



November 23, 2015

Community and Protective Services Committee
Ottawa City Council
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dear Chair Diane Deans and Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

Re: Proposed Increase in Tobacco Retailer License Fee

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) is writing in support of the proposal to increase the annual tobacco retailer licence fee from \$403 per year to \$806 per year.¹

Raising the tobacco licensing fee on this deadly product is a responsible move on the part of Ottawa City Council. The OCSH fully supports the city's plans, which will help to:

- Prevent tobacco-related diseases and save taxpayers' health care dollars.
- Prevent youth smoking and help others to quit and to stay smoke-free.
- Reduce tobacco-related deaths. Tobacco kills up to one half of its users.² **Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease, death, and disability in our community.**³
- Reduce cigarette butt litter. Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded piece of waste worldwide and Ottawa is no exception. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable; they pose a significant threat to our environment; and they are unsightly, unhealthy, and costly to clean up.⁴
- Reduce fires caused by cigarette butt litter. So far in 2015, improperly disposed cigarettes caused 29 fires and more than \$9 million in property damage.⁵

The OCSH urges the City of Ottawa to use a portion of the tobacco retailer license fees to offset the cost of cleaning up unsightly cigarette butt litter in time for ***Ottawa 2017***, Canada's 150th birthday celebrations.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol McDonald
President
Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health
Email: info@smokefreeottawa.com
www.smokefreeottawa.com

REFERENCES

¹ City of Ottawa. *Draft Budget 2015*. Page 29.

http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/2016_draft_budget_book_cpsc_en.pdf

² World Health Organization. *Fact Sheet No. 339*. Updated July 2015.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs339/en/>

³ Ottawa Public Health. *State of Ottawa's Health 2014*. Page 40.

http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/stateOfHealth2014_en.pdf

⁴ Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health. *Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces Campaign Fact Sheet #2: From the Sidewalk and the Street to the Beach and the River: The Economic and Environmental Costs of Cigarette Butt Litter*. January 2012.

<http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/uploads/1/1/7/4/11742147/sfos2.pdf>

⁵ CBC News Ottawa. Fires caused by improperly discarded cigarettes on the rise in Ottawa. Fires caused by cigarettes have done \$9.2M in damage, fire department says. November 18, 2015. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/cigarette-fires-ottawa-1.3324590>