



### **PICNet Aims for November 1<sup>st</sup> Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Associated Disease (CDAD)**

PICNet is aiming for a roll-out date of November 1st to launch our provincial surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile*. Signed Participation Agreements have been received now from Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health, Interior Health and Fraser Health, and Providence Health Care and is pending in Northern Health.

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.

### **Infection Prevention and Control Needs Assessment in Long Term Care: First Meeting Held**

The first meeting of the new PICNet Working Group that will focus on conducting a needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings took place on September 24, 2008. At this meeting, group members discussed the project scope, objectives and timelines. The group agreed that the purpose of this group is to identify of what resources are in place for infection control in these settings and what gaps exist. This information will be useful for the Health Authorities to move towards addressing these gaps.

The group also reviewed a survey that has already been piloted in Fraser Health by part of a Masters level thesis by Valerie Schall. Between now and the next meeting, the group will be further re-viewing this survey to determine any modifications that may be needed. The next meeting of this group will be held in the second part of October, date to be determined.

### **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.

The CLG, therefore, formally invites 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.... 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](mailto:picnet@phsa.ca). We're looking forward to your submissions!

### **2009 PICNet Conference Planning Committee**

Thank-you to everyone who signed up to be a part of the 2009 Conference Planning team. This committee held its first meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, in which last year's conference agenda and evaluations were reviewed, and plans for the 2009 event began to be formulated. Over the next month, the group will work towards determining a date and theme for next year's event, and will start to assemble an educational program.

If you have an idea for this conference, or a particularly relevant topic you would like to see addressed, please feel free to send us your thoughts at [picnet@phsa.ca](mailto:picnet@phsa.ca)

### **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. Once approved by the Advisory Committee, the document will go to the Communicable Disease (CD) Policy Committee to request its inclusion in the Provincial CD Policy Manual.

### **Home and Community Health Care Guidelines – An Update**

Work continues on the first draft of PICNet's Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control in Home and Community Health Care Settings. This group met towards the end of September to review the latest iteration of this document, and will have another meeting in October to finish the review. Following this, any further changes will be made, and the document will be sent out to a larger professional audience for review. We hope to release these guidelines by the end of 2008.

### **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.

October is another busy month for Webber Teleclasses!

**Webber Training October 2008 Schedule**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic of Interest:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>
October 9, 2008	<b>Elimination of Health Care-Associated Infections: Is it Possible &amp; Can we Afford Not to Try?</b>	Russell Olmstead, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System
October 10, 2008	<b>(Free South Pacific Teleclass) Rebirth of Public Health &amp; Infection Control Post-SARS</b>	Dr. Dick Zoutman, Queen’s University
October 20, 2008	<b>(South Pacific Teleclass) Biofilms – When Bugs Get Clingy</b>	Dr. David Hammer, Caterbury District Health Board
October 23, 2008	<b>Health Care Facility Maintenance for Infection Control</b>	Andy Streifel, University of Minnesota
October 30, 2008	<b>LTC – How Maryland Increased ICP Presence in Long Term Care Facilities</b>	Dr. Brenda Roup, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Health

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