

# **Tobacco-Free Policy for Indoor and Outdoor Facilities**

The Town of Stratford recognizes that exposure of non-smokers to tobacco smoke (passive smoking) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Passive smoking can lead to serious illnesses in adults, such as bronchitis, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children can also develop chest illnesses and asthma from exposure to tobacco smoke.

The Town of Stratford also recognizes that the use of tobacco in any form is harmful to the user. The use of spit tobacco (snuff, chew, plug, etc.) has severe health risks. Spit tobacco usage is known to cause serious illnesses such as cancers of the throat and mouth, leukoplakia, gum and tooth disease and loss of bone in jaw. It is also understood that children and young adults do not recognize the health hazards of spit tobacco as commonly as the threats of smoking.

Accordingly, the following policy has been developed by Town of Stratford to protect the health of all concerned with an emphasis is placed on children. Children who are in frequent contact with adults who smoke are also more likely to become smokers themselves.

The Town of Stratford acknowledges its leadership role in the community and aims to be a good role model for affiliated clubs. The move to go tobacco-free also complements the Town of Stratford's desire to create a healthy family and community-friendly environment. The Town of Stratford believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in influencing healthy attitudes and positively promoting sport and recreation programs.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide clear reasons to have tobacco-free facilities. Under common law the Town of Stratford has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, players and officials are not exposed to potentially harmful situations.

## **Who is Affected by the Policy**

This policy applies to all individuals (participants, officials, coaches, players, parents, visitors and volunteers) partaking in any sport or recreational activity taking place at Town of Stratford indoor or outdoor facilities. This policy also applies at all times.

## **Timing**

This policy is effective from (October 1, 2007).

## **Facilities**

The following indoor and outdoor facilities are to be designated tobacco-free:

- Stratford Town Centre
- Bunbury Rink Hall
- Cotton Park Building
- MacNeil Community Centre
- Former Town Hall (Mason Road)
- Soccer Field House( Business Park)
- All Parks and Playgrounds
- All Sport Fields & Courts

This policy applies to all areas in and around those facilities including but not limited to:

- administration and office areas
- social/club rooms
- all change rooms and toilet blocks

indoor and outdoor spectator viewing areas  
indoor and outdoor playing areas  
all eating areas  
within the perimeter of all facilities grounds

## **Functions**

All official Town of Stratford functions will be 100% tobacco-free. Such functions include:

dinners  
fund-raising events  
parades  
meetings  
social occasions  
any other event or function

The following media will remind patrons about the Town of Stratford tobacco-free policy:

non-tobacco signs  
invitations  
dinner menus  
announcements  
table signage  
function speeches

## **A Strategy**

The following three step non-compliance strategy will be followed if anyone breaches the Town of Stratford tobacco-free policy.

- Assume that the person is unaware of the tobacco-free policy.
- The Town of Stratford will display signage where appropriate that all facilities are tobacco free.
- The Town of Stratford will support initiatives that promote awareness to the public of the dangers of tobacco products.

## **Sale of Tobacco Products**

Tobacco products will not be sold at any of the facilities or events under the direct control of Town of Stratford.

## **Affiliated Clubs**

**The Town of Stratford will actively encourage and support its sport and recreation organizations to also be tobacco-free.**

## **Junior Sport**

**The following steps will be taken to ensure that all junior sport under the control of Town of Stratford is conducted in a 100% tobacco-free environment.**

**All coaching courses will highlight the importance of role modeling tobacco-free behavior to junior members.**

**All affiliated clubs will be required to have all junior competitions and events 100% tobacco-free. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas.**

**All junior events and competitions directly sanctioned by Town of Stratford will be 100% tobacco-free. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas.**

**Well-known elite athletes within the sport will be enlisted as tobacco-free role models.**

## **Policy Review**

**The policy will be reviewed six months after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter to ensure that it remains current and practical.**