



Your Health Care Heartbeat

Smoke-free environment enforced October 1, 2015, to create safer, healthier, cleaner workplaces and communities

According to the province tobacco is the number one cause of preventable deaths in Ontario, kills more than 13,000 Ontarians each year, and costs an estimated \$2.2 billion in direct health care costs. In 2005, the government of Ontario passed the Smoke Free Ontario Act. This legislation forms the basis for a comprehensive public policy to reduce smoking related illness. The Act essentially places bans and restrictions on smoking in public places such as hospitals, schools, restaurants and bars, as well as, the display of tobacco products. The province of Ontario has continued to amend the Act and strengthen its comprehensive Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy by introducing changes to strengthen enforcement, further limit smoking in public places, reduce exposure to smoking, and make it more difficult for young people to purchase tobacco.



Since December 1, 2013, the Hôpital de Mattawa Hospital has been designated as a 100% smoke-free property. Patients, visitors, employees, medical & credentialed professional staff, volunteers, students and contractors are not allowed to smoke on any Hôpital de Mattawa Hospital properties, including any vehicles located on the premises. This designation is enforceable by both the Town of Mattawa through the local Bylaw Enforcement Officer and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit through the Tobacco Enforcement Officer, Environmental Health – Tobacco Control. We have been striving for awareness, education, and voluntary compliance; the last thing we want to see is fines and ultimately prosecution. **This being said, we have seen an increase in patients and visitors not respecting the smoke-free bylaw on Hospital grounds. For this reason, starting October 1st, 2015, enforcement practices will be strengthened.**

To help manage tobacco withdrawal symptoms while in Hospital, a variety of nicotine dependence interventions are available to our staff and patients. Please ask us about the alternatives available to assist you.

Thank you for your support, and respecting “no smoking” on all Hospital property.

**French Version to be published in next week’s edition of The Recorder.*