President's Message

As you know, Environmental Public Health Week 2015 was held 21–25 September 2015. This annual event is sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) to recognize and celebrate the important contributions of environmental public health professionals. Our mandate, which we share with other public health professionals, includes health promotion, prevention, and control of disease and injuries and responding to public health emergencies. This mandate is met through diverse activities such as public education, investigation, enforcement, and collaboration to name a few. Every day across Canada the actions of environmental public health professionals impact the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the places where our families gather, live, play, and learn. The outcome can be measured in both immediate and long-term health benefits to our communities.

It is encouraging to see there is still a keen interest in the profession as evidenced by the 111 new certificates in public health inspection awarded in 2014. In addition there has been a sixth school in Canada whose environmental health program has been approved by the Board of Certification. This school also received approval in the United States by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). For the first time graduates of an approved program are eligible to write licensing examinations in both countries.

Certified Public Health Inspectors (Canada) are part of a global family dedicated to achieving the same environmental

public health outcomes worldwide. Take a moment this week to learn just how connected we are by paying a visit to the website of the International Federation of Environmental Health (www.ifeh.org). The Federation is an organization with 41 member associations representing the interests of over 40,000 environmental health professionals throughout the world. The IFEH uses a variety of means to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries where environmental health issues are transboundary.

To those of you who have chosen a career in environmental health, I encourage you all to celebrate Environmental Public Health Week by sharing stories of some of the adventures (and misadventures) that you have encountered on the job and invite others to join in. “Storytelling” can be an entertaining and effective way to both pass on values and knowledge and celebrate our accomplishments. As the storyteller you will be reminded of how valuable and rewarding your experiences in this unique profession have been.

Thank you all for your ongoing enthusiasm and commitment. Environmental Public Health Week is your week—continue to enjoy!

Ann Thomas, CPHI (C)
National President, CIPHI