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PRHC Applauds new smoking By-Law

Smokers face ticketing at PRHC

Peterborough, ON: Patients, visitors or staff who smoke on Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) property could face a fine now that Peterborough City Council extended the “Smoking By-Law” to PRHC property.

The amendment prohibits smoking on all hospital property including parking lots. Anyone who violates the by-law could be ticketed and fined.

The Board and administration of PRHC, as well as the Peterborough City County Health Unit (PCCHU) are supportive of this new by-law.

PRHC has had a smoke-free property policy in place since May 2008.

“PRHC’s Board set this direction two years ago – as a provider of health care it is our responsibility to promote health and healthy choices wherever we can,” says PRHC CEO, Ken Tremblay. Tremblay readily admits however that people have continued to smoke on hospital property.

“We receive regular complaints about smokers,” says Tremblay. “This by-law and the enforcement training provided by the Health Unit will allow tickets to be issued this summer. Hopefully this will finally change people’s behaviour.”

According to research, Hospitals that ban smoking increase the number of patients who attempt to quit, increase use of nicotine replacement, and decrease patient’s daily cigarette consumption. First and second hand smoke are known to cause cancer.

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