



## **Background Information – Environmental Health, and the Atlantic RURAL Centre’s Environmental Health Laboratory**

Environmental health science is the public health discipline that seeks to understand the impacts and relationships between environmental exposures and human health. This includes research in the areas of:

- Air, water & land pollution and human health,
- Occupational health & safety,
- The built environment, including indoor air quality, neighbourhood structures and health,
- Safe food and water supplies and health,
- Environmentally mediated infectious disease
- Risk assessment and management, policies and legislation related to human health
- Climate change and human health

These examples highlight the important and highly worthwhile nature of environmental health research.

Clearly, Environmental Health is truly trans-disciplinary research area and can also involve chemistry, physics, engineering, geography, geology, economics, psychology, sociology, law and of course political sciences.

The research focus of the new Atlantic RURAL Centre Environmental Health Laboratory is the assessment of biological, chemical and physical toxic agents in our air, water, land and food in support of research initiatives being conducted by the Centre. It will serve as the home for a planned network of university research facilities located in our partnering institutions in the region. The Environmental Health Laboratory is currently conducting air quality research in indoor and outdoor environments, and personal occupational exposure to air pollutants. In the near future the research capacity will expand to investigate the multimedia exposure to toxic agents in the, soil, ground water and drinking water.

The Atlantic RURAL Centre Environmental Health Laboratory will provide opportunities to train graduate students in environmental health scientific methods, including laboratory and field research techniques, air quality monitoring and exposure assessment science. These skill sets are in high demand by government agencies and in industry.