

NEWS RELEASE:

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CHICA and Virox Introduce New Scholarship for national Education Conference

Infection control professionals (ICP) are faced with the growing challenges of preventing, tracking, and treating infections in our health care system. Virox believes education is the cornerstone to furthering the infection control profession. With current budgetary restrictions facing ICP's Virox has taken the initiative to make education more accessible to the profession. On June 2 2002 CHICA Canada and Virox announced the **Virox Patron Member Scholarship program**. This program will provide funding for professionals to attend Community and Hospital Infection Control Association's (CHICA) national education conference. In it's first year \$15,000 will be raised through Virox and its affiliated companies to support this cause meaning up to 8 ICPs will be eligible to attend next years conference in Thunder Bay. Details on the program will be available soon; look for them on our web site at www.viroxtech.com or CHICA's site at www.chica.org

About CHICA

CHICA - Canada is a national, multi-disciplinary, voluntary association of **Infection control professionals** (ICPs) committed to improving the health of Canadians by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control. Infection control professionals come from many different backgrounds within the health care field. These include disciplines such as nursing, medicine, microbiology, medical technology and epidemiology. Certification in Infection Control (CIC) is also available by passing an examination set by the Certification Board of Infection Control. CHICA-Canada endorses this certification. The Canadian Council on Health Facilities Accreditation requires all accredited hospitals to have systems in place to ensure provision of infection control activities. Within hospital and other health care facilities, Infection Control Professionals are responsible for keeping abreast of all current infection control standards and practices. They must ensure that these practices are implemented and the standards maintained within their institutions. This is done by orientation and continuing education of health care workers, consultation, surveillance and coordination of results. Infection Control Professionals maintain a strong liaison with public.