



Physicians *for a* Smoke-Free Canada

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January 15, 2004

Text of January 15, 2004 letter from Heather Crowe to all federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for occupational health and safety

I am pleased to learn that the subject of second-hand smoke in the workplace will be a topic of discussion at the January 22-23, 2004 meeting in Banff of the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Labour.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to speak to the members of the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation in May, 2003 about this issue. I also appreciate the warm welcomes I received throughout 2003 when meeting the Ministers responsible for the smoking in the workplace issue in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

During those meetings I recommended that you consider banning smoking in all workplaces, with no exceptions, by the summer of 2004. I am pleased to see that the Northwest Territories and Nunavut now have regulations that will protect all workers from second-hand smoke beginning May 1, 2004.

As you will all be meeting with all your federal, provincial and territorial colleagues in Banff next week, it will be an opportunity not to be missed for you to work together so that we can have a coordinated national strategy to ban smoking in all workplaces by this summer.

Specifically, I urge you to work together to implement the following recommendation:

It is recommended that the fourteen Ministers responsible for occupational health and safety in Canada make the necessary legislative and regulatory changes so as to protect all Canadian workers, including bar and restaurant workers, from second-hand smoke, and that such changes should take place in a coordinated fashion across the country, with full protection for all workers to be fully in place no later than the summer of 2004.

The attached document *Questions and Answers about Second-Hand Smoke and Occupational Health and Safety Laws in Canada* will be helpful to you as you consider how to implement this recommendation.

Along with my friends in Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada and Action on Smoking and Health Alberta, we will be making this recommendation known to the public at a news conference in Calgary on January 21, 2004.

I will be in Banff from January 21 to 23. While I do appreciate that you have a full agenda and there will be no time for me to make a short formal presentation at your meeting, I hope that there will be an opportunity to meet you informally outside the meeting to discuss how we can make rapid progress on protecting all Canadian workers from second-hand smoke at work. While in Banff, I can be reached at the Banff High Country Inn at 1 403 762 2236. I look forward to meeting you in Banff.

Most importantly, I look forward to a day in the near future when all workers in Canada are protected from second-hand smoke at work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Crowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heather Crowe,
Volunteer