

March 29, 2012

Mayor Walter Gray and Members of Council
City of Kelowna
1435 Water St
Kelowna BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Mayor Gray and Members of Council:

SUBJECT: *Smoke-Free Outdoor Public Places Bylaw*

Further to our correspondence to you on January 20, 2011, we are writing to congratulate you on your leadership in protecting your citizens by the implementation of the Parks and Publics Spaces Bylaw and the Clean Indoor Air and Smoking Regulation Bylaw which restrict smoking in parks, outdoor stadiums, on public beaches, trails, playing fields, and playgrounds, and within 10m of any entrance to or exit from the main terminal building of Kelowna International Airport. We would also like to provide you with an update of smoke-free outdoor public places bylaws in British Columbia and encourage you to strengthen your current bylaw by making other outdoor public places not covered in your bylaw smoke-free.

In that earlier correspondence, we wrote of the well-known and irrefutable health hazards associated with smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, even in outdoor settings. Simply, there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, and smoking in and of itself kills when cigarettes are used as directed. As evidenced by the fact that you do have a bylaw restricting smoking in outdoor public places that is more stringent than provincial regulations in place, you are aware of how dangerous exposure to second-hand smoke is, even in outdoor settings.

As little as five years ago, outdoor smoke-free public places bylaws in BC were a rarity. In what was then considered a landmark, the Capital Regional District was the first municipality in BC to ban smoking on customer service patios in July, 2007. There are now close to twenty municipalities in BC that have banned smoking on customer service patios.

Smoke-free parks, playgrounds and beaches were even more of a rarity in the early years, despite the intuitive knowledge that second-hand smoke is even more dangerous for children, who are often found in these locales. In addition, lit and smouldering cigarettes and cigarette butts are an environmental hazard and potential fire risk. Many municipalities had deemed smoking bans in these locations as unenforceable. Now, over twenty municipalities in BC have implemented some sort of smoke-free parks, playgrounds, beaches bylaw, a three-fold increase in three years.

A list of the thirty-one BC municipalities that have implemented some sort of smoke-free outdoor public places bylaw can be found in the attachment to this letter.

The following list of additions to your public places smoking restrictions would go a long way to protecting the health of your citizens further:

- Banning smoking on customer service patios.
- Banning smoking in all transit and vehicle for hire shelters, at transit stops and vehicle for hire stops.
- Banning smoking within at least 7.5 metres from doors, windows and air intakes of places of public assembly, and at least 7.5 metres from the above listed locales.¹
- Banning smoking at designated public events, such as parades and fairs.
- Removing the provision of designated smoking areas in park that currently exists in the description of section 3.40 of the Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw.

Although you have already gone through the process before, we would like to inform you of some excellent resources available to you that are posted on our Clean Air Coalition of B.C. website on this issue. Please visit:

<http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/issues/smoke-free-outdoor-public-places>
to access these resources, which we hope will be of assistance in this matter.

We hope that Kelowna will continue in its public health leadership role by making these additions to outdoor public places where smoking will be prohibited.

Sincerely,



Diego Marchese
CEO, BC & Yukon
Heart and Stroke Foundation



Scott McDonald
President & CEO
BC Lung Association

cc. Mark Collison, Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon
Lex Baas, Interior Health Authority

attach. Municipalities in BC with a Smoke-Free Bylaw That Exceeds Provincial
Standards

¹ James Repace, a leading scientist who studies the movement of smoke, has concluded that the fine particulate matter from second-hand smoke does not generally dissipate until 7.5 metres from its source.

Attachment.

Municipalities in BC with a Smoke-Free Bylaw That Exceeds Provincial Standards

Customer Service Patios	Parks/Playgrounds	Other
Anmore	Belcarra	Abbotsford (7 m buffer to public buildings)
Capital Regional District	Coquitlam	Delta (public events)
Coquitlam (bars excluded)	Central Okanagan RD	Mission (spectator areas)
Delta (bars excluded)	Kelowna	Kelowna (buffer zone to airport terminal)
Langley City	Nakusp	North Vancouver City (buffer to transit shelters)
North Vancouver District	Nanaimo	Pemberton (buffer to transit shelters)
Pemberton	North Vancouver District	Richmond (transit stops) (vehicles age 19)
Pitt Meadows	Pemberton	Surrey (vehicles age 19)
Port Coquitlam (bars excluded)	Pitt Meadows	
Port Moody	Port Moody	
Powell River (bars excluded)	Powell River	
Richmond	Richmond	
Squamish	Salmon Arm (Fletcher Park only)	
Surrey	Sicamous	
Vancouver City	Squamish	
West Vancouver	Tofino	
Whistler	Vancouver City	
White Rock	Metro Vancouver	
	West Kelowna	
	West Vancouver	
	Whistler	
	White Rock	