President's Message

I had the pleasure of accepting an invitation to attend the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Education Conference in Michigan this summer. This event was billed as “an excellent venue to understand changes in the field, share experiences with fellow practitioners, and network with environmental health professionals who are committed to protecting their local communities.” I would say it delivered on their objectives by offering dozens of sessions to choose from, covering a wide scope of traditional and emerging environmental health practices. The quality of presentations and the willingness to share results of studies, data collected, and tools of the trade was very impressive. There were over 900 participants with presenters and registrants from all over the United States. Although attendees represented a variety of state, local, county, and federal environmental public health programs, they share many of the same challenges and emerging issues that we also face in Canada. It is my intention to explore options as to how to tap into this wealth of information outside of attending a conference or workshop.

The invitation included an opportunity for my participation in a roundtable discussion with leaders of environmental health associations from the United States, Jamaica, United Kingdom,

and Australia. We shared information on the status of the profession in our respective countries, identified emerging issues, and suggested areas where collaboration among and between our associations might benefit our countries. For example, CIPHI will be looking into identifying distance education opportunities offered by other organizations that can be approved for continuing education credits, resulting in an expanded suite of educational options for CIPHI members. There are many NEHA-supported conference and workshop opportunities in some of the bordering states that may be a cost-effective means for members to access on-going education. Overall, the consensus amongst these global environmental health associations was that we need to proactively continue to learn about each other and continue to explore areas of collaboration. I appreciate the opportunity to have participated in this event on behalf of CIPHI.

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing summer and that we will see many of you at the 83rd CIPHI Annual Education Conference in Richmond BC, 5–8 November 2017.

Ann Thomas
National President CIPHI