



## REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2009

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Smoking at the Dundas Entrance of the Central Library
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Presented By:	Margaret Mitchell
Purpose of Report:	For Decision: Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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### RECOMMENATION

**It is recommended that the London Public Library Board alert the City of London to the matter of smoking at the Dundas Street entrance to the Central Library and seek assistance from the City and the Middlesex London Health Unit to resolve this matter.**

### ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

Since the opening of the Central Library on Dundas Street, the presence of smokers on the sidewalk directly in front of the main entrance has been an ongoing customer service issue.

Smoking at the Dundas Street entrance is the most common complaint received about this facility. In an average week, Security Services receives 5 to 8 complaints from the public regarding this situation. Staff also report that comments are made by patrons during the course of their Library visits.

Second hand smoke is the number one complaint, followed by inability to access the door entrance because of the number of people standing around blocking the access. Patrons complain about the rudeness of people standing in the way.

### BACKGROUND

In the past few years, the Library Administration has met with the London Police Services and the Middlesex London Health Unit about this matter. The Library has put in place:

- Demarcation zone on the sidewalk under the main canopy to suggest a "no smoking zone";
- Large signs to indicate "no smoking"; and
- Regular frequent patrols by Security Service staff to ask people to comply and move away from the entrance.

The Central Library property line and the building itself abut the sidewalk on Dundas Street. While the Library's canopies overhang the City sidewalk, the area below is not Library property. Under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act*, smoking is prohibited in "enclosed public places, even defined as those under canopies, but not prohibited on public sidewalks. Therefore the Middlesex London Health Unit Smoking Tobacco

Enforcement Officers cannot enforce no-smoking in front of the Central Library. The Library must rely on compliance which has not worked well.

### **Recommended Action**

The public sidewalk is owned by the City and is subject to the provisions of the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* and the City of London's *Smoke Free Public Places* by-law (PH-10, 2003). Public sidewalks are not included as smoke-free designated areas. Given the jurisdiction of the City of London and the enforcement responsibilities of the Middlesex London Health Unit, any solution will require their expertise and support.

### **Next Steps**

Following the approval of the recommendation, the Library Administration will meet with City and Middlesex London Health Unit officials on behalf of the Library Board to identify appropriate steps to reduce or eliminate this issue.