



HEART &  
STROKE  
FOUNDATION  
OF BC & YUKON

*Finding answers. For life.*

#200 – 1212 W Broadway Vancouver BC V6H 3V2  
T 604.736.4404 F 604.736.8732  
www.heartandstroke.bc.ca



THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™  
British Columbia

CURES | CLEAN AIR | SMOKEFREE KIDS www.bc.lung.ca

2675 Oak St Vancouver BC V6H 2K2  
T 604.731.5864 F 604.731.5810  
www.bc.lung.ca

May 1, 2009

Arrivals Duty-Free Consultations  
Department of Finance Canada  
Sales Tax Division, 16th Floor  
140 O'Connor St  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5  
email: ADFConsultations-ConsultationsBHTZA@fin.gc.ca

Dear Minister Flaherty:

*SUBJECT: Arrivals Duty-Free Program at Canada's International Airports*

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association, which make up the Clean Air Coalition of B.C., want to express our opposition to the proposal to implement an Arrivals Duty-Free Program at Canada's international airports. Our opposition is specifically against making it easier for people entering Canada to purchase more inexpensive tobacco products while on Canadian soil.

Canada is recognized globally as a leader in tobacco control. It has made landmark decisions in areas such as cigarette packaging where manufacturers are required to display large and unambiguous health warnings, use of tobacco taxes to deter consumption, advertising bans such as on "self-service" displays, and restricting the locations of cigarette vending machines. Canada was an integral player in developing the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Canada is currently participating in negotiations on a worldwide ban on duty-free sales of tobacco products for an Illicit Trade Protocol under the Framework, thus implementing an Arrivals Duty-Free Program would be a contradictory move.

When used as directed, tobacco products are the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, killing 37,000 Canadians each year, an average of 100 every single day. This program would take away many of the deterrents for using tobacco by making it easier for travellers to purchase cheaper tobacco products:

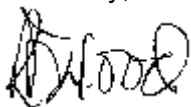
- Studies have shown that price can be an effective mechanism to assist people in quitting smoking. An Arrivals Duty-Free Program would take away that price mechanism to encourage people to quit.
- Travellers make decisions to purchase duty-free products based on ease. Many will not purchase products from departure airports since they have one more item to carry and pack. This program will make the decision to purchase tobacco easier as it is at the end point of the trip.
- People who smoke are not the only ones affected, as non-smokers would purchase these reduced priced tobacco products for family and friends. Such a policy contravenes the federal government's stance on tobacco taxing as a means to improve public health.

Implementation of such a program would probably lead to other countries, including the United States, introducing a similar Arrivals Duty-Free Program in retaliation. Thus, there is the potential not only for reduced revenues for the Canadian government, but also increased tobacco use within North America.

If you have any questions or comments on the contents of this letter, we invite you to contact Jack Boomer, Director of the Clean Air Coalition of B.C. at telephone 250.721.4268 or email [jackboomer@shaw.ca](mailto:jackboomer@shaw.ca).

We urge you not to implement the Arrivals Duty-Free Program, especially as pertinent to tobacco products.

Sincerely,



R.F. Bobbe Wood, MA  
President & CEO  
Heart and Stroke Foundation  
of B.C. & Yukon



Scott McDonald  
Executive Director  
BC Lung Association

cc. Jack Boomer, Director, Clean Air Coalition of B.C.