

Enhanced Smoking Bylaw FAQs

1. WHAT is the NEW smoking amendment bylaw and WHEN does it come into effect?

The City of New Westminster Smoking Control Amendment Bylaw No. 7583, 2014 will add the following restrictions to Smoking Control Bylaw No. 6263, 1995. The amendments will be implemented January 1, 2015.

- Smoking is prohibited within 7.5 meters of doors, windows and air intakes for public and workplace buildings;
- Smoking is prohibited on all restaurant and pub patios; and
- Smoking is prohibited within 15 meters of outdoor sports facilities, playgrounds, off leash dog parks and picnic areas within City parks

2. WHERE else is smoking not allowed?

Smoking is also prohibited in the following places, as per Smoking Control Bylaw No. 6263, 1995 currently in effect:

No person shall smoke:

- a) in a service line;
- b) at a service counter;
- c) in a public transportation facility or vehicle, including but not limited to a school bus, a public bus, the “Sky Train”, a transit shelter or waiting room relating to any form of transportation;
- d) on an elevator, escalator or inside stairways;
- e) in a restroom generally used by and open to the public;
- f) in any retail premises;
- g) in a taxicab;
- h) in a personal services establishment;
- i) in a place of public assembly;
- j) in an office workplace;
- k) in a common hallway, passageway, lobby, laundry room or exercise room in a multi-residential premise;
- l) in a restaurant;
- m) in a bowling alley;
- n) in a billiard hall;
- o) in a bingo parlour or casino;
- p) in a public house, cocktail lounge, cabaret or bar.

For the full bylaw visit the City’s website: www.newwestcity.ca/city_hall/bylaws

3. WHY is there a smoking bylaw?

- **Protection from second-hand smoke**

The majority of the population does not smoke. The bylaw aims to protect the public, as there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke and being within a few feet of a smoker outdoors may expose you to air pollution levels comparable to homes and bars that allow smoking.²

- **Building a healthier community**

New Westminster is joining numerous neighbouring municipalities who have already increased their smoking bylaws, such as Coquitlam, Port Moody, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver and many more.

- **Increase the motivation for smokers to quit or cut back**

DID YOU KNOW that smoking bans have been cited as motivation to quit?³ Take advantage of the numerous free smoking cessation supports (QuitNow and BC Smoking Cessation program) and the smoking ban to finally help you become smoke-free.

- **Decrease negative role modeling for children**

Think smoking isn't really an issue anymore? The majority of smokers are 20 – 24 yrs old and most start before age 18. If children and youth are not exposed to adult smoking behaviour, they may be less likely to think of it as normal. With products like e-cigarettes which may entice new smokers, it's important to take a stand and show our youth that smoking is not something they should start. Actions speak louder than words!

- **Protects the environment and reduces litter**

Over 4.5 trillion cigarettes are littered worldwide each year and are the most littered item in the world. The filters are non-biodegradable and the butts leach chemicals and heavy metals into the environment that are toxic to fish, pets and children. It's unattractive, as well as expensive and time consuming to clean up.^{4,5}

- **Reduced fire risk**

Cigarettes are a common cause of wildfires and residential fires. Carelessly discarded cigarettes can put neighbours and communities at risk.

DID YOU KNOW a cigarette was responsible for one of the largest forest fires in Canadian history when more 70 homes and tens of thousands of hectares of forest were destroyed in 2003 near Kamloops?

4. HOW does the smoking bylaw affect my premise?

Posting bylaw compliant signage, removing ashtrays and taking steps to ensure that smoking does not take place on your premises will now be required. In the case an establishment is deemed to have committed an infraction or an offence against the bylaw, a fine of not more than \$2,000 may be applied.

5. HOW does the smoking bylaw affect me as a park facility user?

It is your responsibility to be aware of the new smoking restrictions and inform your clients, customers, participants and staff that smoking is not permitted within 7.5 meters of doors, windows and air intakes of buildings; and within 15 meters of outdoor sports facilities, playgrounds, off leash dog parks and picnic areas.

Here is a sample write-up you can use to communicate to participants of your event:

SMOKING: We encourage attendees to help make our event family-friendly and abide by all laws and regulations. We would like to remind you that smoking is illegal in many outdoor locations. Smoking within 7.5 m of windows, doors and air intakes; in City parks within 15 m of playgrounds, picnic areas, sporting facilities and off-leash dog parks; and on restaurant and pub patios is prohibited.

6. WHERE to get decals and signage?

A limited quantity of printed signs and decals will be available for pick up at New Westminster City facilities, and at Fraser Health Public Health Unit, 218 – 610 Sixth Street, New Westminster. Signs are also available online and can be downloaded and printed at: www.newwestcity.ca/hcp

7. WHAT TO DO if someone is smoking?

HOW to approach someone who is smoking?

If someone is smoking, please politely inform them that there is a new smoking bylaw in effect.

HOW to report complaints

To report a complaint, please contact New Westminster Health Protection: 604-777-6740.

8. WHAT supports and resources are available for patrons and staff who smoke?

- QuitNow support
- BC Smoking Cessation program

Information on FREE Quit Smoking Support and FREE nicotine replacement therapy are available. Information can be accessed online at www.quitnow.ca or by calling 811 . The City's Healthier Community Partnership webpage will **link to the Quit Now website**.

Thank you for helping make New Westminster a healthier community!

For more information on the amendments to the bylaw and Healthier Communities Partnership, visit www.newwestcity.ca

¹Source: http://otru.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/update_june2003.pdf

²Canadian Council for Tobacco Control. Fact sheet on Second-hand Smoke and Outdoor Places.

³Smoke-free Outdoor Public Places Cdn Cancer Society factsheet

⁴ <http://www.tobaccoinfo.ca/mag2/campaign.htm>

⁵<http://www.cigwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CBPP-Just-the-Facts-2013.pdf>