



Ottawa Council on
Smoking or Health

Conseil d'Ottawa sur le
tabagisme ou la santé

February 10, 2014

Mr. Russell Mills
Chair, National Capital Commission
202- 40 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1P 1C7

Councillor Diane Holmes
Ottawa City Councillor, Somerset Ward
Chair, Ottawa Board of Health
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Re: Smoke-free Signage at Winterlude

Dear Mr. Mills and Councillor Holmes:

I am writing on behalf of the Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health (OCSH) to applaud the National Capital Commission (NCC) and the City of Ottawa for providing a smoke-free environment when viewing the magnificent Winterlude ice sculptures at Confederation Park.

The OCSH is a local volunteer organization established in 1978. Our goals are to: protect the public from second-hand smoke; prevent youth from starting to smoke; encourage smokers to quit; and advocate for better smoking cessation resources.

We are pleased that the NCC is expanding the scope of the City of Ottawa's *Smoke-Free Outdoor Bylaw* at Confederation Park and that the NCC and the City of Ottawa have posted smoke-free signage at venue gates.

We have received positive feedback from our members who have enjoyed Winterlude events during the day and at night without worrying about second-hand smoke exposure. Our members wish to thank the NCC for taking this important step in providing a healthy space for Ottawa residents, tourists, volunteers and workers at Confederation Park during Winterlude.



Winterlude at Confederation Park, Elgin Street Entrance, February 6, 2014

Credit: Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health

The health benefits of smoke-free living accumulate each year. This year, the U.S. Surgeon General's Report concluded that exposure to second-hand smoke is now considered a cause for strokes.¹ By promoting smoke-free Winterlude venues, the NCC and the City of Ottawa are protecting the public from exposure to the **69 class A carcinogens** found in second-hand smoke. An additional benefit is that youth now experience smoke-free events as part of a normal healthy environment.

Sincerely,

Carol McDonald
President, Ottawa Council on Smoking or Health
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www.smokefreeottawa.com

REFERENCES

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Executive Summary*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Page iii.
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/exec-summary.pdf>