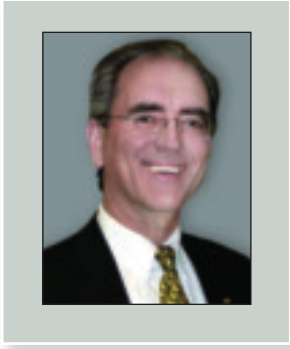


## ▶ MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK



Nelson Fabian, MS

## The Olympics, NEHA, and CIPHI and...Vancouver in September 2010

What an absolutely great stretch of time! Seldom do I park in front of the TV night after night, completely mesmerized by what I am watching. However, I love the Olympics and especially the winter ones. So in front of my TV I have been, night after glorious night!

As I take in one exciting sporting event after another, I also find myself marveling at the beauty of the host city and the surrounding area—Vancouver, British Columbia. And that does nothing but build my excitement even more because in six short months, I—along with what I hope will be many other NEHA members—will be in Vancouver for the International Federation of Environmental Health's (IFEH) 11th World Congress on Environmental Health and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors' (CIPHI's) 76th Annual Educational Conference. To be more specific, this exceptional event will be held September 5–10, 2010. The theme of this conference is Global Health Protection From Sea to Sky. Conference organizers tell us that the theme serves as a broad platform from which the conference sessions will explore universal challenges to environmental health in an era of increasing globalization.

In addition to the unique educational experience offered by this event, this is as splendid an opportunity as I can think of to meet environmental health colleagues from both Canada and around the world. It isn't often that we have an IFEH Congress held on the North American continent. I sincerely hope that many of you can find a way to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

*NEHA and CIPHI  
enjoy a special  
friendship befitting  
of the special  
friendship that our  
two nations share.*

More information on the conference can be obtained by going to the IFEH (International Federation of Environmental Health) Web site at [www.ifeh2010.org](http://www.ifeh2010.org).

As it happens, I am aware of some of the hard work that the leaders of CIPHI conducted to win the right to host this conference. Inspired and dedicated people like Robert Bradbury, Claudia Kurzac, and Domenic Losito, among others, had to prevail upon the governing body of IFEH to gain the support needed to bring this meeting to Vancouver. As a close friend and neighbor to CIPHI, NEHA was thrilled when we learned that their effort had been successful. Bravo CIPHI!

To the CIPHI membership: thank you for supporting your association in this wonderful initiative. And to Robert, Claudia, and Domenic: thank you for your leadership in transforming this splendid idea into what will soon be the reality of the 2010 World Congress in Vancouver.

NEHA and CIPHI enjoy a special friendship appropriate to the special friendship that our

two nations share. For at least the last 25 years, NEHA and CIPHI have cooperated in a number of different ways. Arguably, our most significant venture together was the successful joint annual conference that we held in Winnipeg in the early 1990s. (I hope that another joint conference lies somewhere in our future.)

Another of the joint programs we have involves a special membership opportunity that we extend to the members of each other's organization. NEHA offers CIPHI members the opportunity to join NEHA for a discount. CIPHI in turn offers NEHA members a similar discount opportunity. As a regular reader of the CIPHI journal and as a previous attendee of several CIPHI conferences, I can attest to the value of what a CIPHI membership offers.

I value a number of features in the CIPHI journal, *Environmental Health Review*. You will seldom find in the environmental health literature published today a more honest and personal reflection on environmental health issues than what you will read in Domenic Losito's Editor's Comments. He speaks to issues with a directness that I find refreshing and educational. Each *Environmental Health Review* also features a well-written summary (by Nelson Fok) of environmental health articles that have recently been published. It is the only such summary of our literature that I know of.

In any case, membership dues in CIPHI cost \$175. (In a couple of CIPHI branches, the dues are just slightly less.) **NEHA members can join CIPHI as an international member for only \$105.** A CIPHI member-

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## NEHA NEWS

vice providers and their local health departments. And most importantly, it serves as a framework to meet their mutual goals of serving a safe product. We believe the approach in HB0054 will discourage and perhaps end the productive consultation that is now occurring between the provider and local public health.

I would also point out that beyond the significant threat to public health, allowing the unregulated sale of food products to the general public presents an enormous liability risk to the citizen/provider. The fact that the point of sale was a non-commercial event (e.g., church function or county fair, school event) will not change the liability for serving a contaminated food product. Perhaps the liability is even increased because the food was served absent any certification or inspection requirement.

We strongly urge you to reject what we believe to be this unnecessary and ill-conceived legislation. I thank you in advance for your consideration of our position.

After two days of emotional public hearings, the bill passed the Wyoming House of Representatives on February 19. Then, on February 25, the bill, at least as currently written, died in the Agriculture Committee of the Wyoming Senate for lack of a second motion.

"You weren't the only ones to join this particular fight," said Harrington, "but we sure benefited from your entry!"

For more on this story, see Harrington's letter to the editor below. 🐾

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dear Editor:

What a coincidence—the March issue of the JEH includes a column from President Roberts, detailing NEHA's political involvement, something I have often criticized. . . .

Well, we recently faced an absolutely STOOPIID situation out here on the wild prairie in Wyoming. . . . a rancher-legislator introduced a bill to EXEMPT from licensing, inspection, certification, and registration ALL HOMEMADE FOODS for sale at farmers' markets, roadside stands, street corners, barnyards—anywhere except in licensed restaurants and grocery stores.

NEHA responded to my call for help posthaste and sent a letter to the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president of the senate, gently pointing out that perhaps the sponsor of this

monstrosity may have spent too long listening to the wind whistle across the sagebrush. . . .

The bill skated through the house, but some of my contacts within the asylum known as the Wyoming state capitol tell me that the senate will give it a decent cowboy funeral.

I'd like to think that NEHA helped with the eventual outcome. . . . regardless of the result, NEHA's quick assistance sure made me feel a lot less lonely, and gratified that my association is, indeed, taking an active stance in political issues. THANK YOU.

Thank you to NEHA Region 3 Vice President Roy Kroeger.

Robert E. Harrington, MS, RS, DAAS  
Casper-Natrona County Health Department  
Casper, Wyoming 🐾

### Managing Editor's Desk

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ship application can be found at the following Web site address: <http://www.ciphi.ca/pdf/apply-en.pdf>.

Whether or not you decide to join CIHPI, you should know that CIPHI has extended a very special opportunity to NEHA members in connection with the upcoming Vancouver meeting. As a NEHA member, you can register for this event at the CIPHI member rate.

In addition, CIPHI has applied to NEHA for CE credit for this event. As such, you

should be able to earn NEHA-recognized CE credit for attending the conference educational sessions.

Again, I hope that many NEHA members will find a way to take advantage of these financial savings and the CE credit that your NEHA membership and our special relationship with CIPHI have opened up for you. As the Olympic coverage has clearly shown us, Vancouver is a world-class, multicultural city situated between spectacular coastal mountains and the Pacific Ocean. It is also among the leading green cities of the

world. Not surprisingly, Vancouver is often ranked (along side Geneva) as one of the two most popular and attractive cities in the world.

You will find among your CIPHI colleagues both a warm welcome and many new friendships as the hosts of this meeting.

Please give this event and this opportunity your serious consideration. 🐾

