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July 22, 2008

Mayor Joe Trasolini and Members of Council
City of Port Moody
100 Newport Dr. PO Box 36
Port Moody BC V3H 3E1

Dear Mayor Trasolini and Members of Council:

SUBJECT: *Implementation of a Smoke-Free Patios and Buffer Zone Bylaw*

On behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association, which make up the Clean Air Coalition of B.C., I am writing to encourage you to take a leadership role in increasing the overall health of your residents by implementing a bylaw to ban smoking on outdoor patios in restaurants, bars and pubs as well as increase your buffer zone requirements.

While there are still some people who believe that second-hand smoke is solely a nuisance, especially when it occurs outdoors, nothing could be further from the truth. In a 2006 report, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that second-hand smoke causes cancer, coronary heart disease, and respiratory illnesses, and that there is no safe level of exposure to it. Further, scientific studies have reported that smoke levels generally do not decrease to the background level for fine particles or carcinogens until approximately seven metres from the source.

There is strong public support for expanding smoke-free laws in British Columbia. A BC Stats poll conducted for the Clean Air Coalition of B.C. in January 2008 for the *Imagine! A Smoke-Free BC* campaign found that 73% of British Columbians support smoking bans in outdoor public places, including on outdoor patios of restaurants, bars and pubs. Patrons clearly desire breathing fresh air during their dining experience, especially those who want to enjoy sitting outside during the warmer months in a smoke-free environment. Since 86% of British Columbians don't smoke, a decision by your Council to ban smoking on patios would be good for public health as well as good for business.

The provinces of Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia have already banned smoking on outdoor patios and Prince Edward Island and the Yukon Territory will soon join this list. Although the Province of British Columbia did not implement a similar ban in their recent changes to the *Tobacco Control Act*, several municipalities in the province are following the lead of these other provincial jurisdictions. The Capital Regional District and the City of Vancouver have already banned smoking in outdoor patios with a buffer zone around patios, and other municipalities such as Surrey, Richmond and White Rock are currently in consultation to do the same.

I encourage you to take the lead on this issue and implement a bylaw that would improve public health, cater to the wishes of the majority of customers and provide a healthier environment for hospitality workers.

If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at telephone in Victoria 250.721.4268 or by email at jackboomer@shaw.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Boomer', written in a cursive style.

Jack Boomer
Director
Clean Air Coalition of B.C.

cc. R.F. Bobbe Wood, President & CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon
Scott McDonald, Executive Director, BC Lung Association