



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ONTARIO PARENTS ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER
CHALLENGES INCREASED PARENT PARKING RATES AT SICK KIDS
HOSPITAL WITH ONLINE PETITION**

(Jan 18, 2013 – Barrie, Ontario) Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC), a registered Provincial charity that helps families of children with cancer throughout Ontario, is challenging the recently increased parent parking rates at The Hospital for Sick Children (“Sick Kids”) in Toronto with an ongoing online petition through Change.org, the world’s largest petition platform. OPACC believes that the daily rate, which increased last Fall from \$16/day to \$20/day, places an undue financial burden on families of children diagnosed with cancer, who have no choice but to park at the hospital when taking their child for treatment appointments or to stay on site with their child as an in-patient. The petition was launched in response to OPACC receiving numerous complaints from families receiving treatment at Sick Kids asking for our help in bringing their concerns to the hospital’s attention and to bring this issue to the forefront in general to the overall public as well. There are currently no financial supports available to offset the cost of parking for these families. OPACC is seeking an immediate reduction in the parent parking rate as well as a review of parking rates and their impact to be done across the hospital. OPACC can only speak on behalf of those families affected by childhood cancer that we represent, however we are sure that these concerns are echoed throughout all areas of the hospital and throughout other hospitals in Ontario. As of today’s date, the petition has gathered over 825 signatures and is still ongoing until the issue is addressed.

The full text of the petition can be read and signed here:
https://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/reduce-the-recently-increased-parent-parking-rate?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=url_share&utm_campaign=url_share_before_sign

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Contact Information:
Sarai Porretta, OPACC Administrative Coordinator, 705-828-7965,
admin@opacc.org

Helping families of children with cancer with the here and now!
Charitable Registration #846324168RR0001
Email: info@opacc.org
<http://www.opacc.org>
Tel: (705) 828-7965



Background

OPACC

Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer (OPACC) was established in 1995 and has been a registered charity since 2006. We rely solely on grants and private donations, and in large part on the work of our volunteers, to keep us running. Membership is free. We are comprised of parents, parent support groups, survivors, and close relatives of a child/teen diagnosed with childhood cancer. Our overall goal is to be the parent voice for families with children diagnosed with cancer in Ontario. OPACC is recognized by other childhood cancer organizations including the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO), the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLS), Camp Oochigeas, and the Hospital for Sick Children as important partners in helping reach families in the province and working collaboratively with them already on various initiatives. Groups run through HopeSpring in the Kitchener/Waterloo area, Hearth Place in Oshawa, and Candlelighters Simcoe in Barrie form the core of OPACC's established support groups. Together, we have worked tirelessly to see the establishment of a paid Parent Liaison position at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. There, a trained professional and parent of a childhood cancer survivor offers families not only a sympathetic ear but a wealth of resources and information about services both in and out of the hospital.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.opacc.org>