



Finding answers. For life.



August 11, 2005

Prince George Citizen  
Letter to the Editor  
P.O. Box 5700, 150 Brunswick Street  
Prince George, BC, V2L 5K9  
Fax at: 250-562-7453

Re: *Council rejects vote on smoking, Tuesday, August 9, 2005*

Unfortunately there is still the lingering perception that second-hand smoke is merely an inconvenience to be tolerated. But second-hand smoke is a known cancer-causing agent that has been declared a Class 'A' carcinogen by Health Canada. Even as little as eight minutes of exposure can cause physical reactions linked to heart disease and stroke, and any exposure can make it difficult for asthmatics to breathe.

It is therefore unfortunate that the Prince George Council has rejected a bid by the PG Clean Air Coalition to put to a referendum the issue of banning smoking from the city's pubs and restaurants. This issue should not be about giving businesses the option of catering to their smoking clientele by providing smoking rooms or outside patios. The issue is about governments taking the lead to ensure that all workers, including the public, are protected from a known carcinogen such as second-hand smoke.

Many municipalities in BC have implemented 100% smoking bans that prohibit smoking rooms because of recognition by local politicians that any level of exposure to second-hand smoke is unsafe. Hospitality workers are still being exposed to second-hand smoke, yet no other class of worker is permitted to knowingly expose themselves to these toxins.

We encourage the Prince George Council to show leadership by implementing legislation that would ban smoking rooms to fully protect hospitality workers and the public from second-hand smoke.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wood".

R.F. Bobbe Wood, MA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Heart and Stroke Foundation  
of B.C. & Yukon  
(604) 736-4404

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McDonald".

Scott McDonald  
Executive Director  
BC Lung Association  
(604) 731-5864