

Breathe Easy Muskoka

March 27, 2001

Dear Principal:

The "Breathe Easy Muskoka" coalition is attempting to get municipal councils in Muskoka to pass smoke-free by-laws in public places. Second-hand smoke is a known health-hazard and people, especially children should not have to be involuntarily exposed to this risk in places such as restaurants and community centres.

The coalition has been working on a media campaign to increase public and political awareness of this issue. The campaign encourages citizens to voice their opinion and contact local Councillors in support of a by-law. There are several vocal people who are against smoke-free by-laws and are already speaking to the politicians.

We need your help. The more letters the Councillors receive the more likely they will support the by-law. Could you ask your students, classes and teachers to write as many letters as possible in support of a smoke-free by-law? This will be a great lesson for the students about the political process and letter writing.

Enclosed you will find information on second-hand smoke, addresses of the Councillors, and a sample letter. **Your voices need to be heard.** Nothing will happen unless enough people contact Councillors and let them know how they feel.

We will be presenting to municipal councils in May or June and would like to include students in our presentations. Could you recommend one or two students who are good speakers and have a keen interest or health concern about this issue?

Your assistance is a vital part of this community campaign. Please show the students that their voice is important and can make a difference.

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