



Finding answers. For life.



May 11, 2006

Hon. George Abbott  
Minister of Health  
PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

On behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association, which make up the Clean Air Coalition of BC, we want to reiterate and convey our strong support for banning the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies in British Columbia. We understand that the government will be voting on this issue shortly, and we strongly urge you to support the private member's bill.

British Columbia lags behind seven other Canadian provinces that have enacted legislation to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, and Nunavut. In addition, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories are considering implementation of such as ban.

This measure sends a strong message that tobacco use is not compatible with healthy living, and that the sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with the role of pharmacists, which is to help improve customers' health-related quality of life. Banning the sale of tobacco product in pharmacies is another effective tool in the battle to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth.

We want to add our voice to the growing chorus of other leading non-governmental organizations in BC, as well as the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia, to express our support for this legislative amendment, and trust that you will vote in favour of public health for the good of all British Columbians.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Jack Boomer, Director of the Clean Air Coalition of BC, at 250-721-4268. We look forward to working collaboratively with you as we strive to make British Columbia the healthiest jurisdiction ever to host an Olympic Games.

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

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

Scott McDonald  
Executive Director  
BC Lung Association

cc: All Members of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly  
Jack Boomer, Director, Clean Air Coalition of BC