

# Smoke plan backed

*Council agrees to support a resolution at UBCM on totally smoke-free work places across the province*

By **THERESA McMANUS**  
RECORD REPORTER

The City of New Westminster will support a resolution calling for a 100 per cent smoke-free environment in all indoor public and workplaces.

In a letter to council, the B.C. Lung Association and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and Yukon sought the city's support for a resolution to be considered at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention to eliminate the provision for designated smoking rooms. When workplace legislation was imposed by the provincial government in 2002, it allowed smoking to be permitted in separately structured and ventilated designated smoking rooms.

"This has resulted in a two-tier system in B.C. where workers in the hospitality sector receive less protection from secondhand smoke than all other workers in the province," said the letter. "While hospitality workers are given the choice of whether to work in these smoking rooms, no other workers in the province have to choose between a safe workplace and their health."

Coun. Betty McIntosh said she

had "great difficulty" supporting the resolution because of its wording.

"You create a problem by not

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**CONTINUED FROM PG. 1** allowing an option," she said. "I totally understand all the evils of smoke, of second-hand smoke."

McIntosh said well ventilated rooms that employees don't enter may be a better alternative than having people walk through crowds of smokers gathering outdoors.

"I didn't know the sensibility of having no provisions," she said.

Coun. Bob Osterman said he has no trouble supporting the resolution as long as it is implemented cohesively and applies to neighbouring municipalities.

"The health standard, you can't argue with."

Despite some concerns about the wording of the resolution, McIntosh voted in favour of council's motion.

"As a registered nurse, I won't oppose."

The resolution to be presented at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention requests the provincial government to achieve a 100 per cent smoke-free environment in all indoor public and workplaces, eliminate all designated smoking rooms in the province, and examine options to make outdoor public places smoke-free, such as entranceways to buildings, outdoor patios, sports fields and grandstands.

The convention is being held Oct. 23 to 27 in Victoria.

