

[School Name] Is 100% Tobacco – Free

By AUTHOR Title

[SCHOOL NAME] went 100 percent tobacco-free on September 2, 2007, as a result of changes to the *Tobacco Control Act*.

Parents, staff and visitors cannot smoke or use tobacco anywhere on school property at any time, whether or not school is in session. This prohibition applies to school buildings, parking lots, sports fields, driveways, courtyards, and private vehicles in school parking lots. It applies to school vehicles, wherever they may be at any time. **Anyone** contravening the legislation can be fined up to \$58.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is included in the new tobacco-use restrictions for schools?

A. Smoking, holding lit tobacco or using chewing tobacco is not allowed by anyone (staff, students, parents and visitors) anywhere on school property (school buildings, vehicles, parking lots, sports fields, driveways, courtyards, private vehicles parked on school property) at any time (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Q. Do these requirements apply to use of school property after school hours by sports clubs or other groups, under the terms of rental agreements or otherwise accessing school property?

A. Yes, the new law applies to school buildings and other property at all times, whether being used for school purposes or by sports clubs or other groups renting or permitted access to the facilities or property. Groups using school property after school hours will be required to ensure that smoking and other use of tobacco does not occur.

Q. How is this law enforced?

A. Our policy regarding the use of tobacco and enforcement of school rules is outlined in [provide a link or otherwise specify its location].

In addition, provisions under the *Tobacco Control Act* allow for enforcement of the Act by Tobacco Enforcement Officers. These officers are employed by local health authorities, and support the health authority in enforcing all aspects of the *Tobacco Control Act*, including provisions restricting sales of tobacco to minors and smoking in schools, on school property and in public places.

Q. Has this law forced smokers to smoke around private homes and local businesses near the schools?

A. Experience in other jurisdictions has shown that while initially this may be the case, working with the school population and local community helps reduce such situations over time.

Q. What other jurisdictions have similar bans on smoking on school property?

A. In Canada, six other jurisdictions have extended their school smoking bans to include school property. These jurisdictions are Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and PEI.