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*cc: Myrna Gough
City Manager
Angeli (working file)
May 28/03*

MAY 28 2003

J. D. Leach
City Clerk
Clerk's Department
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan ON L6A 1T1

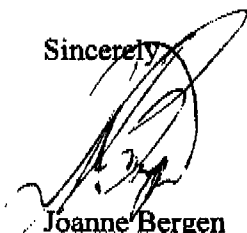
Dear Mr. Leach:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of April 17, 2003 originally sent to Ms. Myrna Gough, Manager, Health Promotion and Wellness, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ms. Gough has forwarded your letter to me since tobacco control issues fall within my area of responsibility.

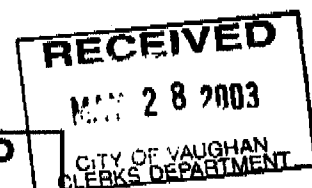
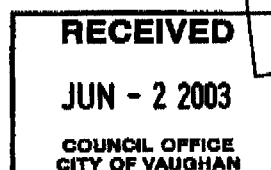
Thank you for sending the resolution (Item 35, Report No. 31) of Council of the City of Vaughan requesting that the Province of Ontario enact province-wide legislation to control smoking in public places and workplaces in Ontario. In this regard, you may be interested to know that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is currently reviewing options to strengthen all components of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy including the *Tobacco Control Act*. The Ministry is interested in hearing the views of municipalities and such feedback will certainly be considered in this review process.

I appreciate Council's interest in this important issue. Thank you, once again, for sending this resolution.

Sincerely,


Joanne Bergen
Manager
Ontario Tobacco Strategy

c: Myrna Gough



CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2003

Item 35, Report No. 31, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2003.

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**PROVINCE-WIDE LEGISLATION ADDRESSING
SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND WORKPLACES IN ONTARIO**

The Committee of the Whole recommends that the following resolution be adopted:

"WHEREAS international scientific studies conclude that there are direct causes and linkages between exposure to second-hand smoke and serious health effects among non-smokers, and

WHEREAS second-hand smoke is the third major preventable cause of death behind only active smoking and alcohol in Ontario, and

WHEREAS second-hand smoke kills approximately 2,600 people in Ontario every year, and

WHEREAS the current "patchwork" of tobacco regulations in some municipalities do not provide full protection for children, non-smoking public, and employees, and

WHEREAS existing local tobacco regulations create an "uneven playing field" within the hospitality and gaming industries across Ontario, and

WHEREAS Ontarians support a province-wide legislation for smoke-free public places and workplaces, and

WHEREAS a province-wide legislation that prohibits smoking in all public places and workplaces will protect the health and well-being of all Ontario residents and workers from the exposure to second-hand smoke, and

WHEREAS Ontario is recognized as a leader in new and innovative health care programs and services, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is responsible for protecting the health of all Ontarians,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Vaughan request the Province of Ontario to enact province-wide legislation that addresses the prohibition of smoking in all public places and workplaces in Ontario, and that this resolution be forwarded to the York Region area municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Association of Public Health Agencies for Ontario, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care."

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Regional Councillor Frustaglio.