

Mayor Paul Holbrough
Town of Ingersoll 130 Oxford St. 2nd Floor
Ingersoll, Ontario. N5C 2V5

February 9, 2009

Dear Mayor Holbrough and Council Members

On behalf of Oxford Youth Action Alliance, we are writing to ask the Town of Ingersoll to consider an amendment to the Ingersoll Workplaces and Public Places Bylaw that would restrict tobacco use within 30 metres of playground equipment in city parks, 15 metres of a recreational field and 9 metres of city owned building entrances.

The Ingersoll Smoke-Free Bylaw and Smoke-Free Ontario Act have been extremely successful in providing protection from second-hand smoke exposure to workers, especially those in the hospitality sector. However; children and spectators at public events are not protected from drifting tobacco smoke in outdoor areas. People entering buildings where smokers are gathered are not protected and there is the danger of smoke being drawn into a building when the doors are opened.

A recent study from Stanford University found that “a person sitting or standing next to a smoker outdoors can breathe in wisps of smoke that are many times more concentrated than normal background pollution levels”. As well the 2006 US Surgeon General’s Report found that even brief exposures to secondhand smoke may have adverse effects on the heart and respiratory systems and increase the severity of asthma attacks, especially in children.

Collingwood, Uxbridge, Woodstock and most recently Toronto are municipalities in Ontario that have made amendments to their bylaws to offer protection from secondhand smoke for children using recreational facilities. Ingersoll Council has shown leadership in protecting citizens from exposure to secondhand smoke and can again lead by considering an amendment to the current bylaw.

Oxford Youth Action Alliance and Oxford County Public Health and Oxford Interagency Council on Smoking and Health will be available to assist with development of the amendment and strategies for public education and implementation.

Sincerely,

Peer Leaders
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