

Ottawa Residents and Tourists Support Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces

The Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health (OCSH) conducted two public opinion surveys of smoke-free outdoor spaces over the past two years. The results prove that ***Ottawa residents and tourists are ready and waiting for smoke-free outdoor spaces!***

OCSH Online Poll

481 individuals¹ responded to our online poll at www.smokefreeottawa.com between August 25, 2010 and May 31, 2011:

- 90% support smoke-free patios
- 89.9% support smoke-free parks and playgrounds
- 91.5% support smoke-free doorways to public places and workplaces
- 91.6% support smoke-free sports fields
- 88.9% support smoke-free beaches

Survey respondents said:

"I now avoid eating outside at restaurants to avoid the smoke."

"I used to play soccer and couldn't stand it when spectators or players smoked on the side-lines! Breathing in that smoke while I ran was disgusting."

"I work in a hospital and cancer patients are smoking 9 meters away from the main entrance...while public health care dollars are being spent to treat their lung cancer."

More Smoke-Free Spaces, Please!

Survey respondents want more smoke-free spaces, including: hospital/clinic grounds; municipal, federal and provincial buildings; bike and walking paths; school entranceways; construction sites; outdoor festivals; hotels; and university and college campuses.

OCSH Postcard Campaign

The OCSH collected **2,600** signed postcards in support of smoke-free outdoor spaces during the summer and fall of 2011.

Ottawa residents said:

"I think there needs to be more enforced signage at doorways...as an asthmatic, walking past smokers triggers my asthma and allergies. It is a health risk for me". ~ Barbara

"Tired of having to hold my breath and ask my asthmatic children to do so every time we leave a mall and government building." ~ Andrea

"I would love to enjoy myself on a patio on a lovely day but I cannot breathe." ~ Joanna

"Smoking shouldn't be allowed in shared spaces." ~ Cassandra

"I have two children I would like to protect." ~ Maria

Tourists Are Onboard!

413 tourists from every province in Canada, and from New York, New Mexico, California, and Pennsylvania signed our postcard.

Tourists said:

"I have been in Ottawa for the past week with my infant, constantly avoiding 2nd hand smoke which is so pervasive in the Nation's capital. Please set an example!" ~ Karen

"I enjoy smoke-free patios in Alberta." ~ Jasmine

"I am from outside Ottawa but want my grandchildren who live in Ottawa to enjoy clean air. I like to dine in Ottawa and enjoy patios that are smoke-free." ~ Heather

Ottawa Public Health Poll Confirms Widespread Public Support

An Ipsos Reid survey,² commissioned by Ottawa Public Health, confirms that the majority of Ottawa residents support smoke-free outdoor spaces:

- 84% support smoke-free doorways to public places
- 81% support smoke-free doorways to work places
- 73% support smoke-free patios
- 70% support smoke-free festivals, fairs, parades and markets.

Ontarians Support Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces:

- 90% of Ontarians support the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.³
- 88% of Ontarians agree that “government measures to curb smoking have made our community a better place to live.”⁴
- 89% of Ontarians agree that smoking should be prohibited where children are playing, such as parks, playgrounds and athletic venues.⁵
- 82% of Ontarians agree that smoking should be prohibited on restaurant patios and entry ways.⁶

Reclaiming Ottawa’s Reputation as a World Leader in Tobacco Control

Municipalities across Canada^{7,8} and the United States^{9,10,11} have already enacted smoke-free outdoor legislation.

Ottawa residents have waited ten years for the City of Ottawa to update its smoke-free bylaws. It’s time to make more public spaces and workplaces 100% smoke-free!

REFERENCES

¹ Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health. *Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces Campaign: Online Survey Results*. June 10, 2011.

² Ottawa Public Health. *Smoke-Free Spaces Survey Results*. September 2011. Ottawa, Ontario.

³ Ipsos Reid. *Nine in Ten Ontarians (90%) Familiar with Smoke-Free Ontario Legislation, Most Agree With Recommendations for Further Action*, news release, Tuesday, September 13, 2011. www.ipsos-na.com/newspolls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5331

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Non-Smokers’ Rights Association. *Smoke-free Bylaw Provisions in Canada Exceeding Provincial/Territorial Legislation*. Winter 2011. www.nusra-adnf.ca/cms/file/Summary_table_winter_2011.pdf

⁸ Non-Smokers’ Rights Association. *Compendium of Smoke-free Workplace and Public Place Bylaws*. Winter 2011. www.nusra-adnf.ca/cms/file/Compendium_Winter_2011.pdf

⁹ American Non-Smokers’ Rights Foundation. *Municipalities with SmokeFree Beach Laws*. October 2011. www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeBeaches.pdf

¹⁰ American Non-Smokers’ Rights Foundation. *Municipalities with SmokeFree Outdoor Dining Laws*. October 2011. www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeOutdoorDining.pdf

¹¹ American Non-Smokers’ Rights Foundation. *Municipalities with SmokeFree Outdoor Parks*. October 2011. www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeParks.pdf