

The Corporation of the
County of Prince Edward



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NEWS RELEASE

Province asked to regulate Indoor Tanning Facilities

PICTON ON – Following calls from the Canadian Cancer Society, the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit and the Prince Edward Family Health Team to take steps to regulate Indoor Tanning Salons, the Prince Edward County Council has raised the issue with the Province of Ontario.

Siting the risks to those under the age of 18 of melanoma, as high as 75%, due to exposure to ultraviolet radiation emitted by indoor tanning facilities, the Council identified the need for province-wide regulations. The resolution calls on the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion and our local Member of Provincial Parliament for action on this issue.

"This risk to our young people is very real, and of growing concern in health organizations in Ontario and around the world," said Mayor Peter A. Mertens. "We are convinced that the Province needs to act to regulate indoor tanning facilities and set safe and enforceable parameters aimed at protecting youth. At the local level we and our partners will do our part in helping to raise awareness of the threat."

The resolution, developed with the assistance of the Health Unit, also identified that the County of Prince Edward had only one indoor tanning facility within its borders, whose owner has committed to the shared goal of informing and protecting youth using his salon.

The Health Unit will be continuing with its current postcard campaign "No Tan is Worth Dying For!" developed by the Canadian Cancer Society and has agreed to provide posters and other information targeting youth, to educate them on the dangers of ultraviolet radiation. The information campaign will take place in schools, parks and other public places frequented by youth.

"Indoor tanning is a preventable risk factor for melanoma, particularly among young Ontarians. I'm pleased with the strong partnerships we have built among the Prince Edward County Council and other organizations in developing this resolution," said Dr. Richard Schabas, Medical Officer of Health for the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. "I commend the Council's leadership and commitment to protect youth from the harmful effects of artificial ultraviolet radiation and the increased risk of melanoma, a disease of public health importance."

For more information on the risks to young people of indoor tanning facilities visit:
<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/healthzone/newsfeatures/cancer/article/1012325--cancer-society-calls-for-ban-on-indoor-tanning-for-ontario-teens>

A copy of the Council resolution is attached.

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For more information contact Mayor Peter A. Mertens at 613.476.2148.



Office of the Clerk

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RESOLUTION

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD

WHEREAS concerns have been raised by the World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Canadian Cancer Society and Health Canada about the increased risk, as high as 75%, of melanoma due exposure to ultraviolet radiation (RVR) emitted from artificial tanning equipment during childhood and adolescence;

AND WHEREAS melanoma is one of the deadliest forms of skin cancer and rates of incidence in youth under the age of 18 are rising significantly;

AND WHEREAS Bill 31, Skin Cancer Prevention Act 2010, had received first reading in the Ontario Legislature in August 2010, but no further action has been taken;

AND WHEREAS the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, the Prince Edward County branch of the Canadian Cancer Society and the Prince Edward Family Health Team have urged Prince Edward County Council to enact a municipal by-law banning or regulating indoor tanning in Prince Edward County for those under the age of 18 years;

AND WHEREAS the County of Prince Edward has only one indoor tanning facility within its borders, the Added Touch;

AND WHEREAS there are many indoor tanning facilities outside of our borders and within easy commuting distance for residents of Prince Edward County;

AND WHEREAS the proprietor of the Added Touch has committed to the shared goal of informing and protecting youth using his salon including his current requirement of a signed parental consent for those under the age of 18 years;

AND WHEREAS the County of Prince Edward believes that regulation of indoor tanning facilities for the purpose of protecting youth should be addressed across the province and is a matter of provincial jurisdiction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED THAT the County of Prince Edward respectfully requests the Province of Ontario to enact legislation to regulate indoor tanning facilities for the purpose of protecting youth under the age of 18 from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation and increased risk of melanoma;

THAT this resolution be provided to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion and our local Member of Provincial Parliament for action and a response;

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for circulation; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to all municipalities of Ontario requesting support.

Certified a True Copy of a
Motion CW-388-2011
Adopted by the Council of the Corporation of the
County of Prince Edward
at its meeting of August 30, 2011

Victoria Leskie
Clerk