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## More editor's mail

# Open letter applauds mayor

Dear Editor:

The right of the non-smoker has been a major concern of mine for many years, a concern born out of necessity for self-preservation. I am allergic to tobacco smoke, resulting in the most distressing symptoms of severe headaches and migraines. The attached letter (not published here) clearly demonstrates my personal plight, and I am most gratified to believe that this very letter was instrumental in the emergence of new and much improved smoking policies; e.g. smoke-free buses.

Today's plea for the right to breathe freely is in context of the work environment. I have suffered, I have cried because of the pain inflicted by second-hand smoke, I have fought and finally achieved a band-aid solution with my desk being removed to the furthest corner of an open area and the smoker population being banned to the opposite end.

A partial solution, yes, which lessened the suffering to some extent, but my pain-killer bottle must always be within reach and the amount of medication I am consuming has become a real concern. Any move within the company is bound to be dependent on the policies and conditions in any particular area.

With my place of work located in Markham, I closely followed Mayor Bell's recent reaction to the proposed by-law and was, to put it mildly, more than astonished to witness her rather emotional and prejudiced outburst in favor of the smoker in public places.

Maybe, if she traded places with me, her opinion would be much toned down. But, please, let us also practice common sense: it is not only the person who, unfortunately, suffers an immediate reaction to inhaling these offending fumes, but anybody who is condemned to work in the modern office or similar environment and simply cannot escape for long hours from this trap of stale and much used ventilated air, runs a potential risk of illness.

The man in street, and I am referring the 'smoking' man, who was interviewed after the implementation of strict smoking restrictions in certain office buildings, reacted in a more rational manner than Mrs. Bell. These people freely admitted to the hazard for themselves and others due to their addiction.

The purpose of this letter is to express total support for the proposed amendments to the present by-law 190-86 to regulate smoking in the workplace, malls, lobbies, bus-shelters and, basically, all public places.

I thank you for your time and sincerely hope that the end of a long and troublesome plight is imminent.

Rosemarie Rabindranath  
Don Mills, Ont

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