

### *What kind of signage do I need?*

Signs are required where smoking is prohibited. Additional signage requirements for retailers who sell tobacco will come into effect in July 2008. Signage is also required where smoking is permitted, such as a group living facility or a hotel room.

### *What if a hall, meeting room, banquet hall is being rented out for a private function? Can they allow smoking?*

No. Banquet halls and meeting rooms are still considered a public place and therefore smoking is not allowed at any time.

### *Does this Act apply to legions and private clubs?*

Yes. Legions and private clubs are considered a workplace. The *Tobacco Reduction Act* defines a workplace to be any part of a building, structure or other enclosed area in which employees perform the duties of their employment, whether or not members of the public have access to the building, structure of area as of right or by express or implied invitation.



### *Does this Act apply to smokeless tobacco?*

This Act restricts the display and advertising of tobacco products including smokeless tobacco, effective July 1, 2008 as well as prohibits the sale of smokeless tobacco products in all pharmacies, health facilities and post-secondary campuses, effective January 1, 2009. This Act does not ban the use of smokeless tobacco products in public places and workplaces.

### *Can you still smoke on patios?*

No. An outdoor eating area that is part of or operated in conjunction with a restaurant is considered a public place.

### *Can employers and businesses owners still have designated smoking rooms?*

No. Under the *Tobacco Reduction Act*, smoking is banned in all public places and workplaces.

### *Can I still smoke in my home and car?*

The Act does not include restrictions on smoking in private homes and private cars.

#### **Medicine Hat Police Service**

#### **Municipal Bylaw & Enforcement Section**

884 -2nd Street SE  
Medicine Hat, AB  
T1A 8H2  
Phone: 403-529-8481  
Fax: 403-529-8444  
[www.medicinehatpolice.com](http://www.medicinehatpolice.com)



## **Medicine Hat Police Service**



## **Common Questions about the Tobacco Reduction Act**

*Municipal Bylaw &  
Enforcement Section*

**Ph: 403-529-8481**

## General Information



The *Tobacco Reduction Act* amended the *Smoke-free Places Act*.

The *Tobacco Reduction Act* came

into effect on January 1, 2008. Peace officers (including Police, RCMP and Community Peace Officers) as well as Inspectors within the Tobacco Enforcement Unit of the AB Gaming and Liquor Commission will be enforcing Section 7.1 and 7.2 of the *Tobacco Reduction Act*.

- The manager or owner of a place where smoking is prohibited under the Act must not permit a person to smoke in that place. Managers or owners who permit smoking where it is prohibited are guilty of an offence and liable to fines ranging from up to \$10,000 for a first offence and up to \$100,000 for a second or subsequent offence.
- Individuals who smoke where prohibited can receive fines ranging from up to \$1,000 for a first offence and up to \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offence. In addition, a ticket amount of \$250 can be issued for smoking in a prohibited area.

### *What are the fines?*

If an individual is in contravention of section 3 of the Act, fines range from up to \$1,000 for a first offence and up to \$5,000 for a subsequent offence. If an individual is in contravention of sections 6, 7, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the Act, fines range from up to \$10,000 for a first offence and up to \$100,000 for a second or subsequent offence.

### *How far away from a doorway are you allowed to smoke?*

Smoking is not allowed within five metres of a doorway, window that opens or air intake of a public place or workplace.

### *What about taxis, buses and work vehicles—can you smoke in these?*

No. Taxis, buses and other vehicles used to transport members of the public for a fee are considered public vehicles and smoking is not permitted. Work vehicles are defined as workplaces under the *Tobacco Reduction Act*; therefore smoking is also not permitted.



### *Are there any exceptions?*

Yes. Smoking will continue to be permitted in designated smoking rooms within group living facilities, lodges and designated hotel guest rooms.

A group living facility includes a facility for the long term care of veterans, nursing homes, mental health facilities, and residential facilities for adults only licensed under the Social Care Facilities Licensing Act. Lodge accommodations is defined under the Alberta Housing Act.

The legislation does not include restrictions on smoking in private homes and private cars, nor will it apply to open areas such as public parks, beaches or campgrounds. However, smoking would be prohibited in enclosed areas such as picnic shelters and change rooms at the beach.

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