

NEWS RELEASE

Turn on Your Tap if You Want to Fight Cancer

SYDNEY, APRIL 1, 2010 – More than 1,000 Nova Scotians have helped forge a new front in the fight against cancer by providing a sample of their drinking water. Four thousand more volunteers are needed — and the time to act is now.

“The data collected in this study is part of the Atlantic Path, and it will be used to map arsenic levels across the province,” explains Dr. Louise Parker, principal investigator. Once arsenic levels are mapped, researchers will obtain cancer rate information and analyze the data to look for correlations between drinking water and cancer.

Arsenic occurs naturally in some rock types — including much of the rock underlying Nova Scotia communities — and can leach into drinking water from drilled or dug wells. High levels of arsenic are known to cause cancer, particularly kidney, bladder, lung, and skin cancer. Are Nova Scotians consuming high-enough levels of arsenic to hurt us? Is this part of the reason our cancer rates are higher than average? These are questions the arsenic study will help answer — with the support of individuals across the province.

In Cape Breton, volunteers will have until April 23rd to take part in the Atlantic Path study by visiting the assessment centre in Sydney. In the Halifax area, the assessment centre will be open until the end of June. People who have already picked up a sample bottle are reminded to return it before the closing date.

The Atlantic Path, the largest cancer study ever undertaken in Atlantic Canada, is part of the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project, a \$42-million national study funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. “The overall goal is to gain a better understanding of cancer and other diseases,” says Dr. Parker, “with the hope of reducing rates for future generations.”

For more information, please go to www.atlanticpath.ca or call (toll free) 1-877-285-7284.

—30—

For more information, to arrange an interview, or for a photo of arsenic in rock, please contact:

Donalee Moulton
(P) 902-443-9600
quantum@eastlink.ca