



Ottawa Council on
Smoking and Health

Conseil d'Ottawa sur le
tabagisme et la santé

November 30, 2010

Ottawa City Councillor
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Councillor:

Re: Second-Hand Smoke in Outdoor Spaces

The Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health (OCSH) congratulates you on your election to Ottawa City Council. We are a local volunteer group that aims to protect individuals from second-hand smoke; to prevent youth from starting to smoke; to encourage smokers to quit; and to advocate for better smoking cessation resources.

This spring, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Ottawa's smoke-free bylaws for public places and workplaces. In passing the bylaws, the City of Ottawa became an international leader on tobacco control. Our bylaws served as a model for cities across Canada and the world.

While there is local and provincial smoke-free legislation in place, the OCSH continues to receive letters and phone calls from Ottawa residents who are involuntarily exposed to second-hand smoke at work and in public places. As a result, we urge you to expand Ottawa's smoke-free bylaws to include outdoor spaces where Ottawa residents work and play and where tourists visit. These spaces include:

- All restaurant and bar patios.
- Parks, playgrounds, recreational playing fields, beaches, docks and trails.
- Festivals, fairs and other outdoor spectator events.
- Hotels, motels, inns and bed and breakfasts.
- Outdoor workplaces such as construction sites.
- Within 9 meters of entranceways of public places and workplaces, including hospitals and secondary-school campuses.
- Within 9 meters of entranceways of multi-unit dwellings.

By expanding Ottawa's smoke-free bylaws to include these outdoor spaces, you would:

- Protect the 84% of Ottawa's population who do not smoke.
- Create a supportive environment for smokers who are trying to quit.
- Protect individuals who are exposed to second-hand smoke in their workplaces.
- Prevent children from starting to smoke by promoting a healthy life style.
- Protect sandboxes, beaches, and our rivers from cigarette butt litter.

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We would appreciate meeting with you in person to discuss the need for smoke-free outdoor spaces. To this end, we will be contacting your office shortly to inquire about the possibility of a meeting.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Friedlaender
President
Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health
www.smokefreeottawa.com