



Health of Population Networks Annual Report Template for January 1 – December 31, 2008

Submission Deadline


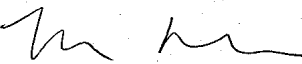
The deadline for your progress report is **May 29, 2009**, and should be sent by email to Ms Gayle Sorrow, Program Coordinator, Networking Programs, at gscarrow@msfhr.org.

SECTION 1 – HoPN ANNUAL REPORT COVER AND SIGNATURE FORM

CURRENT AWARD NUMBER	IN NTG 102045	FUNDING YEAR: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 th
NAME OF NETWORK	BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network	

Signatures: This form must be signed by each of the Network Co-leaders.

'We the undersigned have read the following report and agree with the statements made.'

Co-Leader Name	Dr. Henry Harder, Scientific Director	
Co-Leader Signature (electronic is permitted)		Date: May 27, 2009
Address for Correspondence (including Tel/Fax/Email)	UNBC 3333 University Way Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9 T: 250-960-6506 F: 250-960-5744 E: harderh@unbc.ca	
Co-Leader Name	Dr. Paul Demers, Associate Scientific Director	
Co-Leader Signature (electronic is permitted)		Date: May 27, 2009
Address for Correspondence (including Tel/Fax/Email)	UBC 328 – 2206 East Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3 T: 604-822-0585 F: 604-822-9588 E: pdemers@interchange.ubc.ca	
Name of Individual Co-Leader Financially Accountable for Network	Dr. Henry Harder	

Individual Completing this Report	Pat Atherton	Position	Executive Director
Address for Correspondence (including Tel/Fax/Email)			

***Prior to completing the HoPN Annual Report** please refer to the 'HoPN Annual Report Guide', Version 1.0 (February, 2009) for instructions and explanations of requirements.

SECTION 2 – REPORT OVERVIEW

Maximum 800 words.

The Report Overview is intended to provide the reader with a high-level overview of your Network for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2008. Discuss how the Network has built on its previous achievements and how its activities have contributed to the research community over the reporting period. This section should be completed after you have completed all other sections drawing out the main conclusions from the data presented in the report.

Message from the Scientific Director:

2008 was a year of strong performance for BCEOHRN as demonstrated by the excellent results received in both BCEOHRN's member satisfaction survey and MSFHR's cross-HoPN survey. The Strategic Plan completed in March provided some ambitious new directions for the Network, many of which were well underway by the end of the year and continue to be developed in 2009 – all designed to meet members' needs.

Activities

2008 Events

The Network hosted its third (January) and fourth (November) Scientific Exchange and Annual General Meetings where trainees, researchers, and research users are able to network and present their projects in a collegial environment. At the 3rd AGM a new Board was elected with about 50% turnover, in accordance with the Board Terms of Reference. More members attend each subsequent offering of these annual meetings (114 and 148, respectively).

In May the Annual Spring Conference had 121 participants. This workshop was planned primarily by a group of trainees, under the guidance of a small group of researchers. Trainees' responsibilities included selection of the topic and of the content/speakers, providing an excellent training opportunity.

Research Capacity Development Program

The Research Capacity Development Officer: provided grant writing assistance to BCEOHRN members; linked BCEOHRN members with complementary research interests with new calls for proposals; worked in partnership with WorkSafeBC to develop and facilitate a grant-writing workshop for a WorkSafeBC funding program; researched and sourced a number of funding opportunities for research projects that may arise from the 2010 Games; and, researched options for BCEOHRN's sustainability for presentation to and discussion with leadership.

Mentorship Program

A gap analysis report was prepared to determine where BCEOHRN could develop new initiatives in this area. A program coordinator was recruited and began implementation of some of the report's recommendations. The Student and New Professional Special Interest group was formed and held its first Lunch & Learn event, recorded in WebEx as a resource. The Water and Geographic Information Systems

Special Interest Groups continued to meet via WebEx; the Water SIG held two face to face meetings in Kamloops to discuss arsenic in drinking water and to develop a grant proposal around that area.

2010 Initiatives Working Group

To take advantage of the natural experiment provided by the 2010 Games, members were encouraged to join this working group. By the end of 2008, the group numbered 27 members including 7 trainees, from a spectrum of disciplines, and attracted new individuals to BCEOHRN membership. The Group met face to face in November and via WebEx throughout the year to discuss potential research projects, and to develop a workshop program for Spring 2009.

Website

The website was redesigned to improve its usability. New webpages were added, including the 'Hot Topics in EOHR', which gives the general public a feel for new research in this field. Also added was a page providing members a place to share their research-related blogs.

Policy Makers Roundtable

A new initiative, members were encouraged to join a group to connect the research community with policy makers.

Other activities

- Support was provided to an inter-institutional group to develop a CFI application for shared laboratory spaces across the province.
- WebEx training was provided and WebEx was used widely by members: to collaborate with others; for supervisors to support trainees at a distance; and, to increase the reach of seminars through WebEx broadcast and recordings.
- The Network assisted researchers in sourcing subjects for studies.
- BCEOHRN provided members 33 'mini-grants' in the form of Research Capacity Development Grants (8); Conference Travel Bursaries (24); Networking Facilitation Funds (1), supporting 35 trainees.
- BCEOHRN supported a regional grant-writing program in the northeast of the province to build capacity in that region.
- BCEOHRN provided outreach through a Board member's presentation at Northern Health's conference in Terrace.
- New BCEOHRN promotional materials were developed.

General Background

- New leadership and staff was introduced.
- BCEOHRN's membership has grown by over 300% since the end of 2005, with continued representation from across the province, including a broad mix of researchers, research users and trainees.
- BCEOHRN survey: 92.8% of respondents expressed their satisfaction with the Network.
- New training activities included a grant-writing workshop and support activities and new mentorship activities through the formation of a new Special Interest Group for students and new professionals.
- BCEOHRN continues to endeavour to keep a minimized environmental footprint by reducing the amount of print materials and ensures a broad reach of its resources through website dissemination.
- More research users are attending BCEOHRN events than in previous years, growing linkages with those communities.

- Partnerships with other organizations are a cornerstone to networking; BCEOHRN grew eight new partnerships.
- A number of initiatives were undertaken to work towards the Network's financial sustainability.

SECTION 3 – NETWORK OVERVIEW

3.1 NETWORK PURPOSE AND GOALS

Maximum 270 words.

Optional: Indicate if the Network's purpose and goals have changed substantially since the Network's last progress report (2006 annual progress report) and comment on what has changed and why.

Refer to our Strategic Plan submitted with the 2007 Evaluation Framework for changes since 2006. A number of new initiatives were introduced in 2008 as a result of the process.

3.2 NETWORK STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Maximum 270 words.

Optional: Indicate if there have been any substantive changes in the Network's structure and management since the Network's last progress report (2006 annual progress report).

Leadership of BCEOHRN changed in January 2008 with Dr. Paul Demers taking on the role of Associate Scientific Director (co-leader). This role was formerly held by Dr. Henry Harder who had been ratified as the new Scientific Director after the resignation of Dr. Susan Kennedy in that role in late 2007.

The BCEOHRN Board of Directors' elections in January 2008 introduced ~50% turnover in Board members, in accordance with the BoD Terms of Reference. Details are available at: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/about/governance>.

The BCEOHRN staffing model changed in 2008 with the addition of a full-time Research Capacity Development Officer (June) and a part-time Mentorship Program Coordinator (0.2FTE, September). Details: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/about/staff>.

3.3 NETWORK OPERATIONS AND VALUE ADD

3.3.1 Strategic Planning (indicators 1S1, 5M2)

Maximum 1100 words for Section 3.3.1 inclusive.

3.3.1a Indicate what plans, if any, have been developed for updating the Network's strategic plan (submitted as an attachment to your 2006 annual progress report) in order to reflect the priorities of the Network's members and the end users of research.

The current BCEOHRN Strategic Plan was developed by the Board of Directors in March 2008 (submitted to MSFHR with the 2007 Evaluation Framework) and may be reviewed by the Board again in 2009 if a call for applications for HoPNs is made by MSFHR.

3.3.1b List what the Network had hoped to achieve in year four (4) as presented in Part 11 of the Network's last progress report (2006 annual progress report).

Discuss whether or not you were able to achieve what was planned. If you were not able to implement what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

Refer to the 2006 annual report for the full list of *“Measurable Outcome Targets and Achievements For Year 4”* as outlined in Part 11. Of the 19 indicators / targets identified in 2006, all have been achieved with the exception of the following. Discussion about these follows each target (shaded).

Measurable Outcome Targets and Achievements For Year 4:

Performance Area/Indicator	Target
Evidence of sharing of expertise and infrastructure	At least 200 hits on the shared resources fields of the members' database. An increase in the number of hits counted on FRED.
The BCEOHRN database (which was not launched in 2006 when the report was written) does not provide hits counts in this level of detail. FRED does not provide hits counts. Therefore this target, while believed to have been achieved, is not measured due to technological limitations.	
Members involved in offering mentorship opportunities for students and junior researchers	At least 15% of applicable researchers in members' database participate in Mentoring Program.
The BCEOHRN Mentorship Program Coordinator was hired late in 2008; the program is being more robustly developed in 2009, including modifications to the BCEOHRN database to better highlight mentorship opportunities for members.	
Annual increase in use of knowledge transfer by Network members.	A 10% increase in the count of requests for assistance made to KTE specialist.
Increasing rate of media stories of research success in EOH in BC.	A 10% increase in media monitoring counts.
At the time of writing the 2006 report, it was not known that the HoPNs would elected to move forward together via the MSFHR Shared Infrastructure funded-KTE Working Group on KTE initiatives. Over 2008, that group determined to contract a KTE specialist, but not for these purposes. However, BCEOHRN has subsequently provided a number of tools to its members for KTE including a webpage that links to members' blogs and another that links to current EOH research results in the news.	
Outreach and communication activities, for example research reports produced in lay language for easy reading by research users.	A 10% increase in the count of reports requested to be modified for this purpose.
BCEOHRN did not implement such an outreach service and instead launched another outreach initiative in 2008 that provides support to research users. The Policy Makers Roundtable, held via WebEx, provides a forum for discussion between researchers and research users to bridge communication across these communities.	

3.3.2. Network Operations (indicator 6S1)

Maximum 400 words for Section 3.3.2 inclusive (excluding charts and/or tables contents).

- 3.3.2a Indicate the current membership of the Network (number of members and type of member, e.g. researcher, student or trainee, practitioner, policy or decision-maker, public or other research user group) and how this figure is calculated. If you have membership numbers from previous years, include and discuss how the membership has changed (number, characteristics, etc.). Charts and/or tables may be used as applicable; insert into report.

Total membership at Dec. 31/08 is 852 active members, that is, members who have not moved on from their roles and continue to be engaged through receiving bi-weekly updates, participating in events, working groups, etc. BCEOHRN vigorously maintains currency of its database to ensure it is of worth to members and removes any members who are no longer reachable.

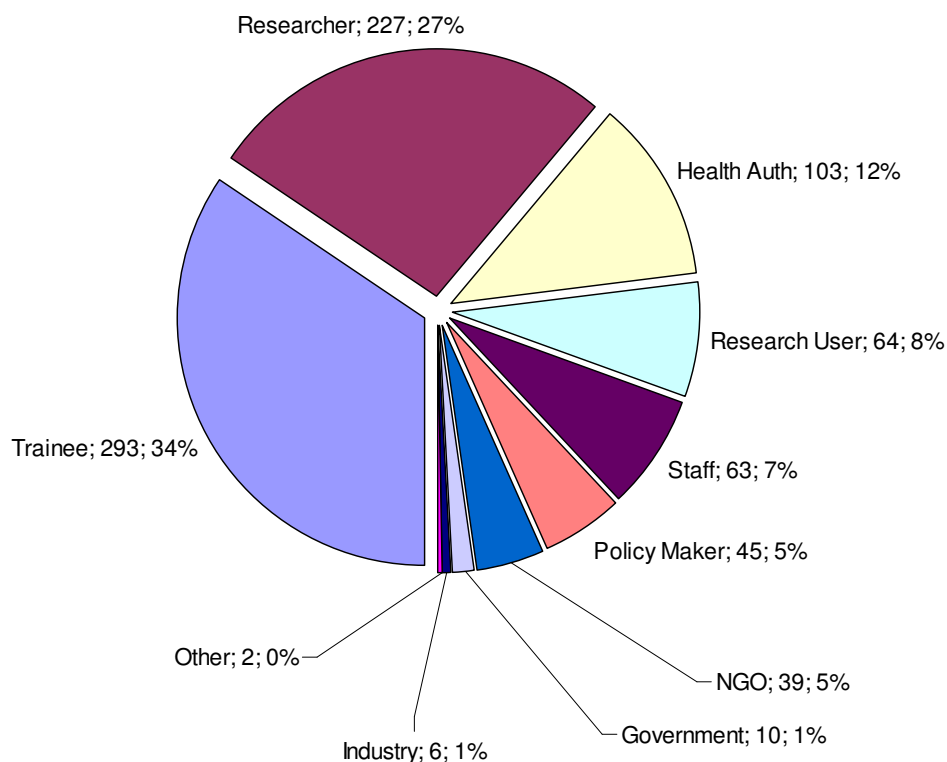
Membership in BCEOHRN is limited as outlined on our website to “Researchers, students and users of research affiliated with projects in environmental/occupational health in British Columbia”. Membership is not open to anyone, in the interest of maintaining a health research focus of network activities.

The following table provides an overview of membership counts since 2005. Details are made available at each AGM in the Scientific Director’s presentation; a link is provided in the following table if more information is sought.

BCEOHRN Membership			
Year	Number of members	Year-over-Year-Increase	Details
2005	200	-	AGM 2005 Report
2006	350	75%	AGM 2006 Report
2007	600	71%	AGM 2007 Report
2008	850	42%	
Increase 2005-2008:		325%	

Membership characteristics change over time depending on recruitment efforts and promotional opportunities, such as related conferences, as they present themselves. Overall, however, BCEOHRN maintains a balance of members from across disciplines and geographic regions. See the following two figures for details.

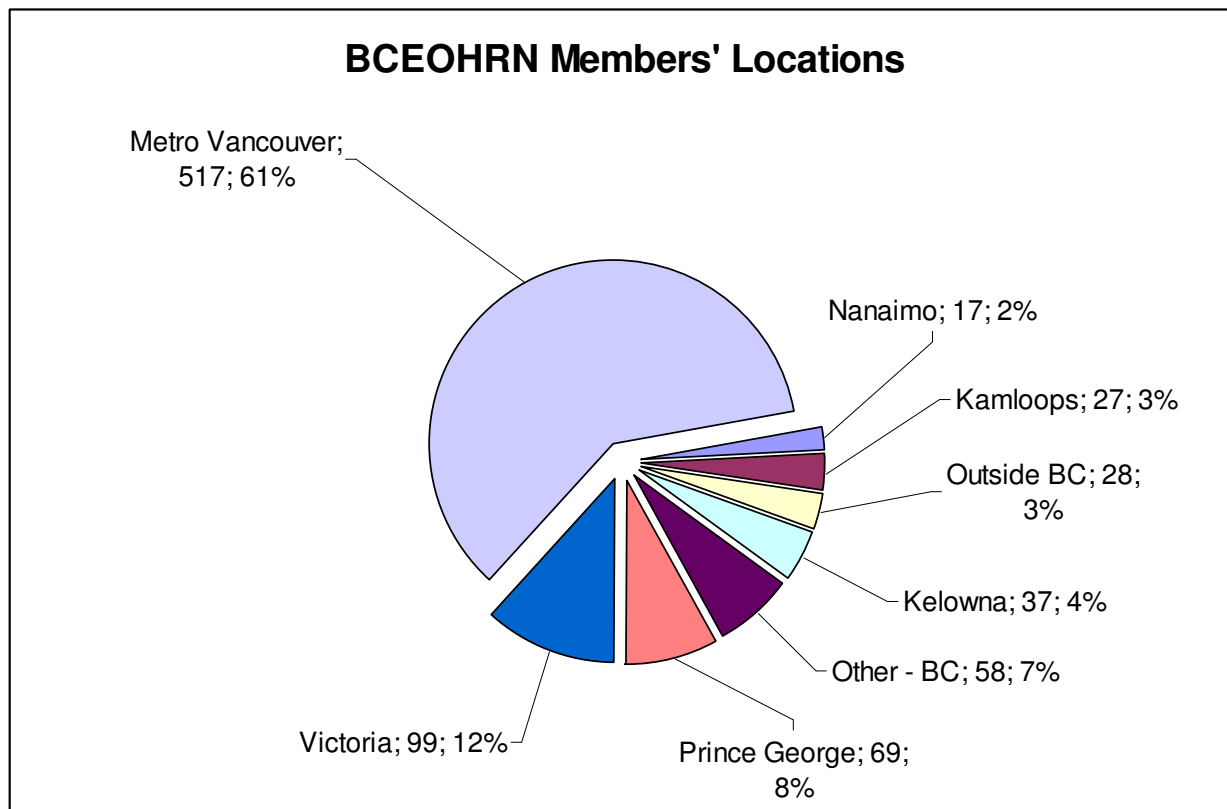
BCEOHRN Membership @ Dec. 31 08



Types of members

Trainee	Includes trainees enrolled in post-secondary programs
Researcher	Includes community and academic-based researchers
Health Authority	Includes those working in health authorities, including environmental health officers and public health inspectors.
Research user	Includes individuals that use research in their roles (e.g. occupational health nurses, career counselors)
Staff	Includes those that support research activities
Policy maker	Includes decision-makers
NGO	Includes non-governmental organizations, including Aboriginal groups (could also be considered research users)
Government	Includes those in government in non-policy making

	roles (e.g. ergonomists, water specialists)
Industry	Includes those working in industry who do not appear to carry out research (e.g. health and safety reps)
Other	Retired individuals



3.3.2b Indicate the number and percentage of respondents who rate the effectiveness of the Network in managing open and transparent operations as 4 or 5 on the Likert scale in question E2h in the 2008 Cross-Network Satisfaction Survey¹).

(Provided by MSFHR:)

Normalizing Factor: Total count of Network members who view the Network as their primary Network and report that they are current members of the Network (A) and who provide a rating between 1 or 5 on the Likert scale for survey question E2 h. Respondents who checked “Don’t Know /Prefer Not to Say” should not be included in the total count for this normalizing factor.	91
Count of survey respondents who identify the Network as their primary Network, and report that they are current members of the Network, and assign a rating of 4 or 5 to the survey question above (B).	71
Percentage [(B/(A)) x 100	78.0%

3.3.2c Describe how the Network has actively sought and responded to members’ and end users’ research needs and priorities since the Network’s last progress report (submitted January 2007).

¹ See Glossary definition in Annual Report Guide

BCEOHRN provides an open forum for member input at the annual general meeting. BCEOHRN's Board of Directors (advisory committee) is not static; each AGM includes an election to replace those members rotating off the Board, with a view to including all areas of the province, as well as researchers, research users and student communities (Board Terms of Reference available here: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/about/governance>). Through this unique governance model, BCEOHRN provides another forum for members to express their needs through cross-sectional Board representation. Recent AGMs were held in January (for Year 3) and November (for Year 4) in 2008.

BCEOHRN administered its Members' Satisfaction Survey in the winter of 2007/08; results were analyzed and reported back to the membership (see: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/StrategicPlanning>). These data were used as an input to the March 2008 strategic planning session to inform the Board's deliberations, guiding initiatives based on member input.

BCEOHRN continues to maintain a survey link on its home page to provide members with a forum for anonymous contributions (see: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/articles/survey>).

BCEOHRN invites its members to provide input directly to any of its co-leaders or staff (see: <http://www.bceohrn.ca/contact>) and with a note from Dr. Henry Harder, Scientific Director (see: http://www.bceohrn.ca/about/performance_review).

- 3.3.2d Optional:
 Maximum 120 words
 Summary of additional relevant data/information collected by the Network on Network functioning.

See 3.3.4c below.

3.3.2e Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Discuss whether or not, (1) Network membership numbers and demographics and (2) survey respondents' perceptions of the Network's operational processes, differ from what was planned or expected. If you were not able to achieve what was planned or expected, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

As demonstrated above and through our Members' Satisfaction Survey, BCEOHRN has a diverse, active and keen membership that indicates a high degree of satisfaction with the Network's operation.

- 3.3.3. **Sustainability²**
(indicator 6M1)
 Maximum 180 words for Section 3.3.3.

Indicate if the Network has made any improvements or changes to its sustainability processes as described in your 2007 Evaluation Report. If improvements or changes have been made, comment on what has changed and why.

Refer to the final page of the 2007 Evaluation Report for details around BCEOHRN's non-financial sustainability tactics (i.e. Processes are in place that address the life-cycle of the network, succession planning, leadership issues, ongoing monitoring and evaluation, opportunities for course corrections, conflict resolution planning and exit strategy).

3.3.4 **Network Value Add** **(indicators 1M1 & 1L1)**

- 3.3.4a Indicate the number and percentage of respondents who indicated the Network adds value to BC's health research community (who chose a 4 or 5 on the Likert scale) in question F2a in the 2008 Cross-Network Satisfaction Survey. (1M1)

² See Glossary definition in Annual Report Guide.

(Provided by MSFHR:)

Normalizing Factor: Total count of Network members who identify the Network as their primary Network and report that they are current members of the Network (A) and who provide a rating between 1 and 5 on the Likert scale for survey question F2 a. Respondents who checked "Don't Know /Prefer Not to Say" should not be included in the total count for this normalizing factor.	112
Count of survey respondents who identify the Network as their primary Network, and report that they are current members of the Network, and assign a rating of 4 or 5 to the survey question above (B)	106
Percentage $[(B/(A)) \times 100]$	94.6%

3.3.4b Indicate the number and percentage of respondents who view the Network as highly important within its environment (who chose 4 or 5 on the Likert scale) in question D1g in the 2008 Cross-Network Satisfaction Survey. (1L1).

(Provided by MSFHR:)

Normalizing Factor: Total count of Network members who identify the Network as their primary Network and report that they are current members of the Network (A) and who provide a rating between 1 and 5 on the Likert scale for survey question D1 g. Respondents who checked "Don't Know /Prefer Not to Say" should not be included in the total count for this normalizing factor.	88
Count of survey respondents who identify the Network as their primary Network, and report that they are current members of the Network, and assign a rating of 4 or 5 to the survey question above (B)	66
Percentage $[(B/(A)) \times 100]$	75.0%

3.3.4c Indicate the cumulative percentage of Network members who report overall satisfaction with the Network.

From the BCEOHRN Members' Satisfaction Survey, **92.8 percent** of respondents indicated overall satisfaction with the Network (details:

http://www.bceohrn.ca/files/images/BCEOHRN_Members_Satisfaction_Survey_1.pdf).

3.3.4d Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information on Network value that the Network has collected.

Narrative from BCEOHRN members, from MSFHR's survey:

"Very satisfied with the opportunities for collaboration and funding provided by the network."

"I am highly satisfied. BCEOHRN plays a significant and substantial role in the success of BC research in this field."

"The network has been a very valuable resource for me this year. It is definitely the best of the MS-funded networks in BC. Keep up the good work."

"Excellent leadership and growth, excellent, supportive ED to network members and to the leadership or management"

"Great network, great people, always lots of information and very well-organized and run"

"I am extremely satisfied with the BCEOHRN."

3.3.4e Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 180 words

Discuss whether or not survey respondents' perceptions of Network value differ from what was expected or, if data are available, found in previous years. If you were not able to achieve what was planned or expected, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

BCEOHRN is extremely pleased to see such outstanding levels of satisfaction expressed by our members, demonstrating that BCEOHRN has been meeting their expectations. This is likely due to the high number of avenues for members to be able to provide input (see 3.3.2.c) and BCEOHRN's agility in meeting those needs.

SECTION 4 – NETWORK ACTIVITIES

(indicators 2S1, 2M1, 2L1, 2L2, 3S2, 3M1, 4S1, 5M1)

4.1 Use the activity table in Appendix 2 (adding more rows as necessary) to report on training, resources provided, KTE, and linkages to the policy process.

**4.2 Training Component
(indicator 3S2)**

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information collected by the Network on training activities/events.

Narrative from BCEOHRN members, from MSFHR's survey:

“research exchange during the AGM is a worthwhile opportunity for students and researchers to present posters in a comfortable environment and network with peers.”

“Good research network: as a new scholar I found it a very effective opportunity for networking.”

“very useful for getting a picture of the different EOH researchers and their activities in the province, and an excellent forum for meeting researchers, other KT people, and policy-makers.”

“a wonderful network. I have always felt well-supported. I have made lasting relationships with several other researchers and health care workers from across the province.”

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 270 words

Discuss whether the Network was able to provide the training it had planned, reached the target number of participants from the targeted groups, and achieved an expected level of perceived value from the activities/events. If the Network was not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

Formal training activities met BCEOHRN goals with increasing numbers of participants attending events and with new activities such as those carried out by the Research Capacity Development Officer.

Activities emerged in 2008 that provided informal training opportunities such as through the mentorship program's initiatives. Informal training opportunities were also designed through initiatives such as (i) the Educational Event Working Group where trainees held roles of responsibility in planning the annual workshop with the guidance of BCEOHRN and of experienced researchers; and, (ii) the Members' Satisfaction Survey where a student was contracted to carry out the project under direction of BCEOHRN leadership. These informal training opportunities are of significant value to BCEOHRN members.

4.3 Resources and Services Component (indicator 3M1)

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information collected by the Network on resource creation and distribution.

Narrative from a BCEOHRN member:

"I found (a WebEx recording) on your website...wow! It was almost like I was there when I played it. It's always hard to get out to events from here in Cranbrook where a one day meeting takes three days in travel time. Thanks for providing it on your site."

From MSFHR's survey:

"appreciate the email updates and notifications."

"The email provides valuable information."

"I really appreciate receiving the frequent online newsletters."

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 270 words

Discuss whether the Network was able to achieve what was planned in terms of number and type of resources produced, reach and value add. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

Based on member feedback BCEOHRN reduced print materials in the interest of environmental sustainability. The Network continually seeks better ways to distribute information outside of traditional print materials, such as using online survey instruments at events. Small numbers of key documents are produced in print format and circulated strategically; however, for the most part resources are distributed electronically via the BCEOHRN website which includes a search engine for locating resources easily. Reach, for the most part, for BCEOHRN is measured with webpage counts rather than with numbers of printed documents. In so doing, BCEOHRN achieves two goals: (i) environmental sustainability; and, (ii) meeting the 2004 Implementation Plan deliverable of creating a website that acts as a clearinghouse.

Resources provided in 2008 exceeded expectations through both increased use of WebEx recordings to expand reach, and through satisfying numbers of hits to webpages housing these recordings. The practice of uploading WebEx recordings to the website continues through 2009.

4.4 Knowledge Translation³ Component (indicators 2S1, 2L1, 2L2)

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information on KT activities collected by the Network.

From MSFHR's Survey:

"allows great opportunities for research development, networking and knowledge translation. I've been really happy so far with my involvement with the network."

³ See Glossary for revised definition.

"It's been very useful for getting a picture of the different EOH researchers and their activities in the province, and an excellent forum for meeting researchers, other KT people, and policy-makers."

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 270 words

Discuss whether or not the Network was able to achieve what was planned in terms of knowledge translation activities undertaken, target audiences reached, and the value of the activities/events. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

The 2008 Annual Report Guide defines KTE as *targeting the general public*. Because many of BCEOHRN's resources are available via its website without password protection and BCEOHRN's site is indexed to appear high in Google search results, this is achieved through the open internet. Due to the fact that BCEOHRN limits membership (see 3.3.2.a above) and meeting members' needs is paramount, services are not targeted to the general public in the interest of maintaining an EOH research focus. As such, BCEOHRN's KTE activities, while not core to the Network's drivers, have been derived through indirect linkages. In 2009 this continues.

4.5 Linking Researchers and Research Users Component (indicator 2M1, 4S1)

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information on Network activity linking researchers and research users collected by Network.

Narrative from a BCEOHRN member:

"I wanted to say THANKS for a great AGM last week. As always, it was super enjoyable and while I was at my poster I chatted to a number of first-time attendees who said it was the best networking event they'd been to in a while. My impression this time was that there were more practitioners/industry folks who were really interested to connect with researchers, so that was great!"

Interpretation/Discussion/ Implications

Maximum 270 words

Discuss whether or not the Network was able to achieve what was planned. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

The number of research users attending both the BCEOHRN Scientific Exchange & Annual General Meetings and the BCEOHRN annual spring workshops is increasing year-over-year. The increase of 2008 compared to 2007's meetings' participants representing the research user community was 20% and 26%, respectively.

In 2008 BCEOHRN launched a new initiative to provide a formal linkage between researchers and researcher users (and students) called the Policy Makers' Roundtable. This initiative, driven by those comprising the group, provides regular WebEx meetings across these communities to discuss issues of common interest and to build relationships.

In summary, BCEOHRN has excelled in creating linkages in 2008 in this area. In 2009 there is further development in making linkages across researchers and research users through the Policy Makers Roundtable, which was in its infancy in 2008.

4.6 Partnerships and Collaboration Activity Table (indicators 5M1).

List activities or events that the Network has undertaken to partner/collaborate with other organizations or decision makers (add additional rows as necessary). See table following page.

Partner Organization or Title or Position of Decision maker*	Purpose of Partnership or Collaboration**	New or Existing Partnership or Collaboration	Location of organization or partner	Provide a brief description of the purpose of the partnership or collaboration (maximum 30 words)	Result of Meeting, Activity, or Event: Narrative Context (maximum 120 words)
Canadian Network on Environment, Health, and Social Equity (CNEHSE)	3 Exchange Information	N	2 Within Canada	Sharing of opportunities, news, ideas, resources	Relationship strengthens services and resources to both BCEOHRN and CNEHSE members.
Centre for Health and Environment Research (CHER)	3 Exchange Information & Harmonize Activities	E	1 Within BC	Sharing of opportunities, news, ideas, resources	Relationship strengthens services and resources to both BCEOHRN and CHER members.
Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability (CIRPD)	4 Exchange Information, Harmonize Activities & Share Resources	N	2 Within Canada	Discussions around sharing members' databases/lessons learned from database development	Project ongoing at end of 2008
Interior Health	4 Exchange Information, Harmonize Activities & Share Resources	E	1 Within BC	Cross-promotion and support of IH annual research conference, April, Kelowna	165 participants
Northern Health	4 Exchange Information, Harmonize Activities, Share Resources & Enhance Partner's Capacity	E	1 Within BC	Cross-promotion, support of and presentation at NH annual research conference, April,	114 participants

				Terrace	
BCRRHRN	4	E	1	Cross-promotion and support of conference, May, Prince George	130 participants
Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH)	4	N	2	Cross-promotion and support of conference, June, Montreal; support of CARWH's Scientific committee and Board through WebEx	200 participants; increased relationship with national affiliated organization.
HoPN - MSFHR	3	E	1	Sharing of opportunities, news, ideas, resources, expertise	Relationship strengthens services and resources to all HoPN members.
National Collaborating Centre – Environmental Health (NCCEH)	3	E	2	Sharing website content	Relationship strengthens services and resources to both BCEOHRN and NCCEH members and builds linkages across the two organizations for future collaborations.
National Collaborating Centre – Public Health (NCCPH)	4	N	2	Cross-promotion, support of NCCPH KTSE Summer Institute - August, Kelowna	205 participants
NEXUS	4	N	1	Cross-promotion and WebEx training & support of NEXUS seminar, January, Vancouver	Began ongoing relationship with NEXUS, strengthening promotional activities and creating new opportunities beyond 2008.
Occupational Health & Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC (OHSAH)	2	E	1	Cross-promotion of activities.	Relationship with OHSAH is strengthening over time.
PopDataBC	4	N	1	Cross-promotion, support of conference, September, Victoria	100 participants
Health Authorities - Research Capacity Building units	2	E	1	Cross-promotion of activities, sharing best practices	Economies of scale derived
VANOC	3	N	1	Participation of VANOC in planning 2010 activities	Beginning of ongoing relationship with VANOC around 2010 education & research activities beyond 2008
VIHA	4	E	1	Cross-promotion and support of	73 participants

				workshop, November, Victoria	
WorkSafeBC	4	N	1	Collaboration on grant-writing workshop	Continuing strengthened relationship with WorkSafeBC

*NB: See Glossary for definition.

**NB: See Annual Report Guide for explanation as to the 'purpose' of the partnership/collaboration.

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 530 words

Discuss whether or not the Network was able to achieve what was planned in terms of number and type of partnerships and collaborations. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

There are no national groups, nor provincial networks outside of BC, that are closely aligned to BCEOHRN's mandate (such as a CIHR Institute, for instance). While a good number of partnerships were developed and broadened in 2008, new opportunities for partnerships and collaborations are always being explored by BCEOHRN. The Network recognizes that its success is dependent on the synergies created by such partnerships – core to networking.

4.7 Granting Table

Provide the following information on mini-granting activities conducted in 2008.

Grant type 1 (please specify) Research Capacity Development Grants	Value or range of award \$10,000	# of grants awarded by the Network 8
Grant type 2 (please specify) Conference Travel Bursaries	Value or range of award \$1,000-1,500	# of grants awarded by the Network 24
Grant type 3 (please specify) Travel Bursaries to attend BCEOHRN events	Value or range of award \$250-\$750	# of grants awarded by the Network 13 (2008 Conference) 13 (2008 AGM) 12 (2007 AGM) 38 in total
Grant type 4 (please specify) Networking Facilitation Funds	Value or range of award Up to \$2,500	# of grants awarded by the Network 1
(add additional rows, if required)		

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information you feel is required to more fully explain the granting activity of the Network.

Narrative from BCEOHRN member:

“BCEOHRN has already established itself as credible and high calibre through the professionalism of its staff. Saying that the grant was from BCEOHRN lent credibility to my research project.”

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 130 words

Discuss whether or not the Network was able to achieve what was planned in terms of mini-granting activities. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

BCEOHRN is pleased to be able to support its members by providing small grants that are unavailable through other avenues; members state with some regularity of the importance of these resources in developing capacity. In 2008 all funds allocated to these activities were allocated with some applications having to be turned away at the end of the year due to MSFHR guidelines on the cap of such funds.

SECTION 5 – NETWORK OUTCOMES

(indicators 3S1, 3M2, 3L1, 3L2, 4M1, 4L1)

5.1 Increased Research Capacity

5.1a Provide the requested percentages in the table below, where available.

Reporting Timeframes: When calculating percentages for indicators in the Outcomes table related to:

- increased skills (3S1) – the timeframe for data collection is a maximum of one year post skill enhancement activity;
- increased training opportunities (mentorship) (3L1) – the timeframe is January 1 – December 31, 2008;
- the granting of Network awards (3M2, 3L2, 4M1, 4L1) – the timeframe for data collection is a maximum of two years post receipt of the Network award.

Outcome Category			%	NB
Increased skills		% of Network members reporting actively using skills learned through Network initiatives	26%	Note 1
Increased opportunities for mentorship ⁴		% of junior Network members who state they are being mentored by senior members of the Network	97%	Note 2
		% of Network members who state they are mentoring junior members of the Network	28%	Note 2
Increased productivity	Award applications	% of Network researchers who identify one way that involvement in the Network has contributed to their grant applications	98%	Note 2
		% of Network award recipients who identify one way that the Network award contributed to non-HoPN grant applications	N/A	Note 2
		% of Network award recipients who identify one way that the Network award contributed to non-HoPN funded grants	N/A	Note 2
	Team formation	% of Network members who report forming research teams because of involvement in the Network	69%	Note 2
		% of teams formed through the Network who identify one way the Network involvement has contributed to non-HoPN grant applications	N/A	Note 2
	Multi-centre studies	% of Network members who identify one way the Network has contributed to participating in multi-centre studies	N/A	Note 2

⁴ See Glossary in Annual Report Guide for definition

5.1b Provide up to three (3) narrative examples related to each of the five (5) outcomes noted above. i.e. increased skills, increased opportunities for mentorship, facilitating award applications, facilitating team formation, and facilitating multi-centre studies. *Maximum 100 words each.*

Narratives from BCEOHRN members:

“Without the assistance of BCEOHRN, I would not be where I am today - pursuing a PhD in Occupational Health at UBC. BCEOHRN provided me with (a grant) to conduct a pilot study...which led to a WorkSafeBC grant in which I was co-investigator. We have just completed an operational grant application . (BCEOHRN) allows (members) to network and possibly collaborate with one another. I know that I have met two potential PhD Supervisory Committee members through the Network's membership database. The benefits of the research outcomes are immeasurable but unequivocally positive.”

- PhD Candidate, Vancouver

“BCEOHRN has been instrumental in facilitating my integration in the British Columbia (and Canadian) environmental and occupational health community. I have attended several BCEOHRN-sponsored meetings which have been great for networking and for learning about the latest in exposure assessment methods.”

-Junior Faculty Member, Vancouver

“Hello former members of the Board, I want to express my appreciation for the learning opportunity the network has afforded me over the last two years. I learned a tremendous amount about the internal workings of a research network and I was able to do it within the context of a very supportive group of people. So in essence I am saying thank you for allowing students on the board so we might learn valuable skills and information and do it within a comfortable environment”.

- Former Student Representative, BCEOHRN Board member, Victoria

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional relevant data/information on increased research capacity.

From the MSFHR survey:

a) Of the 26% of Network members reporting actively using skills learned through Network initiatives, the following areas are reported as new skills:

Newly Learned Skills in	Percent of respondents using skills (4-5 on Likert scale)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research methodology 	48%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge translation & exchange 	45%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant writing 	14%

b) With others met through BCEOHRN:

Proposals written	36%
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Proposals written - successfully funded	18%
Articles or research papers written	17%
Articles or research papers written - accepted for publication	10%

From the BCEOHRN survey, of the Network members reporting receiving a BCEOHRN Research Capacity Development grant, **34.3%** have applied for larger grants. Time-lags in applications and reporting deadlines make annual reporting alignment challenging.

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 530 words

Discuss whether or not the Network met expectations or targets for increasing research capacity including the outcome of mini-grants provided. If you were not able to achieve what was planned or expected, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

Note 1: Data from MSFHR survey.

Note 2: Data reported in 5.1a above was extrapolated from data collected from the BCEOHRN Members' Satisfaction Survey, winter 2008. To obtain data that directly correlates to these areas members would need to be surveyed using an instrument using this specific language, which was not available at the time of the BCEOHRN survey in the winter of 2007/08.

Narratives reported in 5.1b above were unsolicited, received from BCEOHRN members interested in expressing their positive impressions of BCEOHRN to its Board of Directors around research capacity – building activities.

SECTION 6 – LEVERAGING FINANCIAL AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

(indicator 5M3)

- 6.1** List and provide a brief description of the activities the Network has undertaken to seek and secure additional funding in 2008.
Maximum 100 words per activity.

Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session

In March 2008 the Board of Directors met to carry out strategic planning. At that meeting it was agreed to craft a job description with two main areas of responsibility: (i) financial sustainability for BCEOHRN; and, (ii) grant-writing support for BCEOHRN members.

Recruitment of Research Capacity Development Officer

In mid-2008 BCEOHRN advertised for and recruited a Research Capacity Development Officer (RCDO) with responsibility for sourcing funds beyond MSFHR to develop a sustainability plan for BCEOHRN's longevity.

Preliminary discussions with leadership

In late 2008 the RCDO, Executive Director and Scientific/Associate Scientific Directors met via WebEx to review potential options for further exploration, as developed by the RCDO. The issue carries forward to Board of Directors' deliberations and other activities in early January 2009 and beyond.

- 6.2 Complete the following tables with confirmed sources of (1) cash and (2) in-kind contributions received during 2008, excluding MSFHR funds. Include Host Institution and support received from all other sources.

2008 Cash Contributions	
Sources of Funds	Dollar Amount
(add additional rows to each year as required)	

2008 In-Kind Contributions		
Sources of In-Kind Contributions	Types of In-Kind Contribution	Estimated Dollar Amount
BC Cancer Agency	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Board member (staff member)	\$800
BCIT	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Review Panel member	\$500
Centre for Coastal Health	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Board Chair	\$1,900
Centre for Coastal Health	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Review Panel Chair	\$750
Interior Health	Meeting room & Audiovisual use for Water Special Interest Group workshops, June	\$2000
Northern Health	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Board member (staff member)	\$1,600
Northern Health	Administrative staff support for Northeast Research Group	\$5000
SFU	Use of listservs/labour to broadcast messages	\$500
SFU	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Board members (x2 faculty members)	\$3,200
SFU	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN 2010 Initiatives Working Group Chair	\$700
TRU	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Review Panel member	\$500
UBC	Office space, phone, copier, furniture for research capacity development officer	\$10,000
UBC	Administrative staff support for Associate Scientific Director	\$5,000
UBC	Use of listservs/labour to broadcast messages	\$500
UBC	Meeting room & Audiovisual use for Student and New Professionals Special Interest Group activities	\$1000
UBC	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Board members (x2 faculty members)	\$3,200
UNBC	Office space, phone, copier, furniture for regional support staffer	\$10,000
UNBC	Administrative staff support for Scientific Director	\$5,000
UNBC	IT support for UNBC owned computer equipment	\$500
UNBC	Use of listservs/labour to broadcast messages	\$500
UNBC	Volunteer hours on part of BCEOHRN Financial Officer	\$2,000
UNBC	Volunteer hours on part of Board members (x2 faculty members)	\$3,200
UVic	Volunteer hours on part of Board member	\$1,600
		\$59,150

Optional:

Maximum 120 words

Summary of additional data/information on additional funding.

Interpretation/Discussion/Implications

Maximum 400 words

Discuss whether or not the Network was able to achieve what was planned for Host Institutional and other support. If you were not able to achieve what was planned, explain why and how you are addressing this in 2009.

A new and experienced UNBC staffer was contracted in 2008 at 5 hours per week to act as BCEOHRN-UNBC administrative liaison. This change in staffing has improved processing outcomes with the Network's host institution which itself underwent significant staff changes in 2008.

BCEOHRN is fortunate to have benefited again in 2008 from many volunteer hours to continue to develop and deliver Network programs, grant applications reviews, governance and leadership. Without the generous support of our volunteers and their institutions, BCEOHRN would not enjoy its level of success. The Network continues to build relationships to increase its volunteer base from both members and those outside of network membership.

SECTION 7 – BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Provide details regarding your Network's actual expenditures for 2008. See Attachment 3, Tab #1 (2008 Budget Report Template) for instructions on completing the budget template.