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MEDIA RELEASE

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THE  LUNG ASSOCIATION™
British Columbia

THE FUTURE: SMOKE-FREE RESTAURANTS, BARS AND PUBLIC ENTRANCEWAYS

Vancouver, B.C. – A smoke-free BC is on the horizon if the Premier Campbell listens to British Columbians. BC Stats conducted a survey for the Clean Air Coalition of BC, which found that over 79% of BC residents support or strongly support banning smoking in bars, restaurants and public entranceways.

Support for laws banning smoking in bars and restaurants ranges from over 74% in the Northern Health Authority to 87% in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and support for smoke-free public entranceways ranges from over 74% in the Northern Health Authority to over 87% in the Interior Health Authority. A survey of this many respondents is considered accurate to within +/- 4.3%, 19 times out of 20.

The survey results support the theme of National Non-Smoking Week (January 15 to 21), which is “Where you work, live and play . . . even better smoke-free”. “Smoke-free support is high in British Columbia, likely as the result of people hearing more about how it affects their health, and the health of those around them,” stated Diego Marchese, Vice President of Research and Health Promotion at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of B.C. & Yukon, a founding member of the Clean Air Coalition.

While many people may believe BC has the best smoke-free laws in Canada, this is no longer true. “BC has the distinction of being one of the last three jurisdictions in Canada that has **not** implemented 100% smoke-free legislation to protect workers and the public equally, at a time when the Premier is on record as wanting to make British Columbia the healthiest jurisdiction to host the Olympics,” stated Scott McDonald, Executive Director of the BC Lung Association.

“When nearly four out of five British Columbian’s are supportive of going smoke-free in restaurants, bars and public entranceways, we hope the Premier and his government will take heed, listen, and act on the wishes of the public,” added Marchese. “It just makes sense.”

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The Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon and the BC Lung Association work collaboratively together to support smoke-free environments through the Clean Air Coalition of BC.

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