



Letter to Parents/Guardians

Date: _____

Dear parents/guardians,

Your child's science class has the privilege of being able to participate in a citizen science project with the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics at the University of Guelph, Ontario. Through this project the students will have the opportunity to contribute real data to a project about food fraud. A Canadian study published in 2011 found that 25 to 41 percent of the fish samples sent in from cities across Canada were mislabelled (what the fish was called on the package or sign was not what the fish actually was). To continue work in this area, Let's Talk Science and the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics are working with high school teachers and students to collect samples of fish from local retail outlets. This is where you come in – we need your help.

As part of the project, your child will need to obtain a sample of fish from a local grocery store or fish market. It can be fresh raw fish (such as from the fresh fish counter) or frozen raw fish, but in either case, the fish should not be breaded or have any spices or sauce. Please do not use fish which is canned or vacuum-packaged in foil pouches. For the project, your child only needs **one pea-sized piece of fish**, so you do not need to buy a large piece of fish (unless you want to!). Please make sure that someone in your family eats the remainder of the fish not needed for the project in order to avoid food wastage.

Your child will need to cut off the piece of fish (using a **clean** knife or scissors) and put it into the vial provided.

Your child will also be asked to collect some data about where and when the fish was purchased, as well as the fish packaging and display signs. He/she will be required to input this data into an online form. The web link will be provided by his/her teacher.

We are very excited to participate in this project and look forward to finding out if the fish we collect are really what they say they are!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation in this project, please contact me at:

Sincerely,