

## City Proclaims Environmental Public Health Week

**Parksville, BC** – Mayor Marc Lefebvre has proclaimed the week of September 21 to 25 as "*Environmental Public Health Week*" in the City of Parksville.

Celebrated for the past 12 years, Environmental Public Health Week recognizes the important work that Environmental Public Health Professionals (EHPs) such as public health inspectors, environmental health officers and other allied environmental public health occupations across Canada carry out in our communities. The week is also an opportunity to improve awareness of our profession within the public health family and amongst the general public.

This year's theme is "looking back, moving forward: building on 100 years of success". EHPs are health advocates; promoting public health in its broadest form. Public health is influenced by many factors outside of the health care system and responding to a society's changing needs is vital when preparing to face the future. New challenges to public health emerge all of the time and a strong system is built both on its past successes and the reduction of the burden of illness in the near and distant future.

Within the Canadian spectrum of health care, EHPs are an integral and important component. The opportunity for health begins where we live, work and play. Public health advances such as safer and healthier foods, control of infectious diseases, healthier environments and the recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard have contributed significantly to Canadians living longer. The commitment and leadership in activities that address the broad determinants of health has never been stronger.

EHPs work within federal, provincial and local governments, First Nation Tribal Councils and within the private sector and are involved in inspection, enforcement and education in a wide range of programs and services, including but not limited to food safety, recreational water, healthcare and childcare facilities, personal service settings, drinking water systems, land use planning, sewage system evaluation, air quality analysis, radon strategies, school safety and the implementation of controls on disease and health hazards.

Mayor Marc Lefebvre said, "The valuable inspection and education services provided by environmental public health professionals in our community help our residents stay safe and healthy. We are pleased to recognize the Environmental Public Health Week initiative."

More information about the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors can be found on their website at <http://www.ciphi.ca>.

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**For more information:**

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