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Founding Agencies:

Canadian Cancer Society–Ontario Division

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

Non-Smokers' Rights Association

Ontario Lung Association

Ontario Medical Association

Supporting Agencies:

Alcohol and Drug Concerns Inc.

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Cancer Care Ontario

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies

Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctors

Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations

Ontario Physical and Health Education Association

Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada

Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

The Ontario College of Family Physicians

HEALTH AGENCIES STRONGLY ENDORSE HEALTH BOARD RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE SMOKING ROOMS IN CITY BYLAW

Toronto – The province's largest tobacco control coalition has strongly endorsed City Board of Health Chair Mihevc's proposed motion to eliminate designated smoking rooms (DSRs) from the City's 1999 smoke-free restaurant and bar bylaw, which is to be considered by the Board today.

"While we supported the present bylaw when it was passed in 1999, experience has shown that DSRs are a bad idea for several reasons," said Michael Perley, Director of the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco. "In premises with DSRs in Peterborough and York Region, we have seen proprietors leaving the doors open, allowing kids to enter them, and building them so staff have to work in them. There is also a concern that their occupancy load can exceed that permitted under liquor licence regulations."

Perley also pointed out that permitting DSRs creates an "unlevel playing field", in which some businesses can attract smoking clientele, and others not. "While some businesses have both the physical space and the financial resources to build DSRs, other do not. It makes neither health nor economic sense for some premises, but not others, to be able to attract smoking customers," he said.

The Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco is a coalition of provincial health agencies that have been working together since the early '90s in support of the implementation of effective tobacco control policies in the province of Ontario.

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