

INDUSTRY WATCH

BEHIND THE SCENES

HOW CANADIAN TOBACCO COMPANIES ORCHESTRATED THE WAR ON SMOKING BANS

For most of the past decade, efforts to introduce clean-air laws and policies have been strongly opposed by a handful of bars and restaurant owners. Their use of similar arguments and similar tactics raised suspicions that these efforts were being coordinated by a central agency. Only recently (February 2002) did evidence come to light that the Canadian tobacco industry and its foreign owners were working secretly to block bans on smoking.

1995 CTMC hires agents to mobilize against by-law change

The Canadian Tobacco Manufacturer's Association (CTMC) hires PR consultant Susan Walsh to mobilize Ontario Restaurant Association against proposed Toronto smoking by-laws.

You will find a memo from our contact in Toronto summarizing the proceedings at the press conference [of Medical Officers of Health]. Once we learned of the release this morning, Ms. Walsh was able to get representatives of the Ontario Restaurant Association to attend and make known their views."

*CTMC Memo, April 24, 1996
PM 2065186598*

1998 CTMC funds the development of a 'Ventilation Solution' to fight bans

Through the 'Courtesy of Choice' program, the CTMC funds the development of a strategy to promote 'ventilation' as a solution to smoking bans.

"You will recall that approval was given CTMC by the member companies for funding to develop a 'ventilation alternative' to public place smoking ban initiatives in Mississauga and Toronto with, hopefully, the prospect of moving this to B.C. as well.

*CTMC Memo, March 29, 1998
PM 2065255097*

The Tobacco Industry acknowledges that a key principle of the ventilation alternative is the prevention of smoking bans.

"Adoption of policy proposal guarantees that alternatives such as a smoking ban or separately enclosed and ventilated rooms will not be required now or in the future."

*Proposal for a Credible and Sustainable Indoor Air Policy: The Ventilation Options
CTMC, 1998
PM2065255098*

Newly-released Tobacco Industry Documents Show

- The Big Three developed 'Ventilation' solution to block smoking bans.
- The Big Three hired 'consultants' to mobilize against smoking bans.
- The Big Three worked together to develop cross-Canada strategies to block smoking bans.
- The Big Three spent millions fighting proposals to protect Canadians from second-hand smoke.

These documents were obtained from the web-site of Philip Morris. They were posted there as a result of legal actions against Philip Morris by U.S. governments.

Front Groups recruited in hospitality and air-systems sectors.

The CTMC recruits Consumers Gas and the Ontario Restaurant Association to campaign against bans on smoking.

“Consumers Gas ... have agreed to publicly support the ORA’s [Ontario Restaurant Association] call for a ventilation response to the issue of public smoking in Toronto and environs ... Consumers Gas ... seem to also understand what’s involved in attending meetings with councilors, deputations before city councils, etc.”

*CTMC memo, March 30, 1998
2065255103*

Secret Meetings to plan campaigns to fight smoking bans.

The CTMC brings together its consultants and agents to coordinate opposition to smoke bans in a secret meeting in Toronto on June 22, 1998.

There appears to be a consensus regarding the need for coordination of some of the key players opposing smoke bans across North America..

Stakeholder groups from the hospitality industry will not be invited to this meeting. We need to get organized first -- there might be an opportunity/ need to meet with these groups later but it’s probably safer if the information is taken back to the hospitality groups by the people working with them behind the scenes.

*CTMC Memo May 26, 1998
PM 2065254987*

Philip Morris helps arrange the meeting to organize against smoke-bans, and tags on a meeting to discuss developing a ventilation strategy.

“This meeting will hopefully begin a process of speedy and efficient information sharing by those helping to organize the fight against smoke bans in the hospitality sector. ... People attending this meeting should include:

- **Tobacco industry employees involved in the hospitality sector issue**
- **Consultants working with the industry to fight smoke bans — particularly any regional consultants who may be an ongoing contact on their area.**

A second meeting will be held the same week of ventilation consultants working on the industry issue either directly or through programs such as Courtesy of Choice.”

*Memo from Susan Walsh, June 3, 1998
PM 2065254983*

The group brought together by the CTMC to fight smoking bans will soon be familiar in local smoke-free by-law campaigns. Participants from the meeting include:

- Hotel Association of Canada
- Rothmans Benson and Hedges
- RJR-MacDonald Inc
- Imperial Tobacco Ltd.
- Philip Morris
- RJ Reynolds
- Dasko Communications Group
- John Luik
- Pierre Lemieux
- Susan Walsh
- Marlene Hore
- Tim Crowhurst
- Mary Trudelle
- Clarence Tetrault
- Marilyn Pincock
- John Barr & Mina Leekha

*“Contact List –Evaluating Strategies in Response to Public Smoking Initiatives”
PM 2065254993*

*See also: Agenda: Evaluating Strategies in Response to Public Smoking Initiatives
June 22, 1998
PM 2065254992*

Money funneled through Courtesy of Choice to oppose smoking by-laws.

CTMC funds the Hotel Association of Canada (HAC) to run "courtesy of choice" -mobilizing ground troops in restaurants and bars against smoking bans

We introduced Courtesy of Choice at the same time as our local municipality introduced a proposal for a city-wide smoking ban (in all public areas). We found Courtesy of Choice to be an excellent opportunity to offer training to first line employees on how to deal with customers who didn't know about the smoking ban.

*Courtesy of Choice Newsletter, March 98
PM2065255096CTMC engages Courtesy of Choice to lobby against smoking bans.*

Courtesy of Choice/Hotel Association of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association (CRFA) are continuing the effective lobbying campaign....

This effort will include pushing for a ventilation solution in the long term instead of a ban."

*CTMC Memo July 15, 1998
PM 2065254948*

CTMC recruits British Columbia pubs to oppose smoking bans, and provides media training to them.

"We have this week signed on 4 new properties in the Victoria area...We are offering to provide media training and support for [Sooke River proprietor's] media interviews.

*CTMC memo, June 2, 1998
PM2065254964*

CTMC mobilizes B.C. hotels against smoking bans through Courtesy of Choice.

"Nearly 100 hoteliers have responded to a fax-out requesting their views on the impact of a province-wide smoke ban ... I will be in Vancouver later this week to begin the process of following through with these requests which reach into every corner of the province."

*CTMC Memo, July 15, 1998
PM2065254951*

2000 CBC unveils Tobacco industry payments to Courtesy of Choice.

During the assault on B.C. Workers' Compensation regulation protecting all workers from second-hand smoke, CBC Radio and BC Television reveal that the CTMC has been funding Courtesy of Choice by almost \$1 million a year since 1995.

Rick Cluff (CBC Radio): How big a fund are we talking about here?

Laundy (CTMC): ... I think it's in the \$800,000 dollar range

CBC Radio Early Edition, 13 June 2000

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