

# Working Together

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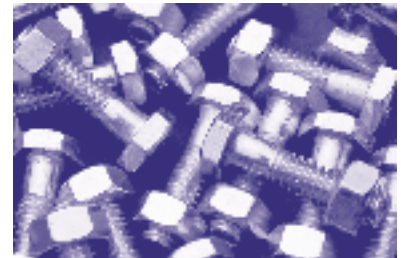
## On Prevention

## Indoor air quality: environmental tobacco smoke

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is moving forward to address indoor air quality, starting with environmental tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke —whether released from the burning end of a cigarette or breathed out by someone smoking — affects indoor air quality. As part of the Board's commitment to create healthier and safer workplaces throughout the Yukon, we need to look at the issue of workplace smoking.

### The Yukon situation

The Yukon has some measures in place to regulate workplace smoking. The Government of Yukon has a policy that requires its workplaces and public places to be smoke-free. Both the City of Whitehorse and the Town of Dawson City have passed bylaws governing smoking. In Whitehorse, all places where the public has access must be smoke-free. In Dawson City, all municipal indoor facilities are smoke-free, and smoking is not permitted in places that provide service to anyone under 18 years of age.



### Across Canada

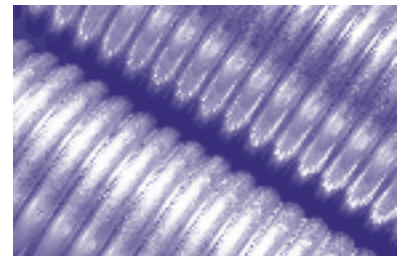
Across Canada, provinces, municipalities, and workers' compensation boards have taken a variety of approaches to this issue. Some provincial governments have passed legislation to ban smoking in the workplace, while allowing exemptions for certain types of worksites. In New Brunswick, for example, the *Smoke-Free Places Act* prohibits smoking in all enclosed workplaces, with some exceptions, as well as in public places, restaurants and bars. Similar legislation exists in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Nunavut. In December 2004, Ontario introduced new legislation that would prohibit smoking in all workplaces and enclosed public places in the province.

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### A variety of approaches

Some provinces and workers' compensation boards also use education and awareness programs to promote smoke-free workplaces. In Alberta, the Department of Human Resources and Employment publishes a bulletin that provides tips on smoking prevention. Alberta also encourages the involvement of both employers and employees in the development of workplace smoking policies. In New Brunswick, the WCB supports employer and employee responsibility for the prevention of workplace smoking through education, training, planning and enforcement.

Two workers' compensation boards in Canada have taken steps to regulate smoking. In British Columbia, all public places are considered workplaces. Smoking is restricted in restaurants and bars, with designated smoking rooms required. Eighty-five percent of B.C. workplaces are now smoke-free.



In NWT/Nunavut, which is served by one WCB, smoking is prohibited in all workplaces, with limited exceptions. For example, designated smoking areas are permitted in underground mines where workers cannot get to the surface during their shift. Special designated smoking rooms are allowed where workers or others live within a work site — for example, in hotels, elders' homes, or fly-in mine sites — as long as no smoke enters the workplace itself.

### **What are the next steps?**

1. Is indoor air quality or environmental tobacco smoke an issue at your workplace?
2. Does your workplace have a policy to address these issues?
3. Are these issues part of your safety management system?
4. What are the next steps?

We look forward to receiving your comments.  
For more information or to provide feedback, contact us:  
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**Deadline for feedback is June 24, 2005**



**YUKON WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY BOARD**

**COMMISSION DE LA  
SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ  
AU TRAVAIL  
DU YUKON**