

**The  
Provincial Infection Control  
Network of BC  
(PICNet)**

**Annual Report**

April 2008 - March 2009

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This Annual Report fulfills a reporting requirement for PICNet and also serves as a key communications piece for the coming year. It provides context and background for our current and future work.

Your feedback is most welcome.  
Please send your comments to: [picnet@phsa.ca](mailto:picnet@phsa.ca).

# Executive Summary

The Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet) of British Columbia (BC) is pleased to present our fourth Annual Report, for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Launched in 2005, PICNet is a volunteer, collaborative network, consisting of professionals from the Infection Prevention and Control Community of Practice from across BC. We work together to maximize coordination and integration of activities related to health care associated infection (HAI) prevention and control practices, using an evidence-based approach.

The 2008-2009 fiscal year represented PICNet's first full year of being aligned with both strategic and financial accountabilities under the Provincial Health Services Authority's (PHSA) corporate leadership.

With the guidance of PICNet's Advisory Committee and the ongoing commitment of a wide range of individuals sitting on PICNet's various Working Groups and Committees, we have continued to make important advances on a range of significant Infection Prevention and Control initiatives.

PICNet's accomplishments this past year include:

- A system for the collection of surveillance data for *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI) in acute care hospitals has been developed and is nearing readiness for implementation province-wide through web-based technology.
- PICNet has released its "Guidelines for the Control of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms" and its "Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Home and Community Health Care Settings."
- PICNet held its third annual two-day Educational Conference, hosting approximately 135 multidisciplinary delegates from across the province.
- PICNet has had three journal articles accepted for publication this year (*American Journal of Infection Control*, *Canadian Journal of Infection Control* and the *Canadian Health Management Forum*).
- PICNet was a key partner in the writing and publication of "Protecting the Health of Health Care Workers: A Global Perspective," published February 2009 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- PICNet hosted two meetings of an informal national network of infection prevention and control colleagues in provincial leadership positions. "Network of Networks" is a valuable tool in information-sharing and national collaboration.
- PICNet sponsored access to a total of 52 educational training sessions presented by Webber Training for our Community of Practice across BC. Webber Training is an international lecture series on infection prevention and control topics.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank BC's Infection Prevention and Control Community of Practice, and all of BC's Health Authorities, for such solid ongoing support and dedication. PICNet's progress depends on your continued commitment and good will. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to our leaders in the PICNet Management Office, without which, none of this would be possible.

As Co-Directors, we are committed to working with you all to see PICNet achieve its full potential.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bryce, MD, FRCP(C)  
PICNet Co-Director



Judith Isaac-Renton, MD, DPH, FRCP(C)  
PICNet Co-Director

## Message from the PICNet Management Office

The 2008-2009 year has been another year of important and positive changes for PICNet. In June 2008, PICNet welcomed Joanne Archer as our Consultant/Educator, and in December 2008, Ellie Sheng joined our team as PICNet's Surveillance Systems Coordinator. Ellie and Joanne have helped complete the PICNet Management Office team, which also includes Sarah Pugh (Projects and Communications Coordinator) and myself (Bruce Gamage, Network Manager). With the ongoing guidance of PICNet's Co-Directors and our provincial Advisory Committee, PICNet continues to advance key infection prevention and control programs and initiatives in the province.

PICNet continues to focus on the three main areas that fall within its mandate, including surveillance of health care associated infections, development of best practice guidelines, and education and training. With strong multi-disciplinary networks throughout BC, PICNet is in a unique position to bring the right people together at the table, to develop innovative solutions for the challenges being faced by infection prevention and control professionals province-wide.

In 2009/2010, PICNet will publish its first provincial reports of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) incidence, and will continue work towards the expansion of this system for further surveillance of other health care associated infections (HAI). We will finish work on an in depth survey of the Long Term Care and Residential Care Facilities in BC in order to facilitate meeting their needs for Infection Prevention and Control Services, and will update the existing provincial Guidelines for the Management of Outbreaks of Gastrointestinal Illness. PICNet will also be launching an on-line educational module for the prevention of surgical site infections.

As always, PICNet is committed to building and enhancing our accountability to the Health Authorities, and to further empowering health care providers with the tools they need to address the prevention and control of health care associated infections, for the benefit of all British Columbians.

On behalf of PICNet's Management Office, I would like to offer a special thanks to each of the Health Authorities, and to PICNet's Advisory Committee and its Co-Directors, Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton and Dr. Elizabeth Bryce for their ongoing commitment and leadership. We are looking forward to working with the PICNet Community of Practice in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gamage, RN BSN CIC  
Network Manager



From left to right, PICNet's Management Office: Ellie Sheng, Bruce Gamage, Joanne Archer and Sarah Pugh

# Introduction

The Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet) is a provincially supported professional collaborative encompassing regional and provincial health organizations. PICNet was developed in 2005 by the BC Ministry of Health.

Our vision continues to be: ***Good Science - Good Will.***

PICNet's mission is to maximize coordination and integration of activities related to health care associated infection prevention, surveillance and control, for the entire province, using an evidence-based approach.

PICNet's network model emphasizes participation, collegiality, and trust. This model fosters and strengthens professional relationships and enables the infection prevention and control Community of Practice (COP) to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of others across health care settings in BC. As a result, PICNet's initiatives and best practice guidelines are developed and owned by health care professionals in the province, combining rigorous evidence-based standards with a hands-on knowledge of what is needed within health care settings to achieve the best possible results for infection prevention and control.

Under the aegis and accountability framework of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), with the support of all Health Authorities in BC, PICNet is a collaborative of many health care disciplines working together to prevent and control health care associated infections (HAI) across the continuum of care.

PICNet does this by:

- Supporting and coordinating initiatives of shared importance
- Providing knowledge to guide best practices
- Sharing information, translating knowledge and training experts
- Directing, coordinating and enhancing surveillance activities
- Advocating on behalf of all professionals working to prevent and control HAIs in BC.
- Providing advice on relevant policy and issues

PICNet's COP includes – but is not limited to – environmental health officers, epidemiologists, infection control professionals, infectious disease physicians, medical health officers, medical microbiologists, public health nurses and physicians, and occupational health nurses and physicians.

# PICNet Objectives and Deliverables, 2007-2009

In August 2007, PICNet developed the following objectives for PICNet under a two year plan from April 2007 through to March 2009.

## **Education:**

1. To expand PICNet's library of infection prevention and control educational resources, including the development of a catalogue to be posted to PICNet's web site.
2. To ensure the ongoing development, enhancement and review of PICNet's web site as a vehicle for communication and education for PICNet's Community of Practice (COP).
3. To develop educational modules for the surveillance and prevention of health care associated infections.
4. To organize and facilitate annual PICNet educational conferences, bringing key leaders and educators together to share their knowledge and expertise with the PICNet COP.
5. To continue to provide ongoing access to educational teleclasses and to explore the hosting of relevant lecture series for the PICNet COP.
6. To advocate for the enhanced education and training opportunities for infection prevention and control professionals and allied health care providers.
7. To practice infection prevention and control-related knowledge transfer by linking with international partners on relevant research-based or practical projects.

## **Surveillance:**

1. To facilitate the creation and adoption of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA), Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) and necessary protocols relating to the sharing of CDI data between Health Authorities and PICNet.
2. To develop and further plan with the COP and begin to implement an operational plan for the Surveillance of Health Care Associated Infections Program for BC (SHAIP-BC).
3. To develop the necessary infrastructure to support data collection, analysis and reporting of SHAIP-BC data to PICNet's COP and appropriate authorities.
4. To create a plan for approval and implementation of appropriate data sharing upon written approval by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Health Authorities.

## **Best Practices:**

1. To develop best practice guidelines for the prevention and control of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms and for prevention and control of infections in home and community health care settings.
2. To develop an evaluation tool for reviewing and updating new and existing PICNet best practice guidelines.
3. To encourage the PICNet COP to submit proposals for PICNet best practice guidelines development using the existing PICNet process, channeled through the Project Priority and Planning Committee.
4. To further engage the PICNet COP in the collaborative formal guideline development process.

## Objectives/Deliverables Table

The following table details the deliverable for each of the above objectives and PICNet's progress towards completion of those deliverables.

Objectives	Deliverables	Completed	Milestones
<b>Education</b>	1. Expanding PICNet's library of infection prevention and control educational resources.	100%	Over the year PICNet has acquired several reference texts and educational CDs.
	2. Ensuring the ongoing development, enhancement and review of PICNet's web site as a vehicle for communication and education for PICNet's COP.	90%	The PICNet web site is constantly reviewed and updated. The Communications Leadership Group completes an annual review of the web site each summer.
	3. Purchasing and installing reference warehousing software, to be housed on PICNet's server.	100%	Endnote® software has been purchased and installed on each PICNet personal computer. Files can be housed on the common PHSA drive.
	4. Developing the educational modules for the surveillance and prevention of health care associated infection programme.	75%	The development of an educational module for prevention of surgical site infections is nearing completion, with beta testing about to begin.
	5. Organizing and facilitating annual PICNet educational conferences, bringing key leaders and educators together to share their knowledge and expertise with the PICNet COP.	100%	The third annual PICNet Educational Conference was held April 2-3, 2009, with approximately 135 delegates from across BC, and across the continuum of care.
	6. Continuing to provide ongoing access to educational teleclasses and to explore the hosting of relevant lecture series for the PICNet COP.	100%	PICNet continues to provide access to a series of educational sessions hosted by Webber Training. This year 52 classes were offered on a variety of infection control related topics. This year, PICNet's Bruce Gamage gave a guest lecture for this series.
	7. Advocating for enhanced education and training opportunities for	100%	This year PICNet awarded five educational resource fund

	<p>infection prevention and control professionals and allied health care providers.</p> <p>8. Practicing infection prevention and control-related knowledge transfer by linking with international partners on relevant research-based or practical projects.</p>	90%	<p>awards of up to \$2000 each. Each year, members of the COP may apply for funding to attend educational conferences or classes to enhance their infection control knowledge.</p> <p>PICNet co-authored and helped to distribute a publication entitled “Protecting the Health of Health Care Workers: A Global Perspective.” This document was the product of an international workshop on the provision of Occupational Health services in rural and low resources areas. The proceedings were published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.</p>
<b>Surveillance</b>	<p>1. Facilitating the creation and adoption of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA), Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) and necessary protocols relating to the sharing of CDI data between Health Authorities and PICNet.</p> <p>2. Working with the COP to further develop an implementation plan for SHAIIP-BC.</p> <p>3. Developing the necessary infrastructure to support data collection, analysis and reporting of</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>75%</p> <p>75%</p>	<p>Given that the data to be shared between the Health Authorities and PICNet will be anonymized, only a participation agreement (PA) is needed for the sharing of this data. This PA has been signed by all Health Authorities and affiliated institutions.</p> <p>PICNet has re-worked its original SHAIIP-BC proposal into a strategic proposal for the expansion of our surveillance of health care associated infections program. Building on the success of the CDI surveillance program, this proposal would systematically add surveillance modules for other HAIs over the next five years.</p> <p>The technical design of PICNet’s surveillance program for CDI is very nearly</p>

	<p>SHAIP-BC data to PICNet's COP and appropriate authorities.</p> <p>4. Creating a plan for approval and implementation of appropriate data sharing, related to SHAIP-BC, upon written approval by MOH and Health Authorities.</p>	75%	<p>complete. This system will be expanded to include other HAIs. PICNet has hired a full-time Surveillance Systems Coordinator to hold responsibility for this aspect of PICNet's work.</p> <p>The CDI PA lays the groundwork for further sharing of HAI data between the Health Authorities and PICNet. A business case is currently being prepared to outline both the costs and benefits associated with the expansion of HAI surveillance in BC.</p>
<b>Best Practices</b>	<p>1. Developing best practice guidelines for the prevention and control of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms and for the prevention and control of infections in home and community health care settings.</p> <p>2. Developing an evaluation tool for reviewing and updating new and existing PICNet best practice guidelines.</p> <p>3. Encouraging the PICNet COP to submit proposals for PICNet best practice guidelines development using the existing PICNet process, channeled through the Project Priority and Planning (P3) Committee.</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>20%</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Best practice guidelines for the prevention and control of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms have been completed and were released in November 2008. Guidelines for the prevention and control of infections in home and community health care settings have also been completed and will be released in the summer of 2009.</p> <p>In the late summer of 2009, PICNet will be working with a Master's of Public Health student to develop this guideline evaluation/updating tool.</p> <p>PICNet is currently working on two projects based on proposals from our COP – the needs assessment for infection control resources in Long Term Care settings and development of best practice guidelines for Gastrointestinal Infection Outbreaks. The P3 Committee has been officially disbanded, and projects are now presented directly from</p>

	<p>4. Further engaging the PICNet COP in the collaborative guideline development process.</p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>the PMO to the Advisory Committee for strategic approval.</p> <p>In 2008-2009, PICNet developed an enhanced guidelines development process, and a Guidelines Steering Committee to provide methodological oversight and consistency in the development of each set of guidelines.</p>
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# Standing Committee Reports

## Advisory Committee

In 2008-2009, PICNet's Steering Committee underwent some important transitions. Previously, Committee members were asked by PICNet to serve on this committee. Over the past year, this Committee has transitioned into an Advisory Committee, with Committee members officially selected and appointed by the Health Authority/organization or discipline that he/she is representing. This change has allowed for improved accountability and lines of communication between PICNet and the Health Authorities and represented organizations, and has also helped increasingly clarify roles and responsibilities of Committee members. At the same time, the Committee continues to represent all regions of British Columbia, and includes members with great expertise and experience in areas relevant to infection prevention and control. This expertise and experience includes not just specific professional expertise but also knowledge and experience in the varied physical and institutional environments across the province. This Committee's principle role is to provide PICNet with strategic direction for its work.

PICNet would like to acknowledge and thank each Health Authority, as well as the various professional organizations, for their support and contributions to PICNet Advisory Committee, and all of PICNet's work. It is the collective expertise and commitment of our partners within these organizations that truly drives PICNet, and it is with much appreciation that we recognize this.



The 2008-2009 Advisory Committee Members are listed below (italics indicate non-voting members):

- *John Andruschak, VP Clinical and Support Service, Provincial Health Services Authority*
- *Joanne Archer, Consultant/Educator, PICNet*
- Dr. George Astrakianakis, Director, Disease Prevention, Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC
- Dr. William Bowie, Adult Infectious Diseases, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Dr. Elizabeth Bryce, PICNet Co-Director, Regional Medical Director, Infection Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Dr. Sylvie Champagne, President, BC Association of Medical Microbiologists
- *Bruce Gamage, Network Manager, PICNet, Provincial Health Services Authority*
- Janice de Heer, Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Interior Health Authority
- Dr. Bonnie Henry, Advisory Committee Chair, Physician Epidemiologist, BCCDC, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Jacque Hlagi, Community and Hospital Infection Control Association, British Columbia
- Deanna Hembroff, Acting Manager, Infection Prevention and Control, Northern Health
- Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton, PICNet Co-Director, Director of BCCDC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratories, Provincial Health Services Authority Laboratories
- Dr. Pamela Kibsey, Medical Microbiologist/Infection Control, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Dr. Ben Mack, Medical Microbiologist, Fraser Health
- Dr. Rob Parker, Medical Health Officer, Interior Health Authority
- *Sarah Pugh, Projects and Communications Coordinator, PICNet*
- Dr. Marc Romney, Medical Microbiologist/Infection Control, Providence Health Care
- Dr. Diane Roscoe, Head Medical Microbiology and Infection Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Dr. Eva Thomas, Director Microbiology/Virology/Infection Control, Women's and Children's Health Centre of BC, Provincial Health Services Authority
- *Andrew Wray, Acting Program Manger, Patient Safety and Clinical Innovations, Ministry of Health Services*
- Dr. Annalee Yassi, Occupational Health Physician, University of British Columbia

## **Communications Leadership Group**

PICNet's Communications Leadership Group (CLG) was founded in July 2006 as a standing committee to provide policy development and leadership to the PICNet Management Office (PMO) with regards to communications priorities and activities. The purpose of the CLG is to develop and implement communication strategies that will further enable PICNet to meet its mandate.

PICNet produces a monthly electronic newsletter in order to keep the infection prevention and control Community of Practice up-to-date on current PICNet activities. The newsletter is sent to all Community of Practice members via email and is linked directly to the PICNet web site.

As part of PICNet's mandate, we also work hard to promote ourselves externally, and network with infection prevention and control colleagues across the country, to share knowledge and expertise. To this end, PICNet exhibits every year at the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada (CHICA) National Education Conference. This year's conference was held in St. John's, Newfoundland. With the direction and help of the CLG, PICNet produced an educational fiscal year calendar this year, to give away at our own conference, and at the CHICA conference in St. John's.

PICNet continues to sponsor access to Webber Training teleclasses for all of PICNet's Community of Practice who may not otherwise have access through their employers. Webber Training is an international lecture series on topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide. A total of 52 training sessions were sponsored by PICNet between March 2008 and March 2009.

PICNet will continue to work closely with all Health Authorities and infection control professionals across the continuum of care to build our Network through transparency, communication and action.

PICNet wishes to thank the members of the Communications Leadership Group for their hard work throughout the year.

- Deb Connell, BC Public Service Agency
- Janice de Heer, Interior Health Authority
- Terry Dickson, Fraser Health Authority
- Bruce Gamage, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Deanna Hembroff, Northern Health Authority
- Margaret McLaughlin, Fraser Health Authority
- Cathy Munford, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Sarah Pugh, Provincial Infection Control Network.

## **Urgent/Emergent Working Groups (Vaccine Preventable Disease/Mumps Outbreak Working Group)**

One of PICNet's organizational strengths is its ability to react quickly to urgent/emergent issues, by bringing together appropriate individuals from across disciplines and across regions to work towards developing realistic solutions to the challenges at hand. In health care, it is often the case that unexpected, or unforeseen issues arise that must be dealt with as a priority above existing, ongoing projects. With this in mind, in 2008-2009, PICNet further developed its ability to formally strike urgent/emergent working groups to deal with high priority issues as they arise.

In the fall of 2008, PICNet struck just such a group to deal with the urgent question of vaccinations for Health Care Workers (HCW) in the event of a mumps outbreak. Drawing on our wide network of occupational health, public health and infection control experts, PICNet was able to facilitate an Expert Working Group to develop a comprehensive set of best practice recommendations, to help provide guidance for both HCWs and policy-makers in their response to mumps outbreaks within the province.

Members of this Vaccine Preventable Disease/Mumps Outbreak Working Group include:

- Dr. George Astrakianakis (Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC)
- Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin (Fraser Health Authority)
- Dr. Elizabeth Bryce (chair) (Vancouver Coastal Health)
- Wendy Burris (Northern Health Authority)
- Dr. Ian Connell (Fraser Health Authority)
- Janice de Heer (Interior Health Authority)
- Fe Evans (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Bruce Gamage (PICNet)
- Dr. Bonnie Henry (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- Dr. Mel Krajden (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- Dr. Ron Lalji (Fraser Health Authority)
- Gayle Lavallee (Vancouver Island Health Authority)
- Myra Magrath (Provincial Health Services Authority)
- Helen McMillan (Northern Health Authority)
- Deborah McPherson (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Dr. Monika Naus (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- Sherryl Papilla (Provincial Health Services Authority)
- Dr. Martin Petric (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- Elayne Preston (Fraser Health Authority)
- Sarah Pugh (PICNet)
- Dixie Ross (Interior Health Authority)
- Anne Salumay (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Cathy Smith (Fraser Health Authority)

# Working Group and Projects Reports

## ***Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI) Surveillance Working Group***

In the fall of 2005, an ad hoc Working Group was formed to address surveillance of CDI in BC. The Working Group, in collaboration with the BC Association of Medical Microbiologists (BCAMM), developed the surveillance protocol for CDI for acute care facilities in BC. During the winter of 2006, the approved guidelines were piloted. This pilot provided valuable lessons, ensuring that recommendations were feasible.

In order to carry forward the work of the ad-hoc group, in January of 2007, a new CDI Working Group was formed. The goals of this group were to:

- Perform an evaluation of the PICNet CDI surveillance protocol based on experience of current users;
- Develop a participation agreement to allow the sharing of anonymized data from the Health authorities with PICNet;
- Develop a web-based tool for data collection, storage, analysis and sharing;
- Develop an on-site training module and checklist for use of the CDI surveillance tool and data base;
- Explore the implementation of a standardized CDI surveillance tool province-wide that employs standard case definitions;
- Integrate laboratory surveillance into the project through typing of a representative number of isolates.

To date this Working Group has completed a survey of users of the PICNet CDI surveillance protocol for the purpose of review and evaluation. This evaluation allowed the protocol to be modified prior to a web-based tool for data collection being implemented.

In January of 2008, a focus group of persons responsible for the collection and analysis of surveillance data for each Health Authority met for a day long session to establish a minimal data set, case definitions and business rules for the collection of province-wide CDI surveillance. Following that exercise, this group has collaborated with the CDI Surveillance Working Group to finalize these key elements for the development of the web based data collection tool and data base.

A Participation Agreement for the sharing of anonymized CDI case data has been created, with the help of the Vancouver Coastal Health legal council, which details the roles of the Health Authorities and PICNet in the implementation of the CDI Surveillance System.

Working with an external Information Technology company as well as PHSA IMI/IT, a system for extracting and exporting data files from the Health Authorities to the PICNet database to be located on a PHSA server has been successfully developed. In December 2008, PICNet hired a full-time Surveillance Systems Coordinator, Ellie Sheng, to be our main point of contact for the technical aspects of the program, and to coordinate and support the logistics of going live with this project.

Quality Assurance has now been completed for data coming in from Fraser Health, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, and Vancouver Coastal Health. Some further technical work and Quality Assurance work is required in the remaining Health Authorities before they can also submit their data. PICNet is expecting that its first report, including data from every Health Authority, will be released in the summer of 2009.

As part of our revised process for the development of guidelines, one of the first tasks of the new PICNet Guidelines Steering Committee will be to review the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (Ontario) “Guidelines for the Management of *C. difficile* in all Health Care Settings” for adoption in BC.

PICNet wishes to thank the Working Group members who have contributed towards the development of PICNet’s CDI Surveillance Project:

- Maureen Anderson, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Dr. William Bowie, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Dr. Sylvie Champagne, Providence Health Care
- Jun Chen Collet, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Janice de Heer, Interior Health Authority
- Leslie Forrester, Vancouver Coastal Health (Project Lead)
- Bruce Gamage, PICNet
- Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Dr. Linda Hoang, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Dr. Pamela Kibsey, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Felicia Laing, Fraser Health Authority
- Renée Sebastian, Providence Health Care
- Ellie Sheng, PICNet
- Jayne Bradbury, Providence Health Care
- Joanne Archer, Northern Health (before joining PICNet)

### **Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Guidelines Working Group**

In November, 2008 the PICNet Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines Working Group completed updating and revising the existing provincial guidelines. Following the completion of these guidelines, this working group has been disbanded.

PICNet would like to thank the members of the Antibiotic Resistant Organism Working Group for their excellent work on these guidelines:

- Joanne Archer, PICNet (chair)
- Dr. Ian Connell, Fraser Health Authority
- Jim Curtin, Providence Health Care
- Shelley Franklin, BC Ambulance Service
- Dr. Dave Forrest, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Bruce Gamage, PICNet
- Deanna Hembroff, Northern Health Authority

- Dr. Linda Hoang, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Dr. Pamela Kibsey, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Linda Kingsbury, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Tracy Lanier, Interior Health Authority
- Fawziah Marra, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Sarah Pugh, PICNet
- Coleen Reiswig, Interior Health Authority
- Jackie Ratzlaff, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Dr. Fred Roberts, Fraser Health Authority
- Joanne Tench, Interior Health Authority
- Phyllis Stoffman (first draft writer)

### **Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for the Home and Community Health Care Setting Working Group**

In January of 2008 the Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for the Home and Community Health Care Settings Working Group was formed. The group undertook the work of creating these guidelines based on existing guidelines created by the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (CCAR). When completed in draft form, this document was circulated within the PICNet Community of Practice for input and feedback. The guidelines are now nearing completion, and will be posted to the PICNet web site in the summer of 2009.

PICNet wishes to thank the members of the Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Home and Community Health Care Settings for their excellent work on these guidelines:

- Joanne Archer, PICNet (chair)
- Jacquie D'Auria (first draft writer)
- Nicki Gill, Interior Health Authority
- Louise Holmes, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Bruce Gamage, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Marilyn Jack, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Kim Leslie, Interior Health Authority
- Kathleen McWhinney, Fraser Health Authority
- Sarah Pugh, PICNet
- Shelley Sing, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Lisa Schwartz, Interior Health Authority

## **Gastrointestinal Infection Outbreak Guidelines Working Group**

This PICNet Working Group stemmed from a project proposal received from our Community of Practice to revise and update the existing provincial guidelines for Gastrointestinal Infection Outbreaks. The guidelines developed/updated through this Working Group will provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and processes that pertain to the prevention, surveillance, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks. This group has been meeting since November 2008 and hopes to be able to release its guidelines by the spring of 2010.

### **Working Group members include:**

- Joanne Archer, PICNet, writer
- Brian Auk, BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Microbiology Reference Laboratories
- Joanne Baines, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Donna Bush, Northern Health Authority
- Yin Chang, BC Centre for Disease Control
- Ken Cooper, BC Centre for Disease Control (chair)
- Fern Davey, Caliber Health
- Terry Dickson, Fraser Health Authority
- Bev Dobbyn, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Debora Giese, Northern Health Authority
- Nicki Gill, Interior Health Authority
- Dr. Larry Gustafson, Fraser Health Authority
- Dr. Réka Gustafson, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Deanna Hembroff, Northern Health Authority
- Marney Hunt, Provincial Health Services Authority
- Jessica Ip, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Beverly McCarthy, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Craig Nowakowski, Vancouver Island Health Authority
- Parmjeet Panesar, Fraser Health Authority
- Cathy Smith, Fraser Health Authority
- Marsha Taylor, BC Centre for Disease Control
- Greg Tone, Northern Health Authority

## **Online Educational Module for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections**

In late 2008, PICNet began work on the development of an on-line educational module for the prevention of surgical site infections. Working closely with content experts and a technical design team from Vancouver Coastal Health's Educational Technologies Department, this e-module is being created in the same style as the award-winning online Infection Prevention and Control educational module (available on PICNet's web site), developed by Vancouver Coastal Health, the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC, and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Work is progressing quickly on the development of the on-line module for the prevention of surgical site infections, and PICNet hopes to be able to release the module in the fall of 2009. This PICNet e-module will be freely accessible through our web site.

### **Needs Assessment Working Group for Infection Prevention and Control Resources for Long Term Care and Residential Care Settings in BC**

The work of this group also stemmed from a proposal received from PICNet's Community of Practice, and approved by the Advisory Committee. This Working Group was struck in September 2008 to conduct a province-wide needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in Long Term Care (LTC) and Residential settings in BC.

An on-line survey tool will be developed to assist this Working Group in collecting the data needed to perform this survey, and to enable the group to identify gaps in resources for infection control in these settings. Identifying these resource gaps will be an important first step in enabling Health Authorities to develop solid business cases towards attaining increased resources. The survey will target all facilities in BC that have "complex care" beds, including Health Authority-owned and operated facilities as well as contracted facilities, and those that are privately owned and operated.

#### **Working group members include:**

- Andrea Neil (Interior Health Authority)
- Angela Long (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Joanne Archer (PICNet)
- Cathy Munford (Vancouver Island Health Authority)
- Dawn Vallee (Capilano Care Centre)
- Bruce Gamage (PICNet)
- Dr. Bonnie Henry (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- Holly-Lynn Nelson (Northern Health Authority)
- Jackie Ratzlaff (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Dr. Jennifer Grant (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Kathy Wong (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Lisa Young (Vancouver Island Health Authority)
- Louise Holmes (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Lorraine Wentland (Yaletown House Society)
- Rashpal Toor (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Dr. Réka Gustafson (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- Suzanne Hyderman (Good Samaritan Society)
- Susan Higginbotham (Little Mountain Care)
- Wanda Murphy (Yaletown House Society)
- Valerie Schall (PICNet contract)
- Shannon Johnson (Dufferin Care Centre)
- Avril Macdonald (Fraserview Care Lodge)

## **Enhancement of PICNet Guidelines Development Process**

One of PICNet's key roles in the province is the development of best practice guidelines around provincially relevant infection prevention and control issues. Specifically, since 2006, PICNet has worked with health care professionals and leaders across British Columbia to develop provincial infection prevention and control guidelines for Respiratory Illness Outbreaks, Antibiotic Resistant Organisms, and for Home and Community Health Care Settings.

PICNet is committed to producing the highest quality guidelines possible, and in the 2008-2009 fiscal year, we turned our attention towards refining the processes we use in the development of these best practice guidelines. Drawing on guideline development literature and guidelines processes from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PICNet developed a formal guidelines development process that clearly articulates the roles and responsibilities of PICNet's Management Office, a Guidelines Development Group, and a standing Guidelines Steering Committee to oversee the process and methodology of each project. The new process has been designed to improve accountability, create and formalize an information audit trail, and to further ensure that the guidelines being produced are based on the best available scientific evidence and best practice.

Early in the next fiscal year, PICNet will be taking this process to its Advisory Committee for discussion and approval. The Gastrointestinal Infections Outbreaks Guidelines Working Group is expected to be the first guidelines development group to align with this revised process.

## PICNet's Plans for 2009-2010

As the Provincial Infection Control Network moves into its fifth year, it continues to play a vital role in the prevention and control of health care associated infections (HAI) in BC. On the strength of its accomplishments, PICNet is increasingly recognized, provincially and nationally, as a leader in infection prevention and control. PICNet has in place the model, the experience, the network and the professional support to continue to identify and work towards practical solutions for the province's pressing infection prevention and control challenges.

In the coming fiscal year, PICNet will continue to focus on the three main areas that fall within its mandate: surveillance of health care associated infections; development of best practice guidelines; and education and training.

### **Surveillance**

For the 2009/2010 year, PICNet will launch its province-wide, web-enabled surveillance system for CDI in acute care hospitals, and will release the first aggregate report detailing provincial CDI rates in British Columbia. The success of this program will be an important step towards establishing such surveillance for other HAI in the future. To this end, PICNet will be developing and releasing a Strategic Proposal for the Enhancement of HAI Surveillance, as well as a supporting business case.

In the coming fiscal year, PICNet will also complete its needs assessment of infection prevention and control resources available to Long Term Care and Residential Care settings in BC.

### **Best Practices**

In 2008-2009, PICNet undertook several important projects related to the development of best practice guidelines for infection prevention and control related issues, completing provincial guidelines for Antibiotic Resistant Organisms, as well as guidelines for Home and Community Health Care Settings. PICNet also developed a revised and enhanced guideline development process for future best practice guideline work, and struck a Working Group to develop infection prevention and control guidelines for gastrointestinal (GI) infection outbreaks.

In 2009-2010, PICNet will implement its new guideline development process, using the GI guidelines development as a pilot project. These guidelines will provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and processes that pertain to the prevention, surveillance, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks.

As well, PICNet is pleased to be a partner of the new BC Patient Safety and Quality Council (PSQC) and the Health Quality Network. The PSQC was created "to provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister of Health Services on matters related to patient safety and quality of care, and to bring health system stakeholders together in a collaborative partnership to promote and inform a provincially coordinated, innovative, and patient-centred approach to patient safety and quality improvement in British Columbia." As the work of the PSQC progresses, PICNet is looking forward to a continuing a productive relationship.

## **Education and Training**

In early April 2009, PICNet held its third two-day Educational Conference, bringing together approximately 135 members of our provincial Community of Practice together for two full days of networking and education. Evaluations and feedback from conference delegates were overwhelmingly positive.

Throughout 2008/2009, PICNet's work to make Webber Training teleclasses available to our Community of Practice across the province has again proven to be a very valuable and cost-effective contribution towards the ongoing education of infection prevention and control professionals in BC. In 2009/2010, we will once again be making these teleclasses available to our Community of Practice.

As well, work on an on-line educational module for the prevention of surgical site infections will be completed this year early in the 2009/2010 fiscal year.



Approximately 135 health care professionals from across BC attended PICNet's two-day 2009 Educational Conference in Richmond.

## **Concluding Remarks**

Every year, PICNet continues to build on our experience and successes in identifying challenges and solutions in the improvement of infection prevention and control practice in BC. 2008-2009 was a very busy and productive year for our organization, with notable accomplishments in each of our three strategic areas of enhancing education, surveillance and best practice for infection prevention and control in BC. We are confident that 2009/2010 will also prove an exciting and fruitful year for PICNet.

PICNet is only as strong as the dedication and commitment of all Health Authorities and the infection prevention and control professionals from across BC that work with us on our Working Groups and Committees. This dedication, commitment and relationships built through our provincial network continue to grow and strengthen. We look forward to another busy year of working effectively, efficiently and collaboratively towards enhanced infection prevention and control in BC.