



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

smokers' helpline

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September 20, 2012

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Re: Outdoor Smoke-Free Spaces

Mayor Fontana, City Councilors and City Clerk,

On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society *Smokers' Helpline* I would like to express my support for the Middlesex-London Health Unit's proposed outdoor smoke free bylaw as outlined in Option 3 of the document entitled, Building the Case for Smoke-Free Public Outdoor Spaces: Technical Report, attached as Appendix A to Report No. 103-11.

Smokers' Helpline is a free service, funded by the Government of Ontario, that provides support and information about quitting smoking by phone, online and text messaging programs.

Tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Ontario. It is responsible for 30 per cent of all cancer deaths and 85 per cent of lung cancer deaths. In Ontario, that is contributed to approximately 13,000 tobacco-related deaths each year.

Even outdoors second hand smoke is dangerous. It contains over 4,000 chemicals, 50 of them known cancer-causing substances. Second-hand smoke within half a meter of a single cigarette can be as concentrated as indoor smoke levels depending on air conditions. By passing this bylaw London will joined over 60 other Ontario municipalities, including Woodstock, Hamilton and Ottawa, who have passed bylaws to protect our citizens from the dangers of second-hand smoke. Removing smoking from outdoor public spaces ensures that young people are not exposed to second-hand smoke while they play and participate in sports, reduces opportunities for young people to see smoking behaviour as normal and increases the motivation of smokers to quit or cutback.

Thank you again considering the creation of an outdoor smoke-free bylaw for London.

Sincerely,

Dominique Bruce

Senior Coordinator, *Smokers' Helpline*
Canadian Cancer Society, Southwestern Region
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