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**IPAC CANADA LAUNCHES ACCREDITED BILINGUAL INFECTION
PREVENTION & CONTROL ROUTINE PRACTICES ONLINE PROGRAM -
NEW FOR 2018**

March 28th, 2018

Winnipeg, Manitoba

IPAC Canada National Office

IPAC Canada launches its “new” Infection Prevention and Control Program for Front Line HealthCare Workers. This comprehensive, English and French, online learning program is designed to help implement standardized infection prevention and control practices while reducing the number, duration and severity of infections in any healthcare setting.

Molly Blake, President of IPAC Canada, explains “*The new curriculum for 2018 reflects the most current regulatory standards and protocols across Canada. The infection prevention and control routine practices program offers a Certificate of Completion from Georgian College and IPAC Canada for healthcare professionals who successfully complete the rigorous program testing.*”

The bilingual program was first launched in 2011, updated in 2013 and again in 2015 to help reduce infections in our increasingly complex and accessible healthcare settings. The new program is in response to increasingly virulent strains of infection and growth in access to healthcare requirements as our population ages. This First Line of Defence program was developed by a national committee of Infection Control Professionals (ICPs).

ICPs come from many different backgrounds within the healthcare disciplines such as nursing, medicine, long-term care, prehospital care providers, microbiology and medical technology; they are responsible for Infection Prevention and Control within hospitals, long-term care and other healthcare facilities as well as ambulatory and prehospital settings. Infection Prevention and Control Professionals are responsible for maintaining current knowledge of infection prevention and control standards and practices.

Quick Facts

- More than 4,000 healthcare professionals have taken the program since its launched in 2011. The program is accredited by Société de formation et d'éducation continue (SOFEDUC) and includes one Continuing Education Credit for healthcare professionals who successfully complete the program
- In November 2013, The Public Health Agency of Canada published its landmark five- year (2007 – 2011) Antimicrobial Resistant Organisms (ARO) Surveillance findings which indicated increasing infection rates per patient days
- Those infections are related to *Healthcare-Associated-Clostridium difficile*, Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococci* infection and *Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (CPO)* pointing to possible gaps in infection prevention and control in Canada

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