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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Food Premises in Peterborough Area Latest to be Contacted by Imposter Public Health Inspectors**

#### ***Community Advised to Check Photo ID or Call Health Unit to Verify Identity***

**Friday, June 11, 2010, Peterborough**

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is advising caution to local food premises following recent incidents involving individuals fraudulently posing as public health inspectors.

So far, the Health Unit is aware of two local food premises that have been contacted by a person claiming to be public health inspector. In one case, a restaurant manager received a telephone call from an individual claiming to be an inspector from the Health Unit, and said that they would be coming to the restaurant for a re-inspection. They asked for the manager's cell phone number so that they could send her a 5-digit code. The manager declined and asked the caller for the Health Unit's phone number so they could call back instead. The caller did not know the Health Unit's phone number, and gave an invalid number.

"We are concerned to see this happening in our area," said Tom Cathcart, Manager of Inspection Programs for the Health Unit. "Food premises operators who are visited by someone they do not recognize who is claiming to be a Health Unit employee should ask to see photo ID. If they do not recognize a telephone caller who is claiming to be from the Health Unit, they can call the Health Unit at 743-1000 to verify their identity."

Both incidents have been reported to the police. Food premises operators who receive calls from inspectors they suspect could be imposters should report them to the police.

These local incidents are similar to others that have occurred elsewhere in the province. These individuals are requesting to schedule an inspection of the premise, requesting detailed business and personal information from the owner/operator, and are requesting a call back to confirm the personal information through the use of a unique code number. Local police departments are investigating these incidents and are working with the health units to advise local operators of this issue.

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**For further information, please contact:**

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