

November 14, 2007

## Province-wide smoking ban in public places, workplaces approved

*Edmonton* ... A province-wide smoking ban in all public places and workplaces has been approved, with a planned effective date of January 1, 2008. Alberta's new *Tobacco Reduction Act* will also prohibit smoking within a specified distance from the windows, doorways and air intakes of public places to protect indoor air quality.

"We need to reduce smoking and the harmful effects of second-hand smoke in our province," said Dave Hancock, Minister of Alberta Health and Wellness. "Every year, 3,400 Albertans die from tobacco-related causes and the province spends about \$471 million on health care costs directly attributed to tobacco use."

"Passing this legislation is an important part of our government's wellness agenda. Along with active living and healthy eating, measures like this reduce demands on Alberta's health care system and support Albertans in being healthy," Hancock added.

The *Tobacco Reduction Act* also introduces a number of other changes. Tobacco power walls and other promotional displays in retail outlets will no longer be permitted and pharmacies, retail stores with pharmacies, health facilities and public post-secondary institutions will not be permitted to sell tobacco products. These changes are proposed to become effective July 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009, respectively.

More information about the legislation is available at [www.smokefreeplaces.com](http://www.smokefreeplaces.com).

Reducing tobacco use and improving the health of Albertans supports Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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### Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

*November 14, 2007*

## ***Tobacco Reduction Act approved***

When the Tobacco Reduction Act becomes law, the following rules will apply.

### **Smoking**

The following is proposed to become effective January 1, 2008:

- Smoking will no longer be permitted in public places and workplaces.
- A public place is all or any part of a building, structure or other enclosed area to which members of the public have access including common areas of multi-unit residential facilities, group living facilities, outdoor bus and taxi shelters, licensed premises, restaurants, hotels and public vehicles.
- A workplace is all or any part of a building, structure or enclosed area in which employees perform the duties of their employment and includes reception areas, corridors, lobbies, stairwells, elevators, escalators, eating areas, washrooms, lounges, storage areas, laundry rooms, enclosed parking garages and work vehicles.
- Smoking will not be allowed within five metres of a doorway, window or air intake of a public place or workplace.

### **Tobacco displays and signs**

The following is proposed to become effective July 1, 2008.

- Tobacco products will no longer be displayed or advertised in places where they are sold.
- Signs listing the tobacco products for sale and their prices will be permitted
  - A maximum of one sign per till and three signs in each retail establishment will be allowed.
  - The sign must be white and its text must be black.
  - The maximum height of the text is 18 mm and this text cannot be visible from outside the retail establishment.
  - The text size and style must be consistent and may not include italics, bold type or underlining.
  - The sign may not include any other wording, pictures, logos or illustrations.
  - The maximum size of the sign is 968 cm squared.

### **Sale of tobacco products**

The following is proposed to become effective January 1, 2009:

- Tobacco products will no longer be sold in the following locations:
  - a health facility
  - the campus of a public post-secondary institution
  - a pharmacy
  - a retail store if a pharmacy is located in the store or if customers of the pharmacy can enter the retail store directly or by use of a corridor or area used exclusively to connect the pharmacy with the retail store.

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