



NEWS RELEASE

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First Charges Laid Following Complete Smoking Ban at Peterborough Regional Health Centre

Wednesday, September 29, 2010, Peterborough

Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) and the Peterborough County-City Health Unit announced today that the first charges have been laid since City Council passed the new by-law in June banning smoking on all hospital property.

Infraction tickets were issued to individuals in August on three separate occasions. Individuals who stand charged of smoking in a prohibited area could face either fines totaling \$305 or a Summons to appear in court.

“There is no safe level of second-hand smoke exposure, so enforcing this by-law is an important step forward in the protection of public health for our community,” said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health for the Health Unit. “We commend both PRHC and the City of Peterborough for their leadership role in extending the smoking ban beyond the nine-meter radius surrounding any entrances or exits to include the entire hospital property.”

“The hospital believes that the set fine ticket is a vital enforcement tool to reach our goal of becoming a truly smoke free campus. We are grateful for the support we are receiving from the Health Unit and the City of Peterborough as we work towards fulfilling our commitment to our patients, staff, physicians, volunteers, and visitors that they will have a smoke-free environment in which to work and be provided care,” said Jonathan Bennett, Director, Communications, Corporate Planning and CCO.

The by-law makes entire hospital property smoke-free, including the grounds, parking lots and other outdoor areas. Training of PRHC security staff in tobacco enforcement by the Health Unit is continuing.

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