

IPAC CANADA AWARD OF MERIT – Heather Candon and Jane Van Toen

The Board of Directors of IPAC Canada are pleased to announce that Awards of Merit have been presented to Heather Candon and Jane Van Toen for their exceptional service to education. The Award of Merit acknowledges Heather and Jane who have acted as a team in the facilitation of several member and non-member educational opportunities, primarily in the distance education course. Highlights of their service include:

- Since 2009, Course Coordinators of the distance education course “IPAC Canada Essentials in Infection Prevention and Control”, a 10-month course comprised of six learning modules. The course originally provided seats for approximately 30 students and now accommodates 75+ students. Students are generally new to their infection prevention and control role or are professionals from other disciplines considering IPAC as a career change. Several international students have been included in these groups. The Course Coordinators are responsible for the hiring of instructors and facilitators, ensuring review and update of the curriculum, quizzes and exams; and completion of a Practical Application Project.
- Ensuring submission of documents for a three-year endorsement review and annual update. As the sponsor of the distance education course, IPAC Canada cannot ‘endorse’ the course but, through rigorous review, does ensure that the course facilitation and learning objectives maintain the IPAC Canada course as the standard for distance education in Canada.
- January-March 2021 - Facilitation of a pilot accelerated course to be held for 20 students from the Northwest Territories. Although the curriculum did not change, it was accelerated in terms of delivery. Restrictions due to the pandemic required a more intensive, one-on-one relationship with students in order to complete studies, testing, and practical application through a reflection paper.
- April-August 2021 - Facilitation of a pilot accelerated course for 70+ students already in IPAC to address the urgent need for education during the pandemic. The Course Coordinators and Instructors have presented the curriculum from the regular 10-month course in a 5-month accelerated program.



HEATHER CANDON BSc MSc MHM(C) CIC received her MSc. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of British Columbia and Master’s in Health Management from McMaster University. She achieved her CIC® in 2011. Heather is an appointed member of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Journal of Infection Control. She was the Manager of Infection Control and Quality and Patient Safety at Mackenzie Health in Richmond Hill. She currently is the Director of Infection Control at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and Providence Care.



JANE VAN TOEN MLT BSc CIC initially trained as a Medical Laboratory Technologist at Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario, and later completed a BSc at the University of Waterloo and certificate courses in Occupational Health and Safety, Medical Device Reprocessing Techniques and Addiction Counselling. She received her CIC® in 2007 and re-certified with SARE in 2012 and 2017. Jane worked in private, veterinary and hospital laboratory settings, including positions in Saudi Arabia and the Canadian Arctic before moving to infection control in 2004. After 15 years working in Infection Prevention and Control at Baycrest Center in Toronto, Jane retired from full time work. Since retirement Jane has taken temporary /part time IPAC assignments.

The Award of Merit will be acknowledged during the IPAC Canada Conference Closing Remarks (Wednesday, May 5, 2021).