

Breathe Easy Muskoka

March 23, 2001

Dear politician:

The "Breathe Easy Muskoka" Coalition has been working very diligently over the last few months to increase public and political awareness about the need for smoke-free public places. The goal of this coalition is to encourage the District of Muskoka to pass a by-law addressing this issue.

You may have seen the advertisements in the Huntsville Forester, Bracebridge Examiner, Muskoka Advance and Muskoka Today encouraging the public to voice their opinion. A survey conducted in 1999 revealed that 77 percent of people in Muskoka and Parry Sound support smoke-free by-laws in restaurants. The ad campaign and the letters you have received reinforce the importance of this issue.

In May or June, the coalition will be presenting at your municipal council and requesting a resolution be passed to allow the District of Muskoka to work on a by-law. Enclosed is some useful information to help you understand this issue clearly.

Some feel that a smoke-free by-law will have a negative impact on the hospitality industry. We ask that you read through the information provided so that you might make an educated decision.

The general public and the entire health community support this initiative. The timing is right to work on protecting the public from a known health hazard. Everyone deserves a chance to Breathe Easy.

Sincerely,

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