



July 6, 2007

Letter To the Editor

***SUBJECT: Tobacco Free Legislation – Consultation with the Ministry of Health***

The BC government passed changes to the *Tobacco Sales Act* that will:

- Ban smoking in indoor public places and workplaces, including smoking near public doorways, windows and air intakes;
- Restrict places where tobacco can be sold; and,
- Ban or restrict retail tobacco displays where youth under 19 have access

The Clean Air Coalition of BC, which includes the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the BC Lung Association, and in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society, supports these changes.

The changes will move BC towards the gold standard already set by many other provinces and territories; however, the supporting Regulation should go further.

The Regulation does not address the issue of smoking on outdoor patios. When Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia and at least 18 other municipalities (including the CRD and, very soon, Vancouver) across the country have done so, why can't we do it in BC? The Regulation does not address the sale of tobacco products in retail stores that purport to deal with the health of their customers, such as in pharmacies. Such restrictions are already in place in at least five other provinces.

You can make a difference by responding to the BC government with a recommendation to strengthen the Regulation. The deadline to respond is July 19.

To see the Regulatory Discussion Paper, go to the following link:

[http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobctrl/tcrc\\_pg1.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobctrl/tcrc_pg1.html).

The Clean Air Coalition's response paper can be viewed at our website

<http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com>.

Let's make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Boomer", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jack Boomer  
Director