

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 20, 2011, Peterborough

Board of Health Wants Trained Food Handlers Made Mandatory at Local Food Premises

City and County Councils Asked to Consider Bylaw

Last night the Board of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit endorsed a draft bylaw on mandatory food handler training. This bylaw will be presented to councils of the City and County of Peterborough for further review and discussion.

“Educating staff that handle food in food premises has been shown to improve inspection results and reduce food borne illness,” said Chris Eaton, Public Health Inspector with the Health Unit. “We have offered the Food Handler Training and Certification Course for over ten years now and still find some food premises out there that do not have certified food handlers on staff. This bylaw would require that at least one certified food handler be present at all times when food is being prepared.”

A certified food handler is someone who has completed the Food Handler Training and Certification Course offered by the health unit or an equivalent course. If passed by both councils, the bylaw would apply to all moderate and high risk food premises in the City and County of Peterborough.

Moderate and high risk food premises include restaurants, take-outs, supermarkets, banquet facilities, nursing homes, retirement homes, daycares, chip trucks and hot dog carts. Premises which do not prepare food but simply store and sell food such as convenience stores would be exempt from the bylaw.

Other jurisdictions which have passed similar bylaws include the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford and London, as well as Niagara Region and parts of Essex County.

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit remains one of only a few health units in Ontario who continue to offer Food Handler Training and Certification Courses

NEWS RELEASE

Communications Office

Peterborough County-City Health Unit
10 Hospital Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M1
(705) 743-1000, ext. 391
www.pcchu.ca



to residents free of charge. Individuals or businesses wishing to take the Food Handler Training and Certification Course should call the Health Unit at (705) 743-1000.

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For further information contact:

Chris Eaton
Public Health Inspector
(705) 743-1000 ex. 225