

Jenna Challenger
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Mayor Joe Fontana
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Mayor Joe Fontana and Members of the Community Service Committee

My name is Jenna Challenger and I am a current resident in the London community, as well as a third year Nursing student at Western University. I am in favour of supporting the development of a Smoking ban in Municipal Parks and at entrances to Municipal buildings.

I believe that it is each individual's right in a community to breathe clean air. It is not right for people to be allowed to smoke in public places especially when there are children in close proximity. Children of our community are influenced by their older and more mature role models, which some of who smoke cigarettes. I believe that by openly smoking in public places in front of children is dangerous to not only the child's health, but also to their future decisions regarding smoking. Lung cancer is also strongly linked to tobacco use, which contributes to 85% of all new cases in Canada.

Individuals smoking around community centres, arenas, aquatic centres, and other public places impacts the health of everyone around them, as well as the athletes. Youth athletes and other participants at local community areas should not have to be exposed to second-hand smoke, which can impede their performance. By prohibiting smoking within nine meters of an entranceway to a municipally owned building, this can help reduce the amount of second-hand smoke lingering. This can also decrease the amount of individuals who directly see others smoking, therefore smoking will not be such a recognized habit or form of recreation.

Another concern with cigarette smoking is the amount of litter it comprises. Not only does it accumulate around public entrances, garbage cans, and in community parks, but also it is visible for the public to see. This creates unnecessary extra clean up for London city employers that could potentially be avoided if individuals were restricted from smoking in many areas. It also leaves undesirable garbage in public areas for the community to see, step on, smell, and possibly negatively influence others such as children.

As a citizen in the community of London, I strongly believe it is beneficial to implement a Smoking ban in Municipal Parks and at entrances to Municipal buildings. Every citizen deserves the right to breathe clean air and should not be negatively influenced by cigarette smoking.

Sincerely,

Jenna Challenger