



Advocacy Report Spring/Summer 2012

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SMOKE-FREE BC

WHY IS BC SETTLING FOR AVERAGE MARKS ON #1 DISEASE PREVENTION ISSUE?

In a report card released on World No Tobacco Day 2012, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the BC Lung Association gave the BC Government a C+ for their overall efforts to protect the public from the harms of tobacco use, the primary preventable cause of disease.

The report card provided a summary of progress made, identified best practices, and compared the Province's achievements on the issue of tobacco control with those of other Canadian jurisdictions. Its objective? To secure the Province's commitment to a more aggressive tobacco control strategy worthy of the Premier's Healthy Families agenda. The aim of the report card is to spur decisive

action toward protecting British Columbians from the negative health effects of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke, which combined is the #1 preventable cause of death and disease in BC.

The Government received excellent marks in cessation efforts with its subsidized nicotine replacement therapy program and its QuitNow Services, a free cessation service for all British Columbians, but received a failing grade in not having legislation to ban the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

The complete report card can be found on the Clean Air Coalition of B.C. website at www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation and the BC Lung Association have been working together under the Clean Air Coalition of B.C. banner for more than a decade. Our objective is to help combat the negative health effects of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.

Read more at our website www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com.

YOU CAN'T BUY CIGARETTES IN YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE

SHOULD YOU BE ABLE TO BUY THEM AT A PHARMACY?

British Columbia is the only Canadian province that still allows tobacco products to be sold in pharmacies – an infamous distinction indeed!

Working with the College of Pharmacists of BC, the BC Medical Association and the Canadian Cancer Society BC & Yukon Division, we continue to advocate for the ban of sales of tobacco products in pharmacies.

Note: many BC pharmacies, the majority of which are independent owner-operated establishments, have voluntarily stopped selling tobacco products. Some chain pharmacies have also voluntarily banned selling tobacco products. However, many others continue to sell tobacco, placing profit over public health.

TAKE ACTION!

Write to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Mike de Jong, encouraging him to ban the sale of tobacco products in BC pharmacies.

Honourable Mike de Jong
Minister of Health
P.O. Box 9050, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Working Together Towards a Smoke-Free BC

NOW IS THE TIME TO STANDARDIZE SMOKING BANS IN OUTDOOR PATIOS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Existing BC laws ban smoking three metres from doors, windows and air intakes of public buildings, in transit shelters, and on K-12 school grounds. They do not, however, address smoking in outdoor places such as parks, playgrounds and customer service patios.

Only a fraction – 20 percent – of BC regional districts and municipalities have implemented bylaws banning smoking on restaurant and bar patios, and/or in public parks, playgrounds and on beaches. This leaves 80 percent of BC municipalities without any such bylaws.

We need standardized province-wide legislation that protects adults and children from exposure to toxic second-hand smoke in public outdoor places.

For a complete list of smoke-free municipal bylaws in BC, visit www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/issues/smoke-free-outdoor-public-places/smoke-free-legislation.

THE NEXT NON-SMOKING FRONTIER: SMOKE-FREE HOUSING

Few laws protect people from unwanted drifting second-hand smoke coming from a neighbour's apartment or condo unit. Those that do exist place most of the onus on the individual to protect themselves.

DID YOU KNOW?

- It's legal for landlords and building managers to ban smoking in all areas of their apartment buildings.
- It's legal for strata councils and cooperative housing boards to pass no-smoking bylaws for their residential building.
- 85 percent of British Columbians are non-smokers and the majority would rather live in a smoke-free building.
- 26 percent of non-smoking multi-unit dwelling residents are involuntarily exposed to second-hand smoke in their homes.

The Clean Air Coalition of B.C. has developed a position statement with recommendations on how the provincial and local governments and stakeholders can help to increase the availability of smoke-free housing options in multi-unit dwellings. To view our position statement, visit www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com/uploads/2012/05/120510-Position-Statement-Smoke-Free-MUDs.pdf.

For more information on smoke-free issues in multi-unit dwellings, visit the Smoke-Free Housing BC website at www.smokefreehousingbc.ca.

TAKE ACTION!

Encourage your municipality to implement a smoke-free outdoor public places bylaw if they have not already done so. Write to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Mike de Jong, encouraging him to ban smoking on customer service patios, in parks, playgrounds and beaches and at public events.

Honourable Mike de Jong
Minister of Health
P.O. Box 9050, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

TAKE ACTION!

Encourage your building manager, your strata council or co-op board to make your building smoke-free if they have not already done so. Write to the Minister Responsible for Housing, the Honourable Rich Coleman, to encourage the enacting of legislation to enshrine unwanted second-hand smoke as a breach of quiet enjoyment, and to classify it as a nuisance under the Strata Property Act.

Honourable Rich Coleman
Minister Responsible for Housing
P.O. Box 9060, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
EMH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

EMPOWERING THE TOBACCO CONTROL COMMUNITY

Since 2001, the Clean Air Coalition of B.C. has organized knowledge exchange meetings in order to give members of the tobacco control community the opportunity to network, share resources and further develop their expertise.

We want to thank the Canadian Cancer Society BC & Yukon Division, the Canadian Cancer Society Saskatchewan Division, the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Saskatchewan and the Tobacco Control Programme, BC Region of Health Canada for helping fund these meetings.

Those who wish to be notified of future meetings, contact:

Gene Chin, Provincial Coordinator
Clean Air Coalition of B.C.
gene.chin@shaw.ca



A VERY BIG THANKS TO OUR

2011/12 Knowledge Exchange presenters:

What's New at the Revamped QuitNow.ca
Suzanne Gaby and Jack Boomer, **QuitNow Services**

A Picture is Worth a 1,000 Words: Using GIS Mapping to Support Tobacco Retail Density
Kim Bruce, **Vancouver Island Health Authority**, and Garry Curtis, **PhD Consulting**

Marijuana and Tobacco Use among Teens
Dr. Joy Johnson, **University of British Columbia**

A Public Health Approach to Cannabis
Kenneth Tupper, **BC Ministry of Health**, and Dan Reist, **Centre for Addictions Research of BC**

HIV/AIDS and Smoking: Shifting the Sands of Time from Palliation to Health Promotion
Dr. J. Craig Phillips, **University of British Columbia**

Waterpipe Smoking: An Emerging Public Health Epidemic
Pippa Beck, **Non-Smokers' Rights Association**

Reforming the Retail Landscape for Tobacco
Melodie Tilson, **Non-Smokers' Rights Association**

Building on Successes and Celebrating Smoke-Free Homes
Dr. Vivian Ramsden, **University of Saskatchewan West Winds Primary Health Centre**

The Cigarette Commodity Chain and Tobacco Control in Canada
Renee O'Leary, **Independent Tobacco Control Researcher**

Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapies
Brendalynn Ens, **Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health**

Access presentations, summary notes and other materials associated with our Knowledge Exchange meetings under "News & Updates" at www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com.