

CHICA-NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

2009 Executive

President: Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC
President-elect: Holly Browne B.A.Sc CPHI (C)
Secretary: Laurie Boyer RN BSN CIC CNOR CPN(C)
Treasurer: Vicky Willet RN CIC
Membership Director: Isabelle Langman RN CIC
Conference Coordinator: Rachelle Swayne RN

2010 Executive

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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 kilometer 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 held four general meetings in 2009 and discussed a variety of topics such as public reporting of hand hygiene compliance, pandemic preparedness and control measures, PIDAC best practice manuals, CIC exam preparation, web page development, etc. Standing agenda items provide members with an opportunity to share challenges and successes as well as receive updates from the executive, CHICA-Canada and the Northeastern Ontario Infection Control (NEOICN). Partnership with the NEOICN is ongoing. The support of the network in terms of teleconference access, sharing of resources, educational tools, mailing lists, etc. is invaluable.

In June, several NEO Chapter members joined the SEO Chapter meeting to participate in a videoconference with guest speaker Dr. Syed Sattar who spoke on the topic of Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization.

During the 2010 meeting schedule, the NEO Chapter will continue working on webpage development and will seek membership feedback in an online interest survey.

Highlights

In collaboration with the NEOICN, the NEO Chapter held a three-day conference “*IPAC Northeastern Ontario... On Our Way!*” June 2-4, 2009. Over 115 attendees enjoyed a high quality, dynamic education program and networking opportunities. Program highlights included the CHICA MRSA Road Show, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Construction Course and a CIC Preparation Day. Additionally, several speakers shared their expertise in the fields of environmental cleaning, reprocessing, pandemic planning, occupational health and team building. The keynote speaker was Dr. Alison McGeer.

The NEO Chapter was well represented at the CHICA-Canada 2009 National Education Conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Suzanne Pelletier RN BScN CIC
Chapter President