



HL7 Canada 2001/2002 The Year in Review



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This was a busy year for HL7 Canada. The past 12 months saw the release of 14 HL7 international ballots and HL7 Canada's first ballot for a Pan-Canadian Specification, 2 HL7 Canada Conferences and 2 HL7 RIM mapping workshops. Highlights of other HL7 Canada milestones include:

- Creation of the Message Database for Canadian HL7 Message Development Projects;
- Responding to Canadian stakeholder interests, a new membership fee structure for 2002/2003, with more corporate level categories and lower dues has been established;
- Release of the HL7 Canada Guidebook for Development Projects;
- HL7 Canada's first conference in Atlantic Canada; and
- HL7 curriculum to be included in an upcoming health informatics graduate program at Dalhousie University.

HL7 Canada Technical Committee Chairs Announced

In August 2001, HL7 Canada held elections for the Chair positions of the Implementation and Design Technical Committees. Both Helen Stevens and Jane Curry were re-elected as the Chairs of the Implementation and Design Committees, respectively. We look forward to an active new term and wish their committees the greatest of successes.

Highlights of the Technical Committee work in 2001/2002 include:

- Redrafting of the Committees' Terms of Reference
- Guidelines for Education Resources (Implementation Committee)
- Preliminary work on a generic Request for Proposal template (Implementation Committee)
- Setting processes for HL7 Canada to facilitate local issues with HL7 (Design Committee)
- Creation of committee web discussion forums

HL7 Canada Membership

2001/2002 Corporate Members

We would like to thank all of HL7 Canada's members for their contributions this year, with special acknowledgement of our Corporate Members in 2001/2002. Their commitment to HL7 is marked not only by their use of the standard, but also by their valuable input towards its ongoing development.

Table 1. 2001/2002 Corporate Members

BC Ministry of Health & Ministry Responsible for Seniors	Momentum Healthware
Calgary Regional Health Authority	Mount Sinai Hospital
Canadian Institute for Health Information	Nunavut Department of Health
Canadian Pharmacists Association	Nutritek, Inc.
CLINICARE, Inc.	Ontario Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Deltaware Systems Inc.	Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital
EDS Canada Inc.	PEI Department of Health & Social Services
Health Canada	Prescient International
Healthlink Clinical Data Network	ROAM IT (Canada) Holdings, Inc.
iINTERFACEWARE Corporation	Saskatoon District Health
Logiclynx Technologies Inc.	Stemsoft Software Inc.
McGill University Health Centre	University Health Network
MED2020 Health Care Software Inc.	Vancouver Island Health Authority
MediSolution Ltd.	

In addition to the above members, HL7 Canada was pleased to welcome a number of new members from the National e-Claims Standard project, in the fourth quarter of 2001/2002.

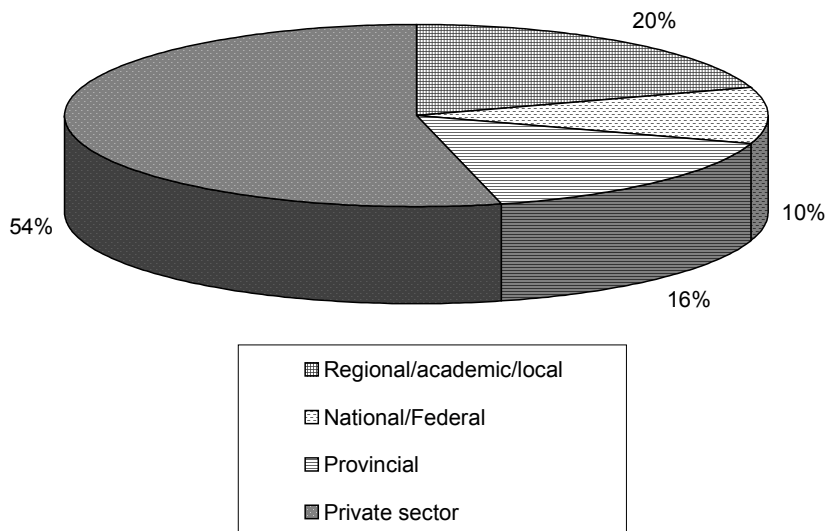
Table 2. National e-Claims Standard Corporate Members joining in 4th Quarter 2001/2002

Alberta Blue Cross Care	Le Groupe Jean Coutu (PJC) Inc.
Alberta Health & Wellness	Manitoba Health
Atlantic Blue Cross	Medical Pharmacies Group Inc.
BCE Emergis Inc.	PROPharm Limited
Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores	QS/1 Data Systems, Ltd.
ESI Canada	R.A.M.Q.
Green Shield Canada	TechRx Canada
Health Canada / Office of Health & the Information Highway	Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia

Our Members' Increasing Diversity

HL7 Canada's membership represents the interests of diverse organizations, including service providers (and associations), academic institutions, governments, software vendors, and consultants. Correspondingly, HL7 Canada's membership base represents a variety of perspectives and needs within Canadian health.

2001–2002 Membership Breakdown



2001/2002 HL7 Canada Conferences & Workshops

2001/2002 marked the continued success of the semi-annual HL7 Canada Meetings & Tutorials. Held in Toronto and Halifax, the meetings and tutorials were well received, and showed some of the highest evaluations yet for HL7 Canada events. In addition to the conferences, HL7 Canada hosted several customized workshops by member request.

- **Focus Group to Model Claims Messages in the Reference Information Model**

April 16-18, 2001, Toronto, Ontario

- **Facilitator: George (Woody) Beeler, Beeler Consulting**

On request from the National e-Claims Standard (NeCST) project, HL7 Canada and HL7, Inc. co-sponsored an international workshop in April 2001 to draft claims information representation in the HL7 Version 3 Reference Information Model (RIM). The workshop participants reviewed and discussed the use cases, interaction models, and information models from the HL7 Version 3 Insurance Task Force, the HL7 Patient Administration and Financial Management Technical Committee, and the Canadian NeCST project. As a result of this session, the NeCST project team developed a proposal for harmonizing claims-related information models with the HL7 RIM.

- **HL7 Canada Spring Conference**

May 23-25, 2001, Toronto, Ontario

Conference Highlights

- Held in conjunction with the e-Health 2001
 - Workshops on the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) and the HL7 Clinical Context Integration standards, as well as a presentation on the relationship between HL7 and the Electronic Health Record were delivered at e-Health 2001
 - Workshop on the alberta we//net Pharmaceutical Information Network initiative HL7 messaging specifications
 - Workshop on the National e-Claims Standard HL7 messaging specifications

Presenters at the HL7 Canada Spring 2001 Workshops and Meeting

- **Helen Stevens, McKesson Information Solutions, Inc.**
Introduction to HL7
- **Ron Parker, AdActus Care Technologies and Shari Dworkin, CIHI**
Introduction to Version 3.0
- **Lloyd McKenzie, alberta we//net**
Workshop on alberta wellnet's Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN) specifications

- **Michael van Campen, British Columbia Ministry of Health & Ministry Responsible for Seniors**
Workshop on the National e-Claims Standard (NeCST)

- **Saskatchewan Health Information Network HL7 Workshop**

June 7, 2001, Regina, Saskatchewan

Workshop Presenters:

- **Bob Abrahamson, Saskatchewan Health**
- **Shari Dworkin, CIHI**
- **Merlin Griscowsky, Tekmerion Consulting Group**
- **Eric Loken, Saskatoon District Health**
- **Laura Sato, CIHI**
- **Trudy Westad, Saskatoon District Health**

On request from the Saskatchewan Health Information Network (SHIN), HL7 Canada provided a one-day workshop in June 2001. This workshop was attended by SHIN stakeholders from throughout Saskatchewan and covered the following topics:

- Setting the Stage – An HL7 Overview
- HL7 Development – Who and How, Balloting, and Getting Involved
- Implementation Examples and Issues
- What's Coming – Major HL7 Projects

- **National e-Claims Standard Technical Architecture Group HL7 Workshop**

June 18-19, 2001, Victoria, BC

- **Facilitator: George (Woody) Beeler, Beeler Consulting**

HL7 Canada, the National e-Claims Standard project, and the BC Electronic Health Claims Standard project co-hosted a one-day HL7 workshop in June 2001. The major themes of the workshop included:

- An executive overview of HL7 and its market penetration
- Why choose HL7
- The evolution of the standard into Version 3
- The HL7 Message Development Framework (MDF) and example applications of it in the e-Claims domain

- **HL7 Canada Fall 2001 Conference**
October 17-19, 2001, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Conference Highlights

- HL7 Canada's first Atlantic Canada event
- One third of attendees were from the Atlantic region
- Demonstration of the use of the HL7 Messaging Workbench Software
- Updates from Canadian HL7 messaging projects
- Energetic group discussion on HL7 implementation issues in Canada

Presenters at the HL7 Canada Fall 2001 Meeting

- **Jane Curry, Sierra Systems**
HL7 Version 3 Review and Update
- **Mary Ann Juurlink, Kildara Corporation**
Version 2.X Conformance and Implementation
- **Wes Rishel, Chair, HL7 Board**
Keynote presentation: The HL7 Vision and the Pan-Canadian EHR
- **Ioana Singureanu, Eversolve**
HL7 Conformance Message Profiling Specification
- **Helen Stevens, McKesson Information Solutions, Inc.**
HL7 Introduction to Version 2.X Version 3
- **Michael van Campen, Technical Design Consultant, British Columbia Ministry of Health & Ministry Responsible for Seniors**
HL7 Version 3 Review and Update

- **Mapping Today's Data to the HL7 Reference Information Model – The First Nations and Inuit Health Information System**
February 27, 2002, Toronto, Ontario

- **Facilitator: Jane Curry, Sierra Systems**

In February, Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) co-hosted a workshop with HL7 Canada to map their physical data structures in their Health Information System to the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM). The session objective was to identify similarities and gaps in structure and types of data. The longer-term goal for this initiative was to analyze whether HL7 could assist in increasing their information system's capability for building linkages and supporting

improved data comparability, care delivery processes, accountability, as well as to validate the functional business requirements previously documented at FNIHB. As a result of this workshop, HL7 Canada will be releasing a document describing the processes and lessons learned with mapping real data in use today with the HL7 RIM.

- **Mapping the Canadian Conceptual Health Data Model to the HL7 Reference Information Model**

February 28, 2002, Toronto, Ontario

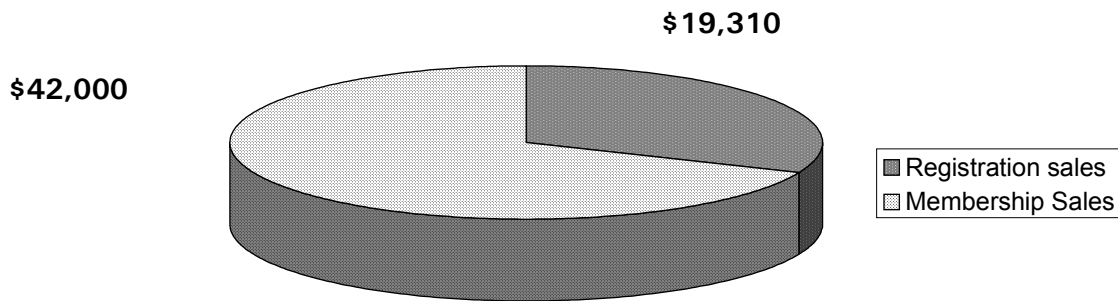
- **Facilitator: Jane Curry, Sierra Systems**

A half-day session was held in Toronto in February, to map the Canadian Conceptual Health Data Model (CHDM) to the latest version of the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM). The session was successful in demonstrating the alignment of the two models, and also exposed some of the key differences in their uses. HL7 Canada will be releasing a summary report of this mapping session, providing an overview of the purpose of each model, the purpose of the mapping exercise, the process used, the results, and conclusions.

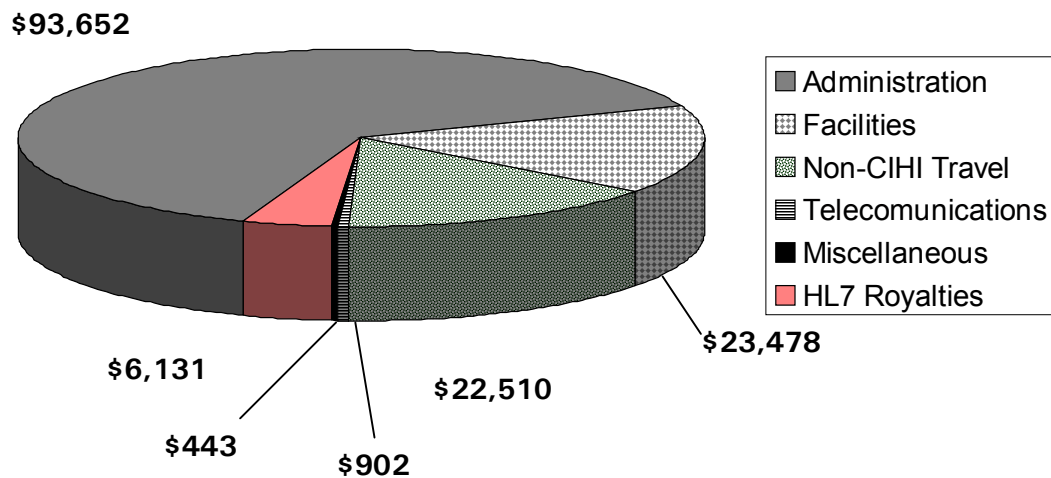
The Financial Picture – HL7 Canada 2001/2002

The total projected cost of running HL7 Canada in 2001/2002 is projected at \$147,116. CIHI's contribution to underwriting this cost was \$85,806.

Projected Revenues 2001/2002



Projected Expenses 2001/2002



HL7 Ballots 2001/2002

Fall 2001

- Version 3.0 First Committee Level Ballots:
 - Data Types Parts I and II
 - Practice
 - Financial
 - Control
 - Query
 - Practice and Operations
 - Records
 - XML Implementation Technical Specification
- Clinical Context Management Specification V1.4 (committee level— approved)
- Version 2.x XML Encoding Syntax (1st committee level-released)
- Common Audit Message (2nd informative ballot)

Version 3.0 Enhancements:

- Model based (Reference Information Model)
- Rigorous analytic and message building techniques
- Measurable conformance and increased interoperability
- Works great with XML

Winter 2001/2002 Ballots:

- Pan-Canadian Client Registry Messaging Specification (1st HL7 Canada Ballot - Approved)
- Clinical Context Management Specification V1.4 (membership Level- approved)

The first HL7 Version 3 Ballot was awaited with anticipation by HL7 Canada members. As was expected on such a volume of new material, significant issues were identified in the first international Committee-Level Ballot, and a second Committee-Level Ballot is planned to begin in March 2002. HL7 Canada members provided useful input and suggestions to the HL7 Technical Committees in the first ballot, and many stakeholders look forward to the opportunity of providing additional input on the second ballot.

This past year saw the development and approval of the first HL7 Canada national specification, the Pan-Canadian Client Registry Messaging Specification. As it addresses the communications issues related to sharing client identification information between registries and other health applications, this project is an important first step towards creating a pan-Canadian EHR. The Client Registry HL7 message profiles and supporting documents are available on the HL7 Canada members' website at <http://hl7canada.cihi.ca/login.asp>

The combined input from our volunteer ballot reviewers generated over 100 pages of comments. HL7 Canada would like to acknowledge all of our volunteer ballot reviewers for their time and effort:

Bob Grant, *HealthNet/BC Project, Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors*

Claudia Guajardo-Yeo, *Ontario Ministry of Health and Longterm Care*

Jim Forbes, *University Health Network*

Anita Malovec, *HealthNetBC, Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors*

Lloyd McKenzie, *alberta wellnet*

Betty Miller, *Manitoba Health*

Michael van Campen, *HealthNet/BC Project, Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors*

On the International Front...

HL7 Milestones 2001/2002

- HL7 Version 3.0 released for first committee level ballot
- HL7 Booth at HIMSS 2001 packed to standing room only on all 5 days of demonstrations
- Eastern European educational tour resulting in the addition of the Czech Republic and Lithuania to HL7
- Second International Affiliates Meeting in Reading, England
- HL7's participation in ebXML's Proof of Concept demonstration held in Vienna, Austria
- 2002 marked the 15th year for HL7
- Emphasis on Electronic Health Records (EHR) in HL7 through creation of EHR SIG and inclusion of EHR in HL7's mission statement
- HL7 Clinical Context Management Specifications (CCOW) Version 1.4 released for first membership level ballot



Three New HL7 International Affiliates Join HL7

To further its objective to be the world's most widely implemented electronic health communications standard, HL7 Inc. toured Eastern Europe in an effort to raise awareness. One result of this 'road show' was the establishment of new Affiliates in Lithuania and the Czech Republic. In May 2001, HL7 Turkey was formed and now Croatia is also considering forming an Affiliate

Follow-up HL7 Eastern European activities are already been planned. The HL7 Introductory Booklet has been translated into Lithuanian and Russian and will be distributed at the Lithuanian Medical Informatics Conference, September 13-14, 2002? in Kaunas.

HL7 Affiliates are now in six continents. Outlined below are the new and established international affiliates for 2001/2002.

New International Affiliates

- Czech Republic
- Lithuania
- Turkey

Established International Affiliates

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • Argentina | • Korea |
| • Australia | • Netherlands |
| • Canada | • New Zealand |
| • China | • Southern Africa |
| • Finland | • Switzerland |
| • Germany | • Taiwan |
| • India | • United Kingdom |
| • Japan | |

Canadians are Recognized

Canadians have received significant recognition for their work in the international community. Helen Stevens, Chair of the HL7 Canada Implementation Committee, was recognized by HL7, Inc. for her work as Chair of the international V3 Publications Committee.

HL7 Inc, approved the split of the Patient Administration/ Financial Management Technical Committee into two separate committees. The impetus for the split was the result of the large number of financial messages put forth for Version 3.0 by the Canadian National e-Claims Standard (NeCST) project. HL7 Argentina, HL7 Germany, and HL7 Southern Africa have expressed their desire to investigate the use of the NeCST suite of messages for use in their own countries, likely using Version 2. Michael van Campen, the Chair of the NeCST Technical Architecture Group was named as one of the interim Co-Chairs of the HL7 Financial Management Technical Committee. The first elections for this committee's Co-Chairs will be held in May 2002.

In addition, Canadians Lloyd McKenzie and Mary Ann Juurlink were elected to Co-Chair positions for the Medications and Conformance Special Interest Groups, respectively.

HL7 Expands its Working Group

HL7 International is active in a number of subject areas within health informatics. Special Interest Groups (SIGs), comprised of authorities in their respective fields, work in conjunction with Technical Committees to advance the development of the HL7 standard. Below is a listing of HL7 Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Each committee and group has a website and list server to promote discussion and ongoing work between meetings. If you are interested in any of the SIGs or technical committees you may wish to join one of the email list servers using the sign-up instructions at

www.hl7.org. (*Note: For a few HL7 international Technical Committees and SIGs, you must be an HL7 member to join.)

HL7 International Technical Committees:

- Technical Steering Committee
- Architectural Review Board
- CCOW (Clinical Context Management)
- Clinical Decision Support
- Control/Query
- Education
- Financial Management
- International Affiliates
- Marketing
- Medical Records/Information Management
- Modeling and Methodology
- Orders/Observations
- Patient Administration
- Patient Care
- Personnel Management
- Publishing
- Scheduling and Logistics
- Structured Documents
- Vocabulary

HL7 International Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

- Arden Syntax
- Attachments
- Blood Bank
- Clinical Guidelines
- Clinical Trials
- Community Based Health Services
- Conformance
- Electronic Health Records
- Government Project
- Imaging Integration
- Laboratory, Automated, and Testing
- Medication
- Security and Accountability
- Template
- XML

Upcoming Events

Note: HL7 Canada members are entitled to discounted registration rates for events in both Canada and the USA.

- **HL7 Spring Working Group Meeting, April 29 - May 3, 2002, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia**
- **HL7 Canada Spring 2002 Tutorials and Meeting, June 11-12, 2002 Radisson Hotel Québec Centre, Québec City, Québec**
- **HL7 International Affiliates Meeting, August 7 – 8, 2002, Melbourne, Australia**
- **HL7 Fall Working Group Meeting, September 29 - October 4, 2002, Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland**
- **15th Annual Plenary & Working Group Meeting, October 1 – 5, 2001, Salt Lake City, Utah**
- **HL7 Canada Fall 2002 Tutorials and Meeting, November 2002 (exact date and location to be announced)**
- **January Working Group Meeting, January 13 – 17, 2003, Hyatt Regency San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas**

The 2001/2002 HL7 Canada Secretariat

Caroline Heick, *Director*

Laura Sato, *Manager*

Gavin Tong, *Coordinator*

Beverly Walters, *Administrator*

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