
From the Office of the Medical Health Officer

To: Supporters of the Smoke Free Bylaw for the Town of Gibsons and Sechelt

Smoke-free bylaws support our collective goal related to building healthy and sustainable communities along the Sunshine Coast.

Even though British Columbia has the lowest smoking rate in Canada, 6,000 people in BC die each year from tobacco related causes. The cost of tobacco per year in BC is \$2.3 billion. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of **preventable** morbidity and mortality in BC including cancer, heart disease, COPD and many other devastating illnesses. Tobacco is an addiction, not a lifestyle choice.

In 2006, the US Surgeon General concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke, and even brief amounts of exposure can cause harm. Smoke-free bylaws will help to protect staff, patrons and public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. They also decrease negative role modeling for children and youth, encourage smokers to quit or cut back, and protect the environment by reducing litter.

At this time the Town of Gibsons and Town of Sechelt are being asked to consider an Enhanced Smoke-Free Bylaw that would include the following:

- ✓ Prohibit smoking on all hospitality patios;
- ✓ Prohibit smoking at all transit stops;
- ✓ Enhance the existing bylaw by increasing the buffer zone to 7.5 meters from doors, air intakes and windows;
- ✓ Prohibit smoking on beaches, parks and playgrounds;
- ✓ Prohibit smoking in public places where people gather including playing fields, outdoor or partly enclosed sport venues, stadiums and sports facilities;
- ✓ Include other smoked materials such as “weeds and other substances”, water pipes, hookahs, e-cigarettes and “other tobacco products”.

We are looking for help and support from stakeholders to get the bylaw passed through council.

Your voice can have a significant impact on the direction that Sechelt and Gibsons takes to protect the health of our communities. Councillors represent their constituents. In order for them to vote YES to this bylaw (which has been introduced to protect the health of the public), our councillors need to hear from supporters, especially those in their communities. Councillors read letters and the communication they receive and these have a strong influence on their decision making.

We ask that you take a few minutes to write, email, fax or call your councillors or mayor as soon as possible. Your contribution will make a difference.

Mayor Wayne Rowe, Town of Gibsons

Councillor Stafford Lumley
Councillor Charlene SanJenko
Councillor Jeremy Valeriotte
Councillor Silas White

Town of Gibsons

474 South Fletcher Road, Box 340
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0
Phone: 604-886-2274
Email: 'mayorandcouncil@gibsons.ca'

Mayor Bruce Milne, Town of Sechelt

Councillor Noel Mueller
Councillor Darren Inkster
Councillor Alice Lutes
Councillor Mike Shanks
Councillor Doug Wright
Councillor Darnelda Seigers

Town of Sechelt

2nd Flr, 5797 Cowrie Street, Box 129
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0
Phone: 604-885-1986
Email: 'Council@sechelt.ca'

We thank you in advance for your support in helping us all breathe easy on the Sunshine Coast!

Yours truly,



Paul Martiquet, M.D.,C.M.,CCFP.,M.H.Sc.,FRCP(C)
Medical Health Officer