

## **Just a Reminder!**

Under the Tobacco Control Act  
***No one is allowed to smoke on  
school property***

This is in effect 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week,  
365 days a year.



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### **ENFORCEMENT OF THE TOBACCO CONTROL ACT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET**

#### **Why is it against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco on school property?**

The purpose of the Tobacco Control Act (TCA) is to make it harder for young people to start smoking, and to ensure that people can go through their daily activities without exposure to second-hand smoke. Almost all adult smokers began smoking when they were teenagers. Most students in school are under 19. Preventing them from smoking on school property is consistent with the health messages they receive in school.

Studies show schools that support a smoking ban, both inside the building and on the property, have lower rates of smoking. In addition, students who continue to smoke will smoke fewer cigarettes per day. Younger students will not be influenced by the role modelling of older students who do smoke.

#### **Can I be charged for holding a cigarette on school property?**

Yes, if the cigarette is lit you can be charged. The Tobacco Control Act (TCA) prohibits both smoking and holding lit tobacco products anywhere on school property.

#### **How much is a fine for smoking or holding a lit cigarette on school property?**

The set fine is \$95 but the total fine, with victim surcharge, is \$120.

#### **The parents of students who have been charged for smoking on school property are calling the school to complain about the law. What can I do?**

Tell the callers to call the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit at 474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808 if they have any questions or concerns. If their child has been charged, the officer's name will be on the ticket/summons. The Tobacco Control Act is enforced by Public Health Units; therefore, school officials are not responsible for students being charged.

**Who can I call if I see an offence?**

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit employs enforcement officers. The initial emphasis is education about the TCA to encourage voluntary compliance with the law before issuing tickets or laying charges. You can contact an enforcement officer by calling 474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808.

**Can I remain anonymous if I call the Health Unit with information?**

**Yes.** You can either call the Health Unit, or you can call Crime Stoppers at 476-8477 or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

**Who is not allowed to smoke on school property?**

The TCA applies to everyone. Smoking and/or holding lit tobacco is not allowed by anyone including staff, students, parents, visitors, etc.

**Is the law applied only during school hours and during the school year?**

**No.** It is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. For example, the law also applies in the summer months during baseball and soccer season.

**Can teachers or students smoke in their cars in the school parking lot?**

**No.** Smoking is against the law on all school property and the car is on school property.