

A Message from the President of IPAC Canada

National Infection Prevention and Control Week – October 14-18, 2024

“Prevent with Intent”


It doesn't happen by accident. It takes knowledge, planning, and specific action to protect patients and healthcare workers from infection. The specific actions involve many people and groups. It includes actions the patient and healthcare work should take to protect themselves, such as getting vaccinated against communicable diseases. It clearly includes what the healthcare workers should do on a regular basis such as cleaning hands at each of the important moments during care. But it also involves what the organization should do in effectively staffing the environmental services team and the central sterilization team to ensure appropriate cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of equipment can take place.

The Infection Control Professional (ICP) helps to guide some of the organizational decisions and to ensure healthcare workers know how to practice prevention during all of their patient interactions. The ICP therefore has to have extensive knowledge to enhance their practice and educate others. How does one achieve that goal? Through specific and targeted educational programs such as the ones offered through IPAC Canada. Not only does our “Essentials in Infection Prevention and Control” program provide a substantial baseline for the newly practicing ICP, but we now have made available a detailed program for those working in Long Term Care.

ICPs come from a variety of backgrounds and bring strength to their role through past experience and expertise, but the knowledge needed to function effectively in the realm of the ICP goes beyond any typical healthcare program's preparation. Prevention of infection through knowledge of patient care activities and implications of laboratory tests and results, knowledge of construction and renovation activities and HVAC systems form just a part of the ICP's prevention toolkit. Infection prevention is accomplished through the collaboration of many healthcare experts and requires communication, teamwork, and leadership. It is intentional and focused.

During Infection Prevention and Control week, October 14-18, IPAC Canada joins the international community to celebrate and recognize the critical work performed by ICPs across our country.

Sincere regards,



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President, IPAC Canada