

January 2010

Smoke Free Bylaws and Businesses Make the North Shore a Healthier Place for Our Children, Indoors and Out

As parents, one of our main concerns is protecting our children from dangers at home and in the community. We know there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke and most of us take steps to protect our family members by making our homes and cars smoke free.

Recent research has also shown that second hand smoke does not disappear quickly outdoors. Throughout the world and here in BC, communities are making changes to protect the public in outdoor settings. In 2008, the Canadian Cancer Society found that the majority of BC residents support making outdoor community spaces smoke free. Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, White Rock, Powell River and Richmond all have smoke free bylaws which include outdoor spaces.



And leading the way on the North Shore, in August 2009, the West Vancouver Council unanimously passed a new bylaw which provides for smoke free municipal recreation centre campuses, transit shelters, sports fields, skate board parks, restaurant and bar patios, playgrounds and beaches. Local residents have joined with Dr. Brian O'Connor, the Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health, the Canadian Cancer Society, the BC Cancer Agency and the North Shore Sports Council to urge the North Vancouver City and District Councils to agree on similar bylaws to protect the public.

Local businesses have also recognized the value of offering customers and employees a healthy environment; Grouse Mountain was congratulated by guests and staff after becoming the first Smoke Free Mountain Resort in BC. And the 2010 Olympic Games venues will be smoke free, indoors and out.

January 17-24 is National Non Smoking Week in Canada and you and your children can make your Mayor and Councillors aware of your support for healthier smoke free community spaces.

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For help to quit smoking www.quitnow.ca
or call 1-877-455-2233

