

158 Broughdale Avenue  
London, ON N6A 2K7

September 20, 2012

Mayor Joe Fontana  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue,  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Mayor Fontana and Members of the Community Service Committee,

My name is Haylee White and I am a nursing student attending Western University. As a citizen of London, I am for the development of a Smoking ban in Municipal parks and at entrances to Municipal buildings. This effort will provide tobacco-free playing spaces for children and youth, limiting their exposure to second-hand smoke.

Each year more adults are being diagnosed with lung cancer and heart disease from being exposed to second-hand smoke. In young children, asthma and ear infections are caused from inhaling tobacco smoke in and around the areas they play and live. In 2011, Stats Canada reported a total of 875,704 boys and girls between the ages of 12 to 19 who were exposed to second hand smoke in the car and/or in a public place. As well, 1,502,819 males and females in Ontario were exposed to second- hand smoke in the car and/or a public facility. The initiative to implement smoke free parks and public spaces is important, as many young children and adults spend their free time participating in extracurricular activities in or around these areas. There are more non-smokers in the community and their best interests should also be considered.

Children and youth are continually looking up to adults for guidance and support as they are faced with life's challenges. Adults and young teens who model cigarette smoking are showing children and other young adults' poor health choices to follow. As of 2011 in Ontario, approximately 2,181,592 men and women currently smoke. Thus, implementing a smoking ban will encourage the community to start modelling positive health behaviours for youth.

It is important to make sure the London community is kept clean as it is home to many people. There are members in the community who work hard to see that London is kept clean. By having to take the time to clean up litter generated by cigarette packs and butts, it takes away from the time that could be spent making the city a healthier and safer environment.

In closing, I would like to stress how beneficial it would be for the city of London to develop a Smoke-free bylaw for Municipal parks and at entrances to Municipal buildings, as it would contribute to a healthy environment where people can live, work, and play. As citizens in this community it is our right to have the privilege of spending our time in a healthy, clean, and smoke-free environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my view point in this important debate.

Sincerely,

*Haylee White*

Haylee White  
Nursing Student, Western University