

# Frequently Asked Questions

## By-Law No. 2818-2011

### Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Outdoor Spaces



#### **What is the smoke-free and tobacco-free by-law for Parks Facilities, Municipal Recreation Facilities, Playgrounds and Playing Fields?**

On March 7, 2011 the County of Prince Edward enacted by-law no 2818-2011: a by-law to prohibit smoking and tobacco use within 25.0 meters surrounding playground structures, sport playing fields, park facilities, tennis courts, outdoor rinks, youth park, skate parks and within 9 meters of recreation facilities owned by the County of Prince Edward.

#### **Why have a smoke-free and tobacco-free by-law?**

*Promote Healthy Activities:* Indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and parks are established to promote healthy activities and community wellness. Enacting the smoke-free and tobacco-free by-law supports the promotion of healthy activities.

*Clearing the Air:* A 2007 study undertaken in California found that tobacco smoke levels could be detected in downwind positions greater than or equal to four meters from a single active cigarette. As the number of active cigarettes increase so does the distance at which the smoke is detected. Second-hand smoke harms everyone: it is a human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. Exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate health consequences such as asthma and other respiratory diseases. The scientific evidence is overwhelming that secondhand smoke is hazardous to everyone who breathes in walking through a group of people smoking outside of a public facility or sitting next to people smoking on a bench.

*Positive Role Modelling:* Kids imitate what they see around them. This by-law sets a clear message that smoking and tobacco use is not an acceptable behaviour and will help children choose to be tobacco and smoke free.

#### **How will the smoke-free and tobacco-free by-law be enforced?**

The County of Prince Edward is asking for co-operation and compliance of the by-law. Watch for signs that restrict smoking and tobacco use located near entrances and exits and outdoor spaces. The enforcement of this by-law is intended to be self-regulating and on the "Honour system" for compliance with the community at large, participants and individuals providing friendly reminders. Staff of the facilities may also provide friendly reminders to those offenders of this by-law. Enforcement officers with the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit shall enforce this by-law for re-occurring or re-offending infractions.

## **What if I see someone smoking in a non-smoking area? What should I do?**

That depends upon the situation and your comfort level. It is expected that by far the majority of smokers will co-operate with the by-law. If you encounter someone smoking or using tobacco products in a designated smoke-free and tobacco-free area, and you feel comfortable approaching them, it is suggested that you politely bring to their attention that the by-law prohibits smoking and tobacco use in that location.

In the unlikely event that the person smoking or using tobacco products responds in a fashion that you feel is inappropriate, you may wish to report the matter to the County of Prince Edward Recreation, Parks and Culture Department.

## **I've politely asked someone to leave the non-smoking area and they have not cooperated or I do not feel comfortable asking them to move, who can I contact?**

Depending where you are you should contact:

- County of Prince Edward On-Site Facility Staff
- The Manager of Recreation and Culture
- The Manager of Parks and Arenas
- The Commissioner of Recreation, Parks and Culture
- The Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit

## **What is the County of Prince Edward doing to ensure that its by-law is successful?**

- Promotion of the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free By-Law through the County of Prince Edward web-site;
- Signage at all parks, entrances and exits to the recreation facilities
- Provide education of the dangers of smoking and tobacco use

## **For More Information Contact:**

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Prince Edward and Hastings Counties Health Unit:

Ph: (613) 966-5513 x600

# Support Smoke-Free Playing Fields

*in Prince Edward County*



## **Smoking where children play should be banned because:**

- 1) Litter from cigarettes is hazardous to the environment and to youth.
  - a) It is the number one littered item in the world. One in five littered items is a cigarette butt.
  - b) The butt and filter take about 15 years to degrade and they release harmful chemicals into their surroundings.
- 2) There is never a safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.
  - a) Second-hand smoke is more harmful to children because their lungs are smaller and they breathe quicker and therefore inhale more poisonous chemicals from second-hand smoke than adults.
  - b) Standing within a couple of feet away from smoke outdoors has the same level of toxicity as indoor.
- 3) Children should not be provided with smoking role models.
  - a) Smoke-free environments have been shown to reduce the likelihood that children and youth will start to use tobacco industry products.
  - b) By creating a smoke-free environment we are creating a safe, healthy place where children can play and not be targeted by the tobacco industry.

“Keep Me Away From Where Children Play”



For more information or to get involved call the Tobacco Talk Line at 613-966-5513 ext. 600 or visit us online at [yourhealthunit.ca](http://yourhealthunit.ca)

**Health Unit**

  
Hastings &  
Prince Edward Counties