



Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada)/Prévention et contrôle des infections Canada (PCI Canada) is a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary professional association uniting those with an interest in infection prevention and control in Canada. IPAC Canada has over 1650 members in 21 chapters across the country. All our members and partners are dedicated to the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control.

IPAC Canada is committed to the wellness and safety of Canadians by promoting best practice in infection prevention and control through education, standards, advocacy and consumer awareness.

The mandate of our organization is to provide education, communication and networking to our members and the public through provision of resources, education opportunities and collaboration with partner stakeholders.

IPAC Canada hosts an annual National Infection Control Week (NICW) (the third full week in October). The 2014 theme is ``Infection Prevention – Staying Ahead of the Game`. NICW dates are October 20-24, 2014.

EDUCATION

- National Education Conference – The IPAC Canada annual education conference is the pre-eminent infection prevention and control conference in Canada. The conference is held annually with an East-West-Central rotation. The conference includes 3.5 days of didactic and workshop presentations by national and international speakers, as well as a networking opportunity for members and interest groups. The 2015 conference will be held in Victoria (June 14-17, 2015).
- Chapter Education Days – Each of our 21 chapters hosts an education day, whether as part of regular chapter meetings or an annual conference. Presenters focus on regional infection prevention and control issues.
- Webcasts and Webinars – IPAC Canada hosts regular webcasts and webinars on current topics of interest.
- Distance Education Basic Infection Prevention and Control – This six module, 8 month program provides a basic infection prevention and control curriculum to those who are new to the profession or considering entering the session. Now in its 8th session, the course educates 40 students per year and is often a requirement of employment.
- Routine Practices E-Learning Tool – IPAC Canada collaborates with Georgian College to deliver an online education tool for all healthcare workers around the topic of routine practices, hand hygiene, and risk precautions. This E-Learning curriculum is designed to assist healthcare facilities train “Front Line” workers in standardized best practices for infection prevention and control. The self-paced, six module curriculum includes case studies, simulations, narration, video and questions.

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

- Chapters and Interest Groups – There are 21 chapters and 10 interest groups available to members. Chapters provide additional education and networking. Interest groups are networking opportunities for specific disciplines amongst our members.
- Canadian Journal of Infection Control – The IPAC Canada quarterly journal features research and information articles on the practices of infection prevention and control, as well as association news.
- Monthly E-Newsletter – The monthly e-newsletter provides links to sites of interest as well as current news from the field.
- Website – The IPAC Canada website (www.ipac-canada.org) is internationally recognized as a trustworthy source of resources and information for the Infection Prevention and Control Professional (ICP), other healthcare workers, and the public.

PRACTICE SUPPORT

- Infection Control Audit Tools – IPAC Canada has developed over 40 infection control audit tools which are provided to members at no charge.
- Program-Wide Audit Tool – A unique tool that will be a standard for infection control programs in Canada is anticipated to be launched in spring 2016.
- National Infection Control Week Posters – An annual contest produces the design for the annual poster which is available to members at no charge.
- DVDs, Brochures – A series of DVDs and brochures are available for sale. Topics include: “The Grand Prix of PPE”, “Superbugs”, “Families and Visitors”, “Just Wash ‘Em (for K-6 students)”, and Hand Hygiene brochures.

COLLABORATION

IPAC Canada works closely with external stakeholders to further the practice of infection prevention and control. Recent collaborations include:

- Accreditation Canada – IPAC Canada participated in the engagement of working groups to develop education in Acute Care and Long Term Care. IPAC Canada members are active participants on the Accreditation Canada Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Committee
- Accreditation Canada International (ACI) – IPAC Canada recently reviewed the curriculum for the novice program delivered by ACI outside of North America. We were also instrumental in recruiting experts to provide assistance in the Middle East and Africa with the recent MERS-CoV and Ebola outbreaks.
- Canadian Patient Safety Institute – IPAC Canada is an active participant in the development and information distribution of the Stop! Clean Your Hands and Patient Safety Week campaigns. It is also an active participant in the development of the upcoming National Integrated Patient Safety Summit on Infection Prevention and Control (November 2014).
- Certification Board of Infection Control (CBIC) – CBIC administers the Certification in Infection Control examination, supported by IPAC Canada. IPAC Canada members serve on the Board of CBIC and the test review committee.

- Antibiotic Awareness Week – IPAC Canada is represented on the Communication and Education Task Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (CETAR) facilitated by the National Collaborating Institute for Infectious Diseases (NCCID). This group focuses on antibiotic awareness and stewardship through the development of Antibiotic Awareness Week held in November.
- International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) – IFIC is an international body that provides education and communication support to worldwide infection prevention and control communities. IPAC Canada offers an annual scholarship to assist ICPs from under-resourced countries to attend the annual IFIC conference.
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – IPAC Canada appointed an expert review panel to assist the College in the development of Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) educational projects. The projects are scheduled to be launched in the spring of 2015.

For more information about IPAC Canada, please see www.ipac-canada.org or contact info@ipac-canada.org.

Previous Collaborations include:

- Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases – Collaboration with several partners in the 2010 National Infection Control Week and National Infectious Diseases Week on the Hill. In the morning, several organization representatives had scheduled meetings with Deputy Ministers in Ottawa to encourage federal support of measures to reduce healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) in Canada. In the afternoon, education sessions on infection control and infectious diseases were held for practitioners, administrators and government officials.
- Immunization on the Hill – In 1999, then CHICA-Canada developed a day that saw immunization of government officials and staff on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.