

277 Victoria St., 7th Floor Toronto, ON M5B 1W2 Tel: (416) 392-7472 Fax: (416) 338-8126

Email: tcpc@toronto.ca

Website: www.toronto.ca/health/tcpc

September 27, 2013

Toronto Board of Health c/o Nancy Martins 10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall 100 Queen St. West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 Email: boh@toronto.ca

Re: Smoke-Free Toronto: Strengthening Protection

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition in strong support of the new report from Dr. McKeown, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health proposing new measures to improve second-hand smoke protection in beaches, sports fields, park amenities, public squares, restaurant and bar patios, entrances and exits to public buildings and hospital grounds.

Tobacco use is considered the single most significant cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in Ontario. Removing tobacco smoke from public spaces, especially where families and children are attendance, is an effective measure for reducing the exposure of smokers and non-smokers to this known carcinogen and decreasing overall consumption of tobacco products. Smoke-free outdoor spaces also decrease the visibility of smoking in public places and promote a tobacco-free lifestyle to children and youth.

The time has come for Toronto to join all other jurisdictions across Canada that have extended their smoking ban in public spaces. All Torontonians, especially families and children, should be protected from second-hand smoke in the areas where they work and play.

Faithfully yours,

Fiona Nelson, Chair Tel: 416-489-1321