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July 22, 2008

Letter to the Editor  
Tri-City News

**SUBJECT: *Implementation of a Smoke-Free Patios and Buffer Zone Bylaw in The City of Port Moody***

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 want to express support for the City of Port Moody's proposal to implement a bylaw to ban smoking on outdoor patios in restaurants, bars and pubs.

Second-hand smoke is not solely a nuisance, but a health hazard. The U.S. Surgeon General concluded in 2006 that second-hand smoke causes cancer, coronary heart disease, and respiratory illnesses, and that there is no safe level of exposure to it. Even in outdoor settings, second-hand smoke is a health hazard. 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 in BC clearly desire breathing fresh air during their dining experience.

Port Moody will also be joining a host of other jurisdictions in Canada that have already implemented similar legislation. Here in BC, the Capital Regional District and the City of Vancouver have already implemented a similar ban, and other municipalities in BC, including Surrey, Richmond and White Rock are also currently in consultation to do the same. Further, several provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada have also implemented legislation banning smoking on outdoor patios (Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia have already banned smoking on outdoor patios; Prince Edward Island the Yukon Territory will soon join this list).

I trust that the City of Port Moody will do the right thing in implementing a bylaw that caters to the wishes of the majority of its residents, and provides a healthier environment for hospitality workers.

Sincerely,

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