

Bill Fisch, B.Com., LLB, J.D.
Chairman and CEO



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December 5, 2013

The Honourable Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street, 10th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

Re: Amending the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* to prohibit smoking on patios

On behalf of York Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York, I am writing to convey our support for proposed changes to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, announced on November 13, 2013 that would prohibit smoking on all outdoor patios in Ontario.

This announcement is particularly timely for York Regional Council. The current provisions of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, which only prohibit smoking on a patio if any portion of it is covered or partially covered by a roof, were discussed at the Region's November 7 Committee of the Whole meeting.

York Region supports the expansion of smoke-free legislation to include all patios, regardless of whether or not they have a roof, as a significant step in further protecting Ontarians, especially children, from tobacco smoke. It is important that this is coordinated at the Provincial level to ensure consistency and efficiency in implementation.

York Regional Council commends you on anticipated amendments to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, especially as they relate to smoke-free patios.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Fisch".

Bill Fisch
Chairman and CEO

Copy to: Mr. Frank Klees, M.P.P. Newmarket-Aurora
Mr. Peter Shurman, M.P.P. Thornhill
Ms. Julia Munro, M.P.P. York-Simcoe
Mr. Steven Del Duca, M.P.P. Vaughan
Dr. Helena Jaczek, M.P.P. Oakridges-Markham
Mr. Reza Moridi, M.P.P. Richmond Hill
The Honorable Michael Chan, M.P.P. Markham-Unionville
Ms. Andrea Horwath, M.P.P. Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario
Mr. Tim Hudak, M.P.P. Leader, Progressive Party of Ontario