

Smoke-Free Parks and Beaches



The City of Timmins is now one of an ever growing number of communities that has passed a local bylaw to restrict smoking in and around playing fields, playground equipment, parks and beaches. This bylaw has a powerful prevention implication that will help keep youth from becoming tobacco users.

Research has shown that prohibiting smoking in outdoor locations where people, especially children congregate, such as parks, playgrounds, beaches and outdoor recreational facilities, creates a healthy environment where not smoking is the norm.

Children model adult behaviour. If we want children to know that the majority of people are non-smokers then they should only see people smoking rarely.

From public surveys to completing demonstration events, Whisper Out Loud – a Ministry of Health Promotion Youth Action Alliance with the Porcupine Health Unit worked diligently from October 2006 to August 2009 to develop and present the City of Timmins council an amendment to bylaw 2003-5815 to create smoke-free spaces at public parks and beaches in Timmins.

As a result, bylaw 2009-6844 was created and passed in November 2009. The City of Timmins bylaw 2009-6844 prohibits smoking within 10 meters of any playground and playground equipment, prohibits smoking within 10 meters of any recreational field and also has designated smoking areas at beach locations.

Signs will be posted so as to clearly identify the non-smoking areas. Any person who contravenes the smoke-free bylaw will be guilty of an offence and could be liable to a fine not more than five thousand dollars.