

Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 1C4

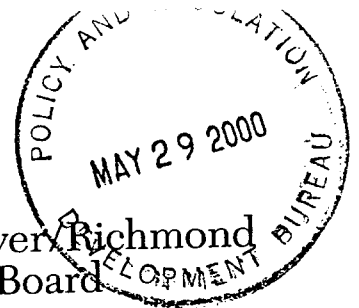
May 24, 2000

TO: Policy & Regulation Development Bureau
Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.
PO Box 5350 Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L5



Vancouver/Richmond
Health Board

Working Together for Better Health



#25

Re: Smoking Prevention Legislation - May 1995

The Administrative Council is comprised of the four medical health officers in the Lower Mainland and their associated medical officers.

For the past decade, this group has campaigned to get rid of smoke in public places. The group has worked to protect all workers from second hand smoke and to protect children from second hand smoke.

While we know that second hand smoke can kill, we tend to forget the immediate allergic effects of smoke. Up to 10% of the population have some allergies to second hand smoke and a smaller number have such severe allergies that they cannot go where people are smoking. Thus the current status of allowing smoking in restaurants, bars, casinos, etc. precludes these people from using these facilities. Healthy public policy protects everybody.

Five years ago, in May 1995, the Lower Mainland Hospitality Group (formed to fight the smoking ban then proposed by the Lower Mainland municipalities) demanded an immediate meeting with the Administrative Council. We gave them some dates that we could meet with them but they could not get their group together until September 1995.

At the September 1995 meeting, their spokesperson uttered the famous line "we thought you were joking". No, we were not joking, but the point here is that the proposed total ban on smoking in the hospitality sector is not new. It has been in active discussion for at least five years.

The Administrative Council strongly supports the Workers' Compensation Board extending its regulation to protect workers from second hand smoke in the entire hospitality industry.

F. J. Blatherwick, CM, MD, FRCP (C) For
Chair, Administrative Council, and
Medical Health Officer, V/RHB

Brian O'Connor, MHO, North Shore Health Region
Roland Guasparini, MHO, South Fraser Health Region
Nadine Loewen, MHO, Simon Fraser Health Region