

## Tobacco group hits at Air Canada smoking ban

BY BERNARD SIMON IN TORONTO

CANADA'S biggest tobacco company has ordered its 3,000 employees to avoid travelling on Air Canada in the wake of the state-owned airline's decision to ban smoking on some of its most popular flights.

Imperial Tobacco of Montreal, whose parent company Inasco is controlled by Britain's BAT Industries, has told Air Canada that the airline will be used in future as "the carrier of last resort" by Imperial employees and Inasco head office staff. Employees have also been told to stop using the airline's credit card.

The policy will be reviewed at the end of Air Canada's three-month experiment banning all smoking on half of its 75 daily flights between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

The airline took the step after determining that half its smoking passengers approved of stricter rules, if only to help them give up cigarettes.

An Imperial Tobacco official said Air Canada's policy is "unfair to smokers" by unnecessarily restricting their rights.

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BAT Industries document for Province of British Columbia 12 April 1999