

Profiles in Kidney Care – July 2008

Profiles in Kidney Care -- Introducing Keith Whitmore, Senior Director of the BC Renal Agency

BCPRA welcomes Keith Whitmore to the role of senior director. Starting July 2nd, Keith is responsible for the overall management of BCPRA's finances, operations and business planning. In this role, he will work closely with the health authority renal programs as well as PHSA and the Ministry of Health.

No stranger to health care, Keith most recently was director of business processes for Vancouver Coastal Health Supply Chain, which provides centralized services for the acquisition of all supplies and equipment for the health authority. His previous positions include client services manager of health care services for the Workers' Compensation Board of BC, planning coordinator for the Fraser-Burrard Hospital Society, and director of biomedical engineering for that same organization.

Keith says he is intrigued by BCPRA's provincial mandate and network model, and he looks forward to working with the kidney community. "Because I'm a clinical engineer, I'm fascinated by the dialysis technology – but I really appreciate the psychosocial elements of kidney care as well, and understand the need for strong partnerships among all organizations involved."

During his 20 years working in health care he has managed facilities planning, strategic planning, equipment planning and operations (including biomedical engineering/clinical and diagnostic imaging, finance/accounting/accounts payable, dialysis technicians and purchasing).

Keith holds professional engineer, certified general accountant, and certified health executive designations. His professional career is complemented by a diverse educational background that began with a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, undertaken at the University of Alberta.

A National Research Council scholarship allowed Keith to immediately pursue a Master's degree in electrical/biomedical engineering. While working on his MSc thesis, he developed an interest in business, and undertook a Master's in Business Administration concurrently.

Rather than plunge right into work after all his schooling, he took a break and spent ten months travelling: "Australia, Cook Islands, Thailand, Hong Kong, Beijing, Japan – I basically covered the Pacific Rim," he says.

It was the Fraser Burrard Hospital Society job that brought Keith to BC from Edmonton. "The job, but also the fact that I had always wanted to make BC my home," he says. He lives in Burnaby with his wife Trudy and three children: 20-year-old Sara who is currently doing a term of her Bachelor's degree at Leicester University in the UK; 18-year-old Daryl, in a general studies program at SFU, and 13-year-old Paul, just finished Grade 8. Travel is still among Keith's pastimes, as is gardening, and playing both hockey and soccer.



BCPRA welcomes Keith Whitmore to the role of Senior Director.