested to attend
- ARO Lunch & Learn workshops were offered as a traveling workshop.

Our chapter has begun another CIC Study Group; 10 participants to write the exam in 2009.

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.

*Janice Banford RN
Chapter President 2008*

CENTRAL ONTARIO PROFESSIONALS OF INFECTION CONTROL (COPIC)

2008 Executive:

President: Cheryl Johnson MLT CIC
President Elect: Vacant
Secretary: Sharon Connell RN CIC
Treasurer: Edwina Gracias RN CPHI(C) BHSc MHSc
Past President: Leanne Harding RN CIC ET

2009 Executive:

President: Sharon Connell RN CIC
President Elect: Teri Murduff RN BScN CIC
Secretary: Colleen Haley-Wicklarn RN
Treasurer: Margaret Jay RN CIC
Past President: Cheryl Johnson MLT CIC

Meetings:

COPIC meetings are held four times a year. The meetings consist of a two hour general meeting coupled with a one hour educational session.

Membership:

COPIC membership for 2008 included 28 members.

Highlights from 2008:

Attendance at the COPIC general meetings has been consistent, with balanced representation from acute and long-term care, community care access centers and health units.

At each meeting, news from CHICA-Canada was highlighted along with a regular regional update from our Central East Infection Control Network Coordinator, Joanne Habib. Educational opportunities were shared with members and round table discussions were held in relation to current hot topics and trends in Infection Prevention and Control.

Chapter members were treated to educational sessions, the first taking advantage of an available Webber Training teleconference detailing Outbreak Management with Dr. William Jarvis. An additional session included a presentation hosted by our Central East Infection Control Network explaining the principles of surveillance.

*Cheryl Johnson MLT CIC
Chapter President*

CHICA-RENFREW COUNTY

Executive 2008

President: Pat Ripmeester RN BScN
President-elect:
Secretary: Kim Blackmore, BN
Treasurer: Sheila Havey RN

Executive 2009 (Tentative/voting takes place in May 2009)

President: Sheila Havey RN
President-elect: Rita Montgomery RN
Secretary: Connie Robinson RN
Treasurer: Leona Veley-Robinson RN

Number of Members: 15 members

Geographic Area Served: Renfrew County & District- population of 100,000.

Membership

9 Institutional, 6 Individual
6 belong to more than 1 chapter
1 industry representative
Represent hospitals, long term care facilities, industry, home care, CCAC

Meetings

We meet quarterly, and at each meeting we offer an educational session of about 1 hour related to infection control issues, routine practice, new PIDAC documents.

Highlights

- Poster display at CHICA conference related to infection control challenges with a flood in a dialysis unit in a hospital- Sheila Havey
- Education sessions at each meeting as issues arise, and to meet upcoming needs- Influenza, C. difficile reporting, Routine practices and precautions.
- Participated in planning sessions with Champlain Infection Control Network (i.e. videoconferencing, teleconferencing).
- One member attended the CHICA conference for 2008.
- 2 members completed the non-acute care course through RCIN.
- 1 member completed the IC course through Centennial College.

Pat Ripmeester RN BScN
Chapter President

CHICA-NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-NEO)

Executive 2008

President: Isabelle Langman RN, CIC
President-elect: Suzanne Pelletier RN CIC
Secretary: Laurie Boyer RN CIC
Treasurer: Vicky Willet RN CIC

Executive 2009

President: Suzanne Pelletier RN CIC
President-elect: Holly Browne Public Health Inspector
Secretary: Laurie Boyer RN CIC
Treasurer: Vicky Willet RN CIC

Number of Members: 69

Geographic Area Served:

Northeastern Ontario is the second largest region in Ontario in terms of land area, spanning 31% of the provincial total. Four towns 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 kilometre compared to over 100 in southern Ontario.

Membership

Members of the NEO Chapter are from multiple sectors including acute care, long term care, public health, community care, emergency medical services, and company representatives. These include but are not limited to ICP, registered nurses, physiotherapists, lab technicians, public health inspectors, paramedics, administrators and physicians.

Meetings

As the NEO region is vast, all meetings were offered via videoconference. We also provided a teleconference option (supported by the NEOICN) for those unable to participate via videoconference. We held three general meetings in 2008 and discussed a variety of topics such as *C. difficile* Public Reporting; PPE Presentations; Envision viewing- IPAC Education for Contractors during Construction; and we have had many discussions on items such as PIDAC documents, CIC Study Groups, web site development and we've allowed an opportunity for members to discuss their challenges and successes.

Through the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control Network, a detailed mailing list was possible. It is through this means of communication that we were able to provide members with important information and time sensitive documents from CHICA.

Highlights

The NEO Chapter is currently planning an IPAC conference: IPAC...The Northern Way, to be held June 2-4, 2009 in North Bay. This three day event will be co-sponsored by the NEOICN. Planned are sessions on environmental cleaning, basics of reprocessing, OHS, antibiotic stewardship, CSA Construction Course, MRSA Roadshow, Media Training and a full day CIC training session. Planning will continue until June 2009.

Some members of this chapter were able to meet as a group during the CHICA Conference in Montreal. As we are still a fairly new chapter, many ideas are being considered in order to improve the growth of this chapter. We are considering combining meetings with the Southeast group in the New Year.

Isabelle Langman RN CIC
Chapter President

CHICA- EASTERN ONTARIO (CHICA-EO)

2008 Executive

President:	Kathleen Poole MN CIC
Past President:	Susan Cooper MLT CIC
President Elect	Bonnie Carter, RN
Treasurer/ Membership:	Dana Anderson RN CIC
Secretary:	Shirley McDonald ART CIC

2009 Executive

President:	Bonnie Carter RN
Past President:	Kathleen Poole MN CIC
President Elect:	Melanie Barbacsy PHI, BSc CIC
Treasurer/ Membership:	Dana Anderson RN CIC
Secretary:	Shirley McDonald ART CIC

Geographic Area Served: Eastern Ontario from Trenton to Brockville, Lake Ontario north to Bancroft

Membership: 2008 membership increased from 70 to 76 members, plus three Honourary Life Members.

Meetings / Education:

CHICA-EO met five times in 2008, and sponsored a special summer social meeting. Most meetings are held at the Mental Health site of Providence Care in Kingston in a room that enables members in remote areas to link via both videoconference and teleconference. All meetings consist of a business portion, including round table discussion, as well as an education session organized by our education chair Paul Webber. Topics presented in 2008 included:

- February 19: “Teacher, Teacher – Can you Teach Me?” This presentation by Jim Gauthier outlined tips for ICP’s to help them become better educators.
- April 23: “Gloves, Germs and Steel” Jason Tetro from the Centre for Research on Environmental Microbiology, University of Ottawa, presented an engaging presentation on glove use, cleaning and microbial transmission.
- June 9: *Influenza and Outbreaks* This meeting was jointly sponsored with the education provided by CIPP (Community Infection Prevention Partners) of the KFL&A Public Health who sponsored Dr. Alison McGeer’s talk. CHICA-EO, together with CIPP, provided lunch to attendees.
- July 20: The Summer Social was held at the home of Shirley MacDonald and was attended by 13 members and former members (alumnae).
- September 17: “The Economics of Infection Control – Micro, Macro, Socio and Change” Paul Webber presented this thought provoking talk on the costs of infections to the individual, families, hospitals and society. We were fortunate to hear his presentation, for many were unable to attend this at a conference in the UK the following week.
- November 19: “Grand Prix of PPE” DVD Training tool was shared with members at the meeting. The Southwestern chapter of the RICN chapters produced this. Sue Cooper shared a “Jeopardy” -like Game of Influenza at the meeting. Feedback was provided, and all enjoyed this format of providing information / education in a different format.

Highlights:

2008 was another very active year for our chapter. Some of the highlights include:

- One chapter member successfully passed the Certification Board of Infection Control (CBIC) Certification in Infection Control (CIC) exam and applied to CHICA-EO's Lois Rae Scholarship Fund for reimbursement of CBIC exam fees. This brings us to 16 members with Certification.
- A one-day conference on Environmental Cleaning issues, "*How Clean is Clean Enough*" was held in partnership with the South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network in February. This successful conference invited not only ICP's, but also housekeepers, maintenance and environmental workers who work in partnership in our facilities.
- Our bi-annual educational conference "*Share the Message – Not the Microbe: A Call To Action*" was held September 24 & 25, 2008 at the Days Inn Conference Centre. Many chapter members were actively involved in planning and presenting at this conference. Registration - Full day: 135 registrants; Workshops: 34 and 35 registrants, respectively. Workshop fees were set at \$50.00, and conference full day fee was \$100.00.
- Policies updated in 2008 in the manual and on the CHICA-EO website include: Lois Rae Scholarship Fund and application forms; a Chapter version of the CHICA-Canada Willingness to Serve form was created; and the Travel Expense Claim.
- Certificate of Thanks: Carol Whyman, Paul Webber and Shirley McDonald were recipients in February 2008 of the CHICA-Canada award for significant contributions to CHICA-EO Chapter.
- Dr. Dick Zoutman MD will retire from the CHICA-Canada Board at the end of 2008 after completing four terms (12 years) as Physician Director. CHICA - Eastern Ontario acknowledges our chapter member as a vocal advocate for infection prevention and control and for CHICA and CHICA-EO and we thank him for being instrumental in raising the profile of Infection Control.
- CHICA-Canada Conference Scientific Planning Committee: Jim Gauthier continues to serve, and will be Chair for the 2010 CHICA annual conference in Vancouver. Amanda Knapp has just been appointed for a two-year term representing Community/Public Health.
- Carol Whyman, the first CHICA-EO archivist completed the compilation of the history of the chapter which is now available on our website. Many thanks to Carol for documenting this compilation of our history.
- Seventeen chapter members attended the 2008 CHICA conference in Montréal.
- A Letter of Understanding was drafted and signed between the South Eastern Ontario Infection Control Network and CHICA-EO. This was created to formalize the partnership in education events, and to highlight roles and responsibilities. We would like to thank SEOICN for the administrative support this organization provides in assisting the chapter with Conferences and Workshops.
- Member Shirley MacDonald requested donations of medical / infection control books for the Cameroon Book Drive: She picked up 64 boxes including 1250 books and diligently sorted and arranged for current references to be sent to Africa.
- The CHICA-EO library was merged in 2007 with the SEOICN library. The website link will be replaced with the SEOICN library website link.

Kathleen Poole RN MScN, CIC
Chapter President

CHICA-MONTREAL

Executive 2009

President: Silvana Perna N. Msc (A) CIC
Vice President: Frederica Gaspard
Treasurer and Membership: Connie Forget Falcicchio N. MSc (A)
Secretary: Andrée Larose N, BScN

Executive 2008

President: Silvana Perna N, MSc (A) CIC
Vice President: Frederica Gaspard
Treasurer and Membership: Connie Forget Falcicchio N MSc (A)
Secretary: Andrée Larose N BScN

Number of Members:

Our chapter is made up of 97 members. The majority of the members are nurses, namely infection prevention and control professionals. Strategies to increase the number of members are ongoing.

Geographic Area Served:

The members of CHICA-Montreal are from the Greater Montreal area (island of Montreal, Laval and Longueuil) with the exception of five members from nearby cities in Quebec.

This year we have had some changes to our executive. The education chair resigned from the position in April and duties were assumed, in interim, by Leila Ramman-Haddad. However, at the end of the year, our executive formed an education committee including four representatives from different milieus in the healthcare setting (long term care, acute care anglophone centre, acute care francophone center and public health). This committee will be coordinated by the education chair. Since promoting education in IP&C is one of the main objectives of our chapter, the purpose of this committee is to facilitate the organization of educational events that promote the practice of infection prevention and control and offer opportunities for networking.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge for our chapter mainly due to the language barrier. However, this year we increased our membership to 97 members, a 30% increase. We are continuously searching for ways to improve this. Liaising with AIPI remains a strategy for overcoming this barrier to promote collaboration between the two associations and to increase educational opportunities for IP&C practitioners

The development of a webpage is well on its way. We have hired an IT technician to create a webpage that should be available shortly. Two members from the executive have been appointed, in collaboration with the CHICA Canada webmaster, to manage the webpage.

Due to the extensive preparation for hosting the annual CHICA conference in 2008, our chapter did not organize an education day. However, we had organized six monthly education sessions, including guest speakers from out of town. For the first time, we organized a videoconference jointly with AIPI during one of the sessions.

Meetings

Last year our executive committee met six times, excluding meetings for the preparation of the annual conference; four were teleconference meetings. In general, our executive meets on a monthly basis prior to the educational sessions and on an ad hoc basis. Teleconferences are sometimes held to discuss issues. Educational sessions include a presentation on a selected topic given by an invited speaker followed by an exchange and update of information, projects, etc for the members.

Below are the dates and topics of the education sessions that occurred during the year:

Date (2008)	Speaker	Topic	Comments
January 17	<i>Catherine T. Milne,</i> <i>MSN, APRN, CWOCN, CD, ANP</i> Convatec	<i>The Scoop on Poop:</i> <i>The Management of Transient</i> <i>Fecal Incontinence</i> <i>Due to Infectious Diarrhea</i>	Videoconference organized for members of AIPI. A total of 11 Multimedia connections from various cities throughout the province.
February 21	Johanne Gagné, N, IPC CHUM Hôtel Dieu	Bingo: Educational program for routine practices	
April 17	Dr Anne Marie Bourgeault, CHUM		
September 18	Rob Owens PharmD Department of Pharmacy Services and Division of Infectious Diseases at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine	"Antimicrobial Stewardship in the 21st Century"	Organized in conjunction with the Infectious Disease Department of the SMBD Jewish General Hospital
October 16	Bruno Dubreuil, Head of Environmental Services CSSS du Sud de Lanaudière	Education program for personnel in environmental services	
December 11	Shirley Paton, RN, MN HAI Advisor, Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Public Health Agency of Canada	"What in the World is Going on with IP&C at PHAC?"	

In November 2008, a kiosk was reserved at the Order of Nursing annual conference to represent and promote our chapter.

Highlights

Our chapter was very proud to host the annual CHICA conference in 2008. Three members of our executive (Ramona Rodrigues, Lyne St.Martin and Frederica Gaspard) were on the scientific committee. A lot of dedication and hard work was put in to collaborate in making this conference a success by these members and by other members of the executive and of our chapter.

Five scholarships of \$400.00 each were awarded to CHICA-Montreal members last year to attend the conference in Montreal.

Pearl Orenstein received the Alice Girard award from the Order of Nurses of Quebec (ONQ) for recognition of an exceptional professional career. This is the highest achievement award granted from the ONQ.

Objectives for 2009

1. Increase the number of scholarships awarded to members who do not get subsidies from their employers, to attend the CHICA national conference in 2009 and to provide funding for other educational events as well.
2. Increase the membership of our chapter and the attendance at the monthly education sessions through increased promotional activities.
 - Organize education sessions with key speakers on “hot” topics in IP&C and schedule ahead of time for the upcoming year
 - Organize teleconferences to be available to other professionals/groups who may become potential chapter members
 - Organize an annual education day
 - Promote our webpage

*Silvana Perna N MSc(A) CIC
Chapter President*

NEW BRUNSWICK/PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

2008 Executive

President: Gail Barwise BN RN CIC
President Elect: Mary Woodworth RN BN
Secretary: Merita MacMillan RN BN
Treasurer: Deborah Brown BN RN

2009 Executive

President: Mary Woodworth RN BN
President Elect: Vacant
Treasurer: Bernadette DeMone RN MN

Number of Members: 49

Geographic Area Served

Provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

Meetings

The Chapter meets bi-annually.

Gail Barwise RN CIC
Chapter President

CHICA-NOVA SCOTIA

2008 Executive

President:	Julia Jewett RN BScN
President Elect:	Faith Stoll RN BScN
Secretary:	Terry Charlebois RN
Treasurer:	Arlene Schmeisser RN
Membership Director:	Patsy Rawding RN BScN CIC
Education Co Chair:	Elizabeth Watson RN BScN CIC

2009 Executive

President:	Faith Stoll RN BScN
President Elect:	Suzanne Rhodenizer-Rose
Secretary:	Terry Charlebois RN
Treasurer:	Danielle Henri RN

Number of Members: CHICA-NS consists of 77 members. The majority of members are from acute care or long term care settings. We are also fortunate to have members from home care, industry, and public health.

Geographic Area Represented: The province of Nova Scotia

MEETINGS

The chapter meets five times per year. Meetings are held on Friday afternoons in various healthcare sites near Halifax. Members travel from all areas of the province to attend and drive up to five hours, one way. Our meetings start with a light lunch and social time followed by a one hour business meeting and a two-hour Education Session.

HIGHLIGHTS

- CHICA-NS provided funding to four members who attended the National Education Conference in Montreal, as well as a member to attend the Chapter Presidents meetings. Several other members of CHICA-NS also attended the conference.
- November 13 & 14 2008: CHICA-NS hosted our 11th Annual Education Day “Towards Safer Healthcare ... Starting the Ripple Effect” Keynote speaker: Dr. Jim Hutchinson. This was our second two-day conference which included a Wine & Cheese Reception and a “Strut Your Stuff” Poster Presentation in the evening. The conference had about 100 attendees.
- Our annual conference was supported by 18 vendors from industry who set up exhibits for both days of the conference.
- Our chapter web site remains active and is supported by the assistance of the CHICA-Canada Web Communication Manager, Shirley McDonald.

CHAPTER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2009:

- To develop interest groups within the province in association with the CHICA - Canada interest groups.
- Continue to increase educational learning opportunities for novice Infection Control Practitioners.
- To continue to provide financial support to CHICA NS members pursuing education in Infection Prevention and Control.
- Increase the visibility of CHICA Nova Scotia within the province and explore opportunities to further inform the public of our role and increase membership.

*Julia Jewett RN BScN
Chapter President*

NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR

2007-2008 Executive

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

2009-2010 Executive

President:	Merlee Steele-Rodway RN
President-elect:	Beverly Pittman RN
Secretary:	Lola Gushue RN CIC
Treasurer:	Lynn Mercer BN

No. Of Members: 33

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 one member retire and two 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 was held on September 29th and 30th in Corner Brook. This year's conference theme was **The Changing Faces of Infection Prevention and Control**. The conference was very successful with over 90 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 assisting in the planning for the 2009 National Conference entitled **Solid Foundations...Shifting Horizons** which will be held in St. John's on May 9-14.

In 2008 our teleconference format included rotating reports from each of the provincial health authorities and the Department of Health. Each month three different CHICA-NL members provide a report (or educational session) from their health authority. This provides an opportunity for all members to participate in the teleconference sessions. In 2008 the teleconferences were formally evaluated using a survey tool. We received very positive feedback and attendance remains high.

- Webber Teleconferences are provided to the CHICA-NL membership by the provincial government.
- Our chapter provided funding for nine members to attend the CHICA-Canada National Conference in Montreal and 12 members to attend the CHICA-NL Provincial Conference in Corner Brook during 2008.
- Paula Price and Lynn Mercer were awarded Virox Scholarships in 2008.
- Four CHICA-NL members, Marion Yetman, Donna Moralejo, Penny Ralph, and Merlee Steele-Rodway, are currently on the National Scientific Planning Committee for the upcoming CHICA-Canada 2009 conference to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland.

- One CHICA-NL member successfully completed CIC certification and two members are preparing to write the certification exam this year.
- One CHICA-NL member completed the Queen's University program for Infection Prevention and Control.

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. Since that time six additional Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner positions have been created provincially.
- The provincial Infection Prevention and Control Team, PIC-NL, has been meeting on a monthly basis to develop provincial policies and standards for infection prevention and control programs.

*Penny Ralph RN CIC
Chapter President 2007 - 2008*