

**THE ATLANTIC BRANCH**  
**AN HISTORICAL SKETCH**

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## **Acknowledgement**

The facts, figures, notes and observations contained herein have been extracted from Branch Minutes dating from 1956 to 1980. Information prior to '56 was gleaned from the excellent memory of Aldore LeBlanc, who was a prime mover in the formation of the Atlantic Branch. Aldore is now in other fields of endeavour; however he retains an interest and membership in the Institute. I wish to thank Aldore for his generosity and hospitality.

R.C.E.

## THE ATLANTIC BRANCH AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

To appreciate the local history of Public Health inspection one has to be aware of the situation prior to World War II. In the 30's Sanitary Inspectors, generally, were few and far between, locally appointed and ill trained. However, World War II brought to the fore the requirement and advantages of good sanitation and hygiene. Local Health Units were being formed. Because of the number of persons, which has been attached to the Medical Corps and trained in hygiene and sanitation, a nucleus of trained (?) personnel was available to fill any vacancies. Immediately after the war the drive for higher education in all branches of endeavor was encouraged and the hiring of "qualified people" became the norm.

By the early 50's personnel were being qualified by available formal courses and a great many by the correspondence method. As one can appreciate, such a new widely separated group of individuals would not and probably could not have an immediate organization of their own. However, such an organization was in existence elsewhere.

At this time I would recommend the reading of **"In the Beginning"** by Alex Cross, CSI(C), MRSH.

"The Beginning" took place on April 18 and 19, 1913 when meetings were held in Winnipeg and "The Sanitary Inspectors Association of Western Canada" was established. Over the years this organization expanded both east and west until on January 3, 1934. Letters patent were issued under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors (C.I.S.I.) became a reality.

The prime objective of this organization was the establishment of a method of certification for inspectors and in conjunction with the Canadian Public Health Association (C.P.H.A.) this was accomplished in 1935.

Let's now advance to the early 1950's in Atlantic Canada. Correspondence between interested inspectors was being circulated locally and to the Dominion body.

The following information is as Aldore LeBlanc recalls it. Sufficient interest has been generated that in 1953 a meeting was held in New Glasgow, N.S. Some of those attending were: Joe Chisholm, Cape Breton; Giles Cantwell, P.E.I.; Doug Strong, Nfld.; Aldore LeBlanc, N.B.; and Ev Rose (CNR). Promotion for the organization continued throughout the year.

1954 saw another annual meeting in Moncton, N.B. An executive was formed. During 1955 Aldore LeBlanc and Harold Stockton attended a course in Ontario. While there, contact was made with the Dominion Executive and preparations were made for the chartering of an Atlantic Branch.

1956 - A Big Year. On May 30 at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, Saint John, N.B. on the motion of E. W. Rose, seconded by Mr. Lucien Ouellet, the Atlantic Branch C.I.S.I. was formed.

The first Executive was: Aldore LeBlanc, President and Giles Cantwell, Secretary-Treasurer. It is interesting to note that 25 inspectors were present.

Another point of interest – dues were set at \$10.00. This was at a time when salaries were \$2,000 and LESS.

To save time and space in this narrative, a compendium of executive members is attached.

Extracts from the minutes have been listed in a chronological order.

1957 – 58: The main items discussed were: (a) a method of obtaining further training, i.e. refresher courses, (b) increases in membership and (c) requirements for a newsletter.

1958-59: Routine business, however the necessity of publicity to further the aim of the branch was recognized. Lucien Ouellet accepted the position of Bulletin Editor.

During the perusal of the minutes it was noted that although there had been representatives from Nova Scotia at the various meetings, numbers were small. However, during 1958 under the driving force of Frank Graham and others, this section blossomed and was in full force for the 1959 Conference.

1959-60: Annual Meeting – 18 present. \$730.00 had been realized through donations, advertising, etc. Branch President, Art Conrad, attended the Dominion Conference in Niagara Falls. (This was the first time the Branch had official representation at a Dominion Conference.)

The New Brunswick Dept. of Health set up a “Sanitation Course” in Fredericton for its inspectors. Inspectors from other provinces were invited to attend. The possibility of the Branch hosting a Dominion Conference was first mentioned this year. A Newsletter under the direction of Scotty Pitcairn finally got published.

1960-61: The Dominion body came under heavy criticism due to its inactivity. Consideration was given to a change of name. The Branch proposed its first life membership, that being Mr. Arthur Pettipas of Dartmouth, who was Certificate #8. The 1959 N.B. Refresher Course was such a success that the Branch decided to actively pursue the possibility of an extensive Course somewhere in the Atlantic Provinces. Newfoundland inspectors hold preliminary meeting and decide to form a Section.

At the Annual Conference in 1961 a motion was passed stating that a local Section may enter into correspondence or negotiation in the name of the Institute with matters pertaining to the local Section. However, the Section must first have approval of the

Branch Executive. This motion had to be submitted in the form of a resolution to National for constitutional amendment.

The Branch also reviewed the various Health Acts as to their obsolescence.

The 1960-61 year was without a doubt the busiest year so far. Besides these items mentioned, we held our First Annual Refresher Course held under the auspices of the Atlantic Branch in conjunction with the four Provincial Departments of Health during September 11 to 16, 1961. This course was a huge success. Much of the individual credit must go to Frank Graham who contacted the Extension Dept. of Dalhousie University. At the same time Bentley Briggs was in contact with the University of New Brunswick (U.N.B.) and Aldore LeBlanc with Mount Allison. It should be mentioned that all universities were very receptive, however the School of Medicine and the Extension Dept. of Dalhousie put the show together for us in a most commendable fashion.

1961-62: During 1961 the Branch granted permission for the N.B. Section to contact the local Boards of Health for approval to hold and attend mid-week meetings. All Boards were agreeable. It is noted that a Section was formed in Cape Breton. Early in 1962 the executive appointed Arthur Conrad to go to Newfoundland for the purpose of promoting the formation of a strong provincial Section. (Note: membership from Newfoundland subsequently increased.) By 1962 the Branch had matured. Membership ran approximately 75%. There was money in the bank. We were large enough to consider hosting a National Convention in the Atlantic area in 1964. During a most successful Branch Conference held in Shediac in 1962 a formal request to host the 1964 National was submitted to the Dominion body. Another Convention highlight was the attendance of Keith Eddy, Dominion President. A Newfoundland Section was officially formed with Bob Ruelokke as President.

1962-63: One of the major concerns of the Executive at this time was the marking of the correspondence course projects. At this time in history the majority of trainees were working nine hours a day and studying nights and weekends. Projects were sent to Winnipeg for marking. Due to various reasons the results were unsatisfactory. The Executive of the Atlantic Branch was instrumental in correcting these problems. The Spring of 1963 saw the first official meeting of the Newfoundland Section, March 15<sup>th</sup> to be exact.

Communications, at least the mechanical aspects, have improved in the past 20 years. However, the sum and substance to communicate was and is a problem. As previously mentioned, Lucien Ouellet was our first newsletter editor. Later Aldore LeBlanc produced several bulletins, but also gave it up due to lack of input from the membership. In the Spring of 1963 Bob Estabrooks was appointed Editor, produced two or three newsletters and he too ran out of material.

1963-64: The Branch and its membership have always been concerned with Public Relations and our public image. At this time a survey of the Metropolitan Halifax Health Services was being conducted. The Branch supplied this task force information as to the

status of trained inspectors in the area with the hope that we would receive some recognition.

Naturally inspectors were as interested in monetary return then, as we are now. A Salaries and Welfare Committee was appointed to look into wages, fringe benefits and working conditions across Canada.

The civil service of all Provinces was expanding at a rapid rate. Empires were being built and the moguls were hungry for power. Concern was being expressed that inspectors (often unqualified) from other departments were infringing on our duties and responsibilities. The terms "fragmentation" or "erosion of duties" would soon be of concern to all and occupy much of the executive's time. E.g., a brief from the Branch on behalf of the Halifax and District Section was submitted to the Minister regarding unqualified inspectors of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission (N.S.L.C.) doing sanitary inspections, including swabbing of glasses.

The Spring of '64 was exceptionally busy. The Branch was planning what was to become one of the most successful National Conferences held.

The Newfoundland Section was again visited by an executive member, this time Branch President, Bob Bacon.

The Branch was advised of the official change of our name to: The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, effective September 24, 1963.

1964-65: Bill Phalen was elected National President at the National Conference in Halifax.

Two major items required the attention of the executive during the fall: (1) The Branch was concerned regarding the educational standards for inspectors. A motion was passed directing the executive to study and investigate the possibility of a formal training course in the Atlantic Provinces. (Remember, most inspectors were qualifying by the one-year correspondence course.) (2) The Executive was considering holding an annual conference in Newfoundland. The membership was polled by mail. Don Moores was appointed Bulletin Editor.

Item: National was still known as the Dominion body.

1965 began routinely with plans for our Annual Conference underway. The Branch, due to its multi-provincial status, participated in a "Study of Interprovincial Cooperation in the Atlantic Provinces".

The Executive was concerned over the lack of membership in P.E.I. and the inactivity of the Cape Breton Section.

In the Atlantic area, Martin Tonary CPHI(C) 1965 became the first son of an inspector, John "Francis" Tonary CSI(C) 1946, to take up the profession.

1965-66: At the 1965 Annual Conference the Branch decided to financially assist both the past and incoming Presidents to attend the National Conference at London, Ontario. In the future only the current President was to be assisted if monies were available.

Item: Branch membership as of early 1966 as 48.

While researching this project I was amazed at the amount of material to go through. At times the reader may assume that nothing was accomplished from year to year. However, the reader must remember that routine items such as planning the annual Branch Conference and the refresher course are extremely time-consuming. And of course there were problems such as: it was evident that the deportment and discipline of inspectors at the refresher course left much to be desired. Considerable correspondence passed between Dalhousie and the Branch. The executive decided to form a "House Committee" to monitor the actions of those attending in the future.

1966-67: This era was the beginning of a very critical period. The economy was booming. Government was expanding. Departments were expanding and "empire building" was rampant. This phenomenon was reflected in the business conducted during the 1967 Branch Annual Conference. The executive had a gut feeling that the Institute would have a fight on its hands. Consequently a large membership was vital. This item received considerable discussion. The report of the Salaries and Welfare Committee was well received. This information was vital to the various Departments for bargaining.

Fragmentation was of vital concern to both Branch and National. Departments of Agriculture in several areas were taking over inspection of dairy farms. Tourism was sending out inspectors and active Departments of Environment were being conceived and staffed.

Items: 1) A senior certificate was being considered.

2) The 1967 in-service training course was attended by 67 inspectors.

Mr. Arthur Pettipas of Dartmouth, N.S., who had been nominated back in 1960 – 61, was awarded Life Membership in CIPHI at the 1967 National Conference in Montreal.

1967-68: A milestone in history unfolded as the '68 Branch Annual Conference was held at the Glynmill Inn, Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Thirty-four members attended.

Items:

(1) The duties of the Secretary were ratified by the Executive.

(2) Doug Strong was appointed as Newsletter Editor.

(3) Paid up members for 1968 as of conference date were as follows: Newfoundland – 9, New Brunswick – 7, Nova Scotia – 17, P.E.I. – nil. However, during the 67-68 year total membership stood at 52.

(4) It was reported for all intents and purposes the Newfoundland Section had ceased to exist.

(5) No. P.E.I. inspectors attended the 1968 In-Service. The Branch contacted the P.E.I.

Deputy Minister of Health regarding this problem.

- (6) The Branch was very concerned regarding the curriculum at Ryerson Institute.
- (7) The Executive was hard at work planning for the 1970 National Conference being hosted again in Atlantic Canada.
- (8) An executive meeting was held in Digby. Actually this proved to be reasonably central. The ferry ride was an enjoyable fringe benefit.

The Fall of '68 was extremely busy. Concern was expressed over the lack of attendance of N.B. Councillors at Branch Executive meetings. The Provincial Government of New Brunswick was beginning its program of Equal Opportunity. County Boards of Health were disbanded and all activities were centralized.

Naturally the Executive was interested in these activities as was the N.B. Section, which was directly involved. The Branch was also attempting to regenerate the Cape Breton Section.

Several other concerns arose; one major item was the senior certificate or "The Certificate of Environmental Health Administration". There was considerable correspondence between the Branch and the Board of Certification. The branch also contacted the various departments of health to determine whether this certificate could or would be recognized for advancement and/or financial remuneration.

1968-69: The Branch decided to propose a slate of National Officers to the 1970 National Conference. That slate was: President, Art Conrad; Councillors, Bob Bacon, Cedric MacDonald, Harold Stockton, Warrick Swyers and Giles Cantwell.

1969-70: The 1970 Annual Conference was held in conjunction with the National Conference, which was held in Saint John, N.B. This Conference was another outstanding success.

Membership was holding at about 68. The possibility of attendance at the National Conference may have been one reason for this better than average membership.

By 1970 inspectors throughout Canada were feeling lost. It would appear that the status enjoyed within the various Departments had diminished with the growth of other departments and disciplines. Naturally the Institute as a whole was concerned with their professional status. Towards this end the Branch corresponded with other Branches and sought legal advice regarding registration as a professional organization. Also, a publicity officer was appointed. This person was to present inspectors and their activities before the public.

1970-71: The Atlantic Branch C.P.H.I. has always had considerable input into the operation of the National Executive. As a matter of fact, over the years the Branch has exerted considerable influence. C.P.H.A. had developed a policy whereby oral exams were to be in only two centers in Canada. Through the National Institute the Branch objected vehemently. Today orals are heard in each Province.

Members in good standing as of October 1970 stood at 78. Tourism was growing by leaps and bounds in the early 70's. The Branch gathered and consolidated information concerning the inspection and licensing procedures of summer camps and camping establishments.

Item: Suggested duties of the "Salaries and Welfare Officer," "Education Officer," "Publicity Officer" were published in the April 2, 1971 minutes.

1971-72: For the second time mainlanders crossed over to Corner Brook for the Annual Conference. Membership at that time stood at 73.

Inter Section / Provincial news or the lack of promoted considerable discussion. With some trepidation Harland Gillis accepted the position of Editor.

Item: Arthur Conrad had been elected as National President for the year 1971-72. This was also his 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as Branch Treasurer.

The Annual Refresher Course was still "annual" and as successful as ever and still being held in Halifax. The Branch through the Course Steering Committee was actively advocating a change or the rotation of location.

The Branch corresponded with the various Provincial Departments regarding mandatory membership of employed P.H.I.'s into the Institute. Although the concept was received positively, action was negative. Although it was not an original concept, the Branch wrote requesting the National Executive to study the possibility of P.H.I.'s being certified by the C.I.P.H.I. instead of C.P.H.A. (This is now fait accompli.)

1972-73: The beginning of 1972 was innovative, in that pages of the minutes began to be numbered consecutively. Membership in good standing as of February 25, 1972 was 82.

Note: I personally believe that most of us are not completely happy with the term "Public Health Inspector". There is, however, a problem in finding an acceptable name. After considerable debate on all levels, the expression "Environmental Health Consultants" was turned down.

The Branch through Department employees sat with the Canadian Restaurant Association (C.R.A.) to review their proposed regulations. This eventually became C.R.A. Sanitation Code.

In early 1973 civil service associations / unions were not particularly strong. A committee of one was established to study the possibility of the C.I.P.H.I. becoming the bargaining agents for P.H.I.'s in the Atlantic Region. The consensus was that this would be an impossible task.

A brief was prepared regarding the certification of Canadian Armed Services Hygiene Technicians as P.H.I.'s.

1973-74: Problems were arising over the soliciting of advertisements for the Conference Booklet. Perhaps the author should explain that the Annual Conference usually held in late April or early May was financed by selling advertisement space in the programme booklet, and a registration fee. The residue from conference expenses helped run the Branch. The previously mentioned situation influenced attendance at the 73-74 Annual Conference. The programme was exceptional, however attendance was poor.

Branch efforts paid dividends as final preparations were made to hold the Annual Refresher Course in St. John's, Newfoundland.

At the semi-annual general meeting in November 1973 nine recommendations were made by the members from the floor pertaining to ways and means membership apathy could be reduced. They were:

- (1) National body should do more for students.
- (2) Atlantic Branch should contact students at Ryerson regarding membership.
- (3) More correspondence between Branch and members.
- (4) Request Larry Lychowyd to visit Ryerson.
- (5) Additional short courses should be conducted.
- (6) National magazine should be sent reports from the in-service training course.
- (7) Educational Officer should distribute more material of an "educational nature".
- (8) Contact Gord Anderson, Executive Secretary, re possibility of printing new Constitution and By-Laws.
- (9) "In the Beginning" – Where does it stand and are copies still available.

It is interesting to note some of these items have been resolved. However, many were included in the latest report of the Ways and Means Committee, which was struck to resolve some of our internal problems.

Early 1974 saw plans solidified for the Annual Conference scheduled for Saint John, N.B.

Concern was being expressed regarding the split of dues between the Branch and National. Concern over general apathy was also expressed. As a matter of fact it was expressed as, "people today seem to be unwilling to sacrifice their free time for their own benefit". This quotation is unfortunately a fact of life.

Women's Lib appeared on the Branch scene. Correspondence was received requesting forms, etc. be altered to read he/she etc. in recognition of females in the inspection field.

In 1974 Kenneth Foster the son of William Foster, CSI(C) 1956 became the second son to take up the profession in the Atlantic area. This was followed by Keiren Tompkins in 1977 son of Jerome Nicholas Tompkins CSI(C) 1945.

The Branch had submitted the name of Arthur Conrad to National for consideration as a Life Member into the Institute.

The remainder of the spring of 1974 was busy planning for the Saint John Conference and again the Annual Refresher Course.

1974-75: The Saint John Conference was a success as was the Refresher Course. Business concerned itself with internal problems such as Section activities.

Concern was also expressed regarding activities of the Board of Certification and appropriate correspondence was initiated. The subject of group insurance was broached. National was written to consider the matter.

Fragmentation or duplication of duties by untrained personnel from other departments was a problem of major concern. The committee on this subject was reactivated.

Note: Members in good standing as of December 6, 1974 – 64.

1975 roared in with correspondence between Branch and National over the operation of the “Environmental Health Review”. The Branch fully supported its production, however costs were to be controlled.

It is evident from the minutes that Section meetings were few and far between. It would appear that only Mainland Nova Scotia was active.

1975-1976: The minutes of the annual meeting held in 1975 at Halifax are interesting, not only because of their length, but content. Items of concern were: a) section activity, b) fragmentation, c) the Environmental Health Review, d) several aspects of the Board of Certification and, e) group life insurance.

Although it has not been mentioned recently, the Branch continued to sponsor the Branch President to attend the National Convention if the President could not receive assistance from other means. President Wilbur Ells had the privilege to attend the National Convention held in Granby, Quebec.

Things were starting to look up. Salaries were beginning to approach \$1,000 per month for the fieldman. Note: executive members were allowed the following expenses to attend Branch meetings: a) 2 meals at \$1.00 per meal, b) mileage – 5 cents per mile single.

Previous to 1975 a committee on the Atlantic Branch Structure was struck. After considerable crystal ball gazing, the committee submitted their report. Their recommendations have greatly influenced branch operations.

1976-77: The 1976 Annual was once more held in Amherst. It is noted that because of solicitation of advertisements the conference was financially successful. Again items pertaining to: a) Board of Certification and Armed Forces personnel, b) publicity, c) personnel matters, d) membership and general branch operation, received considerable discussion. Branch membership was down to 43.

The Branch was again considering hosting a National Conference in 1977. Charlottetown was considered, however there was insufficient staff in the area to pull it off. Three of the

older members, all of whom had supported the Institute, retired from active service. These were Giles Cantwell, PEI; George Hamilton of NB and Frank Graham of NS.

The Branch became active in pursuing information about environmental health courses, being set up in both PEI and Cape Breton.

Another circular letter was drafted for the membership requesting input and suggestions for improvements of the Branch operation.

The Branch again contacted National for copies of “In the Beginning” and its sequel, “Up the Years”.

Sections were having problems with their Departments. New Brunswick could no longer hold section meetings on Government time. Also, Nova Scotia could no longer solicit ads from firms or people with whom inspectors have dealings.

The Branch was again planning to host the 1977 National Conference. The ruling regarding no solicitations was found to be financially restrictive. Members were working diligently to produce an ongoing newsletter.

A committee was developed to work with the National on the standardization of equipment for the food service industry.

The windup of this year was the National Conference held at the Chateau Halifax on July 12-15, 1977.

The Branch annual was held in conjunction with National. This meeting is rather historical. Firstly, members of the executive now would serve for a two-year term. Secondly, there was considerable debate as to the structure of the Branch and the direction it should take. A “Structure Committee” was formed to bring forth recommendations.

The National Meeting was controversial and historical as the structure, or at least the terminology, of the executive was changed.

Arthur Conrad was unanimously accepted at the 1977 National Conference as a Life Member into the Institute.

1977-78: Membership as of 20 November 1977 stood at 82.

The new executive had a busy workload from day on. The branch financial position was poor. There was considerable correspondence regarding the proposed Degree Course at Ryerson. Concern was being expressed locally as to the hiring of the grads from “Environmental Technical Course” offered by the College of Cape Breton.

1978-79: The 1978 Annual Meeting was held 27 May in Halifax. Due to the poor financial position, as previously mentioned, no conference as such was held, however the

business was attended to during an annual business meeting. After that the appointment of off-year councillors, the policy as developed in '77 was followed and the executive was re-nominated and returned.

The minutes indicate that problems existed in sections, mainly to lack of interest and therefore inactivity. Nova Scotia was basically inactive, yet it was hoped that the "New Arrangement Committee" could resolve problems within the Dept., which appeared to be affecting section activities.

Although it has not been mentioned for some time, the Education Chairman continued to be busy maintaining support for the Annual Refresher Course.

Membership had decreased to 57 as of May 27, 1978.

It has been the practice of the executive to hold a semi-annual meeting of the Branch during the annual refresher course. These meetings are particularly interesting due to representation from all provinces.

It would appear from the minutes of the November semi-annual meeting and a December meeting that the Branch had problems in that information contained in the minutes is scarce. However, many items refer to correspondence, and without this information and perusing the National minutes, the writer is lacking in detail. Nevertheless, routine business was conducted and plans were being made for the 1979 annual meeting proposed for Fredericton.

1979-80: The Annual Meeting held May 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>, 1979 in Fredericton, again combined education sessions as well as business. This was a most successful conference with good attendance and was rewarding financially, due to the hard work and dedication of the conference chairman.

The Branch appears revitalized with efforts being expended towards developing section activity, the restructure committee and again, a branch reporter.

This resume as a history of the Atlantic Branch from its inception to 1980 has only covered a few highlights of conception, birthing pains and maturation of a very wide spread geographic organization. Without a doubt, many pertinent items have been omitted and particularly individuals who contributed greatly have not been mentioned. To the deserving members I apologize. There are also, without a doubt, errors, for these I also apologize.

However, I do hope the readers appreciate the time, effort and dedication of the executive members of the Branch and Sections, who strived on your behalf to maintain your only professional organization dedicated to the Public Health Inspector.

Respectfully,



Robert C. Estabrooks, CPHIC, MRSH

## ATLANTIC BRANCH PRESIDENTS & SECRETARIES

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
59-60	Art Conrad	Bob Bacon (?)
60-61	Ev Rose	Ron Hicks
61-62	Bill Phalen	Bob Bacon
62-63	Bill Foster	Harold Stockton
63-64	Bob Bacon	Donald C.F. Moores
64-65	Harold Stockton	Bob Estabrooks
65-66	Frank McGrath	Frank McGrath
66-67	Ron Hicks	Harold Lewis
67-68	Donald Moores	Max Sherman
69-69	John MacLean	George Leahy
69-70	Bob Estabrooks	Wilbur Ells
70-71	John Gregory	George Gregg
71-72	Martin Tonary	George Gregg
72-73	Don Doran	John O'Brian
73-74	Frank McGrath	John O'Brian
74-75	George Gregg	Martin Tonary
75-76	Wilbur Ells	Nancy Blackmore
76-77	Roger Mazerolle	Mark Allen
77-78	Cedric MacDonald	Doug Mouland
78-79	Cedric MacDonald	Doug Mouland
79-80	Mark Allen	Philip Webb