

February 9, 2006

Letter to the editor:

Can anyone be surprised that the tobacco industry misled government regulators on the harmful health effects of light and mild cigarettes, as noted in recent research conducted by three Canadian researchers? This industry has a history of conducting research and shielding it from the purview of the government and the public eye. Case in point: Philip Morris's own research shows that prohibiting smoking in the work place reduces smoking rates and increases quit rates, resulting in lower sales and profits.

Another claim, supported by the tobacco industry, of declining revenues after implementation of smoking bans has been proven false when checked against objective sales tax receipts. Yet, in BC, we continue to lag behind almost every other province and territory in terms of protecting the public and workers from the known carcinogens in second-hand smoke.

Clearly, the major beneficiaries of designated smoking rooms and permissive smoke-free regulations are tobacco companies. Is the Liberal government supporting the tobacco industry over the interests of the health of workers and the public in BC at a time when they want to be the healthiest jurisdiction by the 2010 Olympic Games?



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