

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF THE PHSA

Green to the vein at the Provincial Blood Coordinating Office



The PBCO Green Team: (back row, L to R): Jack Michaan, Stephanie Bowen; (front row, L to R): Sabrina Del Vicario, Patti Thorne, Jennifer Danielson, Ursula Maeser.

Efficiency has long been central to the work of the [BC Provincial Blood Coordinating Office](#) (PBCO), which may explain their enthusiasm for PHSA's eco-efficiency initiatives. Following an introduction to the [PHSA Green+Leaders program](#) in December, the office formed the PBCO Green Team. During a unique, collaborative planning session with the [David Suzuki at Work program](#), they identified potential projects and areas of focus.

By implementing the following small changes in the last three months, the PBCO team has become a well-oiled greening machine. The following ideas can work in almost any work environment – read on to see if they could be implemented in yours:

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Staff parking rate increase and new employee transit discount

Effective April 30, 2010, [parking rates for staff and physicians](#) will increase at [select PHSA facilities in Vancouver](#) (see sidebar for locations).

Rates will increase by approximately 25%+GST/PST for daily, weekly, bi-weekly and annual parking*. In addition, the new 14% PST tax on parking intro-

duced by the province on January 1, 2010 will also be implemented for staff at this time. For those employees that use payroll deduction, this will mean an increase of approximately \$10 per pay period.

Since the last staff parking increase in 2002, rates at PHSA's owned and leased

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The great paper poll: The Green Team conducted an office-wide paper poll to combat waste collaboratively. The poll generated enough support to implement a scrap paper policy for one-sided printing, and drew some much-needed attention to paper reduction.

Energy awareness: A little investigation goes a long way. Exploring energy consumption using the [Green+Leaders energy audit toolkit](#) highlighted areas for improvement at PBCO. Changes ranged from simple (replacing a kettle) to more complex (adjusting the soft-

ware update schedule to allow staff to turn off computers most nights), but all were worth the effort.

Managing property management: Don't let building policies be a barrier to eco-efficient activity. The PBCO regularly communicates with its property manager to suggest small changes that have a big impact, like opening stairways to reduce elevator use, and implementing a composting program in the staff room.

Spreading the word: Behaviour can be slow to change, but regular prompts will speed up the process. The PBCO

is the proud host of the Green Board, a bulletin board featuring information about eco-events and upcoming initiatives. Regular email updates also keep staff engaged and help to build momentum.

The PBCO have managed to turn green ideas into eco-friendly action.

Interested in doing the same in your workplace? Visit the [Green+Leaders section on the PHSA website](#), or contact Ruth Abramson, PHSA's corporate manager of Environmental Sustainability at 604.877.6240 or r Abramson2@phsa.ca.

Staff Parking Rate Increase and New Employee Transit Discount...

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parking sites in Vancouver have fallen below market value and parking rates at other Vancouver health authority sites. This increase is required to generate revenue that will be used to maintain PHSA parking facilities and services and offset rising operating costs.

PHSA Employee Transit Discount

A portion of the revenues will also be used to launch a [new employee transit discount](#). Effective in June 2010, PHSA and agency employees who are enrolled in the [Translink Employer Pass Program](#) will be provided with an additional discount on their transit pass ranging from \$11 - 13 per month (\$132-156 a year) depending on the number of zones purchased.

Visit POD for more information on the [upcoming parking increases](#) or the [new employee transit discount](#), or email parking@phsa.ca with your questions.

**Note: The parking rates for PHSA staff at BC Children's and BC Women's and BC Cancer Agency's Vancouver Centre who are currently purchasing parking through payroll deduction and are represented under the Facilities Collective Agreement (e.g. HEU), will remain the same for now, although these staff will pay more as of April 30 due to the PST tax increase. These staff will be provided with notice prior to any other payroll deduction rate increase.*

Which PHSA sites are affected by the parking rate increase?

The April 30, 2010 staff parking increase will take effect at the following sites:

- BC Children's and BC Women's
- BC Cancer Agency – Vancouver Centre
- BC Cancer Research Centre
- 1380 Burrard Street
- 1441 Creekside Drive
- 1770 West 7th Ave.
- 555 West 12th Ave.
- 210 West Broadway
- 601 West Broadway
- 686 West Broadway
- 750 West Broadway