

# Environmental Health Week Celebrates Work of Local Professionals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Perth County** — Every day we experience environments that we expect to be safe and healthy. This includes the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe and the water we swim or play in. Protecting and promoting healthy environments is the work and service performed by our local Public Health Inspectors.

From January 18 to 22, 2010, the Perth District Health Unit is celebrating Environmental Public Health Week. This special week is celebrated across Canada to recognize the important work of all environmental health professionals. This year's theme is "Hygiene: An Approach to Life" and encourages everyone to start with the basics by making sure you wash your hands; a simple habit that was strongly encouraged during the H1N1 virus pandemic to ensure a healthy environment.

"Much of our Public Health Inspectors' work includes conducting inspections and investigations, gathering evidence and enforcing legislation," said Donna Taylor, Director of Health Protection. "I want to congratulate them for their dedication and commitment to protecting the health and safety of Perth County residents."

At the Perth District Health Unit Public Health Inspectors provide services in:

- Food safety
- Drinking water quality
- Recreational water quality
- Personal services settings (tattoo, piercing, electrolysis, etc.)
- Childcare and Long-Term Care Homes
- Air quality
- Health hazard investigation
- Outbreak management
- Communicable disease investigation and control, including rabies and West Nile virus
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Environmental health education and advocacy

"Working as a Public Health Inspector is very diverse and rewarding" said Stephanie Carlisle, Public Health Inspector. "We work with many local agencies and organizations and tackle a wide variety of concerns". To learn more about environmental public health and how to become a Public Health Inspector, visit the Canadian Institute for Public Health Inspectors on the web at [www.ciphi.ca](http://www.ciphi.ca) or call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext 267. Listowel area residents call 1-877-271-7348 ext 267. Or visit [www.pdhu.on.ca](http://www.pdhu.on.ca).

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