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NEWS RELEASE

County Walks the Talk on Health and Safety

Picton ON – Two important events took place at the County of Prince Edward Council meeting on March 10, 2008. One was a presentation from the Honorable Steven W. Mahoney, Chair of the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) following which Council adopted the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's Health and Safety Charter. The second was a presentation from Bill Blackborow, President and CEO of the Municipal Health & Safety Association recognizing the H.J. McFarland Home's achievement of a full year without a lost time injury.

Mr. Blackborow advised Council of the significant health and safety challenges faced by Homes for the Aged and congratulated the McFarland Home workers on their safe work practices and their focus on health and safety.

Chair Mahoney also recognized the County's efforts and achievements in improving health and safety of its workers, stating that the County 'walks the talk'. He highlighted how Council could be a leader in promoting health and safety in the community and expressed his appreciation on the adoption of the Charter. In signing the Charter, Council endorsed the following principles:

- Council accepts that all injuries are preventable in our community's workplaces
- Council supports those managers who are responsible and accountable for workplace safety in out community's workplaces
- Council supports continuous improvement of workplace health and safety practices in order to achieve excellent safety performance in our community's workplaces
- Council supports the principle that safety must be a condition of employment in our community's workplaces
- Council acknowledges that workplace safety is good business and sustained injury prevention adds to our community's economic competitive advantage
- Council accepts off-the-job safety as an integral part of our community's overall health and safety effort
- Council supports employers who integrate workplace safety as a core value of their company, its management and employees
- Council accepts that acknowledged safety deficiencies require immediate action to eliminate hazards in our community's workplaces
- Council accepts that eliminating all workplace hazards may be challenging but that effective safeguards can and must be implemented to eliminate injuries and/or occupational illnesses in our community's workplaces.

"Health and safety is a personal priority for me as Mayor of this municipality," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "We have made great strides in improving our record and intend to keep striving for an accident-free workplace. I want to encourage our employers to recognize that workplace safety is good business and contributes, not only to the welfare of the employers, but to their employees and the families who live and work in Prince Edward County."