rpc
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
921 College Hill Rd. Fredericton, NB Canada E3B 6Z9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High Radon Readings a Concern in New Brunswick

Fredericton, January 9, 2012 - Radon test results are showing some readings well beyond Health Canada guidelines. Thelma Green, Air Quality Manager with RPC, notes, “We have seen some homes with levels exceeding 1000 becquerels per cubic meter; the acceptable maximum is 200 becquerels per cubic meter”.

Research has linked long term radon gas exposure to lung cancer identifying it as the second leading cause after smoking. Radon is an invisible and odorless radioactive gas which is naturally emitted from decaying uranium in the earth’s surface. The gas rises and dissipates unless it accumulates in an enclosed area such as a basement. Radon gas rises through the soil and seeps through cracks, holes, clay basements and drain pipes in the foundations of homes and buildings. Since your home is typically at a lower pressure than outdoors, radon gas can be drawn in through openings. In areas with limited ventilation, concentrations can build up beyond allowable limits.

RPC has completed hundreds of radon gas tests throughout New Brunswick and offers three options for testing: a 48-hour test, a three-month test and a continuous monitoring test. Testing is economical ($50). Test kits with detailed instructions are available from RPC. Homeowners place the detector in their home as instructed, then return it to RPC after the specified time. Analysis and reporting is completed at RPC’s laboratory in Fredericton by trained technicians.

Radio Canada recently reported on radon gas including an interview with Thelma Green. The story is available at the following link:

http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/atlantique/2012/01/06/009-etude-radon-nouveau-brunswick.shtml

For more information about radon gas contact Thelma Green at 506.452.0586, or visit http://www.rpc.ca.

About RPC
RPC is New Brunswick’s provincial research organization (PRO), an independent contract research and development and technical services organization located in Fredericton, NB. RPC’s complement of 98 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, comprehensive life science capabilities, an internationally recognized fish health lab, extensive prototype design, manufacturing and testing services, and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products.

RPC is accredited by various organizations including the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is ISO 9001:2008 certified. Further information about RPC’s services is available from http://www.rpc.ca.

RPC Contact:
Eric Cook
Executive Director/CEO
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)
921 College Hill Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 6Z9
506 452-1212