

CLEARING THE AIR

Alberta's new Smoke-Free Places Act



To find out more about the Smoke-Free Places Act,
visit www.smokefreeplaces.com or
call Alberta Connects toll-free at 310-4455.

Alberta

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Taking effect January 1, 2006, Alberta's Smoke-Free Places Act prohibits smoking in any public place or workplace in Alberta that is accessible to minors. To find a copy of the Act or for more information, visit www.smokefreeplaces.com or call Alberta Connects toll-free at 310-4455.

Some Alberta municipalities already have a 100% smoke-free bylaw.

Many municipalities have passed 100% smoke-free bylaws restricting smoking and prohibiting exposure to second-hand smoke in all public places and workplaces. Businesses and individuals in these municipalities are already in compliance with the Smoke-Free Places Act.

The new Act sets a minimum standard for Alberta.

Public and workplaces in municipalities that have no current smoking policy, must comply with the new Smoke-Free Places Act. For example, restaurants that allow anyone under 18 to enter must now prohibit smoking. This would apply in all businesses and public places wherever minors have access.

Under the new legislation, workplaces that permit smoking and allow minors must restrict smoking to a fully enclosed area, ensure that smoke does not drift into non-smoking areas, and post proper signs. Youth under 18 are not permitted to enter these areas.

Find out what your city or town's smoking bylaws are.

It's up to individual businesses and organizations to find out what the smoking bylaws are in their municipality. Existing smoke-free bylaws that restrict smoking in all areas take priority. If bylaws provide less protection from second-hand smoke than the new Smoke-Free Places Act, the Act prevails as the local policy.

How will the Smoke-Free Places Act be enforced?

Employers and/or managers are responsible for ensuring that no person smokes in a designated non-smoking area and that no minors are allowed to enter where smoking is permitted. The Smoke-Free Places Act is enforced under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, which covers all ticketed legislation in Alberta. Peace officers and special constables employed by the province or municipality have the ability to enforce and ticket the provisions and regulations of the Smoke-Free Places Act.

What are the penalties associated with the Act?

Contravening the Act may result in fines as outlined in the legislation:

- A person found smoking in a public place, workplace or public vehicle where smoking is prohibited will be fined \$250.
- Businesses allowing minors to enter where smoking is permitted will be fined \$500.
- Businesses which do not display proper signs will be fined \$250.
- Anyone found removing or defacing signs will be fined \$250.

There is help for people who want to quit.

Counselling and support programs are available throughout the province including the following:

- The Smokers' Help Line (1-866-33AADAC) operates 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.
- www.albertaquits.ca is the new, *free* online service, available 24/7, for all Albertans who want to quit smoking.
- Nicotine replacement therapy and prescription medication can ease symptoms and cravings and have been found to double the chances of quitting.