



## **Radon Gas Mitigation in Buildings:**

As part of the program, a builder must put in place one of three radon gas mitigation options when constructing a new low-rise residential dwelling in Perth East:

- Option #1: a rough-in soil gas pipe and mandatory radon gas testing
- Option #2: a soil gas barrier on the foundation walls and basement floor slab, with voluntary radon gas testing
- Option #3: a soil gas barrier on the foundation walls, and an active sub-slab depressurization system, with voluntary radon gas testing

Based on the radon gas mitigation option chosen by the builder, a home is subject to either mandatory or voluntary long-term radon gas testing. All radon gas testing will consist of long-term tests (minimum 91 days) completed during the winter season, when windows and doors are generally closed, and must be carried out by a **Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP)** certified professional. Results from the Radon Testing are to be submitted to the Perth East Building Department prior to release of final deposits for building permits.

The Township also requires all low-rise residential additions that exceed 20 metres square and multi-residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings to be designed and constructed in accordance with the radon standards in the Ontario Building Code.

The Ontario Building Code regulates new construction only and does not contain retrofit requirements for radon gas.

To learn more about radon gas testing and mitigation in existing buildings, including houses, apartment buildings, schools, malls and offices, please contact the **Perth District Health Unit** or **Health Canada**.

## **About radon gas**

Radon is a colourless, odourless and tasteless radioactive gas that forms when uranium in soil, rock and water breaks down. Radon gas seeps into homes and buildings through cracks and holes in floors and foundations.

According to Health Canada, long-term exposure to radon is linked to roughly 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths in Canada, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Canada's radon guideline is 200 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m<sup>3</sup>).

## **For more information**

### **Paul Hillenaar, CBCO**

Acting CBO

Township of Perth East Building Department

519-595-2800 extension 244

[phillenaar@pertheast.ca](mailto:phillenaar@pertheast.ca)