

Tougher Tobacco Laws will Protect Alberta Youth

November 14, 2014

The Alberta government is protecting youth by taking action and introducing tough new tobacco laws that include banning smoking in cars with kids and prohibiting certain flavoured tobacco.

Improving the quality of life for Albertans and providing care and services to Albertans with addictions is a priority of our government and directly supports the mandates of both the Premier and the Health Minister.

The amendments to the Tobacco Reduction Act and Tobacco Reduction Regulation will be phased-in over time.

Starting immediately, the legislation will:

- Ban smoking in vehicles with minors present; and
- Prohibit the selling, giving, lending or supplying of tobacco products to minors, similar to federal legislation.

Starting June 1, 2015, the legislation will:

- Require minimum pack sizes for specific tobacco products – this will eliminate smaller, more affordable options; and,
- Ban certain flavoured tobacco products.

We know tobacco use is a serious problem that is related to approximately 3000 deaths in Alberta each year. The recently proclaimed legislation supports our commitment to reducing the use of tobacco in Alberta so that every Albertan can have the opportunity to enjoy a life free of preventable tobacco-related disease and death.

Tobacco Reduction Act

On January 1, 2008, the [*Tobacco Reduction Act*](#) became law. The *Tobacco Reduction Act*:

- Prohibits smoking in all public places and workplaces;
- Bans retail displays, advertising and promotion of tobacco products; and
- Prohibits the sale of tobacco products from all health-care facilities, public post-secondary campuses, pharmacies and stores that contain a pharmacy.
- [Read more about the Tobacco Reduction Act](#)

Tobacco Reduction Amendment Act 2013

On November 7, 2013, Bill 33 – The Tobacco Reduction Amendment Act, 2013 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The new legislation would amend Alberta's *Tobacco Reduction Act*

to better protect Albertans from the harmful effects of tobacco, tobacco-like products and second-hand smoke.

- [Tougher tobacco laws protect Alberta's children and youth](#) – News release, November 7, 2013

The amendments deal with the following 5 areas:

1. Prohibiting the selling and giving (known as “furnishing”) of tobacco products to minors in public places.
 - This means that there would be an Alberta law making it illegal for retailers to sell tobacco products to individuals under 18 years of age.
 - Also, retailers would be required to ID anyone who appears to be under 25 years of age before providing them with tobacco products.
 - This is aimed at further preventing minors from obtaining tobacco products.
2. Requiring that some tobacco products be sold in minimum package sizes.
 - This means that some tobacco products would have to be sold in packages containing a minimum number of units. The minimum number of units would be set out in regulation, and the products to which this applies would be listed in regulation.
 - This amendment is intended to make tobacco products less affordable for young people.
3. Prohibiting the smoking of tobacco-like products in the same locations where the smoking of tobacco products is prohibited.
 - Generally speaking, tobacco-like products are products, other than tobacco products, composed of plants or plant products.
 - This amendment would prohibit the smoking of tobacco-like products (including those in waterpipes/hookah/herbal cigarettes) in the same places where the smoking of tobacco products is prohibited.
 - These places are public places, workplaces, public vehicles and within five metres from the doorway, window or air intake of a public place or workplace.
 - This prohibition would protect Albertans from the harms of tobacco-like products and further protect them from the dangers of second-hand smoke.
4. Prohibiting smoking in vehicles with children present and repealing the Tobacco Reduction (Protection of Children in Vehicles) Amendment Act, 2012.
 - Smoking in a vehicle with a minor present would no longer be allowed.
 - This is meant to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke.
 - Children are particularly vulnerable to the harms of second-hand smoke because they are still developing physically and have higher breathing rates.
 - Also, smoking in a small, confined space like a vehicle increases the amount of second-hand smoke.
5. Consolidating the *Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act* into the *Tobacco Reduction Act*.
 - The *Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act* currently makes it an offence for minors to possess, smoke or consume tobacco products in public places. They may be liable to a fine of up to \$100 if found guilty of this offence.

- This amendment would incorporate the provisions of the *Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act* into the *Tobacco Reduction Act* to create one Act dealing with tobacco reduction in Alberta. This is intended to encourage a comprehensive approach to tobacco reduction in Alberta.

In addition, a Private Member's Bill, the Tobacco Reduction (Flavoured Tobacco Products) Amendment Act, 2012 (Bill 206) is currently before the Legislative Assembly. Bill 206 would restrict the sale of flavoured tobacco products in Alberta. This is aimed at discouraging youth from starting to use tobacco products