



HL24.3.19

Deputation Presentation to: City of Toronto, Board of Health
Deputation Presentation date: September 30, 2013
Deputation Presentation by: Adam Pyne

My name is Adam Pyne and I am a local Toronto volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about why the Canadian Cancer Society fully supports the recommendations for Toronto to create outdoor smoke-free spaces around building entrances and exits, sports fields and park amenities, swimming beaches and in the future in public squares, on uncovered bar and restaurant patios and hospital grounds.

Canadian Cancer Society volunteers and staff are proud to be leading the charge in the fight against cancer. Our fight is a big one. Cancer is a powerful enemy. In fact, every 3 minutes, another Canadian is faced with fighting cancer.

Cancer takes the lives of more people in Canada than heart disease, strokes, respiratory diseases, pneumonia, diabetes, liver disease and HIV/AIDS combined. According to the 2012 *Canadian Cancer Statistics*, it is estimated that in 2012, 27,900 Ontarians will have died from cancer, and another 72,300 Ontarians will be diagnosed with the disease.¹

In the last 30 years the rates of new cancer diagnosis have more than doubled. Within the next decade, Ontario will see an unprecedented rise of 40 per cent in the number of people living with cancer. To put the increase into perspective, in 2007, 172 people were diagnosed with cancer each day. Today that number has risen to 198 people per day. By 2017, that number is expected to jump to 228 per day unless there are significant changes made related to cancer prevention.² Therefore, it is important that all levels of government play a role in creating healthy public policy.

Today I am here to emphasize the need for the creation of outdoor smoke-free spaces in Toronto. I am one of hundreds of volunteers from the Canadian Cancer

¹ Canadian Cancer Society/National Cancer Institute of Canada: *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2012*, Toronto, Canada, 2012.

² Cancer Care Ontario. (2008). *Ontario Cancer Plan: 2008-2011 Background*. Available at: http://www.cancercare.on.ca/documents/Backgrounder_OCP.pdf.



more likely to cut back or consider quitting⁴. Based on this study, it is possible that smokers experiencing a ban on smoking in play areas, may also cut back or quit.

Outdoor smoking restrictions also decrease negative role modeling for children. If children and youth are not exposed to adult smoking behaviour, they may be less likely to think of it as normal. Since most smokers start before the age of 18, this is important for public health and cancer prevention.

Public support for the creation of outdoor smoke-free spaces is strong across Ontario, and in Toronto.

In Toronto a survey conducted in 2011 by Toronto Public Health found that 86 per cent of adults surveyed support a bylaw restricting smoking near doorways. Eighty-three per cent support smoke free sports fields and spectator areas, and 77 per cent support smoke-free swimming beaches.

In Ontario, the City of Woodstock has had one of the most comprehensive outdoor smoke-free bylaws in Ontario since 2009, they have reported no negative impact on the use of facilities, and 84 per cent of smokers in Woodstock stated that the bylaw as good for their children's health. In Ottawa Ipsos Reid surveys conducted prior to their bylaw showed 77 per cent support for smoking bans in parks and on playgrounds and a high of 84 per cent for bans by building entranceways⁵.

By passing an outdoor smoke-free bylaw Toronto will join over eighty municipalities across Ontario who have already passed bylaws governing smoking in outdoor areas. This list includes Hamilton, Ottawa, Kingstong, Oakville, Woodstock, Chatham-Kent, St. Thomas, Collingwood, Niagara Falls, Barrie, Belleville, Cornwall, Orillia, Peterborough, and Sault Ste. Marie to name only a few on a list that continues to grow.

⁴ Statistics Canada, Smoking bans: Influence on smoking prevalence, accessed February 9, 2011 <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2006008/article/smoking-tabac/10306-eng.pdf>

⁵ Building the Case for Outdoor Smoke-Free Public Spaces Technical Report, Middlesex London Health Unit, November 2011.