



2009 PICNet Conference: Hold the Dates!

This year's 3rd Annual PICNet Education Conference, will be held April 2nd and 3rd at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, BC. Please put those dates aside and join us! This conference has been growing in scope and attendance every year, and our Planning Committee is currently working hard to develop two days' worth of relevant, interesting, and thought-provoking content.

Once again, we are very pleased to be able to offer this educational opportunity with no registration fee attached. By keeping costs for delegates to a minimum, we hope to enable the participation of infection prevention and control, public health, and occupational health care professionals from across the province. While there is no registration fee for this conference, delegates will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Registration for this conference will open December 1, 2008 at picnet@phsa.ca

Education Resource Fund:

Recognizing that travel and accommodation can be prohibitively expensive, especially in tight budgetary times, PICNet would like to remind you of its “Education Resource Fund.” This educational grant fund invites applications from within PICNet's Community of Practice, consisting of all health care professionals in the province involved in infection prevention and control. Each year, PICNet is able to offer 10 awards of up to \$2000.00 to successful applicants, to support their attending a conference, meeting, or other educational activity. The deadline for this year's applications has been moved ahead by one month to February 28th, 2009. This is to accommodate applicants who may wish to apply for funding to attend the PICNet conference. For the application form, please visit the following link:

http://picnetbc.ca//sites/picnetbc2/files/PICNet_Forms/Application_for_Education_Resource_Fund_Grants_Final.doc

November Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)

A few final logistical details are currently being wrapped up, before PICNet's provincial surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* goes live this month. Signed Participation Agreements have been received now from every Health Authority, Providence Health, as well as the affiliated hospitals of St. Joseph's and Wrinch Memorial.

This voluntary surveillance system will enable Health Authorities to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal. Epidemiologists will then compile these CDAD rates and trends that will be shared with the

submitters. Provincial aggregate rates will be made publicly available. This will enable benchmarks to be established, by which Health Authorities and facilities can measure themselves and apply interventions as necessary for improved infection prevention and control.

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

This PICNet Working Group will be conducting a needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. The group met again in late October, and discussed and agreed upon roles and responsibilities of the different members of the group, as well as timelines for this work.

The purpose of this group’s work is to enable the identification of gaps in resources for infection control in these settings, in order for Health Authorities to be able to develop solid business cases towards attaining increased resources. Over the next two months, the group will work on compiling the list of facilities that will be approached as part of this survey, as well as finalizing the actual survey and ensuring that it is properly validated. This group is hoping to send out the survey in January 2009.

PICNet’s Draft Provincial Antibiotic Resistant Organism (ARO) Guidelines

PICNet’s Antibiotic Resistant Organism Guidelines have now been distributed to the Advisory Committee for final comment and approval this month. Once these guidelines have been approved by PICNet’s multidisciplinary expert Advisory Committee, they will be reviewed by the Communicable Disease (CD) Policy Committee for inclusion in the Provincial CD Control Manual.

Home and Community Health Care Guidelines – An Update

Work is being finalized on the first draft of PICNet’s Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings. This document has undergone a series of iterative reviews and revisions, and the group met again in October to finish reviewing the latest draft. The document will shortly be sent out for review by a panel of Home and Community Health experts, before being distributed for further review to the PICNet Community of Practice, and our Advisory Committee.

Say Cheese! PICNet Calendar – Celebrating the Lighter Side

As with most aspects of life, working in the world of infection prevention and control is often enhanced by a good, solid sense of humour. With this in mind, PICNet’s Communications Leadership Group (CLG) has decided to create an Infection Prevention and Control Calendar for 2009-2010, that will educate, entertain, and celebrate the work being done by infection prevention and control colleagues across the province.

In October, the CLG invited you to participate in the development of this 2009-2010 PICNet calendar. If you have a photo that speaks to the lighter side of infection prevention and control, we invite you to submit it for consideration as a calendar month photo.... We have received some excellent submissions so far, and look forward to receiving some more! If your photo is of a

colleague or group of colleagues, we will of course require their permission for it to be submitted. Photos can be of humorous signs, celebrations, in-services, special occasions, people dressed-up, etc.

Photos can be submitting to picnet@phsa.ca. We’re looking forward to your submissions!

Webber Training Debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training (<http://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php>). These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

There are only two Webber teleclasses scheduled for November.

Webber Training November 2008 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
November 12, 2008	Re-Broadcast of November 11, 2008 Recording: (British Teleclass) <i>Clostridium difficile</i> – Prevention is Better Than Cure	Prof. Mark Wilcox, Leeds University
November 20, 2008	Air and Water Sanitation for Infection Control and Prevention	Andy Streifel, University of Minnesota

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