

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 8, 2015

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

Dear Ms. McDonald:

Thank you for your letter, dated May 29, 2015, regarding smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke on hospital campuses.

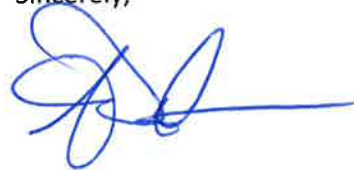
As you know, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has recently proposed amendments to Regulation 48/06 under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act*, which would prohibit smoking on the outdoor grounds of public hospitals, private hospitals and psychiatric facilities, except in any outdoor smoking area that may be designated by the hospital board until January 1, 2018.

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) supports all initiatives that seek to improve public health, including reducing smoking rates. With regard to smoke-free policies in hospitals, we know that a large proportion of hospitals have moved and are moving towards 100 per cent smoke-free environments.

We also recognize that individual hospitals at times face unique challenges associated with this transition, which include, but are not limited to concerns over patients' safety, managing delicate relationships with their communities, as well as their diverse patient populations, and ensuring compliance with smoke-free policies.

The OHA will continue to work with hospitals and support them as needed, in order to meet our common goal of serving patients and their families in the best way possible. As such, we thank you, once again, for bringing this important matter to our attention.

Sincerely,



Anthony Dale
President and CEO