

I live in an apartment and I'm bothered by a neighbour who smokes on their balcony. Does the law apply?

The legislation applies to common areas such as hallways, laundry areas and the three-metre buffer zone around doors, open windows and air intakes in work and public places.

For more information on drifting smoke, visit www.cleanaircoalitionbc.com.

Can I smoke at a transit stop?

Smoking is not allowed in covered transit shelters. Open bus stops are not included in the existing legislation.



Additional Information

Why are there different smoking rules in some parts of the province?

Local governments can pass bylaws regarding tobacco control, including bylaws that prohibit smoking in certain places. Many local governments have bylaws that are more restrictive than provincial law.

Who enforces the provincial tobacco legislations?

Enforcement officers, employed by the provincial health authorities, are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement of the provincial *Tobacco Control Act* and Regulation.

How do I make a complaint if I find someone smoking where they shouldn't?

You can contact the person who is in charge of the space or lodge a complaint with your local health authority.

Need Help to Quit?

What if I'm thinking of quitting, is there help?

The Province of British Columbia funds QuitNow Services with free 24 hour access to telephone and internet resources. For help and support, call 1-877-455-2233 or visit www.quitnow.ca.

What if English isn't my first language?

QuitNow by Phone provides translation services in over 130 languages.

For further information, contact your local health authority:

Vancouver Island Health Authority
250 360-1450

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
604 675-3800

Fraser Health Authority
604 476-7000

Interior Health Authority
250 851-7300

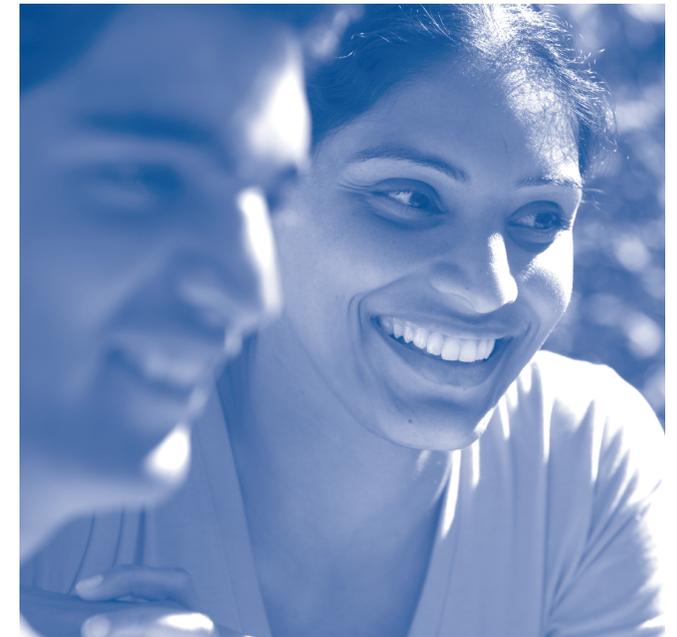
Northern Health Authority
1 877 617-6777

Or visit the Tobacco Control website at:
www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobacco



Promoting Better Health
for All British Columbians

What You Need to Know About B.C.'s Tobacco Control Laws



Ministry of
Health

Tobacco Facts

Here are the facts on tobacco:

- ▶ Tobacco use kills over 6,000 British Columbians every year – including over 100 non-smokers who die each year from diseases caused by second-hand smoke.
- ▶ Tobacco use is estimated to cost the B.C. economy over \$2.3 billion each year – through health care costs from treating tobacco-related illnesses, increased sick time and lower productivity.
- ▶ The majority of people in B.C. are non-smokers – over 80 per cent of British Columbians are non-smokers.

British Columbia, like most provinces in Canada, takes a comprehensive approach to controlling tobacco with a focus on three key areas:

- ▶ Preventing tobacco use;
- ▶ Protection from exposure to second-hand smoke; and
- ▶ Helping people quit smoking.

This brochure provides important information about B.C.'s tobacco control laws.

These laws are part of the work to reduce B.C.'s smoking rates and to improve the health of all British Columbians.

Ensuring Smoke-Free Youth

Why is it so important to focus on preventing youth from using tobacco products?

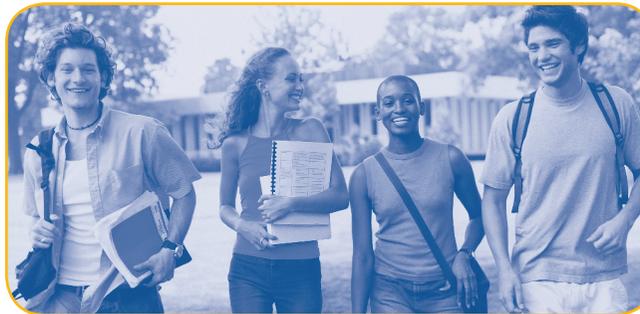
We know that almost 83 per cent of smokers start smoking before they turn 19, so we want to ensure youth don't get addicted to tobacco.

Where do youth get their cigarettes?

Approximately half of all youth buy their own cigarettes and the other half get them from friends and family.

I thought it was illegal to sell tobacco to anyone under 19?

It is illegal to sell or give tobacco to anyone under 19.



What responsibilities do retailers have regarding the sale of tobacco?

All tobacco retailers must take steps to ensure they don't sell tobacco products to minors. This includes asking for picture identification.

What are some of the other measures to help control tobacco use by youth?

- ▶ Ensuring a high tobacco tax;
- ▶ Prohibiting the sale of cigarettes in packages of less than 20;
- ▶ Restricting retail displays and signs;
- ▶ Requiring warning signs at point of sale;
- ▶ Restricting the sale of tobacco in public buildings and facilities; and
- ▶ Making all K-12 schools and school grounds tobacco free.

Smoke-Free

Can people smoke in restaurants and pubs?

All indoors areas of these establishments must be smoke-free as of March 31, 2008.



Is smoking allowed on outdoor patios?

Under provincial legislation, smoking is allowed on hospitality patios that are not "substantially enclosed." The doors to the patio must remain closed except to enter or exit the patio.

Proprietors are free to designate patios as non-smoking. Some communities have smoke-free patios.

I thought there was a three metre buffer zone around doors, open windows and air intakes?

This is true for most public places and workplaces. However, there is no buffer zone on hospitality patios under provincial regulation. Some communities have bylaws that create larger buffer zones.

What if I operate a home-based business?

Smoking is not allowed in your home or vehicle while it is used as a workplace.

What about my hotel room, does it need to be smoke free?

No, hotel rooms are exempt from the smoking ban, although a proprietor can deem some or all rooms smoke-free. Common areas such as meeting rooms, hallways and lobbies must be smoke-free.