

Communications Office
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
10 Hospital Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M1
(705) 743-1000, ext. 391
www.pcchu.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 11, 2012, Peterborough

Health Unit Releases Cancer Report for Peterborough County and City

Local Lung Cancer and Melanoma Rates Higher Than Provincial Average

Today the Peterborough County-City Health Unit released its *2011 Summary of Selected Cancers in Peterborough County-City* which revealed rates for some local cancers, such as lung cancer and melanoma, are significantly higher than the provincial average, while others are lower, such as for prostate cancer.

"This report shows us that some cancers are more of a problem here than in other parts of the province," said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health. "To understand why, we need better surveillance and monitoring, as well as ongoing efforts to reduce exposure to known carcinogens such as tobacco and UV radiation. In addition, if more Peterborough residents enroll in the Ontario Health Study, we might be able to uncover additional risk factors that could be at play, such as genetic predispositions."

Unless more is done to prevent cancer, the estimated direct costs of cancer care by the year 2020 will increase to \$2 billion in Ontario, compared with \$1.22 billion in 2001/02. Historically, less than 1% of all government spending on cancer has been devoted to preventing cancer.

According to the Health Unit's report, Peterborough males experienced higher incidence rates of lung cancer (6.5%) and melanoma (24.4%), however had significantly lower incidence rates of prostate cancer (5.4%) than the rest of Ontario. Relative to the province, Peterborough women had significantly higher rates of lung cancer (21.9%), melanoma (21.5%), and uterine cancers (14.7%). Overall, lung cancer mortality rates were significantly higher for both Peterborough men (6.6%) and women (14.9%) compared to Ontario. Between 1986 and 2007, incidence and mortality rates for all of the selected cancers were significantly higher in Peterborough men relative to Peterborough women.

To see a copy of the report, please visit www.pcchu.ca . To enroll in the Ontario Health Study, please visit www.ontariohealthstudy.ca .

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Brittany Cadence
Communications Supervisor
(705) 743-1000, ext. 391