



Pacific Region Cadets

ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET, AIR CADET, AND NAVY LEAGUES OF CANADA

BACKGROUND

DOCUMENTATION

CADET ORGANIZATION NO SMOKING POLICY

As a result of education programs, the public attitude regarding the use of tobacco has changed considerably in recent decades mostly as result of concerns over the health hazards involved. Subsequent Provincial legislation is directed specifically at curtailing the use of tobacco among youth. In British Columbia the “Tobacco Sales Act” prohibits the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 19 years.

There are about 8,000 cadets aged 12 to 18 years in 132 cadet units throughout the province and nearly 4,000 cadets from B.C. and across Canada attend summer training each year at Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre, Sea Cadet Summer Training Centre HMCS Quadra and the Regional Flying Centre at Comox and Albert Head Air Cadet Summer Training Centre near Victoria.

Up until 2003 cadets attending Summer Training Centres in B.C. were allowed to smoke provided they had signed parental consent. That changed when B.C. became the second cadet-training region to ban smoking at Cadet Summer Training Centres. Following the success of the summer training center smoking ban, the no smoking policy was extended to local unit cadet activity in the fall of 2003. Since September 2003 smoking is not permitted during any cadet activity in British Columbia.

The no smoking order is not only in keeping with the aim of the cadet organization to promote physical fitness; it is also in accordance with the B.C. Government’s tobacco strategy to stop youth from smoking. The policy applies while cadets are in the care of the Canadian Cadet Organization and whether or not they are wearing their uniform and it includes all activities. During summer training the policy applies to staff cadets as well as course cadets regardless of what province they come from and both on and away from the training centre. Adult supervisors are directed to refrain from smoking during cadet activities and must not smoke in the sight of cadets and only when they are not providing direct supervision.

While using tobacco outside cadet activities will not affect a cadet’s progress in the program, violation of the ban while participating in cadet activities will result in disciplinary action. Most parents have expressed appreciation knowing that their child is not exposed to the proven health risk and serious addiction caused by the use of tobacco. Experience with the policy has revealed few infractions. Generally, errant cadets have complied with the direction after discussion and in some cases have quit smoking.