

Appendix A

ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE IN THE WORKPLACE: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

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PRINCIPLES

1. Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), composed of numerous carcinogens and other toxic compounds, is a scientifically proven, universally recognized health hazard.
2. Workers are exposed to harmful levels of ETS where smoking is permitted in enclosed places.
3. *The Manitoba Workplace Safety & Health Act* specifies that it is the employer's duty to maintain a safe and healthy work environment.
4. The Manitoba regulations specify that exposure to airborne carcinogens must be controlled to as close to zero as practicable.
5. Tobacco smoking is not a work requirement.
6. Exposure to ETS is most readily and easily prevented by eliminating the hazard from the work environment.
7. *The Manitoba Workplace Safety & Health Act* applies to all provincially regulated workplaces equally.

RECOMMENDATION

Work towards achieving a complete ban of smoking in all workplaces through a three-stage process:

First stage - A complete ban of smoking in all *enclosed* workplaces, but allowing for the continuation of designated smoking rooms used by workers and/or clients.

- Timeframe: sufficient time should be given for workplaces to accommodate to this new direction - perhaps 6 - 12 months.

Second stage - A complete ban of smoking in all *enclosed* workplaces. This stage does not allow for a designated smoking room - present DSRs would be discontinued.

- Timeframe: a limited time, perhaps 1 - 2 years, is suggested.

Third stage - A complete ban of smoking in *all* workplaces (indoors and outdoors). This final stage moves beyond simply controlling workers' exposure to ETS. It is however, consistent with the public health perspective on smoking.