

**News Release June 9, 2010**

**Toronto Public Health warns of fraudulent restaurant inspectors**

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is warning restaurant operators about individuals fraudulently posing as restaurant inspectors.

TPH has received inquiries in the last two weeks from more than 30 food premise operators, all of whom have been contacted by callers claiming to be health inspectors. The callers attempt to schedule onsite inspections, and request detailed business and personal information from the owner/operator. The callers also request a return call to confirm the personal information through the use of a unique code number.

Reports of similar incidents have occurred across Ontario and British Columbia.

If you are contacted by someone attempting to schedule an inspection and asking for personal information, contact your local police department, said Jim Chan, Healthy Environments Manager for Toronto Public Health. Legitimate public health inspectors do not call ahead to schedule inspections. In most cases, inspections are unannounced.

Chan added that restaurant operators can also contact TPH at 416-338-7600 to verify the identity of an inspector. TPH Inspectors carry a badge and photo identification card.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents. For information about non-emergency City services and programs, Toronto residents, businesses and visitors can dial 311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Media contact: Susan Sperling, Toronto Public Health, 416-338-7974, [ssperli@toronto.ca](mailto:ssperli@toronto.ca)