



October 19, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Watson:

**Re: Signed Postcards in Support of a 100% Smoke-Free Sparks Street Mall**

Please find enclosed 95 postcards signed by members of the public in support of a **100% smoke-free Sparks Street Mall**. This is in addition to the signed postcards that were previously mailed to your office.

The Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) has advocated for a 100% smoke-free bylaw for the Sparks Street Mall since 2012. We collected the postcards in response to complaints from mall workers and from the public about:

- Exposure to second-hand smoke on the mall;
- Second-hand smoke that comes into stores from outdoor areas on the mall; and
- Cigarette butt litter.

In addition to the signed postcards, an **informal poll on our website garnered 333 votes, with 75% of voters in support of a 100% smoke-free bylaw.**<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, our research shows that at least **19 pedestrian malls and outdoor shopping concourses in Canada, the United States, and Australia are 100% smoke-free.**<sup>2</sup>

The City of Ottawa has undertaken a governance review of the Sparks Street Mall BIA and the Sparks Street Mall Authority.<sup>3</sup> The OCSH strongly urges the governance review to create a mechanism to finally resolve this ongoing public health and butt litter issue.

Let's have this important historical and commercial venue looking its best for **Ottawa 2017**<sup>4</sup>, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's confederation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol McDonald

President

Email: [info@smokefreeottawa.com](mailto:info@smokefreeottawa.com)

[www.smokefreeottawa.com](http://www.smokefreeottawa.com)

Carmela Graziani

Secretary

cc: Shad Qadri, Ottawa City Councillor and Chair, Ottawa Board of Health  
Catherine McKenney, Ottawa City Councillor, Somerset Ward  
Rick O'Connor, City Clerk and Solicitor, City of Ottawa

## REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health. Poll in Support of a Smoke-Free Sparks Street Pedestrian Mall. Accessed October 17, 2016. <http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/sparks-street-mall.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health. Jurisdictions with Smoke-Free Pedestrian Malls, Plazas, Outdoor Shopping Areas and Street Fairs. Accessed October 17, 2016. <http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/sparks-street-mall.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Governance of Sparks Street boards to be reviewed; 2 separate boards 'essentially act as one,' says report to council." CBC News. November 26, 2014. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/governance-of-sparks-street-boards-to-be-reviewed-1.2851227>

<sup>4</sup> What is Ottawa 2017? Accessed October 17, 2016. <http://www.ottawa2017.ca/about/what-is-ottawa-2017/>