



## Physicians *for a* Smoke-Free Canada

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May 22, 2003

Mayor Hector Lavigne and Councillors  
Municipality of Callander  
280 Main Street North  
PO Box 100  
Callander, Ontario  
CANADA P0H1H0

Dear Mayor Lavigne and Councillors:

I'm Heather Crowe of Ottawa. I am 58 years old. I spent my entire 40-year career working in the hospitality sector, mostly as a waitress. I am now dying from lung cancer as a result of my exposure to second-hand smoke.

I was disturbed to learn that Mr. Dan Tait appeared at your May 21 council meeting and claimed that he knew me and further claimed that if ventilation had been in place, I would not be in the position I am today. I do not know Mr. Tait and I have never made the claim about ventilation that he attributed to me. It is a known fact that ventilation provides no solution to the problem of exposure to second-hand smoke at work.

Hospitality workers, like me, have been the forgotten workers. All too often, laws and by-laws that restrict smoking in workplaces and public places make exceptions for bars and restaurants, thereby continuing to expose people who work there to daily doses of second-hand smoke. In effect, this means that we have been treating waitresses, waiters and bartenders as second-class citizens with second-class lungs. We have made our bars and restaurants into gas chambers and we are sending the workers in there to perish.

While it is too late for me, it is not too late for mayors and municipal councillors across Canada to protect other hospitality workers. I urge you to pass a by-law to ban smoking in all workplaces under your jurisdiction, with no exceptions. That is how we can protect all workers equally.

And that is how you can help me to realize my dying wish, to be the last person in Canada to die from second-hand smoke at work.

Sincerely,

Heather Crowe  
Volunteer