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Date: July 9, 2008

Subject: **Why Barns Are Red: Health Risks from Lead and Their Prevention**

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In 1995, the Lead Awareness Project, a collaboration of the former Metropolitan Toronto Teaching Health Units and the South Riverdale Community Health Centre, published the resource manual titled *Why Barns Are Red: Health Risks from Lead and Their Prevention*.

This comprehensive manual was intended for use by staff in health units, community health centres and environmental health agencies in Ontario who deal with lead issues in their respective communities. The manual was designed to provide background information and to allow local communities to customize their approach to public concerns and enquiries regarding lead environmental hazards. It has also been useful for promoting awareness of the health impacts of lead and ways to eliminate exposure.

The information in the manual is organized in three parts:

**Section 1: All About Lead** provides background information on lead and its human health effects, the nature and extent of the problem and the multimedia exposure pathways for lead.

**Section 2: What to Do When the Phone Rings** provides information to respond to public enquiries regarding specific environmental lead hazards (such as lead in drinking water). This section includes generic information intended to help the user design factsheets, slideshows, overheads, displays and other information resources which can be customized for use in specific communities.

**Section 3: Taking Action** provides information regarding the proactive activities which may be used to reduce exposure to, and mobilize public concern about, environmental lead hazards. This section provides information on resources that you may need in order to be as effective as possible at public communication.

**Given that some of the information contained in the manual is not current, it is no longer available on the City of Toronto website. If you would like to access the original report, please contact the Environmental Protection Office of Toronto Public Health at 416-392-6788.**