



Ottawa Council on  
Smoking or Health | Conseil d'Ottawa sur le  
tabagisme ou la santé

July 29, 2016

City Councillor Diane Deans (Gloucester-Southgate Ward)  
Chair, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Ottawa City Council  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Councillor Deans:

**Re: Proposed Bylaw to Prohibit the Use of Waterpipes  
Inside and Outside Public Places and Workplaces**

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) is writing in support of the proposed bylaw to prohibit the use of waterpipes inside and outside public places and workplaces in the City of Ottawa.

For the past five years, the OCSH has engaged in a public education and advocacy campaign for a waterpipe bylaw to protect hospitality workers and the public who are exposed to second-hand smoke, and to reduce waterpipe use among youth.

We were very encouraged by Ottawa City Council's directive to the Ottawa Board of Health on November 25, 2015 to prepare the waterpipe bylaw for implementation by Fall 2016 (<http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=6413&doctype=MINUTES>).

We are especially pleased that the Community and Protective Services Committee of Ottawa City Council will review the Board of Health's report on the proposed waterpipe bylaw on August 25, 2016.

**We strongly urge the Community and Protective Services Committee to recommend to Ottawa City Council that it:**

- 1. Adopt and implement a waterpipe bylaw by Fall 2016 and begin enforcement on January 1, 2017.**
- 2. Expand the definition of "tobacco smoking" in the City of Ottawa's smoke-free indoor and outdoor bylaws to include: *any weeds, herbal cigarettes, or other herbal products or substances that can be lit, smoked, burned, heated, combusted, or vaporized and that create any smoke, vapour, gases, particles, or other substances that can be inhaled.***

3. **Deal with the exploding number of unlicensed vape shops and medical marijuana shops operating in our community—many close to schools—by:**
  - a. **Requiring electronic cigarette and marijuana vendors to obtain a licence similar to the Tobacco Vendor Licence.**
  - b. **Asking the province to amend the *Municipal Act, 2001* to give municipalities the power to enact a licencing bylaw for vape shops.**

The City of Ottawa has another opportunity to lay the groundwork for provincial legislation. Just as the City of Ottawa's smoke-free indoor bylaws in 2001 and the smoke-free outdoor bylaws in 2012 spurred the province to adopt and strengthen the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, the OCSH hopes that the City of Ottawa's adoption of a waterpipe bylaw will eventually lead the Province of Ontario to adopt legislation to protect all Ontario residents, workers, and especially youth from the toxic health effects of waterpipe use and related second-hand smoke. However, provincial governments traditionally do not act until a critical mass of municipal bylaws has been adopted. We therefore call upon the City of Ottawa to, once again, be a provincial leader on tobacco control.

The OCSH appreciates your long-standing support and leadership on smoke-free issues. We look forward to addressing the Community and Protective Services Committee on August 25, 2016 in support of the proposed waterpipe bylaw.

Sincerely,

Carol McDonald, Suzanne Friedlaender, and Carmela Graziani  
Executive Committee  
Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health  
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[www.smokefreeottawa.com](http://www.smokefreeottawa.com)

cc: Councillor Riley Brockington, Vice-Chair, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Jody Mitic, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Shad Qadri, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Rick Chiarelli, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Keith Egli, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor George Darouze, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Councillor Michael Qaqish, Member, Community and Protective Services Committee  
Dr. Isra Levy, Medical Officer of Health, City of Ottawa  
Janice Forsythe, past vice-president and current volunteer, Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health; and Gloucester-Southgate Ward resident