



NEWS RELEASE

Toronto, March 25, 2003

Lung cancer victim urges Ontario Health and Labour Ministers to get deadly second-hand smoke out of all Ontario workplaces.

Toronto (March 25, 2003) – Heather Crowe, the former Ottawa waitress dying of lung cancer from second-hand smoke exposure, is meeting with Health Minister Tony Clement and Labour Minister Brad Clark today to urge them to ban smoking in all workplaces. She will also meet Opposition Leader Dalton McGuinty, who announced yesterday that a Liberal government will ban smoking in all Ontario workplaces within 3 years.

For 40 years, while waiting on tables in smoke-filled restaurants and bars in Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa, Ms. Crowe, a non-smoker, breathed in second-hand smoke on a regular basis. She gained national media attention last fall when the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board accepted her claim for compensation. “I want to be the last person to die of second-hand smoke at work,” said Ms. Crowe.

“Heather’s plight is a wake-up call to all of us,” said Neil Collishaw, Research Director of Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada. “We have to stop killing hospitality workers. The government must move quickly to remove second-hand smoke from all Ontario workplaces, including bars and restaurants. That is how we will help Heather realize her dying wish,” he concluded.

The Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco facilitated Heather Crowe’s visit to Toronto. Ms. Crowe has previously met with Labour Ministers in (NEIL: please fill in) to make the case in favour of smoke-free workplaces.

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