

**IPAC Canada OPERATIONS REPORT
To the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
From EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
August 1 - December 9, 2020**

Following are the activities of IPAC Canada from August to December 2020. These are allocated to the appropriate 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

INSPIRE BRAND AWARENESS

1. After July 2020, the work of IPAC Canada continued in service of Canadian healthcare during COVID-19. Members of the public and media continued to contact IPAC Canada as a resource. Articles appeared under the authorship of IPAC Canada Board members, including:

- ... Health Europa –September 2020 - An interview with Barbara Catt about the importance of IPAC in Canadian healthcare.
<https://www.healtheuropa.eu/covid-19-and-infection-control-in-canada-2/103888/>
- ... MediaPlanet – November 2020 - The Why, How and When of Clean Hands – Star Metro Toronto – Author: Mandy Deeves
- ... MediaPlanet – September 2020 – Big Decisions and Little Time (return to school) – Star Metro Toronto – Author: Barbara Catt
- ... Hospital News – September 2020 - Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow! – Author: Barbara Catt
- ... Ontario Native Women’s Association - July 2020 - “How very little can be done under the spirit of fear.” – Author: Madeleine Ashcroft

Barbara represented IPAC Canada in the following media interviews:

- ... Association of RNs of Manitoba – Webinar – IPAC update on COVID-19
- ... Canadian Nursing Students Association – Webinar – The nursing perspective about pandemics and a global perspective on nursing and healthcare.
- ... CBC Calgary – Overview of IPAC practices (a general discussion on practice, not a specific comment on an Alberta outbreak)

2. The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons have requested an expert(s) to assist with the review of their e-book, Navigating Emergencies. In the past, IPAC Canada has provided the expertise to

develop the IPAC section of the book and a revision in 2018. Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose has agreed to assist with the review.

3. Despite the activities during this past year which bring IPAC Canada to the forefront of awareness, there is still concern that we have not done enough to make IPAC Canada a 'household name'. There has been discussion on whether or not that is really what we should be striving for but indeed we do need to show our members that their own investment in IPAC Canada is worthwhile. We will continue to work with Impact Public Affairs to keep our name in the forefront of the media, the public and healthcare.

NURTURE MEMBER VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT –

1. A Supplement featuring the 'Front Line Heroes' of IPAC was included with the summer Canadian Journal of Infection Control.
2. The Board has met twice to discuss the issue of Diversity and IPAC Canada's role. The Board has agreed to develop a Diversity webpage in which could be stories of diversity and human rights. This will be discussed further in early 2021.
3. Three short surveys were distributed to members in 2020: Summer – Education; Fall – Website; Winter – Publications. The Education survey has resulted in an initiative to provide Advanced Education, most particularly in Surveillance; the Website survey will assist the Web Communications Manager and Webmaster in their thorough review of the website in 2021; the survey on member satisfaction with Publications is currently in progress and will be closed this week.
4. A Chapter Presidents Fall Update webinar was held in November to bring them up-to-date on Association Activities. In addition, a webinar on Cybersecurity was held for Chapter Presidents specifically. Webinars with topics of specific interest to Chapter Presidents will be held in 2021.
5. Several committee positions remain vacant, despite repeated advertising and encouraging chapters to engage their members in the opportunities. These vacancies will be advertised again in the new year.

ADVANCE ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP

1. We continue to participate on the bi-weekly meeting of the Chief Public Health Officer Health Professions Forum. This has become an update on COVID activities, most recently about the vaccine roll out.
2. With the Health Standards Organization, three IPAC Canada Members are participating in the development of an IPAC Recognition Program for LTC and residential homes. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition for IPAC practice awareness and adherence, and to foster improvement over the sector. Jennifer Happe, Molly Blake and Karin Fluet represent IPAC Canada.
3. With the assistance of Impact Public Affairs, we advocated for pandemic pay for all ICPs, not just nurses. Briefs were sent to all P/T ministries of health and labour advocating for the expansion of pandemic pay for all ICPs. We also held discussions with Katherine Nowers, Director of Policy for Minister Hajdu. The federal funds had already been distributed to the provinces and had been disbursed. With Impact we are watching for any new opportunity to advocate for pandemic pay. In the meantime, we have turned our efforts to expanding knowledge of the role

of the ICP. Again, this has been included in the foregoing brief on pandemic pay but a larger initiative is planned for 2021.

4. In early 2021, Public Health Ontario notified us they were willing to give the rights to their LTC Surveillance Toolkit to IPAC Canada. IPAC Canada would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and promotion. PHO did not require any compensation but rather wanted to continue to be recognized for its development of the toolkit. IPAC Canada's Surveillance & Applied Epidemiology Interest Group have taken on the responsibility of keeping the toolkit updated and providing education to members and non-members around LTC surveillance. A webinar was held in the fall to introduce members to the new LTC Surveillance Toolkit, two webinars were held in November to provide a general surveillance workshop, and a workshop specific to LTC surveillance will be held in January.

IPAC Canada is very much a volunteer-driven professional association. Even with the burden of the pandemic on our membership, we have been fortunate to receive their support on various committees and initiatives.

Gerry Hansen BA
Executive Director
December 9, 2020