

<b>TOWN OF STRATFORD - COUNCIL POLICY</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Tobacco Free Policy</b>	<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>2007-RC-01</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>	<b>September 12, 2007</b>

## **1. Introduction**

The Town of Stratford recognizes that exposure of non-smokers to tobacco smoke (passive smoking) is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected. Passive smoking can lead to serious illnesses in adults, such as bronchitis, lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children can also develop chest illnesses and asthma from exposure to tobacco smoke.

The Town of Stratford also recognizes that the use of tobacco in any form is harmful to the user. The use of spit tobacco (snuff, chew, plug, etc.) has severe health risks. Spit tobacco usage is known to cause serious illnesses such as cancers of the throat and mouth, leukoplakia, gum and tooth disease and loss of bone in jaw. It is also understood that children and young adults do not recognize the health hazards of spit tobacco as commonly as the threats of smoking.

Accordingly, the following policy has been developed by the Town of Stratford to protect the health of all concerned with an emphasis placed on children. Children who are in frequent contact with adults who smoke are also more likely to become smokers themselves.

The Town of Stratford acknowledges its leadership role in the community and aims to be a good role model for affiliated clubs. The move to go tobacco-free also complements the Town of Stratford's desire to create a healthy family and community-friendly environment. The Town of Stratford believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in influencing healthy attitudes and positively promoting sport and recreation programs.

Legislation and the legal duty of care also provide clear reasons to have tobacco-free facilities. Under common law the Town of Stratford has a legal duty of care to ensure that employees, volunteers, players and officials are not exposed to potentially harmful situations.

## **2. Who is Affected by the Policy**

This policy applies to all individuals (participants, officials, coaches, players, parents, visitors and volunteers) partaking in any sport or recreational activity taking place at Town of Stratford indoor or outdoor facilities. This policy also applies at all times.

### 3. Designated Facilities

The following indoor and outdoor facilities are hereby designated as tobacco-free and no person shall smoke or use tobacco in any form therein except in designated outside smoking areas as indicated below:

- Stratford Town Centre;
- Bunbury Rink Hall;
- Cotton Park Buildings;
- MacNeil Community Centre;
- Former Town Hall (Mason Road);
- Soccer Field House (Business Park);
- All Parks and Playgrounds; and
- All Sport Fields & Courts.

This policy applies to all areas in and around the designated tobacco free facilities including:

- administration and office areas;
- social/club rooms;
- all change rooms and toilet blocks;
- indoor and outdoor spectator viewing areas;
- indoor and outdoor playing areas;
- all eating areas; and
- all areas within the perimeter of the grounds of all of the designated facilities.

The Recreation Director may designate smoking areas in appropriate outside areas. Cigarette butt bins will be provided in outside smoking areas to encourage smokers to dispose of their butts appropriately. Bins provided outside entryways will be placed at least 15 feet from those entryways.

### 4. Functions

All official Town of Stratford functions, whether held in designated tobacco-free facilities or not, are hereby designated as tobacco-free including:

- dinners;
- fund-raising events;
- parades;
- meetings;
- social occasions; and
- any other event or function.

**5. Awareness and Enforcement Strategy**

Non-compliance with this tobacco-free policy shall be discouraged by positive education and awareness as follows:

- Assume that the person is unaware of the tobacco-free policy;
- The Town of Stratford will display signage where appropriate that all facilities are tobacco-free;
- The Town of Stratford will support initiatives that promote awareness to the public of the dangers of tobacco products.

Patrons shall be made aware of this policy through multiple media including:

- tobacco-free signage at Town facilities;
- invitations;
- dinner menus;
- announcements;
- table signage; and
- function speeches.

**6. Sale of Tobacco Products**

Tobacco products will not be sold at any of the facilities or events under the direct control of the Town of Stratford.

**7. Affiliated Clubs**

The Town of Stratford will actively encourage and support its sport and recreation organizations to also be tobacco-free.

**8. Junior Sport**

The following steps will be taken to ensure that all junior sport under the control of Town of Stratford is conducted in a 100% tobacco-free environment:

- All coaching courses will highlight the importance of role modeling tobacco-free behaviour to junior members;
- All affiliated clubs will be required to have all junior competitions and events 100% tobacco-free. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas;
- All junior events and competitions directly sanctioned by Town of Stratford will be 100% tobacco-free. This includes all indoor and outdoor playing areas; and

- Well-known elite athletes within the sport will be enlisted as tobacco-free role models.

**9. Policy Review**

The policy will be reviewed six months after its introduction and then on an annual basis thereafter to ensure that it remains current and practical.

**10. Effective Date**

This policy is effective on October 1, 2007.