

# CANADIAN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTRE STATUS REPORT

<http://www2.ccwhc.ca/index.php>

**Mission:** The Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) is a partnership among Canada's five Veterinary Colleges which applies the veterinary medical sciences to wildlife conservation and management in Canada.

**Goals and objectives of the centre:** The organization is dedicated to developing and using knowledge of wildlife health and disease to improve the health of wild and domestic animals as well as the human population, while reducing the economic and ecological costs and impacts of wild animal diseases in Canada.

**Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate:** e.g. research; graduate student training; student experience; programming; outreach: The CCWHC coordinates Canada's National Wildlife Health Surveillance Program and provides educational programs, information, and consultation to both government and non-government agencies as well as to the public. In addition, the CCWHC coordinates targeted surveillance and research programs involving wildlife health and disease, including West Nile Virus, Avian Influenza Virus, White Nose Syndrome, and Chronic Wasting Disease. The CCWHC is also involved in a wide range of wildlife health research at each of the veterinary colleges. In 2007 the CCWHC was designated an Collaborating Centre of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) dedicated to wildlife disease surveillance and monitoring, epidemiology and management.

Disease surveillance, the foundational program of the CCWHC, integrates four separate activities into a cohesive program: 1) Detection of diseases, 2) Identification of diseases (diagnosis), 3) Disease information management and 4) Communication. Disease detection is achieved by a wide range of field personnel throughout the country whose work is supported and coordinated by the CCWHC through guidance, information, reports and partnerships with government agencies. Disease identification is achieved through medical examination of specimens in fully-equipped veterinary diagnostic laboratories, primarily by CCWHC professional staff at the veterinary colleges but also

elsewhere through collaboration with government laboratories. Disease information management is done through the CCWHC Information Technology Centre, which includes a national database for all surveillance data. Communication is achieved through a range of instruments: regular reports to the CCWHC Board of Directors and the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, web site, newsletter and special program reports.

Informational Services includes participation in regional, national and international meetings, participation on committees, and reports on specific issues. The CCWHC also responds to a wide range of requests for information and advice from partner agencies and the public, and also maintains an informational website, publishes a semi-annual newsletter and provides media interviews.

Education is a key activity for the CCWHC. Education supports disease surveillance through instruction and engagement with partner agency personnel and the public and creates wildlife health specialists through university programs. Educational workshops, held nationally and internationally, promote the ongoing professional development of wildlife health professionals, the development of programs and the interchange of knowledge, while addressing current issues affecting the health of wildlife and domestic animals, and of human and ecological health. University-based academic programs supported by the CCWHC provide a steady flow of valuable teaching material and learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, while also benefiting government agencies by contributing to the education of highly qualified personnel and by contributing to projects that address management and policy issues of direct interest to CCWHC partner agencies.

### **Governance:**

(Please see following)

### **The CCWHC Executive**

Ted Leighton, Executive Director  
Patrick Zimmer, Headquarters Director  
Kevin Brown, Information Technology Manager  
Ian Barker, Ontario and Nunavut Regional Director  
Trent Bollinger, Western and Northern Regional Director  
Pierre-Yves Daoust, Atlantic Regional Director  
Susan Kutz, Alberta Regional Director  
Stéphane Lair, Quebec Regional Director  
Craig Stephens, Executive Director Centre for Coastal Health

### **The CCWHC Advisory Board**

Pierre Bérubé, Directeur du développement de la faune, Québec, MRNF  
Ron Bjorge, Director, Fish & Wildlife, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
John Blake, Director, Wildlife Division, Newfoundland & Labrador  
Kevin Callele, A/Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment  
Jack Dubois, Wildlife Director, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch, Manitoba Conservation  
Susan Fleck, Director, Wildlife Management Division, Northwest Territories Environment & Natural Resources  
Drikus Gissing, Director, Wildlife Services, Nunavut Department of Sustainable Development  
Kaaren Lewis, Director, Biodiversity Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Dan Lindsey, Director, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Yukon Department of Environment  
Wade Luzny, Executive Vice President, Canadian Wildlife Federation  
Cameron Mack, Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
Kate MacQuarrie, Director, Fish & Wildlife Division, Prince Edward Island Department of Environment  
Henry Murkin, Chief Biologist, Ducks Unlimited (Canada)  
Virginia Poter, Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service Environment Canada  
Mark Raizenne, Director General, Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada  
Charles Rhodes (Chair), Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan  
Tony Ritchie, Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Mike Sullivan, Director, Fish & Wildlife Branch, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources  
Julie Towers, Director, Wildlife Division, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources  
Stephen Woodley, Chief Scientist, Ecological Integrity Branch, Parks Canada

## CCWHC Staff and Associates

### Atlantic Region

**Director** Pierre-Yves Daoust

**Professional**

Maria Forzán  
Scott McBurney

**Technical**

Fiep de Bie  
Darlene Weeks

**Associates**

Gary Conboy  
Marion Desmarchelier  
David Groman  
Fred Kibenge

### Quebec Region

**Director** Stéphane Lair

**Professional**

André Dallaire  
Julie Ducrocq  
Sylvain Larrat  
Guylaine Séguin

**Technical**

Kathleen Brown  
Viviane Casaubon  
Audrey Daigneault St-Germain  
Mélanie Laquerre  
Judith Viau

**Associates**

Christian Bédard  
Denis Bélanger  
Guy Fitzgerald  
Nick Ogden  
Alain Villeneuve

### Ontario and Nunavut Region

**Director** Ian Barker

**Professional**

Douglas Campbell  
Cheryl A. Massey

**Technical**

Leonard Shirose  
Kate Warnick  
Melanie Whalen

**Clerical**

David Cristo  
Carol-Lee Ernst

**Associates**

D. Bruce Hunter  
Claire Jardine  
John Lumsden  
Jane Parmley  
Dale A. Smith

## Western and Northern Region

**Director** Trent Bollinger

**Professional**

Lorraine Bryan  
Gary Wobeser

**Wildlife Biologist**

Christine Wilson  
Marnie Zimmer

**Technical**

Valeriana Harris  
Justin Meaden  
Elsie-Dawn Parsons  
Nathan Wiebe

**Associates**

Janet Hill  
Emily Jenkins  
Vikram Misra  
Catherine Soos

## Alberta Region

**Director** Susan Kutz

**Professional**

Craig Stephen

**Technical**

Dean Brown

**Associates**

Nigel Caulkett  
Carmen Fuentealba  
Oscar Illanes  
Amy Warren

## Centre for Coastal Health

**Director** Craig Stephen

**Professional**

Tyler Stitt

**Associates**

Jenny Dawson-Coates

## Headquarters Office

**CCWHC Executive Director** Ted Leighton

**Director** Patrick Zimmer

**IT Manager** Kevin Brown

**Professional**

Marc Cattet

**Accountant**

Nadine Kozakevich

**Technical**

Doug Bornyk  
Derek Harder  
Doug Jodrell

Chris Pinel

**Clerical**  
Jacqui Brown

**Associates**  
Gordon Stenhouse