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September 28, 2004

The Honourable George Smitherman, MPP  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
80 Grosvenor St, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Attention: Tom Jakobsh, Senior Advisor (Tobacco) to Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Sirs:

We strongly support your plans for legislating a provincial smoke-free ban and look forward to your announcement of a strengthened *Tobacco Control Act*. As the announcement of this legislation approaches, we would ask you to consider a number of important issues.

Municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area have been working closely to ensure bylaw implementation would be consistent in each region. A provincial ban could have implications for municipalities with existing smoke-free bylaws, in particular those bylaws that allow establishments to have designated smoking rooms.

An effective communications strategy will be necessary to ensure clear messaging concerning the impact of the legislation on municipal bylaws. Therefore, we are requesting the opportunity to provide input in the provincial communication plan to ensure positive reinforcement at a local level and to prevent confusion, for instance, affecting the different designated smoking room phase-out dates.

Also, municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area have a wealth of experience enforcing smoke-free bylaws. With a population of approximately 5,011,000 in the GTA, municipal staff enforce local bylaws in approximately 141,960 public places and workplaces each year in the GTA. We are available to share our expertise and provide input to the provincial enforcement strategy.

We are interested in working with you through this transition towards a smoke-free province.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
Durham Region Health Department  
1615 Dundas St E, Suite 210  
Whitby, ON L1N 2L1



Dr. Howard Shapiro, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
Regional Municipality of Peel Health Department  
44 Peel Centre Dr, Suite 102  
Brampton, On L6T 4B5



Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health  
Toronto Public Health  
277 Victoria St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2



Dr. K. Helena Jaczek, Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health  
York Region Health Services Department  
17250 Yonge St, Box 147  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Durham Region Health Department • Regional Municipality of Peel Health Department  
City of Toronto Public Health • York Region Health Services Department

C.C.

John Garcia, Director of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
5700 Yonge St, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5

Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
5700 Yonge St, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5

Dr. Fran Scott, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health  
c/o City of Toronto Public Health  
277 Victoria St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2