

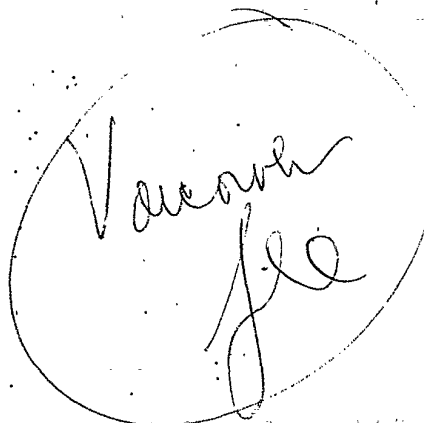
## Weekly Report

To: David Small, CTMC  
Marie-Josée Lapointe, CTMC

From: Dirk Laudan, Barr Gass & Wilcox Group

Re: Proposed Vancouver Smoking Ban

Date: Week ending July 28, 1995



### 1. Status of Coalition

#### (a) Restaurant Association

Continues to prepare job loss figures for use in job loss study.

#### (b) Chinese Restaurant Initiative

Staff met with Cliff Cheng of Chinese InforMedia Consulting on July 25, and discussed press conference to announce opposition of Chinese Restaurants to the smoking ban. The press conference was delayed to allow get more large restaurants signed onto the initiative. Eighty four restaurants now have signed the statement of opposition.

There is a geographic factor in opposition to the ban. Chinese restaurants in downtown Vancouver cater to tourists from Japan and also the People's Republic of China, most of whom are smokers. Chinese restaurants in Richmond (the other major centre of Chinese restaurants) cater to local ethnic Chinese residents and others, and are less opposed to the smoking ban. According to Chinese InforMedia Consultants, Chinese have a cultural predisposition to deference to authority: the involvement of politicians in opposition to the ban might therefore make it easier for them to oppose the ban openly. The fact that opposition to the ban among members of council is particularly prominent and vocal in Richmond (with so far the mayor and two councillors openly opposing) may therefore be relevant to potential expressions of opposition to the ban in Richmond Chinese restaurants.

Cheng reported that there are approximately 400 Chinese restaurants in the lower mainland, employing on average 10 to 15 employees each. A majority of these employees speak one of the Chinese dialects and are new immigrants. Chinese restaurants apparently have the highest productivity per seat of restaurant types in the lower mainland. Cheng said that restauranteurs would be unwilling to speculate on job-loss figures that might result from the ban. He also reported that in his opinion a ban would not be observed by Chinese restauranteurs if it came into effect.

On August 1, the Vancouver Chinese language cable station will play a documentary on the

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proposed smoking ban. According to Cliff Cheng of Chinese InforMedia Consulting, all but one of the people interviewed in the documentary oppose the smoking ban. The one supporter is Dr. John Blatherwick, Vancouver Medical Health Officer (who spoke in English).

Press conference details:

Date: August 2.

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Chinese Cultural Centre, Chinatown, 10 East Pender Street, Vancouver.

Media advisory will be sent out to Chinese and mainstream media 2 days before the event. Prominent Chinese columnists will be contacted, and all Chinese media will be telephoned prior to the press conference by Chinese InforMedia Consulting.

English language press release to be prepared by Dennis Prouse, staff, in consultation with Chinese InforMedia.

The two Chinese Vancouver City Councillors have been invited and they have confirmed that they will both attend: Jenny Kwan of the socialist Committee of Progressive Electors (a municipal political party), and Maggie Ip of the pro-business/conservative Civic Non-Partisan Association. Chinese InforMedia was strongly of the opinion that it would be best if they attended. Both councillors have strong connexions to the Chinese community.

There will be no single spokesman for the Chinese restaurants. Cliff Cheng will be a kind of facilitator, and will "call to order" the conference. A number of restauranteurs will be at the front of the room. The provisional agenda:

1. Introduction by Cliff Cheng
2. Statement of opposition to the proposed smoking ban read in Cantonese by one of the restauranteurs.
3. Statement of opposition to the proposed ban read in English by another of the restauranteurs.
4. Other restauranteurs will speak on specific topics, including the impact of the ban on tourism.
5. Media questions will be fielded to the restauranteurs by Cliff Cheng.

Local Chinese media prefer individual interviews to questions asked in a press conference, so it is expected that interviews will take place after the conference is formally over. Consequently, Chinese InforMedia will make certain that restauranteurs are well-briefed on the issue and on relevant statistics before the conference.

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There will be no visible involvement of Barr, Gass & Wilcox Group or the Lower Mainland Hospitality Industry Group at the press conference.

Ongoing action: John Barr, Dennis Prouse.

(d) Steering Committee meetings

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for August 3.

2. Metropolitan Board of Health's Consultation Meetings

Bruce Clark has formally requested from Dr. John Blatherwick a copy of the consultation meeting transcripts and report, pursuant to the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Copies of the request were sent to the mayor of Vancouver and Vancouver's Freedom of Information officer.

We have received no acknowledgement of the request. According to the Act, public servants must provide the information within 30 days of receipt of the request, or provide one of a variety of possible excuses for delay or denial of the information. At that point, the person requesting the information can appeal to the Commissioner of Freedom of Information and Privacy of the provincial government, who may make an order.

3. Bulletin

Issues this week: (1) discussed the negative experience that the local cabaret The Town Pump had with a voluntary smoking ban, and what this tells us about the effect that a legislated smoking ban would have; (2) encouraged readers to write to local governments to express their opposition to the ban, and gave addresses of local municipal councils.

Upcoming issue topics: The involvement of the Royal Canadian Legion in opposing the ban, the "anti-fun" policies of government blue-stockings (bicycle helmet laws etc) and how smoking-ban is part of that, and the Chinese restaurant initiative.

Action: Dirk Laudan

4. Media coverage this week.

With no media release or other story this week, there was little coverage of the smoking ban. Most coverage on that particular issue was in the form of letters to the editor. Also, there continues to be a relatively high number of stories on health issue relating to smoking.

(2) Television

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No coverage.

(b) Radio

No coverage.

© Letters to the editor

Letters continue on both sides of the issue. Pro-ban letters still outnumber anti-ban letters but the disparity is lessening.

(d) Dailies

No coverage.

(e) Community papers.

Aldergrove Star, July 20, "Ban has them fuming", reporting the Insight Canada Business Survey from the press release, including quotations from Bruce Clark that the consultation has been a sham.

5. Campaign materials

(a) Poster

A second generation of poster materials has been designed in response to the comments made by the focus groups. Production of materials will begin next week.

(b) Petition

Petition numbers to be confirmed at next meeting of the steering committee, on August 3. In addition, timing of release of petition will be discussed.

6. Job loss/ Economic Impact figures

Staff have explored the possibility of the Fraser Institute's economists' looking at the job loss figures, and making a public statement that they are reasonable. Initial response from the Fraser Institute was that this is the sort of issue that they would be interested in. Staff believe that the Fraser Institute may be inclined to our point of view due to its pro-business, anti-intervention policy direction. The Institute has a great deal of credibility in the British Columbia media, in particular on economic matters.

The Restaurant Association and the Casino Management Council are still working on their job loss figures but they are expected very soon.

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Continued action: Dennis Prouse.

7. Municipal Councillors

With a considerable number of councillors on holiday, there has been lessened activity on this front.

Continuing action: Dirk Laudan

Preparation of councillors briefing package on the issue remains a priority.

Action: All staff

8. Conference on ETS in the Hospitality Industry to be held in Vancouver

Staff are researching background on air quality experts and reports.

A number of strategies has been discussed for dealing with the conference. The problem with a boycott of the conference is that there is a risk of stakeholders attending anyway, and we will lose control of the process if stakeholders go in alone. Decided in conjunction with David Small that we will try to push the conference off the rails, along the lines of what was done in the municipal consultation meetings. Because local focus groups responded well to moderate, non-zealous approaches to this issue, our strategy will be to seem moderate and reasonable while painting the other side as fanatics. Our strategy will therefore be tightly scripted participation.

We will of course closely monitor the preparations for the conference and the invitees, to the extent possible.

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