

Smoke Free Bylaws – Factsheet for Local Governments

Benefits of Smoke Free Bylaws:

- Supports smoke and vape free living where your residents live, work and play
- Makes it less likely that youth will start smoking or vaping, and supports current smokers who are trying to quit.
- Reduces the risk of wildfire and toxic litter in the environment.
- Is an effective means of reducing tobacco and vapour use and second hand smoke in your community
- Is supported by both smokers and non-smokers

What to Consider:

- Tobacco smoke is the leading cause of preventable death in Canada
- There is no safe level of exposure even in outdoor settings: Second hand smoke is a “class A” carcinogen
- In the absence of a provincial ban on smoking in outdoor public places, we encourage local governments to protect their residents and take a leadership role by adopting a comprehensive smoke free bylaw
- More than 70 communities in BC have smoking restrictions above and beyond provincial regulation
- Communities have found that compliance has not been burdensome for bylaw enforcement

Areas in communities where smoking has been prohibited:

- Municipal areas: playgrounds, parks, beaches, city squares, sports and entertainment venues, playing fields, trails, outdoor markets and outdoor special events
- Customer service areas (outdoor patios) at restaurants and bars
- Airports and hospital properties

**** Tobacco use for traditional ceremonial purposes should be exempt from smoking restrictions**

What has been done in other communities?

- Visit the Non-Smokers Rights Association Data Base to view smoke-free bylaws in communities throughout the Interior, BC and Canada (search by province and select “municipal”)
<https://database.nonsmokersrights.ca/>

Partner with Interior Health and other Health Organizations

- *Work with your Health Authority, the Canadian Cancer Society, BC Cancer Agency and other health organizations to improve the health of your citizens. We assist local governments to develop smoke free bylaws, and can share what has worked in other communities.*

Leading edge smoke-free bylaws:

- Prohibit smoking and vaping on bar/restaurant patios and all city managed properties including parks, trails, playgrounds, beaches and recreation venues.
- Increase buffer zones to 7.5 meters around doors, windows and air intakes of public buildings.
- Include a definition of smoking that encompasses burning cigarettes, cigars, cannabis and any other substance using a pipe, lighted smoking device or electronic smoking device.

Beyond Bylaws – Helping People Quit:

QuitNow services at www.quitnow.ca – support to quit by phone, online, live chat, video or text.

Free nicotine replacement products – access through local pharmacies or visit the BC Smoking Cessation Program website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/what-we-cover/drug-coverage/bc-smoking-cessation-program>.

B.C. Tobacco Legislation – Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act (2016)

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in workplaces, indoor public spaces and common areas of multi-unit dwellings.

Includes a buffer zone of 6 m from any doorway, open window or air intake of a public place or workplace.

Smoking and vaping are prohibited on school grounds, in transit shelters and on Health Authority property.

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in vehicles with children under the age of 16 (Motor Vehicle Act), and in foster care homes and cars (Smoke-Free Environment Policy, Ministry of Children & Family Development, 2008).

For more information contact the Integrated Tobacco Program tobacco@interiorhealth.ca