Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Caring for Health

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À l'écoute de notre santé

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May 16, 2011

Councillor Gord Steeves
Chairperson, Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services
City of Winnipeg
Council Building
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Steeves and Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services,

Re: Outdoor Smoking By-law Wording

We are writing about the proposed wording of the draft Outdoor Smoking By-law as it pertains to health care facilities. We would like to thank you and the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services for including health care facilities grounds, a buffer around entrances, and an exemption for residents of personal care homes.

At this time we would like to request that you consider some minor wording changes in the definition of "health care facility" that we believe does not change the intent or scope of the draft by-law, but more accurately reflects the current organization of health care services in Winnipeg. Additionally, we would like you to consider adding wording to include WRHA workplaces similar to City of Winnipeg workplaces as an additional area of prohibition. We hope this lends support for the positive role modeling the City is portraying by the workplace provision.

Please see the specific changes below:

Re Definitions:

"health care facility" means

a) a hospital in Winnipeg designated as such by regulations enacted under The Health Services Insurance Act, C.C.S.C. H-35;

(b) an institution providing health care that is funded by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, including but not limited to any Access Centre, Breast Health Centre, Winnipeg Birth Centre, Pan Am Clinic, Klinic, Mount Carmel Clinic; and

(c) a personal care home in Winnipeg designated as such by regulations enacted under The Health Services Insurance Act, C.C.S.C. H-35;

Re Prohibition:

3(1) (g) within 8 metres from the entrance to a Winnipeg Regional Health Authority workplace;

As you know, we would like to see the Outdoor Smoking By-law provide additional protection to other areas where outdoor tobacco smoke exposure commonly occurs and affects health, such as patios, entrances to all public places and playing fields during adult sporting events, but we do appreciate that this is a start, and we applaud this first step in a healthier direction.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other important issues that affect the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the citizens of Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sande Harlos
Medical Officer of Health

Cc: *Ms. Arlene Wilgosh, President and CEO, WRHA*
Dr. Catherine Cook, VP Population & Aboriginal Health, WRHA
Mr. Clive Wightman, Director of Community Services, City of Winnipeg
Mr. Peter de Graaf, Manager of Community By-law Enforcement Services, City of Winnipeg