

September 23, 2012

Mr. Joe Fontana,  
Mayor, City of London  
214 - 300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Fontana,

In regard to the public participation meeting to be held on October 1, 2012, I wish to express my support in the proposed smoking restrictions. I am referring specifically, to the development of a Smoking ban that would prohibit smoking in all Municipal parks and within 9 metres of entrances to Municipal buildings.

Ontario has made great progress by prohibiting smoking at workplaces, in enclosed public places, and protecting children from second-hand smoke in vehicles. I believe it is time to take another stride forward and restrict smoking in these public areas in our community. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2012) stated that 13,000 lives are claimed in Ontario due to the effects of tobacco. That is the equivalent of 36 Ontarians dying each day. Sadly, last year, my mother was one of those 13,000 people.

In 2010, Statistics Canada reported that Canadian children were more likely than Canadians overall, to be exposed to second-hand smoke. Children do not choose the field they play soccer or baseball on, nor do they choose the arena at which their hockey team plays. They should not be exposed to the dangers of second-hand smoke while taking part in healthy activities.

It is the responsibility of the citizens of London to ensure our children have a safe environment. Let's start by cleaning up the air to which they are exposed daily. Please consider implementing this Smoking ban to help make our parks, sports fields, arenas and community centres safer, cleaner places to visit in London.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Cairns