



Ottawa Council on
Smoking and Health

Conseil d'Ottawa sur le
tabagisme et la santé

November 30, 2010

Mayor Jim Watson
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Mayor Watson:

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