

campaign for a **smoke-free** alberta

- NEWS RELEASE -

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

SMOKE-FREE ALBERTA APPLAUDS BILL 45

Edmonton - A broad coalition of health, business and labour organizations is applauding Bill 45, Alberta's proposed new tobacco reduction law that was introduced today in the Legislative Assembly by Health and Wellness Minister Dave Hancock.

If approved, the bill will be among the most comprehensive in the nation and will make almost all workplaces completely smoke-free, ban tobacco sales in establishments containing pharmacies, and will prohibit tobacco retail displays (power walls).

"If passed, this bill will put Alberta at the forefront of Canada's tobacco reduction effort" said Angeline Webb of the Canadian Cancer Society – Alberta/NWT division. "We are very pleased with the major elements of the bill and we hope that the bill will receive swift consideration in the Legislative Assembly. This bill signals a new era for disease prevention in Alberta and demonstrates the government's commitment to improving the quality of life for all Albertans and reducing demands on healthcare."

"This bill is broad in scope and will help prevent tobacco promotions to young people, will protect almost all Alberta workers from secondhand smoke, and will curb the involvement of health professionals in the promotion and sale of tobacco", said Les Hagen of Action on Smoking & Health.

According to the coalition, the bill compares favourably with tobacco laws in other provinces and will bring Alberta into full compliance with the international Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. This global treaty was developed by the World Health Organization and was ratified by most nations including Canada in 2005.

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"This bill reflects national and international leadership on Alberta's part and will bring our province into full compliance with the international treaty on tobacco control" said Ingrid Meier, board member of The Lung Association of Alberta/NWT. "Although most provinces have enacted the major elements contained in the Alberta bill, very few have enacted all of these measures together. Only Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia have made workplaces 100% smoke-free, have barred powerwalls and have banned tobacco sales in pharmacies."

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