

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services
COPY TO: Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community & Fire Services
DATE: December 5, 2014
SUBJECT: Amendment to Smoke-Free Ontario Act - Effective January 1, 2015
Prohibiting Smoking On and Around Municipally- Operated Sports Fields, Sport Spectator and Playground Areas

The Ontario government recently approved an amendment to the regulation within the Smoke-Free Ontario Act that will prohibit smoking on and around municipally-operated sports fields, sports spectator areas and playground areas in Ontario. This will take effect on January 1st, 2015.

City Staff have been contacted by Region of York Staff who have been tasked with coordinating the implementation of this new legislation in York Region. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has arranged a very large sign purchase as they will be providing the signage for the affected outdoor areas, thus alleviating a financial burden for municipalities. It is our understanding that the Ministry will be requesting that the municipalities post the signs at a later time when they can be distributed. The metal signs are going to be small with an approximate size of 10cm x 10cm so they won't require a great deal of effort to post.

Markham staff are currently working on providing a list of facilities to the Region to assess how many signs we will require to pursue an order from a Provincial supplier. The list of facilities will include:

- sports fields and/or sport areas such as basketball courts (including the # of playing fields/surfaces at each, if possible)
- outdoor playground areas for children with equipment (jungle gyms, slides, or equipment of any other kind including skateboard parks)
- outdoor splash pads and/or wading pools

Markham staff will be responsible for the installation of these signs in 2015 when they are received.

Communication to all outdoor sport user groups is being developed that will be forwarded out when permits for sport fields are issued in early 2015 for the upcoming season. The communication will notify the groups of the change in legislation and provide information that can be forwarded to their membership.

An internal staff team consisting of staff from Recreation, Operation, Clerks and By-law has been working on the implementation of additional smoking restrictions on municipally owned



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properties. A staff report will be brought forward to Council in the first quarter of 2015 with additional recommendations on implementation of further restrictions.

If you have an additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at mcreighton@markham.ca or ext. 7515.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Creighton'.

Mary Creighton
Director of Recreation Service
City of Markham