

ONTARIO RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

OTTAWA
REGION



457A SUSSEX DRIVE, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1N 6Z4 TEL:(613)241-6389 FAX:(613)562-3326

MEMBER DRIVEN ... SERVICE FOCUSED ... ONTARIO-WIDE

Dr. E Ellis
Associate Medical Officer of Health
495 Richmond Rd.
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 4A4

October 9, 1996

Dear Dr. Ellis:

Thank you for meeting with us concerning the future discussions on smoking in restaurants. This letter will confirm our position on the issue.

The Ottawa Region of the Ontario Restaurant Association would support a Regional by law, as outlined below, assuming our mutually agreed upon goals of protecting our employees and our non smoking guests from second hand smoke can be achieved without negatively impacting our member businesses.

We believe a regional by law should truly reflect the current market conditions. We believe that by January 2, 1999 a 70% no smoking area requirement would be feasible and therefore have high compliance. At that time, we feel that the region should readdress the issue to assess the current market conditions and monitor compliance. If non smoking ratios were to change the bylaw should require that six of eleven municipalities vote to accept the change.

After 9 p.m., the 70% no smoking section would not apply to "bar areas" but a 50% requirement would still be maintained. This is to reflect the realities of bars and the high percentage of smokers.

Starting in 1997, we think no smoking areas should be ventilated to an agreeable standard (probably the ASHRAE standard) beginning with new restaurants, restaurants that perform major renovations, restaurants that apply for a new liquor licence or transfers of liquor licences that truly reflect a change in ownership. If none of these conditions apply then this requirement would come into effect in five years.

Negative signage concerning the dangers of smoking should be confined to washrooms but positive signage could be used in no smoking areas. This bylaw should reflect our belief that workers should have the right to refuse work in a smoking area. We are interested in working with the health department to promote smoking cessation programs for restaurant workers.

We are very interested in a by law that will have high compliance and sets standards that work for all of our customers.


John Myers
President

Head Office: 121 Richmond Street West, Suite 1201, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K1 (416) 359-0533 • Toll Free 1-800-668-8906 • FAX (416) 359-0531

Regions: Eastern Grand Valley Holiday London Niagara Ottawa Skyway Toronto Windsor

