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THE  LUNG ASSOCIATION™
British Columbia

August 8, 2005

Letter to the Editor
Victoria Times Colonist
Letters to the Editor
Box 300
Victoria, BC V8W 2N4

Re: *Making British Columbia Smoke-Free*

Some people continue to believe that second-hand smoke is an inconvenience to be tolerated. Second-hand smoke includes over 40 cancer-causing chemicals such as ammonia and formaldehyde. As little as eight minutes of exposure can cause physical reactions linked to heart disease and can make it difficult for asthmatics to breathe.

We congratulate the Vancouver Island Health Authority for developing smoke-free grounds for the facilities that they control. Moreover, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is promoting smoking restrictions on outdoor patios and in building entrances in their region. These tobacco control initiatives are to be applauded, but create a patchwork of varying regulations that is unnecessary.

Through Premier Gordon Campbell's leadership, he and his government can fully protect the public and workers from second-hand smoke by creating one regulation that applies to all British Columbians, whether on patios, within the hospitality industry or on health authority premises. Premier Campbell is on record as wanting to make BC the healthiest jurisdiction by the 2010 Winter Olympics, and this would be one step to making that goal a reality. A provincial regulation to ensure smoke-free places for all British Columbians would promote consistency and support the work of health authorities. We encourage Premier Campbell to ActNow.

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