

Item 8.1.

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #4/19, Friday, April 26, 2019

FROM: Derek Edwards, Director, Parks and Culture

RE: **SMOKING POLICY UPDATES - PROGRESS REPORT**

KEY ISSUE

Progress update regarding proposed revisions to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Smoking Policy beyond compliance with the recently updated Smoke Free Ontario Act (2017)

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) public use lands and facilities are situated across multiple municipal jurisdictions, are subject to several management agreements, and include lease and partnership agreements with various stakeholders;

AND WHEREAS TRCA's Smoking Policy ("the Policy") must consider the complexities of all applicable by-laws, existing partnership agreements, and all users and stakeholders;

THEREFORE, LET IT RESOLVED THAT the progress report regarding updates to TRCA's Smoking Policy (herein Policy) be received;

AND THAT staff report back prior to spring of 2020 with an updated Smoking Policy.

BACKGROUND

TRCA's area of jurisdiction comprises of 2,506 square kilometers (619,000 acres) of land, including management of the following public use lands and facilities across six (6) upper-tier and 15 lower-tier municipalities, and nine (9) watersheds:

- Albion Hills Conservation Area (CA) and Campground;
- Albion Hills Field Centre;
- Altona Forest;
- Bathurst Glen Golf Course;
- Black Creek Pioneer Village;
- Bolton Camp;
- Bolton Resource Management Tract;
- Boyd CA;
- Bruce's Mill CA;
- Claireville CA;
- Claremont Nature Centre;
- East Duffins Headwaters;
- Glen Haffy CA;
- Glen Rouge Campground;
- Heart Lake CA;
- Indian Line Campground;

Item 8.1.

- Kortright Centre for Conservation (KCC);
- Lake St. George Field Centre;
- Nashville Conservation Reserve;
- Oak Ridges Corridor Park;
- Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area;
- Petticoat Creek CA;
- Tommy Thompson Park; and
- Trail Systems (approx. 600 km)

As a provider of both indoor and outdoor education, recreation, and cultural activities to the public, the purpose of TRCA's Smoking Policy is to protect the public and conform to legislative requirements.

TRCA's Current Smoking Policy & Facility Practices

The current Smoking Policy was approved at Authority Meeting #3/04, held on March 26, 2004 as per Resolution #A85/04. The Policy was further revised by the CEO on March 19, 2015 in order to become compliant with the Smoke Free Ontario Act. On October 17, 2018, TRCA's CEO also updated the staff Code of Conduct to address cannabis in the workplace following the passing of Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act (Federal Act).

The Policy mandates compliance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act and bans all smoking at the following locations:

- All indoor TRCA facilities, buildings, enclosures, vehicles and motorized equipment;
- Anywhere food is being prepared;
- Within nine (9) metres from an entrance or exit door to any building;
- Directly in front or under a window of a building;
- Black Creek Pioneer Village except for in designated smoking areas;
- Within twenty (20) metres of children's playgrounds and fields allocated for athletic use; and
- Inside fenced off aquatic facilities (splash pads, pools, and surrounding family spaces)

The aforementioned bans ensure:

- Healthier recreational environment that promote physical activity, encourage personal development, and minimize exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke;
- Less tobacco uses among child and adult visitors to park and recreational facilities;
- Cleaner facilities; and
- Fresh air, free from secondhand smoke and vapour

Proposed Updates

Updates to the Policy will consider municipal smoking by-laws, recommendations from applicable health units and boards of education. Additional considerations must also take into account locations where smoking is banned, TRCA's on-site partners, management agreements, the health and safety of all staff, special events, financial implications, and the available enforcement and education resources within the TRCA.

The feasibility of extending smoking bans across all public use lands with the exception of designated smoking areas and campsites will also be explored. TRCA has been working and consulting with Ontario Conservation Authorities (Essex Region, Upper Thames, Kettle Creek, Hamilton, and Halton) that have developed and are in the process of implementing smoke-free policies that limit smoking to designated spaces within conservation areas, staff areas, and

Item 8.1.

camping sites. Overall, visitor response has been positive, with little need for enforcement when adequate resources are invested in public education.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA will upgrade all existing signs to clearly ban the use of lighted tobacco, lighted cannabis and electronic cigarettes (i.e. vaping products) with the most recent provincial signs for smoke and vape free spaces in the spring and summer of 2019.

Over the 2019-2020 operating seasons, TRCA will be taking the following steps to inform changes to the existing Policy:

- Review of by-laws and policies of TRCA's partner municipalities and school boards to ensure that updates to the Policy address our partners' regulations;
- Consult with applicable health units and school boards regarding proposed updates;
- Explore the feasibility of only permitting smoking at designated smoking areas and campsites across all TRCA public use facilities and properties;
- Consult with TRCA's on-site business partners such as Tree Top Trekking, byPeterandPauls.com, special event organizers, etc. regarding proposed updates to the Policy;
- Consult with stakeholders currently leasing lands from TRCA;
- Review TRCA's existing land management agreements, for land managed by TRCA on behalf of a third party (i.e. Glen Rouge Campground, Oak Ridges Corridor Park) prior to implementing the proposed amendments; and
- Conduct stakeholder surveys over the span of a full operating season

Upon completion of the aforementioned steps, TRCA staff plan to bring the updated Smoking Policy to the Board for approval in the spring of 2020 or earlier, if ready.

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Date: April 15, 2019