



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NEW SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION: BC'S LEADING HEALTH GROUPS APPLAUD THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

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The BC Lung Association and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. and the Yukon applaud the provincial government for announcing legislation today that will not only reduce smoking rates in B.C. but will protect non-smokers from deadly second-hand smoke exposure.

The Tobacco Sales Amendment Act introduced today will:

- Protect the public from second-hand smoke by banning smoking in all indoor public places
- Eliminate designated smoking rooms that currently exist
- Prohibit tobacco use on school grounds
- Ban smoking near entranceways to public buildings, doorways and air intakes
- Eliminate tobacco sales in most public-related facilities, e.g. hospitals, universities and colleges
- Ban retail point-of-sale tobacco displays in premises accessible to minors under age 19.

"The government will put in place regulations that will put tobacco products out of sight for those under 19, and this is a positive move since we know that advertising is a powerful influencer on children and youth," stated Scott McDonald, Executive Director of the BC Lung Association. BC will come in line with seven other provinces and territories that have or will soon have restrictions on advertising of tobacco products.

"We are delighted that the government has taken this important step forward for public health," added Bobbe Wood, President and CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon. "Common sense shows that as we make it harder for children and youth to start smoking, and we restrict where people can smoke, we send a strong message that smoking is atypical and not acceptable in our society."

"Second-hand smoke in public places will soon be a thing of the past as the provincial government makes good on its commitment to ban smoking in all indoor public places," commented Jack Boomer, Director of the Clean Air Coalition of BC, which was founded by the BC Lung Association and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"For some time, our organizations, along with others in the health sector, have been encouraging the government to eliminate the provision for designated smoking rooms, develop stronger smoke-free legislation and ban point-of-sale tobacco advertising," added McDonald. "We are especially pleased the government has made this move forward and we encourage it to act sooner rather than later on these provisions."

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*The Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon and the BC Lung Association work collaboratively to support smoke-free environments through the Clean Air Coalition of BC. ([www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com](http://www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com))*