

Communications Office
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
10 Hospital Drive
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(705) 743-1000, ext. 391
www.pcchu.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 20, 2011 Peterborough

Food Premises in Peterborough Area Contacted by Imposter Public Health Inspector

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

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is advising caution to local food premises following a recent incident involving an individual fraudulently posing as a public health inspector.

Today the Health Unit learned about a local food premise that was contacted by a person claiming to be public health inspector. The restaurant manager received a telephone call from an individual claiming to be from the "Health Department". The man asked the manager for a secret code and said he would like to schedule an inspection appointment for the following week. The man also asked the manager for his cell phone number, which the manager declined. When the manager asked the caller where he was calling from and what his name was, he hung up.

This incident was reported to the police. Food premises operators who receive calls from inspectors they suspect could be imposters should report them immediately to the police.

Public health inspectors employed by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit seldom call in advance to schedule an inspection. They always carry photo identification and will produce it upon request.

It is a criminal offence to impersonate a public officer.

Food premises owners and operators should not give out any personal, private, or secure information to anyone without confirming the person's identity.

Food premises owners and operators are asked to call the Peterborough County-City Health Unit at 705-743-1000 for more information about the fraudulent inspectors or to report similar incidents.

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.

NEWS RELEASE

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For further information, please contact:

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