

August 23, 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Margaret R. Best
Minister of Health Promotion & Sport
18th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2T5

Honourable Ministers:

Re: Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces

On August 19, 2011 at a regular Board of Health meeting for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2011-78

WHEREAS tobacco use is known to have direct and indirect harm on the health of the smoker as well as those who are exposed to second-hand smoke, and

WHEREAS there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke and implementing policies that establish smoke-free environments is the most effective way to reduce this exposure, and

WHEREAS the levels of second-hand smoke have been found to be just as high outdoors as indoors, and

WHEREAS 4 in 5 Grey Bruce residents are non-smokers and should be protected from second-hand smoke in the public places they choose to visit, and

WHEREAS outdoor sport and recreation areas are intended to promote health and wellbeing for all Grey and Bruce County residents, and

WHEREAS tobacco use sets an unhealthy example for the young people in our community, while smoke-free spaces encourage positive role modeling for children and youth, and

WHEREAS smoke-free patios can further protect children, hospitality workers and the community from second-hand smoke, and

WHEREAS cigarette butts are plentiful and long-lasting contaminants of our physical environment and cigarette filters are the single most collected item in international beach cleanups each year, and

WHEREAS approximately two thirds (67%) of Grey Bruce smokers are seriously considering quitting smoking within the next 6 months, and

WHEREAS a 2009 survey of Grey Bruce residents indicated high levels of support for smoke-free by-laws:

- 86% support smoke-free public playgrounds
- 83% support smoke-free public sports fields and spectator areas
- 73% support smoke-free beaches
- 91% support smoke-free doorways to workplaces
- 92% support smoke-free outdoor public patios where food or drink is sold

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit recommends the County of Bruce and the County of Grey develop and adopt a by-law banning smoking in the aforementioned areas, and

FURTHER THAT the Grey Bruce Health Unit will share the enforcement of the by-law with the County, if so desired by either County, and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bruce County Council; Grey County Council; Councils, CAOs and Recreation Departments of the Municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Kincardine, Northern Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce, Meaford, Grey Highlands, West Grey, Townships of Huron Kinloss, Georgian Bluffs, Chatsworth, Southgate, Towns of Saugeen Shores, South Bruce Peninsula, Blue Mountains, Hanover and City of Owen Sound, Chief of Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, Chief of Saugeen First Nation, Grey and Bruce County MP's and MPP's, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion and Sport and the Premier of Ontario

Yours truly,
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE GREY BRUCE HEALTH UNIT

Original signed by

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/mbh

Copies to: Grey and Bruce County Councils
 Grey and Bruce Municipalities
 Larry J. Miller, MP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
 Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
 Kellie Leitch, MP Simcoe-Grey
 Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
 Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
 Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
 Chippewas of Nawash First Nation
 Chief of Saugeen First Nation
 Ontario Boards of Health
 Ontario Medical Officers of Health