



Dear ABLE Members,

Over the past few weeks, we have been listening to you and your concerns about the large impact that the smoking ban will have on your businesses. We recognize that there is no easy solution and share in your frustration.

We want to remind you of some of the key aspects of the legislation that will affect you, and we want to share with you the new information and resources that are being released from government. As we gather more information and learn more about the legislation, we will share it with you.

The Ministry of Health has released information and pamphlets that are available for you to look at and use.

- Check out the updated Ministry of Health Website  
<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/tobacco/>
- Here is a brochure with some more information about the restrictions for retailers  
[http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/tobacco/pdf/RETAIL\\_Brochure\\_final\\_1.04.pdf](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/tobacco/pdf/RETAIL_Brochure_final_1.04.pdf)
- Here is a brochure with some more information about your responsibilities as a pub owner  
[http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/tobacco/pdf/RESTAURANT\\_Brochure\\_final\\_1.04.pdf](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/tobacco/pdf/RESTAURANT_Brochure_final_1.04.pdf)
- Northern Health BC is offering information services for establishments located in the North and Interior of BC. The toll free number is 1-877-617-6777 and the email is [Tobacco.control@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Tobacco.control@northernhealth.ca)
- Here is a link with contact information for all of the Health Authorities across B.C. These will be the organizations enforcing the regulations and may be able to help answer some of your questions.  
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobctrl/pdf/tecontacts.pdf>

As a reminder, here are some of the key points in the legislation that will affect you. Please remember to check with your local Health Authority as some municipalities have passed bylaws that are more strict than the provincial ban.

- On **March 31, 2008** indoor smoking will be banned in **all** public places in British Columbia.

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- Smoking will be permitted on patios as long as it is not fully or substantially enclosed.
- There will be a 3m buffer zone where no smoking can occur from all doorways, windows or air intakes.
- Tobacco may still be sold and displayed in areas where it is not clearly visible from the outside of the establishment and may not be seen or accessed by minors.

We want your input! ABLE BC acts as a resource centre for you. What are you doing in your business to comply with the regulations? What are you doing for your staff? We will share with you the ideas and input we receive so that we can all work together.

All of this information is available on our website at [www.ablebc.ca](http://www.ablebc.ca).

Cheers!

The ABLE BC Team

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