



February 24, 2012

Ms. Marie Lemay
Chief Executive Officer
National Capital Commission
202–40 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 1C7

Dear Ms. Lemay:

Re: Public Consultation - Horizon 2067:
The Plan for Canada's Capital from Conversation to Vision

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

The OCSH is writing in response to the National Capital Commission (NCC)'s invitation to the public to attend a workshop on February 21st or 22nd to discuss ideas about the future of Canada's Capital.

Although we were not able to attend the NCC's workshops, we wish to express our support for 100% smoke-free festivals and events on NCC property. We were very pleased to read media reports over the past week regarding the NCC's tentative plans to echo the City of Ottawa's smoke-free outdoor bylaw and to require that events on NCC property be 100% smoke-free. (*"NCC likely to follow city on smoking ban; Shared sites require co-ordinated policies, Lemay says," The Ottawa Citizen, Saturday, February 18, 2012.*)

We applaud the NCC's role in promoting cultural events and Ottawa's beautiful outdoor environment. We strongly believe that 100% smoke-free events will further enhance residents' and visitors' experiences at NCC events (*e.g. Tulip Festival, Canada Day festivities, Winterlude, Bluesfest, Ottawa Folk Festival*).

The OCSH began advocating for smoke-free outdoor spaces in the City of Ottawa more than two years ago in response to complaints from concerned residents regarding exposure to second-hand smoke at various public events, including Bluesfest.

Between August 2010 and May 2011, we ran a poll on our website to gauge the level of public support for smoke-free outdoor spaces. The results were overwhelmingly positive:

- **481 individuals** responded to the poll
- **90%** of respondents supported smoke-free **patios**
- **89.9%** of respondents supported **smoke-free parks and playgrounds**.

Also, during the summer and fall of 2011, we collected more than **2,600 postcards** signed by Ottawa residents and tourists in support of smoke-free outdoor spaces. In fact, **413 tourists** visiting from every province in Canada, and from New York, New Mexico, California and Pennsylvania signed the postcards. We hand delivered the postcards to Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson on January 17, 2012 on behalf of all the signatories.

We urge the NCC to work with the City of Ottawa to support and promote 100% smoke-free events and festivals to:

- Protect the public from second-hand smoke
- Create a level playing field for all businesses, festivals and events in Canada's Capital
- Create a cleaner, safer city by reducing cigarette butt litter.

We would be pleased to meet with the NCC to discuss this important health, environmental and economic issue.

Sincerely,

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

cc:

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson
Ottawa City Councillor Diane Holmes, Chair, Ottawa Board of Health
Ottawa City Councillor Mark Taylor, Chair, Consumer and Protective Services Committee
Dr. Isra Levy, Medical Officer of Health, City of Ottawa