

**Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco
Campagne Ontarienne D'Action Contre le Tabac**

**For Immediate Release
May 15 2001**

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

**DESPITE HOSPITALITY STUDY, VENTILATION STILL NO SOLUTION
TO SECOND-HAND SMOKE: HEALTH AGENCIES
Restaurant Association Study Linked to Tobacco Industry**

Toronto – Despite the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association's study promoting ventilation as a solution to the second-hand smoke problem, ventilation still remains a non-starter as a means of eliminating second-hand smoke from indoor premises, according to Ontario's health agencies.

“There are many reasons why ventilation cannot solve the second-hand smoke problem, said Michael Perley, Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco Director. “First, no ventilation technology can entirely eliminate second-hand smoke from indoor air, and since no safe level of exposure has ever been set by a recognized agency, a complete ban is the only solution. Even if a technology were developed, at least a decade of intensive design, testing and training programs would be needed to produce reliable results across all types of premises.”

Perley also noted the key role the tobacco industry is playing in promoting the ventilation solution. “The ORHMA study is funded by the Hotel Association of Canada, an organization which has received over \$3 million from the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council to promote this type of solution. Also, the lead study researcher, Roger Jenkins of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has testified on behalf of the tobacco industry in the United States, and has performed extensive research on its behalf. The Analytical Chemistry Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory has received more than \$1 from the Council for Tobacco Research and the tobacco-funded Centre for Indoor Air Research. Therefore, any findings in favour of ventilation from this source should be viewed with extreme skepticism.”

“What we find most disappointing about the ORHMA's effort today, is that the two organizations making up the ORHMA previously signed an agreement to support the Toronto by-law, and to jointly request that Health Canada test the Black Dog Pub technology which is the subject of their study released today. In a March 17, 2000 memo, Health Canada refused to test the system saying in part that “the problem with ventilation as an exposure reduction strategy is that exposure, even if the system is operating at maximum efficiency, is never zero...it is concluded that such systems are not as good as a total ban.” The ORHMA seems intent on breaking the terms of this agreement, which was overseen and supported by Mayor Lastman's office. Their continuing refusal to accept the terms of this by-law, to the point of breaking signed agreements with the health community, and their links with the tobacco industry, seriously damage their credibility as equal partners in this public health initiative.”

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