



Motion for a Smoke-Free Canada

What is the goal of this motion?

- To reduce the number of people involuntarily exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in enclosed workplaces and public places.
- To ensure that the federal government offers the highest level of protection from secondhand smoke within the areas of its jurisdiction.
- To ensure that all provinces and territories protect their citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke in public places under their jurisdiction.
- To reduce overall smoking behaviour, generate increased public awareness about tobacco issues and to help change social norms related to smoking.
- To ensure Canada retains its world leadership role in tobacco control and its status as an early ratifier of the World Health Organization's *Framework Convention on Tobacco Control* (ratified November 2004).

Smoking and workplace exposure to second-hand smoke are deadly

- Smoking is the single most serious public health problem in Canada, killing more Canadians than car accidents, murders, suicides and alcohol combined. (*Health Canada*)
- Smoking results in 45,000 deaths annually, including 1,000 non-smokers who die from smoke-related lung cancer or heart disease. (*Health Canada*)
- Smoking costs the Canadian economy \$15 billion each year: \$3.5 billion in direct medical costs and \$11.5 billion due to lost productivity, including foregone household income. (*Health Canada*)
- Second-hand smoke is poisonous, containing more than 4,000 chemical compounds; at least 50 of these compounds cause or promote cancer. (*Health Canada*)
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency has declared second-hand smoke a Class A cancer-causing substance. Class A is the most dangerous of cancer agents. There is no known safe level of exposure. (*U.S. Center for Disease Control, Feb. 2004*)

Who is at risk?

- Many restaurant, bar, and casino workers in Canada are still at risk from workplace exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Workers and visitors to many places under federal jurisdiction are not protected from second-hand smoke.

Canada's federal legislation is outdated and puts Canadians at risk

- Canada's federal *Non-smokers' Health Act* controls the use of tobacco in federal buildings and on federal property or federally managed lands including institutions, places of work and business such as airports and airplanes, interprovincial trains, parts of ships, financial and nuclear institutions and telecommunication facilities.
- Unfortunately, this 20-year-old occupational health and safety legislation and its regulations still permit designated smoking rooms or smoking areas in many federally-regulated workplaces and public places.

Provinces and territories need to be part of the solution

- Smoke-free laws are in place in Nunavut, NWT, New Brunswick and Manitoba. Laws have been passed to make Ontario and Quebec smoke-free on May 31, 2006 and Nova Scotia on Dec. 1, 2006. Laws in Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and PEI need to be updated to eliminate provisions for smoking rooms. The Yukon and Alberta laws fail to protect workers adequately. (*Physicians for a Smoke-free Canada*)

The solution is new legislation

- Updated federal smoke-free legislation that prohibits smoking in all indoor public places, with no allowances for designated smoking areas under federal jurisdiction.
- To call upon all provinces and territories that have not yet done so to enact similar comprehensive smoke-free legislation in their jurisdictions.

Countries that are already "Smoke-free"

Ireland was the first country in the world to go smoke-free in 2004, followed by Norway, New Zealand, Bhutan, and Scotland. As many as 20 countries are currently working towards making all their enclosed workplaces and public places smoke-free.

Let's make Canada's workplaces and public places SMOKE-FREE.