



March 7, 2012

Mayor Jim Watson  
Ottawa City Council  
Ottawa Board of Health  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Dr. Isra Levy  
Medical Officer of Health  
Ottawa Public Health  
100 Constellation Crescent  
Ottawa, ON K2G 6J8

### **OCSH Congratulates Ottawa City Council for Adopting a Smoke-Free Outdoor Bylaw!**

Dear Mayor Watson, Dr. Levy, Ottawa City Council, Ottawa Board of Health, Councillor Diane Holmes and Councillor Mark Taylor:

On behalf of the members and community volunteers of the Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health, thank you and congratulations for strengthening Ottawa's smoke-free bylaws by making patios, the Byward and Parkdale Markets, parks, beaches and sports fields 100% smoke-free.

This bylaw will protect children, workers and vulnerable individuals with chronic diseases from second-hand smoke; create a level playing for business owners; create cleaner and safer beaches, parks and playgrounds; and send a positive message about smoke-free living, especially to youth who are likely to emulate adults' behaviour.

The OCSH is a local volunteer group that has advocated for smoke-free environments for more than 30 years. We will continue to advocate on outstanding tobacco control issues, including:

- Supporting a ban on the smoking of waterpipes in Ottawa restaurants and bars.
- Supporting a 100% smoke-free policy for all events and festivals on National Capital Commission property.

- Supporting smoking cessation programs for construction and trade workers who have twice the smoking rate of the general population of Ottawa.
- Protecting construction workers from second-hand smoke by making all construction and demolition sites smoke-free.
- Protecting hospitality workers and tourists by making all hotels, motels and B & Bs 100% smoke-free.
- Protecting our young adults by making all post-secondary campuses smoke-free.
- Protecting patients, staff and workers by making hospital grounds smoke-free.
- Protecting the public by prohibiting smoking within 9 meters of doorways to municipal buildings and multi-unit dwellings.

We are thrilled that Ottawa has reclaimed its reputation as an international leader in tobacco control. Our community is fortunate to have such strong public health and tobacco control leaders at Ottawa City Council, the Ottawa Board of Health and Ottawa Public Health.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Friedlaender  
President  
Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health  
[www.smokefreeottawa.com](http://www.smokefreeottawa.com)