

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Year-end Report 2005

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) advises the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) with respect to prevention, surveillance and control measures necessary to protect the people of Ontario from infectious diseases.

This is accomplished through:

- provision of expert advice relevant to ongoing and emerging infectious disease issues
- development of standard evidence-based informational materials and
- establishing linkages and communications with regional networks across Ontario dedicated to infectious disease issues.

PIDAC's first complete year of operation resulted in the development of a robust, and productive Committee and Sub-Committee structure, fuelled by the dedication of an array of health professionals from infectious disease, infection prevention and control, epidemiology, public health, occupational health and safety, laboratory and veterinary medicine backgrounds.

PIDAC activities also took place at a time of substantial transformation of the provincial health care terrain, much of this emanating from the provincial government commitments outlined in *Operation Health Protection*, especially:

- the expansion of Infection Prevention and Control personnel and resources within the acute care and public health domains;
- the work of and interim report from the Agency Implementation Task Force;
- the development of the initial Regional Infection Control Networks;
- enhanced emergency response planning related to infectious diseases emergencies, especially the leadership role of the Emergency Management Unit re. pandemic planning;
- the provincial roll-out of the Integrated Public Health Information System.

Two major infectious disease episodes occurred during 2005: the Oxford County rubella outbreak and the Toronto Legionnaire's disease outbreak. These outbreaks demonstrated an improved health care system response capacity and the timely consultative role that PIDAC did play. However, it also underscored a number of ongoing challenges revealed earlier by the SARS outbreak.

A number of valuable observations are evident from PIDAC's first full year of activities:

- the essential strength of PIDAC and its Sub-Committees is the expertise and connectivity of its members, with their commitment to system-wide enhancements to infection prevention and control infrastructure;
- to fully profit from and utilize the energies of PIDAC members, and to assure that the key roles and responsibilities of PIDAC are effectively addressed, a skilled and productive secretariat is essential. The establishment of this secretariat will be a key 2006 objective for the Infectious Diseases Branch and PIDAC;
- communication/consultation with the field is an essential ongoing function for PIDAC, to assure that all of our diverse colleagues and stakeholder organizations have input into priorities for and are aware of PIDAC work plans and products, a core task for the PIDAC manager and secretariat;

- PIDAC has an essential role in developing and effectively disseminating science and evidence-based guidance for infection prevention and control, that its work must be methodologically sound, while recognizing that PIDAC recommendations once delivered to the Public Health Division are subject to policy, legal, funding and/or administrative factors or limitations. Nevertheless, it is important that PIDAC's recommendations, best practice documents and other work, once finalized and reviewed with the Public Health Division, be made public as a matter of accountability and demonstration to the wider health care field of PIDAC's work;
- there is an ongoing need to develop and refine the complementary roles and capacities of PIDAC vis-à-vis the Infectious Diseases Branch, Public Health Laboratories Branch, as well as other branches of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Labour;
- it is crucial that the work of PIDAC be done in a continuously collaborative manner with other bodies addressing infection prevention and control, especially the Public Health Agency for Canada and other federal/provincial/territorial processes and initiatives, scientific advisory bodies in other provinces, the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases and national societies/organizations addressing infection prevention and control needs and priorities.

PIDAC's first year of operation was marked by a number of significant accomplishments. These included:

- provision of expert scientific opinion in outbreaks in Oxford County and Toronto,
- establishment of a fourth sub-committee to review Communicable Disease issues
- participation in the establishment of four Regional Infection Control Networks,
- establishment of linkages between PIDAC and the provincial pandemic steering committee and the Emergency Management Unit (EMU)
- review of SARS directives in collaboration with EMU
- facilitation of a Facility Design Workshop to increase awareness of infection prevention and control issues in the design of healthcare facilities

Members of PIDAC also participated in

- Agency Implementation Task Force review
- A national consensus meeting on Community-acquired Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA)

The work of PIDAC was accomplished with the support of staff from Strategic Planning and Implementation Branch. Dr. Camille Lemieux acted as coordinator for the committee and Clare Barry assisted with the development of many of the documents and programs that PIDAC was able to produce. The leadership and commitment of Dr. David Williams also needs to be acknowledged. Dr. Williams served as Co-chair of PIDAC until September 2005 when he took on his new role of Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The members of the four PIDAC sub-committees met on a regular basis to review issues related to infectious diseases and provide recommendations for safe and effective management of these. Members of these sub-committees volunteer many hours to ensure that each sub-committee is able to achieve its mandate. A complete list of PIDAC and PIDAC sub-committee members can be found in Appendix A.

In developing scientific documents the members of PIDAC follow a strict framework to ensure that the documents represent the best available information at the time of publishing. This process includes;

- Extensive global review of all evidence-based literature
- Surveys of existing national and global practices
- Stakeholder review of draft documents for feedback
- Review and update of all documents at least every 2 years or more frequently if new evidence warrants

Subcommittee on Communicable Diseases

The PIDAC Subcommittee on Communicable Diseases (PSCD) was formed in July 2005 and is chaired by Dr. Colin Lee. The mandate of the PSCD is to advise on communicable disease issues by:

- reviewing the scientific literature
- considering existing national and international guidelines and authorities
- focusing on non-healthcare community settings (e.g. schools, child care centres, etc.) and
- making recommendations to PIDAC on communicable disease issues.

In its first six months of operation the PSCD has begun an extensive review of reportable diseases and a review of the national guidelines on the prevention and control of meningococcal disease.

Membership in the PSCD is multidisciplinary and reflects individuals with expertise in adult infectious diseases, community paediatric infectious diseases, travel and tropical medicine, medical microbiology, communicable diseases, epidemiology and veterinary medicine. Individuals from the Public Health Division and Public Health Laboratories Branch sit on PSCD as ex-officio members.

Subcommittee on Immunisation

The PIDAC Subcommittee on Immunisation (PSI) is chaired by Dr. Ian Gemmill. The PSI advises on and contributes to immunisation programmes by:

- applying scientific knowledge and best available evidence to vaccine issues in Ontario
- making recommendations to PIDAC on the prevention of vaccine preventable diseases
- making recommendations to PIDAC on the optimal use of vaccines in public programmes

In its first year of operation the PSI has reviewed and made recommendations to PIDAC and thereafter to the CMOH on

- proposed revisions to the childhood and adolescent immunisations
- advice on the safety and efficacy of simultaneous administration vaccines in public programmes
- protecting older children and adults against pertussis

In addition, PSI is reviewing recommendations on immunisation of health care providers.

Membership of the PSI is drawn from individuals with expertise and knowledge of vaccines, vaccine usage and vaccine-related programs including paediatricians with infectious diseases, adult infectious diseases, medical microbiology, public health, immunology, and public health vaccine program management. The Public Health Division also provides an ex-officio member to participate in this subcommittee.

Subcommittee on Infection Prevention and Control

The PIDAC Subcommittee on Infection Prevention and Control (PSIPC) is chaired by Dr. Mary Vearncombe. The PSIPC advises on the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections in Ontario. The work of PSIPC is done taking into account:

- consideration of the entire healthcare system across the continuum of care without limitation to institutional health care alone
- protection of both patients and healthcare providers
- the advice being given is evidence-based and scientifically sound to the greatest extent possible

In its first year of operation the PSIPC has produced best practice documents on *Clostridium difficile* and Management of Febrile Respiratory Illness (in conjunction with the Surveillance Subcommittee). The PSIPC is currently developing best practice documents on Reprocessing of Medical Devices, Antibiotic Resistant Organisms and infection prevention and control resources.

The PSIPC is also working closely with the Infection Control Core Competency Steering Committee to review the content of the Infection Control core competency modules.

Membership of the PSIPC is multidisciplinary including individuals with expertise in infection prevention and control including adult infectious diseases, paediatric infectious diseases, medical microbiology, infection prevention and control (one of whom represents the Regional Infection Control Networks), public health communicable diseases and occupational health and safety. The Public Health Division provides an ex-officio member to participate in the PSIPC.

Subcommittee on Surveillance

The mandate of the PIDAC Subcommittee on Surveillance (PSS), chaired by Ms. Sandra Callery, is to advise on the surveillance of infectious diseases and other organisms of epidemiologic significance to the health of the public of Ontario by:

- reviewing the scientific literature and other sources of evidence and
- making recommendations to PIDAC on infectious disease surveillance issues

The PSS worked collaboratively with the PSIPC to develop a best practice document on *Clostridium difficile*. The PSS has also worked to develop a standardized surveillance tool to monitor infectious diseases and will be working to trial this with the Regional Infection Control Networks to conduct surveillance for *Clostridium difficile*.

Membership of the PSS is multidisciplinary and is drawn from individuals with expertise in and knowledge of surveillance issues including, an adult infectious diseases, infection prevention and control, public health communicable diseases, epidemiology and zoonotic diseases.

Summary of PIDAC Accomplishments and Recommendations

Publications:

Completed and posted on MOHLTC website:

Ontario Best Practice Manual for Prevention and Control of Transmission of *Clostridium difficile* within Healthcare Facilities

Preventing the Spread of Febrile Respiratory Illnesses in Healthcare Settings – Best Practice document

Recommendations:

A series of recommendations on vaccine use in publicly funded programmes in Ontario

Accomplishments:

Established relationship between PIDAC and Emergency Management Unit (EMU) related to the role of PIDAC in an infectious disease emergency

Provision of expert scientific opinion in outbreaks in Oxford County and Toronto

Established Communicable Disease Subcommittee to review communicable and reportable diseases and make recommendations on these

Developed provincial surveillance strategy for *Clostridium difficile* which will be piloted by the Regional Infection Control Networks

Provided a 'Facility Design Workshop' to increase awareness of infection prevention and control issues in healthcare settings

Participated in Consensus Meeting on Community-acquired Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Participated in establishment of four Regional Infection Control Networks

Participated in Agency Implementation Task Force

Projects for Completion in 2006

Currently in progress:

Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Devices in All Healthcare Settings

Management of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms in Healthcare Settings

Infection Prevention and Control Resources

Establishment of 'Evidence Working Group' to research and develop ranking tool for use with all PIDAC best practice documents.

Establishment of Communicable Disease subcommittee working group to develop best practices for management of contacts for Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Recommendations for changes to the Reportable Disease list will be forthcoming in the spring of 2006.

Ontario addendum to Meningococcal Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease

Immunisation subcommittee is conducting a scientific review of immunisation in healthcare settings.

Establishment of PIDAC Secretariat

Development of a PIDAC Communication Strategy

APPENDIX A

Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee – Membership

Co-chairs

Dr. Doug Sider	Associate Medical Officer of Health Niagara Region Public Health Department
Dr. Dick Zoutman	Professor and Chair, Divisions of Medical Microbiology and of Infectious Diseases Medical Director of Infection Control, South Eastern Ontario Health Sciences Center Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Members:

Ms. Anne Bialachowski	Infection Control Practitioner Hamilton Health Sciences Centre, Hamilton General Hospital
Ms. Sandra Callery	Director, Infection Prevention and Control Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre
Dr. Maureen Cividino	Occupational Health Physician St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton
Dr. Gary Garber	Head of Infectious Diseases Ottawa Hospital
Dr. Ian Gemmill	Medical Officer of Health Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit
Dr. Leon Genesove	Physician Ministry of Labour
Dr. Colin Lee	Associate Medical Officer of Health Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit Staff Emergency Physician, Royal Victoria Hospital of Barrie
Dr. Anne Matlow	Director, Infection Prevention and Control The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
Dr. Chris O'Callaghan	Project Coordinator, NCIC Clinical Trials Group Assistant Professor, Queen's University
Dr. Mary Vearncombe	Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre

Ex Officio

Ms. Karen Singh	Community Health Division Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. Frances Jamieson	Medical Microbiologist Clinical and Environmental Microbiology Department Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ms. Allison J. Stuart

Director, Emergency Management Unit
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Dr. David Williams

Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Department, Infectious Disease Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

PIDAC Subcommittee on Communicable Diseases

Chair

Dr. Colin Lee
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit
Staff Emergency Physician
Royal Victoria Hospital of Barrie

Members

Ms. Cathy Egan
Manager, Infectious Disease Control
Middlesex-London Health Unit

Dr. Margaret Fearon
Executive Medical Director, Medical Microbiology
Canadian Blood Services

Ms. Health Hague
Manager, Infectious Diseases Program
Niagara Region Public Health Department

Dr. Ian Kitai
Staff Physician, TB Specialist
The Hospital for Sick Children
Division of Infectious Diseases

Dr. Howard Shapiro
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Regional Municipality of Peel, Health Department

Dr. Doug Sider
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Niagara Region Public Health Department

Mr. Lee Sieswerda
Epidemiologist
Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Dr. Fiona Smail
Infectious Diseases/Microbiology
Hamilton Health Sciences
McMaster University Medical Centre

Dr. Deb Stark
Assistant Deputy Minister
Chief Veterinarian for Ontario
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Dr. Barbara Yaffe
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health

Ex Officio

Dr. Dean Middleton
Senior Veterinary Consultant
Enteric and Zoonotic Diseases Unit
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Dr. Fran Jamieson
Medical Microbiologist
Clinical and Environmental Microbiology Department
Public Health Laboratories

PIDAC Subcommittee on Immunisation

Chair

Dr. Ian Gemmill
Medical Officer of Health
Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington
Health Unit

Members

Ms. Mary Anne Carson
Manager, Communicable Disease Control Services
Halton Region Health Department

Dr. Francisco Diaz-Mitoma
Chief, Regional Virology Laboratory
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Dr. Lee Ford-Jones
Training Program Director
Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Professor of Pediatrics
The Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto

Dr. Ronald Gold
Head of Infectious Disease Division, Hospital for Sick
Children (retired)
Professor of Paediatrics, University of Toronto (retired)

Dr. Saul Greenberg
Associate Professor, Department of Paediatrics
University of Toronto

Dr. Jay Keystone
Staff Physician, Centre for Travel and Tropical Medicine
Toronto General Hospital

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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

PIDAC Subcommittee on Infection Prevention and Control

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Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control
Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre

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City-wide Infection Control Team Leader
London Health Sciences & St. Joseph's Health Centre

Dr. Maureen Cividino
Occupational Health Physician
St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton

Dr. Beth Henning
Medical Officer of Health
Huron County Public Health

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Ms. Pat Piaskowski
Regional Coordinator
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Dr. Virginia Roth
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PIDAC Subcommittee on Surveillance

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Medical Director, Tuberculosis Clinic
University Health Network

Dr. Charles Gardner
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