



Community and Health Services  
Public Health

## Memorandum

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole  
FROM: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health  
DATE: May 7, 2015  
RE: **Update on the Enforcement of the *Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013* in York Region**

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On May 1, 2014, the *Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013* (the Act) came into effect in Ontario. As part of the government's commitment to protect youth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation and subsequently skin cancer, the legislation prohibits commercial tanning bed operators to provide UV light treatments for tanning to youth under the age of 18.

In York Region, the Act is enforced by Public Health inspectors from the Public Health Branch, Health Protection Division. Enforcement activities in 2014 consisted of identifying and recording all tanning bed operators within the Region. To support compliance with this legislation, Public Health developed and provided a comprehensive information package to all tanning bed operators in York Region. Full enforcement of the Act did not commence until January 1, 2015. As of January 1, 2015, there were 63 tanning bed operators operating 312 tanning beds across the Region.

Under the legislation, tanning bed operators must post required signage about the restrictions and warnings of the dangers of exposure to UV radiation. They are also required to provide written notice of their location and business contact information to Public Health. Operators must ask clients for identification if they appear under 25 years of age and ensure marketing of tanning services is not aimed towards youth. Operators are required to have a trained attendant present whenever tanning services are being used. Trained attendants are also required to provide instruction on the proper use of protective eyewear and to ensure they are used by all customers when tanning.

Public Health inspectors have been trained on the requirements set out in the *Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013* and have been designated to carry out the provisions of the Act. All complaints and inquiries will be followed up by Public Health inspectors. It is anticipated that through education, issuing warnings and enforcement when required, a high level of compliance will be attained.

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*Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013*

Current enforcement activities have focused on education and awareness to all York Region tanning bed operators. Starting in Spring/Summer 2015, enforcement will include inspections. To date, no operators have been cited for infractions.

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Dr. Karim Kurji  
Medical Officer of Health

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