

Memo



Date: September 9, 2010
File: 6130-00
To: City Manager
From: Ian Wilson, Park Services Manager
Subject: Smoking prohibition amendments to Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw No. 6819-91

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive the report of the Park Services Manager, dated September 9, 2010;

AND THAT Council direct staff to bring forward amendments to Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw No. 6819-91 and City of Kelowna Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw No. 6550-89 to regulate smoking in all city-owned parks, stadiums, beaches and trails;

AND FURTHER THAT staff bring forward necessary budget requests for public education, signage and implementation of the bylaw changes for the 2011 budget deliberations.

Purpose: At the August 10, 2009 Council meeting, Council approved a recommendation for staff to investigate further options regarding prohibiting smoking in parks and public spaces.

Background:

Changes to the Parks and Public Spaces bylaw were approved on August 10, 2009, including a smoking prohibition in all City owned natural areas (defined as non-irrigated areas) in order to reduce the risk of wildland fire ignition. Included in the report was a recommendation from Interior Health Authority (IHA), that the City also consider banning smoking in parks, beaches and other recreational areas.

Staff recommended that options for a wider smoking ban be investigated in 2010, including a possible public survey. Subsequent to the 2009 Council report, staff learned that the Canadian Cancer Society had already conducted a statistically valid survey in 2008. The results of that survey found that in Kelowna¹:

- 71% of residents supported regulations that would prohibit smoking on outdoor patios of restaurants and bars (compared to 65% across B.C.);

¹ Canadian Cancer Society Advocacy Public Opinion Survey, 2008. Results (n=200) are accurate to ± 6.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'K' or similar mark.

- 81% supported regulations that would prohibit smoking within seven metres of entrances and windows of public places such as malls, workplaces and restaurants (81% across B.C.); and
- 75% supported regulations that would prohibit smoking at parks and playgrounds (75% across B.C.).

Attached are the latest recommendations from IHA and the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) regarding smoking bylaws as well as the health benefits. To summarize some of the rationale presented by IHA and CCS:

- Medical researchers recognize that even brief exposure to second hand smoke has immediate effects on the cardiovascular system and increases risk for heart disease and lung cancer;
- Research shows that particles from tobacco smoke are still present in outdoor settings at harmful levels, up to 7 metres away from the source, even when they can't be seen;
- Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in Canada;
- Infants and young children are especially vulnerable;
- An outdoor smoke-free bylaw would decrease negative role modeling for children;
- Smoking produces associated litter and clean up costs;
- Smoking restrictions can increase the motivation for smokers to quit or cut back;
- Fires can sometimes start through discarded cigarette butts; and
- As mentioned above, public opinion polls have found that the majority of Kelowna residents support additional outdoor smoking regulations.

Currently 38 local governments in British Columbia have outdoor smoking bylaws that exceed provincial standards². Also attached is a summary of similar bylaws across Canada.

Some of the potential challenges and costs associated with a bylaw include:

- **Public Awareness:** To help ensure success, staff recommend funding of a public awareness campaign in 2011 with assistance from Community and Media Relations. IHA is unable to provide monetary support at this time but could help provide in-kind support. Preliminary discussion with the Canadian Cancer Society has indicated that they may be able to help partner with the City (through cash or in-kind contributions) to assist with signage or public education. The awareness campaign would include advertising and signage at park entrances, as well as cigarette butt receptacles. Estimated cost is \$8,500 for a public awareness campaign and an additional \$14,000 for signage and cigarette butt receptacles at community parks, city-wide parks, recreation parks, stadiums and trails (initially, approximately 50 high usage areas will receive signage).
- **Enforcement:** As with any bylaw, proposed changes are likely to present some enforcement challenges. There has been some suggestion that these bylaws will become "self-enforcing" due to pressure from non-smoking park users. Staff feel that it is important to have the right enforcement tools in place to ensure success. One potential benefit of this bylaw is that it provides an additional enforcement tool for bylaw and RCMP officers regarding the smoking of controlled substances.

² Smoke Free Municipal Bylaws Exceeding Provincial Standards, 2010.
<http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/PDF/Smoke-Free%20Municipal%20Bylaws%20Exceeding%20Provincial%20Standards.pdf>

- **Designated smoking areas:** In some larger parks, stadiums or outdoor sporting venues, it may be desirable to provide designated smoking areas, e.g. at the Apple Bowl. This requires a suitable space that is located away from non-smokers and well signed, and could also include an enclosed shelter such as the designated smoking shelter located outside of Kelowna Airport. Staff with the Vancouver Parks Board have communicated to Kelowna staff that they are not planning any designated smoking areas at this time; staff and park visitors would be expected to leave the park site if they wish to smoke. Estimated cost is \$280 for a designated smoking area that only requires outdoor signage, to \$15,000 for an outdoor covered glass enclosure with seating.
- **Tourism impacts:** Smoking rates across North America are at an all time low, at about 18% in Canada³ and 20% in the United States⁴. Rates in Europe and Asia are slightly higher, ranging from 22-29%. However staff have spoken with Tourism Kelowna who felt that impacts on tourists would be minimal if tourists are allowed to smoke on sidewalks, and that it would be helpful if additional cigarette butt containers were placed in tour bus parking areas⁵.
- **Business impacts:** if Council wishes to endorse the alternate recommendation, then potential business impacts should be examined and additional consultation with business owners is recommended. However, previous studies have not found any negative impact of smoke free regulations on businesses, hotels or restaurants, and have even found some positive increases in business⁶.

At this time, staff recommend that the Parks and Public Spaces bylaw be updated to prohibit smoking in all city-owned parks, stadiums, trails, public beaches and playgrounds, and that budget is requested for public education, signage and cigarette butt receptacles at park entrances. Staff feel that these changes are a positive step forward and that the costs would be reasonable. These changes would also bring Kelowna's bylaws into harmony with similar bylaws at Central Okanagan Regional Parks as well as West Kelowna parks.

If Council wishes to expand upon the smoking prohibition to other types of public spaces or patios on private property as recommended by IHA, staff have included an alternate recommendation below. Another area where the City could show leadership is by regulating smoking on city-owned outdoor spaces for patios, for example a smoking ban could be a condition of lease agreements with downtown businesses that use sidewalk space for outdoor patios.

Internal Circulation:

City Clerk
Bylaw Services
Real Estate and Building Services
Recreation & Cultural Services
Community and Media Relations

³ http://www.cancer.ca/canada-wide/prevention/quit%20smoking/canadian%20tobacco%20stats.aspx?sc_lang=en

⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE4AC6XX20081113>

⁵ N. Cameron, Tourism Kelowna, personal communication.

⁶ <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/pubs/tobac-tabac/sfpp-fslp/sfpp-fslp3-eng.php>

Existing Policy:

Smoking is currently prohibited from natural parks (non-irrigated land) due to the risk of wildland fire ignition.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Estimated costs to implement a prohibition on smoking in parks, beaches and playgrounds summarized above.

Personnel Implications:

Bylaw staff patrols parks as part of their regular duties. This would be an additional bylaw to enforce, should there not be compliance. Although this can be added as part of their existing duties, if there is an expectation to increase the Bylaw parks presence to actively enforce this new bylaw additional resources would be required.

External Agency/Public Comments:

See attached letters from Interior Health and the Canadian Cancer Society. The City has received a number of letters supporting outdoor smoking bylaws. Canadian Cancer Society recently presented staff with a petition supporting outdoor smoking bylaws.

Alternate Recommendation:

If it is the desire of Council to expand outdoor smoking prohibitions according to the latest recommendations of IHA, staff suggest the following alternate recommendation:

THAT Council receive the report of the Park Services Manager, dated August 4, 2010;

AND THAT Council direct staff to bring forward amendments to Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw No. 6819-91 and City of Kelowna Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw No. 6550-89 to prohibit smoking in all city-owned parks, stadiums, beaches and trails, except in designated areas;

AND THAT City bylaw staff report back on the feasibility of amending City bylaws further to meet the recommendations of Interior Health, specifically with regards to smoking on outdoor patios or within six metres of building doors, air intakes or windows;

AND FURTHER THAT staff bring forward necessary budget requests for public education, signage and implementation of the bylaw changes for the 2011 budget deliberations.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

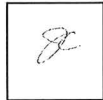
Community & Media Relations Comments:

Submitted by:



Ian Wilson

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Director, Civic Operations

cc: Joe Creron, Director Civic Operations
John Vos, General Manager Community Services

Attachments:

Letter of support from Interior Health Authority
Letter of support from Canadian Cancer Society
Summary of Canadian cities with bylaws that exceed provincial standards



Smoke-Free Outdoor Bylaws: Join the Growing Trend

Issue Overview

Tobacco is a major health issue that needs the attention of municipal leaders. In Canada, tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death. Every year, 37,000 Canadians die of tobacco-related illnesses including cancer. In addition to smokers, others are put at risk through exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS) which contains about 50 carcinogens and is so toxic that the US Surgeon General and the World Health Organization have determined that there is no safe level of exposure.

Municipalities in Canada have long shown leadership in adopting smoke-free bylaws for indoor workplaces and public places. Municipalities have paved the way for province-wide laws. And today, as in the past, many municipal bylaws go beyond the minimum standard in provincial smoke-free laws.

Tremendous progress has been made in Canada, and currently virtually all indoor workplaces and public places in Canada are smoke-free. Now, municipal councils are banning smoking in specified outdoor areas. There are many benefits of such municipal bylaws.

Why implement a smoke-free outdoor bylaw?

1. Protection from second-hand smoke

Second-hand smoke is extremely toxic. It contains over 4000 chemicals including at least 50 known cancer-causing substances. In an outdoor setting, SHS can be a hazard, though this can be affected by circumstances. According to researcher Niel Klepeis from Stanford University: "when measured close to a person who is actively smoking, air pollution can reach very high levels that are similar to levels observed for indoor smoking."¹

2. Increases the motivation for smokers to quit or cut back

Smokers respond to smoking restrictions by cutting back or quitting. Research conducted by Statistics Canada has demonstrated that when smoking bans have been implemented in homes and workplaces, many smokers have chosen to cutback or quit.

3. Decreases 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.

4. Protects the environment and reduces litter

Prohibiting smoking in outdoor locations would reduce the number of discarded butts. A 2006 litter study in the City of Toronto found that tobacco related litter (butts and packaging) made up 16.4% of pieces of small litter. Furthermore, the 2007 Great Canadian Shore Cleanup reported that in Alberta, tobacco related litter outnumbered other types by a ratio of 3:1. Reduced litter will reduce municipal clean up costs.

¹ www.tobaccosmoke.org/outdoor-tobacco-smoke-study/are-levels-really-the-same-as-for-indoor-smoking , Accessed May 17, 2010. Original study "Real-Time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles" Published in the *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association*

Smoking related litter is also a health hazard. In the US about 8000 potential toxic exposures are reported every year due to the ingestion of tobacco products by small children. In addition, fish, birds and other animals often swallow discarded butts which results in illness and death.

5. Reduced fire risk

Smoking, particularly in wooded areas, increases the risk of fire. An outdoor smoking bylaw may reduce this risk by controlling the places where smoking is allowed.

Municipalities are urged to join the growing trend to adopt municipal bylaws requiring certain outdoor places to be smoke-free. Municipalities have the opportunity to improve public health within the community, at virtually no cost, and even with some cost savings. Many municipalities have already adopted successful municipal bylaws in this area. See examples below.

The following table indicates which municipalities have required specified outdoor places to be smoke-free. As this area is quickly evolving, additional municipalities could inevitably be added to the listing.

Restriction	Municipality	
Entrances/exits to buildings²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anmore (BC) (7.5m) Belcarra (BC) (7.5m) Pemberton (BC) (6m) Pitt Meadows (BC) Port Moody (BC) (7.5m) Powell River (BC) (6m) Richmond (BC) (6m) Richmond County (NS) (5m) Stettler (AB) (6m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrey (BC) (7.5m) North Vancouver (District of) (BC) (6m) Vancouver (BC) (6m) Victoria County (NS) (5m) West Vancouver (BC) (6m) Whistler (BC) (6m) White Rock (BC) (7.5m) Whitehorse (YT) (3m) Wood Buffalo Region (AB) (10m)
Patios of restaurants/bars³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anmore (BC) Brighton (ON) Burpee & Mills (ON) Capital Regional District/Victoria (BC) Kingston (ON) North Vancouver (District of) (BC) North Vancouver (City of) BC Pitt Meadows (BC) Port Moody (BC) Powell River (BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richmond (BC) Saskatoon (SK) Squamish (BC) Surrey (BC) Tehkummah (ON) Thunder Bay (ON) Vancouver (BC) West Vancouver (BC) Whistler (BC) White Rock (BC)
Perimeter around restaurant/bar patios⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Vancouver (BC) (6m) Port Moody (BC) (7.5m) Powell River (BC) (6m) Richmond (BC) (6m) Squamish (BC) (3m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrey (BC) (7.5m) Vancouver (BC) (6m) West Vancouver (BC) (6m) White Rock (BC) (7.5m)

² Provincial laws banning smoking at entrances/exits to all workplaces and public places are Alberta (5m), Yukon (5m), N.S. (4m), B.C. (3m). Some municipal bylaws (not those listed above) ban smoking at entrances/exits of municipal buildings, but not all workplaces and public places.

³ Alberta, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Yukon prohibit smoking on patios of restaurants/bars. Municipal bylaws in Alberta and Nova Scotia with 100% smoke-free patios are not listed above because province-wide laws are now also in place.

⁴ No person may smoke within a certain distance of a patio, which for Vancouver is 6m.

Municipal parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrie (ON) ▪ Belleville (ON) ▪ Kentville (NS) ▪ L'Ancienne-Lorette (QC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Cornwall (ON) ▪ Port Moody (BC) ▪ Squamish (BC) ▪ Vancouver (BC) ▪ White Rock (BC)
Children's playgrounds⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abbotsford (BC) ▪ Adjala-Tosorontio (ON) ▪ Arnprior (ON) ▪ Barrie (ON) ▪ Belcarra (BC) ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Clearview (ON) ▪ Collingwood (ON) ▪ Cornwall (ON) ▪ Elliot Lake (ON) ▪ Kentville (NS) ▪ L'Ancienne-Lorette (QC) ▪ Midland (ON) ▪ New Tecumseh (ON) ▪ North Vancouver (BC) ▪ Orillia (ON) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pemberton (BC) ▪ Port Moody (BC) ▪ Powell River (BC) ▪ Quinte West (ON) ▪ Richmond (BC) ▪ Sault Ste. Marie (ON) ▪ South Bruce (ON) ▪ Squamish (BC) ▪ St. John's (NL) ▪ Toronto (ON) ▪ Uxbridge (ON) ▪ Vancouver (BC) ▪ West Vancouver (BC) ▪ Whistler (BC) ▪ White Rock (BC) ▪ Woodstock (ON)
Sports/playing fields⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abbotsford (BC) ▪ Adjala-Tosorontio (ON) ▪ Clearview (ON) ▪ Elliot Lake (ON) ▪ L'Ancienne-Lorette (QC) ▪ Pemberton (BC) ▪ Port Moody (BC) ▪ Powell River (BC) ▪ Richmond (BC) ▪ Whistler (BC) ▪ White Rock (BC) ▪ South Bruce (ON) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrie (ON) ▪ Belcarra (BC) ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Georgina (ON)⁷ ▪ Kentville (NS) ▪ Midland (ON) ▪ North Vancouver (BC) ▪ Sault Ste. Marie (ON) ▪ Squamish (BC) ▪ Orillia (ON) ▪ Quinte West (ON) ▪ West Vancouver (BC) ▪ Woodstock (ON)
Seating areas; stadiums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abbotsford (BC) ▪ Barrie (ON) ▪ Belcarra (BC) ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Cornwall (ON) ▪ Mission (BC) ▪ New Tecumseh (ON) ▪ Orillia (ON) ▪ Ottawa (ON) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peterborough (ON) ▪ Port Moody (BC) ▪ Red Deer (AB) ▪ Richmond (BC) ▪ Sylvan Lake (AB) ▪ Whistler (BC) ▪ White Rock (BC) ▪ Woodstock (ON)
Events on municipal property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Clearview (ON) ▪ North Vancouver (BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Albert (AB)
Outdoor venue for assembly of persons (e.g. entertainment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Belcarra (BC)⁸ ▪ Devon (AB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pemberton (BC) ▪ Whistler (BC)

⁵ Owen Sound (ON) and St. John's (N&L) are examples of banning smoking on playgrounds by policy, not bylaw.

⁶ In addition, many municipalities have adopted policies (as opposed to bylaws) so that municipal sports fields (e.g. soccer fields) are smoke-free. Examples include Owen Sound (ON) and Fernie (BC). In Newfoundland and Labrador, 46 communities (including St. John's) representing 73% of the population have policies for smoke-free athletic and recreational properties (source: Alliance for the Control of Tobacco, 2009).

⁷ Georgina Civic Centre soccer fields

⁸ Public gathering places where people sit or stand together in close proximity.

Bus stops/transit stops⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Vancouver, City (BC) ▪ Pemberton (BC) ▪ Powell River (BC) ▪ Port Moody (BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond (BC) ▪ West Vancouver (BC) ▪ Woodstock (ON)
Perimeter of bus shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Vancouver, City (BC)(7.5m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richmond (BC) (3m)
Transit property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ottawa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Near school property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS)¹⁰ ▪ Pemberton (BC) ▪ Powell River (BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yarmouth (NS)¹¹ ▪ Whistler (BC) (25m)
Beaches¹²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orillia (ON) ▪ Arnprior (ON) ▪ North Vancouver (BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Squamish (BC)¹³ ▪ Vancouver (BC) ▪ West Vancouver (BC) ▪ White Rock (BC)
Perimeter of wading pools splash pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toronto (9m) ▪ West Vancouver (6m) 	
Perimeter of municipal swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrie (25m) ▪ Cornwall (ON) (9m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Woodstock (30m)
Zoos (as specified)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peterborough (ON) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toronto (ON)
Cemeteries on municipal property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) 	
Grounds of a town building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) 	
University/college grounds¹⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ no bylaws yet known but some universities have 100% smoke-free campus policy (e.g. Dalhousie and Acadia) 	
Hospital grounds¹⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Woodstock (ON) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many hospitals voluntarily prohibit smoking on their property
Street or sidewalk along parade route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) 	
Particular outdoor street/walkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calgary (AB) (Olympic Plaza) ▪ Truro (NS) (Inglis Place) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White Rock (BC) (the promenade; the pier)
Trail or path on municipal property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrie (ON) ▪ Kentville (NS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bridgewater (NS) ▪ Vancouver (BC)

⁹ Some municipalities prohibit smoking in transit shelters, or within distance of transit shelters, but not all bus stops.

¹⁰ School Area designated under Motor Vehicle Act

¹¹ certain streets, 8am-4pm on school days

¹² In the U.S., many municipalities in California and on the Eastern seaboard prohibit smoking on beaches, as do some municipalities in Australia and New Zealand.

¹³ Only applies to municipal beaches

¹⁴ Yukon territorial law bans smoking on the property of Yukon College.

¹⁵ P.E.I. legislation bans smoking on almost all hospital grounds.



Canadian
Cancer
Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON

1633 Pandosy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1P6

Telephone 250 762 6381 Fax 250 762 8855

www.cancer.ca

PRESIDENT Lyn McMullen

REGIONAL MANAGER Sally Ginter

Ian Wilson, Park Services Manager
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

August 23, 2010

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Canadian Cancer Society encourages the City of Kelowna to introduce a comprehensive smoke-free outdoor bylaw that would ban all forms of tobacco use and smoking in outdoor places including outdoor patios and stadiums, waterparks, beaches, natural areas and open spaces, community parks, playing fields, playgrounds and pathways.

The psycho-social and health benefits accrued by those who use outdoor spaces for recreation, sport and leisure activities are well understood. The natural beauty of Kelowna's plethora of outdoor spaces is a matter of pride for the City. Ensuring that residents and visitors, alike, are able to enjoy what Kelowna has to offer requires that measures are put in place to eliminate exposure to cancer-causing substances like second-hand smoke, reduce the negative role modeling to children and eliminate the accumulation of cigarette butts and packaging materials.

Canadian municipalities have shown strong leadership in adopting indoor smoke-free bylaws with virtually all indoor workplaces and public places now smoke-free. The vital next step to eliminating exposure to cancer-causing substances is to prohibit tobacco use in public outdoor areas.

Outdoor smoking bans address important public health concerns:

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in Canada.

Every year, 37,000 Canadians die of tobacco-related illnesses including cancer. Tobacco kills three times more Canadians each year than alcohol, AIDS, illegal drugs, car accidents, suicide, and murder, all combined.¹

Second-hand smoke is so toxic that the US Surgeon General and the World Health Organization have determined that there is no safe level of exposure.

According to the US Surgeon General, "second-hand smoke is composed of sidestream smoke (the smoke released from the burning end of a cigarette) and exhaled mainstream smoke (the smoke exhaled by the smoker). Because sidestream smoke is generated at lower temperatures and under different conditions than mainstream smoke, it contains higher concentrations of many of the toxins found in inhaled cigarette smoke."²

The 2006 US Surgeon General's Report is clear. *Any* exposure to tobacco smoke is harmful to human health, even when you cannot see or smell it. Second-hand smoke

¹ Canadian Council for Tobacco Control. (2008).

² The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Secondhand Smoke Is Toxic and Poisonous. (2006).
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet9.html>

(SHS) contains over 4000 chemicals with at least 50 known cancer-causing (carcinogenic) substances including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide. Children who are exposed to second-hand smoke are involuntarily inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers. Servers and patrons on patios of bars and restaurants should not be exposed to known carcinogens and families should not have to compromise their health in order to enjoy time outdoors. Being within a few feet of a smoker outdoors may expose you to air pollution levels comparable to homes and bars that allow smoking.³

Non-smokers are hurt by second-hand smoke.

In 1986 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the US Surgeon General, and the US National Research Council all concluded that SHS was a cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers.^{4,5,6} Mothers who are exposed to SHS while pregnant are more likely to have lower birth weight babies, increasing the risk for many health problems.⁷

Infants and young children are especially vulnerable to the poisons in second-hand smoke.

The Surgeon General concluded that even brief exposures to SHS can be harmful. On average, having smaller bodies than adults, children are exposed to more SHS than non-smoking adults. Children exposed to SHS are at increased risk for prematurity and perinatal mortality, respiratory symptoms and illness such as bronchitis and pneumonia, ear infections, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma⁸ and childhood cancers.⁹

An outdoor smoke-free bylaw decreases negative role modeling for children.

Children learn from and imitate the behaviour of their parents and other adults. Outdoor places are excellent venues for adults to role model health promoting leisure and sport activities. 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.

Smoking restrictions increase the motivation for smokers to quit or cutback.

Smokers respond to smoking restrictions by cutting back or quitting. Research conducted by Statistics Canada has demonstrated that when smoking bans have been implemented in homes and workplaces, smokers have chosen to cutback or quit.

Reduced fire risk.

Smoking, particularly in wooded areas, increases the risk of fire. An outdoor smoking bylaw may reduce this risk by controlling the places where smoking is allowed.

³ Canadian Council for Tobacco Control. Fact sheet on Second-hand Smoke and Outdoor Places. (2008).

⁴ International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans: Tobacco Smoking. (1986).

⁵ US Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). The health consequences of involuntary smoking: A report of the Surgeon General. (1986) DHHS Publication No. (CDC) 87-8398.

⁶ National Research Council (NRC), Committee on Passive Smoking. Environmental tobacco smoke: Measuring exposures and assessing health effects. (1986).

^{7,8} The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/factsheets/factsheet2.html>

⁹ Secondhand smoke exposure: Effects in children. Jonathan M Samet, MD, MSMarianna Sockrider, MD, DrPH.

http://www.uptodate.com/patients/content/topic.do?topicKey=-I442hR5DF.97Fy&source=see_link#H1.

Smoking related litter is a health hazard.

In the US about 8000 potential toxic exposures are reported every year due to the ingestion of tobacco products by small children. In addition, fish, birds and other animals often swallow discarded butts which results in illness and death.

Prohibiting smoking in outdoor locations reduces the number of discarded butts and ensuing municipal clean up costs.

A 2006 litter study in the City of Toronto found that tobacco related litter (butts and packaging) made up 16.4% of pieces of small litter. The Great Canadian Shore Cleanup reports that in 2009 cigarette butts outnumbered other types of litter by a ratio of 3:1.¹⁰

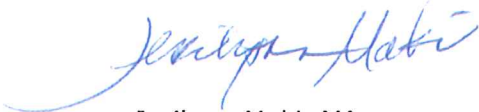
Economic Impacts

Smoke-free bylaws do not negatively impact business. Virtually every objective, peer-reviewed study using official sales tax data, demonstrates that smoke-free bylaws and legislation have no adverse impact on restaurant, bar, hotel and tourism receipts and may even be good for business.¹¹

In conclusion, the Canadian Cancer Society applauds the City of Kelowna for considering outdoor smoking restrictions. Tobacco use is a major health issue that needs the attention of municipal leaders. This is an incredible opportunity for the City to play a leadership role to improve public health within the community, at virtually no cost, and even with some cost savings.

Since the majority of Kelowna residents and visitors to the city do not smoke, a comprehensive outdoor smoking ban would be catering to the majority. The Canadian Cancer Society urges the City of Kelowna to take immediate action and adopt a bylaw that requires public outdoor spaces to be smoke-free.

Sincerely,



Jerilynn Maki, MA
Health Promotion Coordinator, Southern Interior Region

Cc: Kathryn Seely, Public Issues Manager, Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon

¹⁰ <http://shorelinecleanup.ca/> retrieved August 13, 2010.

¹¹ Pacific Analytics Inc. "The Economic Impacts of the Proposed Amendment to the ETS Regulation," February 2001.



Interior Health

August 13, 2010

Ian Wilson
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Mr. Wilson,

RE: IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR SMOKE-FREE PUBLIC SPACES

The Medical Health Officers of Interior Health would like to express our support for the implementation of a bylaw that recognizes outdoor smoke-free spaces. The gold standard includes 6 meter buffer zones from entranceways, windows and air intakes; smoke-free patios and outdoor public spaces including beaches, parks, playgrounds, stadiums and playing fields.

There are a number of sound reasons for implementing a bylaw banning smoking from outdoor spaces:

- 1. Tobacco smoke:** Tobacco remains the single most preventable cause of disease and death. According to the World Health Organization "there is no safe limit of exposure to second hand smoke."". In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that second hand smoke "is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children. Even brief exposure to second hand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and increases risk for heart disease and lung cancer". Research shows that particles from tobacco smoke are still present in outdoor settings, at harmful levels, up to 7 meters away from their source.
- 2. Modelling behaviour:** Smoke-free environments send a message to children and youth that non-smoking is the norm; 8 out of 10 of adult British Columbians are non-smokers. Children and teens are heavily influenced by the physical and social environments in which they live. Studies show that most smokers become addicted to tobacco before the age of 16, so reaching youth with effective anti-smoking messages has the potential to shrink the next generation of smokers. It is our role and responsibility, as adults, to model tobacco use as unacceptable and not associated with pleasurable activity.
- 3. Fire prevention:** Residents of the BC Interior are well aware of the fire dangers cigarettes pose on beaches and in forested recreation areas. Estimates for the proportion of forest fires caused by smoking run from 10-25%. In addition to the economic losses and damage to wildlife habitat caused by fires, the smoke they create can cause illness, especially for people with underlying heart or lung conditions.

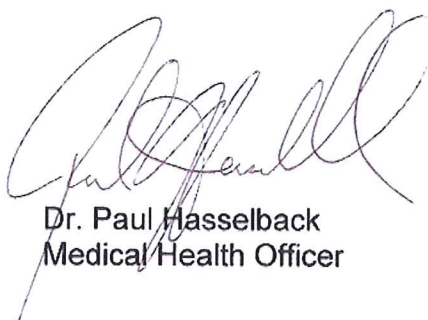
Kelowna residents prefer outdoor smoke-free public spaces. A survey conducted by the Canadian Cancer Society found that nearly 3/4 of Kelowna residents support prohibiting smoking at parks, playgrounds, and outdoor patios. Other cities in British Columbia – including Vancouver, Whistler, White Rock and Surrey - have already led the way in protecting their citizens by adopting bylaws prohibiting smoking in outdoor spaces.

Smoke-free bylaws are the key public health initiative available at the municipal level to protect the well being of its citizens. We encourage you to implement a bylaw reflecting the gold standard in outdoor smoke-free public spaces by prohibiting smoking at Kelowna parks, beaches, playgrounds, playing fields and stadiums as well as on outdoor patios and within 6 metres of entranceways, windows and air intakes. We would, also, encourage that adequate signage, public education and enforcement is integrated into the implementation of any new smoking restrictions.

In best health,



Dr. Andrew Larder
Senior Medical Health Officer



Dr. Paul Hasselback
Medical Health Officer



Dr. Robert Parker
Medical Health Officer