



**Deputation in Support of
Expanding Smoke-Free Areas in City of Toronto Parks
October 23, 2013 Meeting of the Parks and Environment
Committee**

Good morning Members of the Parks and Environment Committee, City Staff and Guests.

My name is Jeff Carmichael and I'm here today to represent and to speak on behalf of the Toronto Sports Council and the many Toronto community sport organizations that are part of our network.

The Toronto Sports Council is a not-for-profit organization that strives to assist and support the growth of sport in our City. We promote active involvement in sport and physical recreation. We focus on participation development; participation for all. We focus on contributing to a healthier and more physically literate Toronto through quality sport experiences.

I'm here to explain to you why we support expanding smoke-free areas in City of Toronto Parks, in particular the outdoor sports fields and sport facilities.

Today, sport is much more than competition. Through a quality sport experience, children and youth can develop a number of learning and life skills including a respect for their own health. Smoking on the sidelines does not mix with a quality sport experience.

Promoting a Tobacco-Free Toronto is not new to the Toronto Sports Council.

Our Sports Council took a lead role in preparing the bid to host the 2012 Ontario Summer Games in Toronto. One important and highly valued component of that bid was that the Games would be a Tobacco-Free Games.

The bid was successful.

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In 2012, the City of Toronto hosted the Ontario Summer Games. It was a Tobacco-Free Games. The sport fields and the spectator areas at all venues were smoke-free. The entrances to the indoor sport facilities were smoke-free. The 3,200 participants from across the province and the thousands of spectators understood why smoke and sport do not mix – smokers respected our policy and there were no challenges with enforcing that policy.

In addition, the Toronto Sports Council have awarded several small grants to sport organizations for their development of a Tobacco-Free policy.

We feel that this bylaw will lead to voluntary compliance at the sport venues and that it will provide many of our responsible coaches with the legislated support needed for them to inform, educate and to ask smokers to move a little farther away from their participants.

We also feel that having a bylaw to support smoke-free areas in City of Toronto parks should not result in excessive signage in outdoor spaces. Signage should only be posted in those areas that have proven to be problematic.

The many volunteers of the TSC give a lot of their time to make sport an accessible, high quality and healthy experience for all. We know that exposure to smoke is always detrimental to ones' health. Exposure to smoke will always have a negative impact on a healthy and quality sport experience.

On behalf of the thousands of children and youth who participate in sport and who are part of our network of community sport organizations, I say 'thank you' for recognizing that **undesirable** and **unplanned** exposure to smoke is **unnecessary** and is **preventable**.

Thank you.