



For Immediate Release

Ottawa, April 12, 2011 - The Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health (OCSH) is very concerned about the status of the proposed new restaurant and bar patios in Centretown.

We read with amazement that Ottawa City Council is considering allowing patios within 30 metres of homes, especially since there is no word yet about a 100% smoke-free bylaw for all patios in the City of Ottawa ("*Patio policy change on the way*", *Ottawa Citizen*, April 7, 2011, p. B4).

In August 2010, the OCSH commissioned a study on second-hand smoke on restaurant and bar patios in Ottawa. This groundbreaking study revealed elevated, hazardous levels of small particulate matter when second-hand smoke was present, even in non-smoking sections and under windy conditions (<http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/air-quality-study-of-ottawa-patios.html>.)

The OCSH has sent every member of Ottawa City Council a package of information on the hazards of exposure to outdoor second-hand smoke. ***There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, even in outdoor spaces.*** Second-hand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, of which 69 are known to cause cancer.

We urge Ottawa City Council to ban smoking on patios to protect hospitality workers and patrons, as well as all residents, including children, seniors and other vulnerable populations who regularly walk by these structures. Furthermore, we urge Ottawa City Council to postpone the licensing of more patios until this bylaw is passed. The health of all Ottawa residents and workers should be their top priority.

Suzanne Friedlaender
President
Tel: 613-526-1771 or 613-697-1771