



OCSH Celebrates the First Day of Ottawa's Smoke-Free Outdoor Bylaw

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, April 1, 2012 - The Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health (OCSH) celebrates the implementation of Ottawa's smoke-free outdoor bylaw.

"We welcome the first official day of Ottawa's smoke-free outdoor bylaw," said Suzanne Friedlaender, president of the OCSH. "As of tomorrow, hospitality workers, children, individuals with chronic health conditions, and tourists can finally enjoy restaurant and bar patios without a side order of second-hand smoke."

The OCSH congratulates Ottawa Public Health and the City of Ottawa for its continued leadership on tobacco control. More smoke-free spaces will protect individuals from second-hand smoke, prevent youth from starting to smoke, and help smokers to quit.

"This is a major step forward in achieving Heather Crowe's dream that no other waitress should die from exposure to second-hand smoke," added Friedlaender. "We invite other municipalities in Canada to make the healthy move to smoke-free outdoor spaces."

Smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke remain a significant public health issue in Canada. Lung cancer, COPD and asthma cost the Canadian economy \$12 billion in 2010.¹

The OCSH is a local volunteer group that has advocated for smoke-free environments for more than 30 years.

Visit www.smokefreeottawa.com for details on the OCSH's smoke-free outdoor spaces campaign.

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For More Information:

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¹ Conference Board of Canada. "Lung disease imposes major costs on Canadian economy." News Release. March 15, 2012. <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/624621>