

OPERATIONS REPORT

The 2015 Operations Report is an overview of the work undertaken by IPAC Canada and its committees to move the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan forward. It is not possible to specifically mention every committee or activity in this report; however, every committee or action group does its part to complete the whole of our work to move our association, our members and infection prevention and control forward. IPAC Canada is grateful and constantly humbled by the dedication of our colleagues and volunteers to see our collective vision become a reality.

GOAL ONE: Raise the profile of the association and its activities

It is constantly reiterated that by increasing the profile of IPAC Canada, we increase the profile of our members and their professional impact on healthcare. All of our efforts have that vision in mind.

In 2015, profile focus was on two major areas: the *Canadian Journal of Infection Control* (CJIC) and government/media relations. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Chingiz Amirov, and in collaboration with our publishers, Craig Kelman & Associates, the journal has changed markedly and is well on its way to being a stand-alone scientific journal. The capacity for scientific articles has increased, the timelines for review and publication have decreased, and the editorial board has expanded its discipline area diversity.

In late 2015, Impact Public Affairs of Ottawa was engaged for a three year period to mentor the Board and staff in government and media relations. This engagement has already proven advantageous to IPAC Canada in the construction of initiatives to increase government communication and media recognition.

Efforts are ongoing to influence the Canadian Nurses Association (C.N.A.) to recognize infection prevention and control as a nursing specialty and to cross-recognize our certification exam as that specialty's qualifying exam. Communication with the C.N.A. has increased over the past year and we are hopeful for a positive result on one or both of the initiatives very soon.

IPAC Canada has strong representation on advisory committees of several national agencies, including the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Accreditation Canada and the Canadian Standards Association. We communicate with many other professional associations regularly.

GOAL TWO: Enhance the mix of products and services

In 2015, the IPAC Canada Adobe Connect platform was offered to interest groups and committees for networking and education purposes. The platform has been well used and has now been offered to IPAC Canada chapters.

The Program-Wide Audit Standard is in the final stages of development and will be launched at the 2016 conference as well as in the summer 2016 CJIC. The accompanying audit tool will also be launched in 2016.

In 2015, the Board tendered the development of an audit tool app to accompany the current online audit tools. An announcement of collaboration will occur in 2016. In anticipation of this work, the Audit Tool Committee has been re-developed and an Audit Tool Coordinator will be appointed to oversee the work of the committee and the app.

The Learning Object Repository (LOR) committee has been developing the platform to receive, review and post member-developed education tools. The LOR will be launched in early 2016.

The IPAC Canada web site, already recognized nationally and internationally as a prime resource for membership and infection prevention and control resources, will undergo a major revitalization in 2016. Web Communications Manager Shirley McDonald and Web Designer Pamela Chalmers will work closely with OSM Websites with an anticipated summer 2016 launch. The new website should be a contemporary, attractive, user-friendly, and continually valuable resource for all healthcare providers. The website will also have larger capacity and securities to enable chapters, interest groups and committees to keep their webpages updated.

GOAL THREE: Expand the association's education initiatives

Using the member education survey of 2013 as its direction, the Education Core Committee expanded the delivery of webinars. The three-module series 'Art of Teaching' was repeated in early 2015 and a webinar on 'Cleaning Up

Confusion About Bleach' was held later in the year. Discussion commenced with the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop a Routine Practices Additional Precautions Education Webinar.

Online Basic Infection Control Course sessions were held in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The number of students was expanded to 50. Four distance education programs re-applied for and received IPAC Canada endorsement: University of British Columbia, Queen's University, Centennial College, and the Non-Acute Care program of the Regional Infection Control Networks of Ontario. The IPAC Canada course will be reviewed in 2016 to ensure that it also meets the curriculum criteria set by IPAC Canada as the standard. The Distance Education Advisory Committee meets regularly with Course Coordinators to review curriculum and staffing.

A committee to develop Core Competencies for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs) was appointed and began development of the Canadian competencies. It is anticipated that the document will be finalized and published in 2016.

As an incentive to achieve certification, membership fee discounts were approved, effective January 1, 2016. Members receiving a new certification after January 1, 2016 are eligible for a \$50 discount on the future year's membership fees.

The Certification Board of Infection Control announced that a French language certification examination would be launched in 2016. A CIC® Study Preparatory Workshop was held at the 2015 annual conference in Victoria.

Registration in the Routine Practices E-Learning Tool increased in 2015. Several institutions took advantage of bulk registration discounts to make the learning opportunity available to its healthcare providers. The e-learning tool will be reviewed and revised in 2016.

Eighteen IPAC Canada members were supported to attend the annual conference by the Virox Technologies Scholarship, the Diversey Education Bursary, and the Sage Products LLC International Attendee Scholarship.

GOAL FOUR: Expand and develop the membership base

A Chapter Task Force documented its recommendations to strengthen and sustain chapters in January 2015. Feedback from chapters indicated that many of the recommendations would be utilized. Additional feedback later in the year showed that some recommendations were successful. Chapter and Interest Group reports can be found within this annual report.

The Membership Core Committee targeted various disciplines in 2015. Among them were dentistry, foot care, midwives, and designates.

A committee to develop a mentor program for new ICPs was appointed. The program will launch in 2016. A handbook will be accompanied by a series of webinars for mentors and mentees.

On the recommendation of the Fee Structure Review Committee, new members will receive their first year at a discounted rate. Regular rates will apply with the renewal period. This applies to Individual members, not to Institutional members. This New Member discount is effective January 1, 2016.

IPAC Canada is further supported by its Corporate Members. The Corporate Relations Committee is instrumental in providing a bridge between related industry and Board issues. Acknowledgement of our sponsors can be found in the Treasurer's report.

Many awards were won by members in 2015:

- 2015 Ecolab Poster Contest – David Ryding
- Best Oral Presentation – Michelle Alfa “*Comparison of Disposable Wipes and Reusable Cloths for Surface Disinfection in the Healthcare Environment*”

- Best Poster –Danielle Richards, Baljinder Sidhu, Elisa Lloyd-Smith, Thomas Kind, Mark Romney, Christopher Lowe “*Acceptability of chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) cloths for patient bathing on a medical unit*”
- Moira Walker Memorial Award for International Service – Donna Moralejo
- CIC® Chapter Achievement Award – IPAC Newfoundland Labrador
- 3M Chapter Achievement Award – IPAC Eastern Ontario.
- Three chapters with the highest membership increase in 2014-2015: IPAC Eastern Ontario (15%); IPAC PANA (14%); IPAC BC (11%)
- 2015 Run or Walk for IFIC: A total of \$3400 was raised to support the IPAC Canada Scholarship at IFIC.

GOAL FIVE: Provide national and international leadership

IPAC Canada has collaborated with many external stakeholders and partners. Efforts are positive in the expansion of recognition of IPAC Canada and its national expertise. IPAC Canada partners with many organizations in the development of infection prevention and control and patient safety guidelines. Among them are the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Accreditation Canada, Accreditation Canada International, Immunize Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Canadian Standards Association.

In November 2015, IPAC Canada was invited to collaborate on development of the National Integrated Patient Safety Action Plan. On completion of the plan, IPAC Canada with AMMI Canada took a lead role in the development of pan-Canadian case definitions for acute care and long term care, in consultation with the Public Health Agency of Canada and CNISP. This project is headed by the Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group. The Network of Networks Interest Group will be instrumental in encouraging provincial health authorities to adopt the case definitions. The work commenced in 2015 and is scheduled to be ongoing until 2020.

Internationally, IPAC Canada has been supportive and providing assistance to the International Federation of Infection Control and the World Health Organization. Communication is generated between IPAC Canada and many worldwide professional organizations, including the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), the Infection Prevention Society (IPS), the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC), and the Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN).

In 2015, the Board of Directors was mentored in strategic planning, governance and government relations. A formal board orientation is now held following elections at the annual general meeting. An internal Succession Plan has been finalized and is waiting for legal review.

IPAC Canada acknowledges and thanks our many members who answered the call for expert assistance during the 2014-2015 MERS CoV and Ebola outbreaks in Saudi Arabia and West Africa. Their courageous selflessness will be remembered worldwide.

2016-2018 Strategic Plan – In June 2015, with the facilitation of Dr. David Sheridan, IPAC Canada leadership, including Board members, chapter presidents, other association leaders, and staff, attended a strategic planning workshop. By the end of the workshop, your leaders had defined the objectives for the coming three years. The new plan was unveiled at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The 2016-2018 Strategic Plan came into action on January 1, 2016. Goals of the new plan are:

Raise our Leadership Profile

- 1.1 Increase public, government and organizational awareness of IPAC Canada
- 1.2 Improve the level and speed of responsiveness to issues
- 1.3 Increase political advocacy and influence
- 1.4 Establish an international presence

Recalibrate our Product Mix

- 2.1 Offer informed commentary on standards and guidelines across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions
- 2.2 Accelerate dissemination and distribution of audit tools
- 2.3 Enhance education emphasis to reflect fundamental infection and control principles
- 2.4 Continue to develop the CJIC as an indexed peer review journal

Grow our Capacity

- 3.1 Promote the value of IPAC Canada memberships to key target audiences
- 3.2 Make innovative use of technology to engage and educate
- 3.3 Expand mentorship
- 3.4 Build and leverage relationships with industry
- 3.5 Seek additional sources of funding

IPAC Canada thanks its staff and volunteer leaders for their expert, caring and dedicated service.

*Gerry Hansen BA
Executive Director*