

# Non-Smokers' Rights Association Smoking and Health Action Foundation

March 2008

## Saskatchewan

Name of legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Tobacco Control Act</i> (amended)</li> </ul>
Date in force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 1, 2005</li> </ul>
Workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking permitted by employees in DSRs in workplaces not ordinarily open to the public, and in private portions of public places (<i>Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996</i>)</li> <li>• Smoking permitted in DSRs by residents and in-patients of long-term care, psychiatric and other residential care facilities</li> <li>• Smoking permitted in designated smoking hotel rooms by registered guests and their invited guests</li> <li>• Smoking also prohibited in all provincial government work sites owned or leased by gov't departments, boards, commissions and other bodies prescribed as gov't institutions (<i>Sask. Public Service Commission Smoke-Free Workplace Policy</i>)</li> </ul>
Restaurants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking prohibited</li> </ul>
Casinos, bingos, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking prohibited</li> </ul>
Bars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking prohibited</li> </ul>
Public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking prohibited in all enclosed public places</li> </ul>
Outdoor provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Provision for municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 15 states that if there is a conflict with a provision of any other Act, regulation or bylaw, the more restrictive prevails.</li> </ul>
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legislation strong for protection in indoor public places, but weak regarding indoor workplace protection</b>—DSRs continue to be permitted in private workplaces not open to the public</li> <li>• <b>Legislation weak for outdoor protection</b>—could be strengthened by including patios, school grounds, as well as buffer zones around doorways, air intakes and operable windows of all workplaces and public places</li> </ul>

## Notes

Health groups in Saskatchewan report that 1 out of every 3 workers in the province is still exposed to second-hand smoke on the job. As part of an *Occupational Health and Safety Act* review process, health groups made submissions to the government as well as meeting with the Labour Minister to discuss the need for smoke-free workplaces in Saskatchewan. A 2006 public opinion survey conducted by the Canadian Cancer Society in conjunction with medical health officers overwhelmingly demonstrates support for clean air at work—85% of respondents support making all workplaces completely smoke-free.

In April 2007 the government announced proposed changes to the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* that would place restrictions on workplace exposure to a list of substances. The Saskatchewan Medical Association took advantage of the situation and issued a tongue-in-cheek press release congratulating the government for banning smoking in the workplace, as 23 of the substances on the list are also found in cigarette smoke.

There is now a new government in Saskatchewan and the new labour minister has said that updating the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* are a priority.

There are currently 5 casinos located on native reservations—restricted smoking permitted in all of them. A 6<sup>th</sup> casino is currently being built in Swift Current, but it is not yet clear whether the contract with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority will allow smoking.