



April 20, 2018

DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL

The University of Guelph
50 Stone Road East
UC 4th Floor, Executive Offices
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

Attention: Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino,
President and Vice-Chancellor

Dear Dr. Vaccarino:

**RE: WDGPH Letter of Support for the University of Guelph's Commitment to a
Smoke-Free Campus**

On behalf of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH), I am writing to congratulate the University of Guelph (UofG) on its initiative to become a smoke-free campus, as stated in the UofG's online news story on March 2, 2018.

Campus-wide smoke-free policies make it easier for smokers to quit, protect non-smokers from second-hand smoke and reduce social exposure to smoking. Movement towards a smoke-free campus is also critical to preventing young adults from starting to smoke. In the past, young adults' chances of becoming regular smokers were very low if they did not begin to smoke during high school. However, more recent research has shown that up to one in five smokers report having their first cigarette after the age of 18.

I applaud the UofG's efforts to create a healthier environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. WDGPH looks forward to supporting the UofG as it takes steps towards becoming one of Ontario's first smoke-free post-secondary institutions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicola Mercer
Medical Officer of Health and CEO

c.c. Don O'Leary, Vice-President of Finance, Administration and Risk, University of Guelph – via email
c.c. Sarah Joosse, Wellness@Work Coordinator, University of Guelph – via email