

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
April 2003



CSCHAH

The Community Liaison Committee

**to the CANADIAN SCIENCE CENTRE FOR
HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH (CSCHAH)**

Community Liaison Committee to the
Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health
PO Box 2354
Winnipeg MB
R3C 4A6
(204) 789-2017



Introduction

The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH) located at 1015 Arlington Street in Winnipeg was opened in 1997. Considered a world-class facility, this state-of-the-art laboratory complex is the first facility in the world designed to accommodate high containment laboratories for both human and animal research. The facility is jointly operated by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and houses the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and Health Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory. The facility includes Biocontainment Level 2, 3 and 4 laboratories. The Level 4 laboratories are the first of their kind in Canada, which provides an opportunity to work on developing solutions to some of the world's most serious diseases.

To further complement the operation of the facility, and in response to public concerns regarding the safety and containment procedures of the CSCHAH, Health Minister Alan Rock, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee on December 23, 1999. The ministers outlined in the announcement that the Committee would be instrumental to:

- Ensure full and open communication with the community in Winnipeg related to the CSCHAH;
- Help promote better public understanding of the CSCHAH and provide a forum for public input; and
- Be an important vehicle for two-way sharing of information between the CSCHAH and the community.

A list of the current committee membership and the committee Terms of Reference appears at the end of this report. The membership represents a wide range of community groups including community residents, scientists, health care professionals, environmental professionals, agricultural professionals and educators.

This is the third Annual Report of the Committee.



Committee Activity

The committee met six times between April 29, 2002 and March 26, 2003. The meetings continued to be structured to deal with information sharing and issue discussion /resolution.

Information Sharing

To maintain the committee's knowledge level with the operation of the CSCHAH, presentations from laboratory personnel and others were received on the following topics:

- Level 4 Activity Update
- Animal Care Committee Activity
- Foot and Mouth Disease Research Update
- Smallpox support and investigation activity
- WNV support and response activity
- TB lab activities
- SARS support and investigation activity
- Research funding to improve response in the event of a biological attack

In addition to the specific presentations, each meeting had a Bulletin Board session where new developments and information was shared and discussed.

Issue discussion/resolution

Two main issues were discussed by the Committee.

The first issue related to the method used to communicate, internally and externally, incidents that occur at the lab. The resolution of the issue was the development of an *Incident Communication System (ICS)*.

The ICS is designed to assist in managing internal and external communication needs associated with any type of incident involving the CSCHAH. The primary purpose of this tool is to facilitate the communication between the Centre and the community, as well as other groups, organizations, and individuals that might benefit from information pertaining to an incident without requiring any action on their part.

After piloting and truthing, the ICS was adopted by the CLC in December 2002. The ICS will be tracked by the CLC and refined as necessary.

The second issue was related to a press report of the possible underutilization of the Health Canada laboratory at 510 Lagimodière Boulevard in Winnipeg and potential for CSCHAH to use the space. The lab space was evaluated by CSCHAH staff and it was determined that the current infrastructure at the lab was not able to accommodate NML or NCFAD. Discussions are continuing regarding use of lab space.



General Communication/Liaison

Considerable interest has been shown from outsiders in the CSCHAH operation. Tours and visits were made by many delegations including:

- Texas
- USA National Institute of Health
- Mexico
- California
- MP's Judy Wasylycia-Leis and Pat Martin
- Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

A walkabout by the Security Manager and a member of the RCMP was made to businesses and residents that border the CSCHAH to see if there were any issues or concerns with the operation. Feedback was very positive with only some minor issues identified. The issues were addressed.

A CLC telephone number with a voice mailbox was established. Work is ongoing to develop a web site.

The Office of Biosafety and Environment together with Health Canada's Office of Laboratory Security and CFIA's Biocontainment and Facility Services Division hosted an international conference on biosecurity and provided training for the City of Winnipeg EMS and Hazmat teams.

New Staff and CLC Members

The CLC was introduced to two new staff of CSCHAH. Mr. Hank Kruger is the new Manager of Business Operations at CSCHAH, and Dr. Paul Gully, Senior Director General, Population and Public Health Branch, has assumed responsibility for Common Services at CSCHAH for Health Canada.

Also during this period, Dr. Anne Fraser was named Executive Director, Laboratories Directorate, and assumed responsibility for Common Services for CFIA. Heather Plett-Laurendeau, Communications Manager returned from maternity leave, relieving Kelly Keith on the Committee. As well, administrative support is now being provided by Patti Alexander, in place of Paulette Richard.

Five members resigned from the CLC and six new members were appointed to the CLC. Resignations were:

- Dr. Kenneth Brown
- Dr. Harry Duckworth
- Dr. Chandu Shah
- Dr. K. Dakshinamurti
- Mr. Leon Martin



Appointments were:

- Dr. José François
- Mr. Harold Foster
- Ms. Audrey Vandewater
- Mr. Alex Forest
- Dr. Jagdish C. Khatter
- Ms. Franeli Yadao



Conclusion

The third year of operation of the Community Liaison committee has been very successful with good rapport and communication with the community and CSCHAH established.

Community Liaison Committee Membership at March 31, 2003



Bob Douglas, Former City Councilor, Canadian Grain Commission (Co-Chair)
Dr. Stefan Wagener, CSCHAH (Co-Chair)
Jody Berscheid, Community Representative
Karen Keppler, Community Representative
Dr. Jagdish Khatter, Community Representative
Linda Cantiveros, Community Representative
Dr. José François, St. Boniface Community Representative
Alex Forrest, Community Representative
Larry Strachan, Manitoba Conservation Representative
Wayne Helgason, Community Representative
Susan Horne, Community Representative
Leanne Landriault, Community Representative
Harold Foster, Community Representative
Weldon Newton, Community Representative
Audrey Vandewater, Community Representative
Dr. Terry Whiting, Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association Representative
Franeli Yadao, Scientific Community Representative

Communications Liaison

Heather Plett-Laurendeau, Communications Manager, CSCHAH

Administrative Support

Patti Alexander, CSCHAH



Terms of Reference
Community Liaison Committee
Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health

PURPOSE:

To create a basis for and maintain an atmosphere of public trust and confidence between the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health and the community.

SCOPE:

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was established to provide an ongoing opportunity for discussion and sharing of information between the Canadian public and the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH).

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the Community Liaison Committee are:

- To seek information and share mutual understanding on issues of public concern
- To provide an ongoing forum for public input and a sustained information exchange
- To provide guidance to the Chief Administrative Officer (formerly known as the Executive Director)/CSCHAH on possible opportunities for the enhanced performance of the CSCHAH
- To serve as a vehicle proactively to seek and provide accurate information to the community in order to foster a greater understanding of the activities of the CSCHAH
- To monitor safety for the community and for the staff of the CSCHAH
- To conform with the principles of science

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The CLC will be responsible for the consideration and preparation of an information system, which will identify real or perceived community concerns, relative to the programs, safety or biosecurity of the CSCHAH. It will also identify the appropriate action to address these concerns.

The authority of the CLC is to direct concerns via the Chief Administrative Officer/CSCHAH, to the Laboratory Executive Committee for the appropriate action, and to be advised of the status of this action. Should the response prove to be insufficient, the CLC, via the two chairpersons, will convey its opinion to the Senior Director General, Population and Public Health Branch, Health Canada (SDG/PPHB-HC) and the Executive Director, Laboratories Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (ED/Lab Dir-CFIA). If in the opinion of the CLC, there are overriding public concerns, the CLC may directly communicate with the respective Ministers and/or the public at large.



The direct accountability of the CLC is to the Laboratory Executive Committee of the CSCHAH, to support the optimal performance of the Centre. However, the overall accountability is to the public community of Winnipeg, of Manitoba, and of Canada. At the conclusion of each year (March 31), the CLC is responsible to produce and publicly distribute an annual report of its activities.

The CLC will also be responsible for establishing, facilitating, and monitoring an appropriate focus group of the adjacent community, as required.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES:

The CLC will comprise a balanced representation consisting of at least 15 and no more than 20 participants from each of the following stakeholder groups:

- The Provincial Government
- The City of Winnipeg
- The agricultural community
- The medical community
- The academic community
- The veterinary medical community
- The community at large
- The Chief Administrative Officer of the CSCHAH

Nomination of new participants will be at the discretion of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

The term of each participant is to be three years, with five participants being replaced every year starting with the third year of operation and with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer/CSCHAH.

The CLC will have two co-chairpersons: one from the community and the other being the Chief Administrative Officer/CSCHAH. The term for the community co-chairperson will be two years with an option for re-election.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS:

The frequency of meetings will be quarterly as a minimum or more frequently as determined by the chairpersons. Meeting frequency will be reviewed after one year.

A quorum for a meeting will be at least 10 participants, and any vote will be determined on the basis of a simple majority.

Secretariat, administrative, and communication support services to the CLC will be provided by the CSCHAH.



RELATIONSHIP TO CENTRE:

The CLC will supplement the CSCHAH's ongoing communications and interaction with the community, stakeholders, media, and regulatory agencies. The CLC does not relieve the Centre from its mandated responsibilities or obligations.

The CLC will provide guidance on appropriate and effective ways of communicating with the community. This information will be provided to the Centre's Laboratory Executive Committee, to stakeholder organizations and to the public through an open and transparent process.

PUBLIC EMPHASIS TO BE MAINTAINED:

The process and operation of the CLC is considered public information and will be communicated openly.

In the event that agreement on an issue cannot be reached between the CLC and the CSCHAH, the respective positions will be presented to the Senior Director General, Population and Public Health Branch, Health Canada and the Executive Director, Laboratories Directorate, CFIA, for decision or further action.