

## Membership Benefits

- Assistance in developing programs and practices which follow relevant provincial and federal infection prevention and control standards (IPAC) and guidelines on a regional basis;
- Communication of, and where necessary, clarification and interpretation of IPAC standards, guidelines, and advisory statements ;
- Assistance in assessing IPAC resources, gaps and trends;
- Participation in developing regional priorities, strengthening IPAC programs and practices;
- Development of a process for use by members for evaluating their infection prevention and control programs and practices;
- In collaboration with Public Health Units and federal or First Nation jurisdictions, assistance in the development of outbreak management protocols and contingency plans for communicable disease emergencies;
- Development of process for standardized infection surveillance strategies;
- Ongoing and effective communication of the activities and any relevant outcomes of the NWOICN and other pertinent information and resources;

## Who we are

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Network Coordinator:      | Pat Piaskowski         |
| Medical Coordinator:      | Dr. Greg Gamble        |
| IC Consultant:            | Karen Clinker (Dryden) |
| Administrative Assistant: | Brandy Ponka           |

## Network Steering Committee

The NWOICN is guided by the direction of our Network Steering Committee. The committee is comprised of representation from across our geographic area and across the healthcare sector.

Membership of the NWOICN Steering Committee is representative of sectors, disciplines and expertise.

Members represent:

- Acute Care
- Non-acute
- Public Health
- Community
- First Nations
- Laboratory



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## What is the Regional Infection Control Network?

The Northwestern Ontario Infection Control Network (NWOICN) is part of the Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN) initiative of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). Regional Infection Control Networks have been created across Ontario to maximize coordination and integration of activities related to the prevention, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases across the health care continuum.



Northwestern Ontario

*Giving Health  
a Helping Hand*

## Our Mission, Vision & Values

### MISSION

The NWOICN will be the agent of change in coordinating, guiding and educating our partners in infection prevention and control in order to improve the health of all residents throughout Northwestern Ontario.

### VISION

The NWOICN will become a valued partner and a centre of excellence in infection prevention and control within the province.

### VALUES

- Sustainable
- Partnership Driven
- Culturally Diverse
- Collaborative/Innovative
- Respectful

## Who can access the resources of the Infection Control Network?

All Health Care Providers can use the resources available through the Infection Control Network:

Healthcare providers include:

- Hospital Staff
- Long-Term Care Staff
- Emergency Medical Services
- Community and Home Healthcare Providers and services agencies
- Public Health Staff
- Community Mental Health Staff
- Students in Healthcare Programs

..... *To mention a few!*

## What We Offer.....

### Resources:

Comprehensive infection prevention and control (IPAC) reference library.

- Videoconference/teleconference education sessions.

### Meeting Space:

We are equipped with videoconferencing equipment and a meeting room for IPAC activities.

### Newsletter:

Our newsletter is called "FOCUS on IPAC" and provides updates on Network activities and other resource links and information.

### Advice and Consultation:

We are available to provide advice, resources and consultation to health care providers and infection prevention and control professionals on a variety of Infection Prevention and Control topics. Do you have a puzzling Infection Control question or dilemma? Call our office or send it to us via e-mail.

### Regional Infection Control Network (R.I.C.N.) Website

The website is located at [www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca). On this site you will find:

- Specific NWOICN information
- Information on other networks
- Strategic plans and annual reports
- Links to Provincial and other best practice document

*"Your one-stop for current infection prevention and control information."*