

**Ministry of
Health Promotion**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5
Tel.: 416 326-8500
Fax: 416 326-8520
www.mhp.gov.on.ca

**Ministère de la
Promotion de la santé**

Bureau du ministre

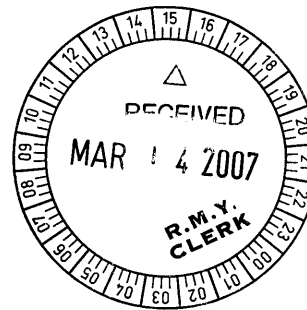
777, rue Bay, 18^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1S5
Tél. : 416 326-8500
Télec. : 416 326-8520
www.mhp.gov.on.ca

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No.



p36



MHP2303MC-2007-126

MAR 09 2007

Mr. Dennis Kelly
Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

As Minister of Health Promotion, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Regional Municipality of York for your ongoing support of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* and tobacco control in your communities.

I appreciate receiving your letter of January 26, 2007 informing me of council's resolution urging the federal government to join other leading countries and enact legislation to make all public places and workplaces in Canada smoke-free. The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, has also brought this resolution to my attention.

Since 2000, when York Regional Council passed a bylaw to regulate smoking in public places and workplaces, your municipality has recognized the importance of healthy smoke-free environments to the people and the employees in your communities. I commend you for taking a leadership role within the municipal sector by working to protect people from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. I was delighted to present the Heather Crowe award to York Region for its outstanding efforts.

Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in Ontario, killing 16,000 people a year. The Government of Ontario is committed to an aggressive tobacco control strategy, and the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, which went into effect on May 31, 2006, is an important part of that strategy. The legislation is designed to protect the general public and workers from the effects of second-hand smoke.

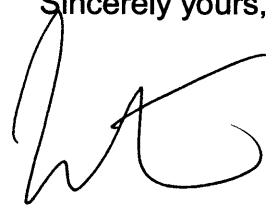
.../2



Your council's resolution in support of a Smoke-Free Canada is setting an excellent example for other municipalities in Ontario.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success in helping to improve the health of the people of York Region.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JW', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Watson, MPP
Minister

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care