

1 Background & Context



DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), also known as “second-hand smoke,” is made up of the smoke that comes from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar (called sidestream smoke) and the smoke that is exhaled from the smoker (called mainstream smoke) (National Cancer Institute [NCI], 2003). Second-hand smoke has twice as much nicotine and tar as the smoke that smokers inhale, and five times the carbon monoxide (Health Canada, 2002). Evidence shows that nonsmokers who are exposed to ETS absorb nicotine and other compounds just as smokers do (NCI, 2003).

THE ALL-PARTY TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

The Government of Manitoba recognizes that there are diverse opinions on the issue of smoking in public and workplaces. In December 2002, in speaking to Bill 200, *The Smoke-Free Places Act*, the Minister of Health struck an All-Party Task Force to examine the issue of how to deal with ETS in public and workplaces. The Task Force consisted of seven MLAs as follows: four from Government Caucus; two from the Official Opposition Caucus; and, one from the Liberal Party. The members were: Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation and MLA for Dauphin-Roblin (Chair); Honourable Scott Smith, Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines and MLA for Brandon West; Honourable Jim Rondeau, Minister of Healthy Living and MLA for Assiniboia; Greg Dewar, MLA for Selkirk; John Loewen, MLA for Fort Whyte; Denis Rocan, MLA for Carman; and, Jon Gerrard, MLA for River Heights.

The mandate of the All-Party Task Force as agreed to in the terms of reference was to do the following:

- study the facts;
- take into account the diverse opinions on the issue;
- gather information on the impact of measures to reduce exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in public and workplaces - including recommendations of the Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health; and,
- produce a publicly available report with recommendations on how best to ensure Manitobans are adequately protected from environmental tobacco smoke and including recommendations for implementation of these policies.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Between Spring and Fall 2003, the All-Party Task Force held thirteen public hearings in twelve different communities across Manitoba (two were held in Winnipeg). The communities included the following: Virden; Brandon; Portage La Prairie; Gimli; Thompson; Boissevain; Beausejour; Selkirk; Roblin; Swan River; St. Pierre; and, Winnipeg.

The Task Force heard from a total of 225 Manitobans on the issue of ETS. Of these 225, 115 people made oral presentations. The Task Force heard from a wide variety of health related and business organizations including RHAs, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Manitoba Lung Association, the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance, The Manitoba Federation of Labour, the Royal Canadian Legion, Chambers of Commerce, and the Manitoba Hotel Association to name only a few. The Task Force also heard the personal experiences and ideas of local business owners, municipal officials, health care professionals, healthy community committees, teachers, students and private citizens who came to make presentations. Submissions were made via the Internet from more than 70 people. The Task Force received over 40 submissions through the mail. Many of these submissions included reports, studies and newspaper articles (over 50 such documents were received).

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

The consultation process ended on October 2, 2003 when the Task Force met with Wally Fox-Decent, chair of the Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health. In May, 2003, the Advisory Council recommended a phased-in smoking ban in all indoor and outdoor workplaces (see Appendix A). The Advisory Council's report and the public views provided a foundation of information that assisted the All-Party Task Force in developing the recommendations outlined in this report.