



Toronto - January 2009

On January 27th, Toronto City Council approved a bylaw banning smoking within 9 metres of children's play areas, including playgrounds, splash pads, wading pools, Riverdale Farm and the High Park Zoo.

This initiative was identified as a regional action priority for the Toronto Tobacco Control Area Network (TCAN) and the T-DOT Youth Action Alliance. Eleven months after an introductory meeting of the issue with Toronto Parks management, in which a Parks Manager champion joined the cause, a joint report from the Medical Officer of Health and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommending an amendment to Chapter 608, Parks, was approved by Parks Committee, Board of Health and finally Toronto Council.

Most of this happened in January 2009 right around National Non-smoking Week and produced some positive media coverage.

Submitted by Suzanne Thibault, Toronto Public Health