

Annual Report

of the

Community

Liaison

Committee

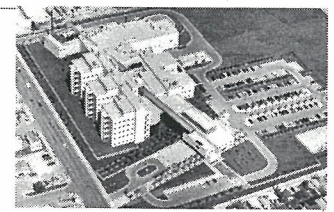
of the

Canadian Science Centre for
Human and Animal Health

April 2002



Community Liaison Committee of the
Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health
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Introduction

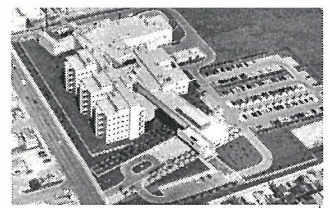
The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH), located at 1015 Arlington Street in Winnipeg, was opened in 1997. A world-class facility, this state-of-the-art laboratory complex is the first in the world to accommodate both human and animal high-containment research laboratories. The facility is jointly operated by Health Canada (HC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and houses the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and HC's National Microbiology Laboratory. The facility includes Biocontainment Level 2, 3 and 4 laboratories. The Level 4 laboratory is the first in Canada, providing an opportunity for Canadians 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, then Health Minister Alan Rock, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief and then 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 second Annual Report of the Committee.



Committee Activity

The committee met five times between June 20, 2001 and February 19, 2002. One meeting was a brief introductory meeting with the new Scientific Director of Biosafety and Environment and Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Stefan Wagener, and other senior federal staff. 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:

- Level 4 Activity
- Incident Classification and Response
- CFIA ISO Certification
- Bioterrorism
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Mad Cow Disease

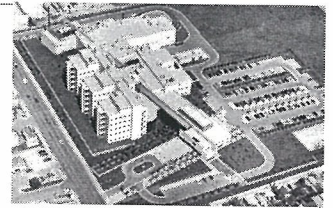
In addition to the specific presentations, each meeting had a Bulletin Board session where new developments and information was shared and discussed.

Issue Discussion/Resolution

In view of the senior personnel changes at the laboratory, and issues around committee operations and member attendance, discussion focused on three main issues:

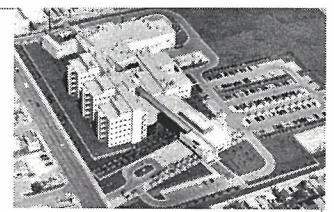
- New senior leadership and direction at the Lab
- Terms of Reference and Operational Criteria of the Committee
- Succession Planning for the Committee

These issues will be resolved early in the third year of the Committee operation.



Conclusion

The second year of operation of the Community Liaison Committee has been primarily one of reflection, addressing leadership changes, and revisiting our Terms of Reference and our membership to ensure that we are in a position to meet the expectations and challenges before us.



Community Liaison Committee Membership

Bob Douglas, former City Councilor, Canadian Grain Commission (*Co-Chair*)

Dr. Norm Willis, CSCHAH (*Co-Chair*) *

Dr. Stefan Wagener, CSCHAH (*Co-Chair*)

Jody Berscheid, Workers' Compensation Board

Karen Keppler, The Cathedral Group

Dr. Ken Brown, Manitoba College of Physicians (retired) *

Linda Cantiveros, Filipino Journal

Dr. Krishnamurti Dakshinamurti, University of Manitoba *

Dr. Harry Duckworth, University of Manitoba (retired) *

Larry Strachan, Manitoba Conservation

Wayne Helgason, Social Planning Council

Susan Horne, DASCH Foundation

Leanne Landriault, Nurse Educator

Leon Martin, Burton Cummings Community Centre

Weldon Newton, Keystone Agriculture Producers

Dr. Chandu Shah, University of Manitoba *

Dr. Terry Whiting, Manitoba Agriculture

Administrative Support

Paulette Richard, CSCHAH

Brian Koshul, CSCHAH*

Heather Plett-Laurendeau, CSCHAH *

Kelly Keith, CSCHAH

* Resigned from Committee during the year

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 is 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 (CLC) 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 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 Executive Director/CSCHAH, to the 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 chair-persons, will convey its opinion to the Director General/Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada (DG/LCDC-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 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, the CLC is responsible to produce and publicly distribute an annual report of its activities at the conclusion of each year (March 31).

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 executive director of the CSCHAH

Nomination of new participants will be at the discretion of the DG/LCDC-HC and the ED/Lab Dir-CFIA.

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 Executive Director/CSCHAH.

The CLC will have two co-chairpersons: one from the community and the other being the Executive Director/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 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 DG/LCDC-HC and the ED/Lab Dir-CFIA, for decision or further action.