



# WEATHER POLICY

Adopted by PCC Board: March 2018

The Peterborough Cycling Club (PCC) is committed to safety and will implement reasonable practices to ensure the safety of those participating in PCC rides.

Ride leaders are responsible for tracking weather conditions (e.g. Environment Canada/Weather Network) leading up to the ride. Ride leaders are responsible for cancelling rides, for any weather-related reason, regardless of the conditions, forecasts and alerts in place. If a ride leader is not comfortable leading a ride in the forecasted weather conditions, then they must cancel the ride.

## **ENVIRONMENT CANADA'S "PUBLIC ALERTING PROGRAM"**

Environment Canada issue four different types of severe weather alert. The alerts range in severity:

- Special Weather Statements are the least urgent type of alert and are issued to let people know that conditions are unusual and could cause concern;
- Advisories are issued for specific weather events (like blowing snow, fog, freezing drizzle and frost) that are less severe, but could still have a significant impact;
- Watches alert the public of weather conditions that are favourable for a storm or severe weather, which could cause safety concerns; and
- Warnings are urgent messages that severe weather is either occurring or will occur.

## **MANDATORY RIDE CANCELLATION**

The PCC requires ride cancellation by Ride Leaders if:

- An Environment Canada severe weather "Warning" is in effect during the scheduled ride time (e.g. tornado warning, severe thunderstorm, etc);
- Lightning is forecast anywhere along the route during the schedule ride time;
- When temperatures are -15°C; and
- If the Environment Canada humidex warning is above 40°C.

**Any members who choose to still ride when a club ride has been cancelled will do so at their own risk!**

Ride cancellations should be communicated by ride leaders on the PCC forum and if possible the PCC Twitter and Facebook accounts.

- Best practice is to cancel the ride at least 1 hour before the ride start time.
- Give a brief weather-related rationale for the cancellation.
- If the cancellation is "Last Minute" the ride leader should drive to the meeting spot for the ride (assuming it is safe to do so) to ensure that all riders know the ride is cancelled.

If there are no Watches or Warnings issued, but extreme conditions are forecast, it is up to the ride leader to decide whether or not to cancel. Extreme conditions are defined as heavy rain, strong winds, or any other weather conditions that makes riding dangerous. Common sense should prevail in these situations.



## **UNEXPECTED POOR WEATHER**

If a ride has already started and is later faced with inclement weather, ride leaders should practice the following:

- Pull off of the road where safe to do so and then discuss plans to either:
  - Seek temporary shelter if available;
  - Return to the ride start point taking as direct a route as safely possible; or
  - Ride an alternate route to avoid the weather if time and the group's ability allows.

## **ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION LIGHTNING POLICY:**

[www.ontariocycling.org/forms/lightning-policy/](http://www.ontariocycling.org/forms/lightning-policy/)