



October 31, 2012

Councillor Diane Holmes
Chair, Ottawa Board of Health
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Re: Implementation of Ottawa's Smoke-Free Outdoor Bylaw

Dear Chair Holmes and Members of the Ottawa Board of Health:

We are writing on behalf of the Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) to report on the first summer of smoke-free outdoor spaces in Ottawa. We wish to commend the Ottawa Board of Health for initiating a plan for smoke-free outdoor spaces. The smoke-free outdoor bylaw, enacted by Ottawa City Council in February 2012, has since become a role model for other municipalities in Ontario and will lead to a healthier Ottawa.

The OCSH has received positive feedback about the smoke-free outdoor bylaw. The general sentiment is that the bylaw is a success. OCSH members reported that they shopped more frequently at the Byward and Parkdale Markets and they enjoyed restaurant patios because of the smoke-free status. OCSH members noticed a very high compliance rate on restaurant patios, and at city parks, playgrounds and sports fields.

The OCSH is a local volunteer organization established in 1978. We work to create a social environment where non-smoking is the norm; to assist in establishing smoke-free environments; to prevent youth from starting to smoke; to encourage smokers to quit; and to advocate for better smoking cessation resources.

The smoke-free outdoor bylaw is common sense legislation. It is already improving the health of Ottawa's residents. We thank you again for supporting this important public health initiative.

Sincerely,

Carol McDonald
President, OCSH

Suzanne Friedlaender
Past President, OCSH