



Perth District  
Health Unit

## Health Unit Releases Results of 2009 Tobacco Retailer Test Shopping

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

**Perth County** – Every year, the Perth District Health Unit conducts test shopping of all Perth County tobacco retailers to make sure they are not selling cigarettes to anyone under the age of 19.

In 2009, the Perth District Health Unit conducted two rounds of test shopping with Perth County tobacco retailers. The first round had a compliance rate of 95 percent with only three sales to minors. The second round, which was conducted later in the year, “was disappointing,” according to Lionel Belanger, Tobacco Enforcement Officer. “Compliance rate dropped to only 87 percent with eight sales to minors.”

Under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under 19 years of age. Before selling tobacco to any person who appears to be less than 25 years old, a retailer must request identification and be satisfied that the person is at least 19 years old. An individual that sells tobacco products to minors is subject to a set fine of \$300 for a first offence.

Rounds of test shopping will occur in 2010 and preventing youth access to tobacco products will continue to be a priority for the Perth District Health Unit. “We will continue to provide education and assistance to tobacco vendors regarding the SFOA,” said Belanger. “In doing so, we hope that compliance rates will improve for the year ahead.”

For more information, call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext 267. Listowel area residents call 1-877-271-7348 ext 267.

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