

Media Release

June 8, 2010



FRAUDULENT RESTAURANT HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has been made aware that there is someone fraudulently impersonating a "Health Inspector" by contacting local restaurants by telephone to schedule an inspection. This has been occurring throughout the province. **The impersonation of a public officer is a criminal offence.**

Food premises operators have been contacted by phone by individuals alleging to be a "public health official". These individuals are requesting to schedule an inspection of the premises, 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.

The Health Unit would like to remind restaurant staff not to give out any personal, private or secure information over the telephone to any caller whose identity they are not certain of. This is a type of criminal fraudulent activity known in other jurisdictions and is now affecting this area.

Please be advised that Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit inspectors do not request any personal information for the purpose of scheduling or conducting inspections. Health Unit staff always carry picture identification and will produce it upon request. **Restaurant owners and operators are advised to contact the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit if they receive these calls.** This matter will then be reported to the police department.

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