

**DISTRICT OF
INVERMERE**



**NEWS
LETTER**



Smoking Bylaw

The District of Invermere, with the support of the *Interior Health Authority* and the *BC Cancer Agency*, has adopted a bylaw to prohibit smoking in certain public areas.



**NO
SMOKING**
Thank You

WHY SMOKE FREE?

Hundreds of communities across Canada have embraced similar restrictions or bans on smoking in public outdoor spaces for a variety of reasons. In Invermere, we are doing our part to be a smoke-free society in order to practice fire prevention, to care for the environment, and to promote healthy living. In addition, with the pending legislation of cannabis, the District wished to ensure residents were not impacted by its use in public areas.

The intent is to
**prohibit smoking in
all public parks,
sports facilities,
buildings and trails
and pathways within
the community.**

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invermere.net

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FIRE PREVENTION

- Discarded smoking materials can lead to fires. With increased Wildfire Risk due to Climate Change impacts, the control of smoking will reduce the risk of human caused fires within park spaces and trail networks
- The BC Wildfire Service reports that 40% of all wildfires over the past decade have been caused by human activity rather than lightning strikes. The cost to the province from 2004 – 2014 due to these preventable fires has been \$676.5 million.

HEALTHY LIVING

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Canada.
- There is no safe level of second-hand smoke.
- Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of second-hand smoke.
- Smoking restrictions decrease negative role modeling for children.
- Smoking restrictions can increase the motivation for smokers to quit.

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Worldwide, an estimated three-quarters of a billion kilograms of cigarette butts end up dropped on the ground every year.
- Cigarette butts can take up to 15 years to break down and deposit nicotine, heavy metals, plastic fibers, benzene and other carcinogens into our environment.
- Toxins released by discarded smoking materials can seep into soil and water, affecting plant and animal life.

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WHERE IS SMOKING PROHIBITED?

The Outdoor Public Spaces Smoking Regulation Bylaw No 1537 states:

No person shall smoke:

- within the area of a park, playground or public facility unless specifically designated;
- within 10 metres of a bus stop;
- within the area of a Dog Off-Leash Park;
- on any public and private K-12 school grounds; or
- within the area of any Trail.

WHAT OUTDOOR AREAS ARE INCLUDED UNDER THIS BYLAW?

Outdoor public spaces listed in the bylaw include parks, playgrounds, trails, bus stops, schools, public buildings and facilities, and other outdoor public spaces that are located on land owned by the District of Invermere or School District No. 6 that are open to the public from time to time. This may include:

- Outdoor children's playgrounds
- Playing fields
- Sports venues
- Trail and Pathway Systems

Please see the bylaw for the full details of areas included within the bylaw or contact Chris Prosser, Chief Administrative Officer at 250-342-9281 or cao@invermere.net.

ARE PARKING LOTS INCLUDED IN THE SMOKING BAN?

District owned or controlled parking lots are not included in this bylaw under the definition of 'Park'. Please see the bylaw for the full definition of the term park.

CAN I SMOKE IN MY CAR?

You may smoke in your car where it is not prohibited by the bylaw or provincial enactments. For example, District owned or controlled parking lots are not included as prohibited spaces under the Bylaw.

Remember, under provincial legislation, it is illegal to smoke while anyone under 16 years of age is present in the vehicle.

ARE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES OR PERSONAL VAPORIZERS INCLUDED IN THE BYLAW?

Yes, electronic smoking devices and any other oral smoking devices are included in the bylaw.

In March 2015, BC became the latest province to regulate electronic cigarettes, with legislation designed to prevent young people from using the devices or being exposed to their vapour. The current Provincial legislation bans e-cigarette sales to people under 19 and prohibits their use in indoor public spaces and workplaces. It also bans e-cigarettes on school grounds and at health facilities. In keeping with Provincial legislation, the District of Invermere included e-cigarettes in the bylaw.

HOW WILL THE BYLAW BE ENFORCED?

The District of Invermere will focus on voluntary compliance through education. This is not an uncommon approach to bylaw enforcement. For example, most dog owners voluntarily comply with the bylaw that requires them to leash and pick up after their pets. Signage and education serve as reminders and most people are respectful of others in our community.

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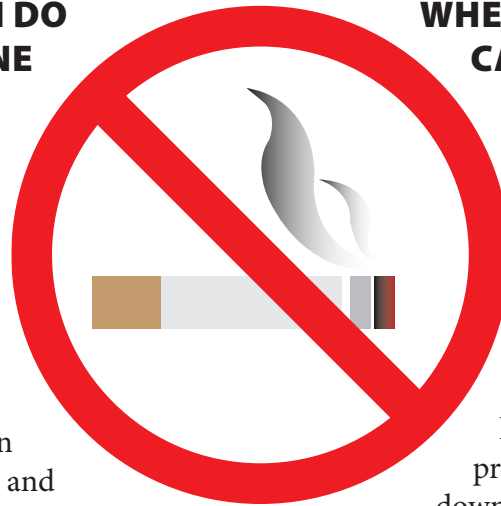
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE SMOKING IN A PUBLIC SPACE?

If you see someone smoking in an outdoor public space or park, you may inform them politely that a Invermere by-law forbids smoking in outdoor public spaces and parks. You may also report a violation by calling District of Invermere Bylaw Enforcement at 250-342-1707 or contacting the Municipal Office at 250-342-9281.

HOW WILL PEOPLE KNOW NOT TO SMOKE IN OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACES OR PARKS?

The District of Invermere will focus on voluntary bylaw compliance through education, which will include:

- The District's website
- Social media
- Signage
- Advertising
- Bylaw enforcement officer



WHERE OUTDOORS CAN I SMOKE?

This bylaw regulates smoking outdoors in public parks, trails, and in District-owned public buildings and facilities. The bylaw does not include Crown land, privately owned property, sidewalks in downtown or road rights of way. Should you choose to smoke on the sidewalk, please ensure you are 10 metres away from a bus stop (as per the bylaw) and adhere to BC's tobacco laws which limit smoking around public and work place doorways, windows and air intakes.

IS LITTERING CIGARETTE BUTTS INCLUDED IN THIS BYLAW?

Yes, under the bylaw, "No person shall discard or place on the ground any match, cigar or cigarette." Please dispose of these items appropriately.

**For more information about the health risks
associated with smoking or for assistance
with quitting, please visit:**

- Interior health Authority
- Canadian Cancer Society (BC Yukon)
- Healthy Families BC
- www.quitnow.ca/ (Eligible BC residents can have up to 12 weeks of smoking cessation medications (varenicline or Champix, bupropion or Zyban) or nicotine replacement therapy (patch or gum) at no cost per calendar year. They can also receive support in their quit attempts through the trained staff at QuitNowBC.)