

HRAI Expert Advisory Panel on Indoor Air-Quality to Address Virus Transmission in Ventilation

Toronto, October 22, 2020 -- HRAI has established an Expert Advisory Panel on Indoor Air Quality in commercial and institutional buildings. With businesses, educational institutions and governments all trying to understand the most efficient and safest ways to return to near-normal conditions that will support the social and economic well-being of Canadians over the months ahead this group will produce easy-to-use and understand materials on the best practices currently in place to limit the transmission of COVID-19 through HVAC systems.

Over the past few months, governments at all levels, as well as school boards, and commercial business operators consulted a limited pool of knowledge to make choices about re-opening facilities following months of physical distancing restrictions. The HRAI panel will help to make the needed technical information more accessible and readily available. Understanding and addressing ventilation concerns can help to ensure safety while resuming more regular activities during the pandemic. Following the pandemic, any new investments or improvements will continue to provide benefits by making living and working environments healthier, as a result making families and workers more comfortable and productive.

Chaired by **Joe Muchynski**, Arvin Air Systems, and member of the Contractors Division Board, the panel includes members from each of the three member divisions as well as representatives from the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the National Research Council (NRC), the University of Toronto and University of Alberta, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI).

“Over the months ahead our team will work together to make sure Canadians have better information about the risks of transmission in an array of environments and conditions,” said Chair Muchynski. “We want to ensure business owners, building managers, and institutional administrators can confidently assess risks and make good choices for indoor environments while navigating the impacts of the pandemic.”

The panel includes the following individuals:

David Barnes (P.Eng.), Biocontainment Engineer, Public Health Agency of Canada

Gerry Cellucci, Vice President, Yorkland Controls and Environmental Solutions

Francis Dietz, Vice President, Public Affairs, Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)

Rick Ellul, Regional Sales Manager, Belimo AirControls (Canada) Inc.

Rob Ferris, Sales Manager, Johnstone Supply – B&B Trade Distribution Centre

Niss Feiner, Delta-T Design (Council Secretariat)

Dr. Brian Fleck (Ph.D.), Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Alberta

Bala Gnaman, Vice President, Energy, Environment & Advocacy, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA-Toronto)

Corey Green, Senior Epidemiologist, COVID-19 Response-Public Health Measures, Public Health Agency of Canada

Allan Haybarger, President, Canadian General Filters Ltd.

Kyle Larkin, Vice President, Impact Public Affairs

Martin Luymes, Vice President, Government and Stakeholder Relations, HRAI-Canada

Sandy MacLeod, President and CEO, HRAI-Canada

Jim McAughey, Vice President, Standard Mechanical Ltd.

Joseph Muchynski, Vice President, Arvin Air Systems (Council Chair)

Dr. Boualem Ouazia (Ph.D.), Research Officer, the National Research Council of Canada

Joel Primeau (P.Eng), J.L. Richards

Dr. Jeffrey Siegel (Ph.D.), Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Toronto

Joe Tanelli (P.Eng), Director of Engineering Science and Support, Public Health Agency of Canada

David Underwood (P.Eng.), retired, Isotherm Engineering, Distinguished Lecturer and Past International President, ASHRAE

ABOUT HRAI

HRAI-Canada is the national trade association for the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry, representing over 1,250 member companies across the country. HRAI's members include manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors who collectively employ tens of thousands of skilled trade professionals across the country and contribute more than \$12B annually to the Canadian economy. HRAI also provides technician certification training that is recognized throughout Canada.

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