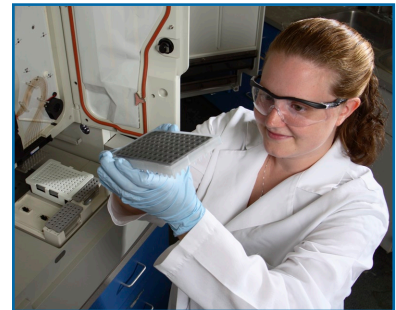


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **RPC Launches Forensic Biology Lab: First Lab in Canada to be Accredited for Wildlife Forensics**

Fredericton, April 22, 2009 - RPC, New Brunswick's Provincial Research Organization, has recently received accreditations for DNA analysis from the Standards Council of Canada and today announced the launch of their Forensic Biology Lab services.

Over the last twenty years, RPC has developed DNA capabilities in support of New Brunswick's aquaculture sector and have established world-class services that have helped the industry flourish. Building on this expertise and capability, RPC has worked with subject matter experts to develop wildlife forensic capabilities, and more recently, human paternity testing. Eric Cook, CEO of RPC, sees the new capability as significant progress in expanding New Brunswick's capabilities in life science. "Life science is a sector with significant growth potential and RPC is very pleased to continue expanding the many accredited science services that we are offering from our Fredericton labs."



The forensic services for wildlife include capabilities for species identification, DNA fingerprinting and gender typing with direct applications to assist wildlife enforcement and protection and as a service to wildlife researchers. Human services include relationship analysis for paternity testing, maternal testing and sibling analysis. The analysis and reporting are all completed at RPC's lab in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Dr. Rachael Ritchie is the Department Head responsible for the forensic lab. "This service will be of value to law enforcement agencies, lawyers, government, the research community and private citizens."

DNA science has been made famous through television crime shows. The shows sometimes oversimplify the process which actually requires a rigid quality assurance process, comprehensive chain of custody procedures for handling samples and rigorous management of data to protect confidentiality. To ensure adequacy of these processes, RPC has obtained accreditation from the Standards Council of Canada who independently audits the service. RPC's complete scope of accreditation is available publically at [http://palcan.scc.ca/specs/pdf/28\\_e.pdf](http://palcan.scc.ca/specs/pdf/28_e.pdf)

Information on forensic biology services, including the ordering of sampling kits, is available at: <http://www.rpc.ca/english/FBL/index.html>

#### **About RPC**

RPC is New Brunswick's Provincial Research Organization (PRO) providing SME's with contract R&D and technical services. RPC's complement of 100 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, extensive prototype design, manufacture and testing services and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products.

#### **RPC Contacts:**

Eric Cook  
Executive Director/CEO  
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)  
Tel: 506 452-1212  
[www.rpc.ca](http://www.rpc.ca)

Dr. Rachael Ritchie  
Dept. Head, Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)  
Tel: 506 452-1212  
[www.rpc.ca](http://www.rpc.ca)