



210 First Street North
Kenora, ON P9N 2K4

May 1, 2015

Mayor Avis & Council
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor Avis and Council:

Re: Smoke-Free Ontario regulation amendments

Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulations were recently amended to create smoke-free outdoor spaces in your municipality. These new regulations are part of the government's plan to reduce children's exposure to tobacco use and to protect the public from second-hand smoke.

As of January 1, 2015, it is illegal to:

- smoke within 20 meters of children's playgrounds and public sports fields, including spectator stands, and
- smoke on bar and restaurant patios whether or not there is a roof over the patio.

The new regulations apply to all municipal playgrounds, including those that are located at municipal beaches and sports fields. Because the smoke-free area is a 20 metre radius around the playground equipment, sports field and spectator stand there is a possibility that the public spaces in which it they are situated will only be partially smoke-free.

In Fort Frances, Pither's Point Beach will be partially smoke-free in the 20m radius around the playground equipment. Harbourage Beach does not have to be smoke-free as it contains no playground equipment.

The new amendments offer a unique opportunity for municipalities to act now to further protect community members from the effects of second-hand smoke. The Town of Fort Frances can use your authority under the Municipal Act to make your beaches 100% smoke-free regardless of the distance from playground equipment or lack of playground equipment.

A by-law would equalize outdoor protection from second-hand smoke across the community and will result in less cigarette butt litter on the beaches. It will enhance the

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positive image of Fort Frances as a community that supports healthy lifestyles, along with other municipalities including Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa and Toronto.

My staff would be pleased to work with your municipality to prepare and pass such a bylaw, and we can offer the following support:

- A presentation to council to answer questions about the implementation and enforcement of the Smoke Free Ontario Act Amendments.
- In-person, phone and email support to develop a draft by-law.

To that end Christine McLeod, from the health unit, will be contacting your office within the next month to follow up on this matter.

I encourage you to consider the adoption of an outdoor smoke-free by-law for municipal beaches in your community. By doing so, you will not only help with the public's understanding and enforcement of the new provincial law, but you will be offering safe and healthy environments for children and families to play.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit Young Hoon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Kit Young Hoon, MBBS, MPH, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

c: Shannon Robinson, (A)Manager Chronic Disease Prevention & Smoke-Free Ontario