



May 30, 2007

Letter to the editor:

May 31<sup>st</sup> is World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) and the theme is 100% smoke-free environments as this is the only effective way of protecting people from second-hand smoke. We call on the Provincial Government to take a leadership role by making all Health Authority facilities and properties in BC 100% smoke-free.

It's unacceptable for people suffering from heart disease and lung diseases such as COPD and asthma to be forced to run through the haze of second-hand smoke at the entrance to hospitals. These facilities are places of healing and health. Making facilities smoke-free and providing patients and staff with cessation support would send a clear message to everyone that exposure to tobacco smoke is a health hazard and there are supports available to help people quit smoking.

Some health authorities in Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia have designated their properties and facilities 100% smoke-free. Premier Campbell has stated that he wants BC to be the healthiest jurisdiction to host an Olympic Games. As we think about the smoke-free theme of WNTD coupled with the 2010 Olympic Games, the Provincial Government should make hospital grounds 100% smoke-free, thereby enhancing their goal of creating a health promotion legacy for the 2010 Games.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Boomer".

Jack Boomer  
Director, Clean Air Coalition of BC

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association make up the Clean Air Coalition of BC.

[www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com](http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com)