



NEWS RELEASE

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health and the Academy of Medicine Ottawa Congratulate the RBC Royal Bank Bluesfest and the National Capital Commission on their New Smoke-Free Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, January 21, 2013 – On the occasion of National Non-Smoking Week (January 20-26, 2013), the Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) and the Academy of Medicine Ottawa (AMO) congratulate the RBC Royal Bank Bluesfest and the National Capital Commission for adopting a voluntary 100% smoke-free policy, beginning this summer.

“We are delighted that children who attend Bluesfest events with their families will be protected from second-hand smoke,” said Carol McDonald, OCSH President.

The new smoke-free policy will make Bluesfest and other events held on National Capital Commission property more accessible to individuals of all ages who have asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, cancer and other chronic health conditions that are exacerbated by second-hand smoke.

“The Academy of Medicine Ottawa congratulates Bluesfest on its smoke-free policy and its obvious health benefits.” Dr. Diane Twemlow, AMO President.

More 100% smoke-free events are also welcome because recent studies show that young women who are exposed to second-hand smoke are at increased risk of breast cancer.¹

“We commend Bluesfest and the NCC for taking steps to protect young women who attend, volunteer and perform at Bluesfest and at other events held on National Capital Commission property,” said Ms. McDonald.

¹ Collishaw NE, Boyd NF, Cantor KP, et al. *Canadian Expert Panel on Tobacco Smoke and Breast Cancer Risk*. Toronto, Canada: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, OTRU Special Report Series, 2009.
http://www.otru.org/pdf/special/expert_panel_tobacco_breast_cancer.pdf

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health is a volunteer organization that aims 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 Academy of Medicine Ottawa is a branch society of the Ontario Medical Association and represents Ottawa physicians, both locally and provincially. The Academy of Medicine Ottawa advocates on behalf of physicians and for best quality health care and practices for patients.

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