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### **Deep River and District Hospital Ready for Freedom of Information**

Deep River, ON, January 4, 2012- The Deep River and District Hospital is prepared for full compliance with the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), which applies to all Ontario Hospitals as of January 01, 2012.

This inclusion of Hospitals under this existing legislation came about following a 2009 request by the Ontario Hospital Association to voluntarily comply with this Act as a demonstration of the deepening and continuing commitment to demonstrate and implement improved accountability and transparency in the province's hospital sector.

The purpose of this legislation is two-fold: first - to provide a right of access to information that can and should be made available to the public; and second, to protect the privacy of individuals with respect to personal health information about themselves and to provide individuals with a right of access to that information.

"Our Hospital has been working hard to prepare for the application of this legislation to our organization," said Hospital CEO, Larry Schruder. "We have built a more robust Hospital website and our staff have learned from other jurisdictions, attended courses, worked through implementation toolkits, and sought the advice of experts in the field. I am convinced that our organization is prepared to handle and respond to any information request that our community members may have."

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, the Hospital is proactively posting a number of documents on its new website ([www.drdh.org](http://www.drdh.org)) that may be of interest to the communities served. Documents include Board meeting schedules, agendas and meeting summaries, executive contracts, executive and Board expenses, related internal policies, and the details of how to make a request under the FIPPA legislation.

Further information about this program is available from Ms. Cara McGuire, the DRDH Manager responsible for Information Management and FIPPA, 613-584-3333 ext. 150.