

TOBACCO-FREE PHARMACIES

- Selling tobacco products is incompatible with the health care responsibilities of pharmacists.
- **All but three provinces or territories have banned the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.**
- There is no evidence that pharmacies which sell tobacco do so in ways which contribute to helping smokers quit, or to preventing smoking among youth.
- There is no evidence of adverse economic impact on pharmacies when government's ban the sale of tobacco in pharmacies.
- Domestic and international codes of practice for health professionals call on pharmacists to disengage from tobacco commerce.

TOBACCO IS NO ORDINARY PRODUCT

Tobacco products are the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Canada.

They should not be sold in pharmacies.

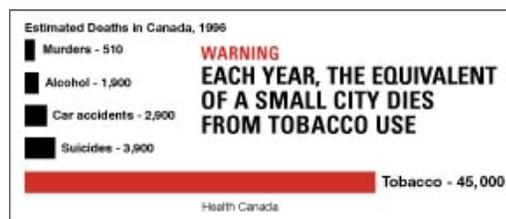
One in five Canadian deaths is caused by cigarettes. Each of the 37,000 Canadians who die each year from tobacco use lose, on average, 15 years of life.

Cigarettes are the deadliest consumer product sold in Canada: more people die as a result of tobacco use than from all weapons, illicit drugs, alcohol, automobiles, other vehicles, HIV/AIDS or pollution—combined.

Although tobacco products remain legal for sale (because this is considered to be the most effective way of reducing their use), they are strongly regulated.

Advertisements of tobacco products are severely restricted, health warnings are prominent, and sales to young persons is banned. These and other measures to reduce tobacco use (like high taxes and bans on smoking in workplaces and public places) are part of the comprehensive strategy to reduce tobacco use promoted by the World Health Organization and other health authorities.

Banning the sale of tobacco in pharmacies is an important part of a public health strategy to reduce smoking.



PHARMACIES ARE NOT ORDINARY STORES

Pharmacies are not like other retailer outlets.

At the heart of each pharmacy is the pharmacist, a health professional.

Pharmacies have been granted exclusive control over the dispensing of many medications and are part of the health care system.

Pharmacists are actively engaged in the health of their community. They provide patient counseling, medication therapy monitoring, and help identify and resolve drug related problems.

Selling cigarettes is inconsistent with the professional responsibilities of pharmacists.

- The sale of tobacco in a health care facility such as a pharmacy gives a false and dangerous credibility to cigarettes, and suggests that their use is compatible with health.
- Selling (and especially displaying) cigarettes in pharmacies undermines the messages of other health



About Us

Built on a foundation of professional expertise and personal service, Shoppers Drug Mart has been meeting Canadians' health care needs for over 40 years. What was once a small pharmacy in Toronto has grown into an organization of over 925 stores from coast to coast, forming an indelible part of the lives of Canadians, young and old. Despite our growth, we have never forgotten our origins. We remain true to our belief that the personal satisfaction of our customer is at the root of our success and our commitment of excellence.

Pharmacy chains are big business.

They promote their health-care role in their advertising—yet none of the chains have voluntarily stopped selling cigarettes.

professionals that tobacco products are uniquely dangerous.

- Selling cigarettes (that cause disease) is inherently in conflict with the pharmacist's role in preventing and treating disease.

Who has the power to make pharmacies tobacco-free?

- Provincial governments
- Provincial colleges of pharmacists
- Pharmacy owners

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Provincial and territorial governments have the responsibility to protect health in their jurisdictions, and the authority to ban the sale of tobacco in pharmacies. Seven governments have already done so.

Legislation is not the only way to ban tobacco sales in pharmacies.

Colleges of pharmacists also have authority and responsibility in this area. Pharmacists, like other health professionals, are governed by colleges whose authority is established in provincial legislation. Although provincial requirements of the colleges differ slightly,

they all require these professional bodies to protect health.

Provincial colleges of pharmacists have the power to determine that the sale of cigarettes is inconsistent with the professional mandate of pharmacists, as the Quebec Order of Pharmacists did in 1996. (That decision was reinforced by a provincial law).

A third option is for pharmacies to voluntarily stop selling tobacco products. Some independent pharmacies have shown such leadership, but none of the major pharmacy chains has yet done so.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MANITOBA LAG BEHIND



All but 3 Canadian jurisdictions have banned the sale of cigarettes in pharmacies

The incompatibility of pharmacies and tobacco sales has been recognized by 10 Canadian jurisdictions.

Tobacco sales have been banned for almost 2 decades in Ontario, and for a decade or more in Quebec and New Brunswick.

There is no evidence of any adverse impact on pharmacy revenues in that time.

Pharmacy sales of tobacco products are also banned in the United Kingdom, France and Italy.

Order of legislation banning pharmacy sales of tobacco products

1. Ontario (Dec. 31, 1994)
2. New Brunswick (July 1, 1997)
3. Quebec (June 19, 1998)
4. Nova Scotia (Jan. 1, 2000)
5. Nunavut (Feb. 1, 2004)
6. Newfoundland & Labrador (Jan. 1, 2005)
7. Prince Edward Island (Jan. 1, 2006)
8. Northwest Territories (Jan 21, 2007)
9. Alberta (January 1, 2009)
10. Saskatchewan (date tba)
11. Yukon Territory (Feb 19, 2011)

“Pharmacists who endorse the sale of tobacco in their pharmacies are in breach of the public’s trust.”

*-L. Zaretsky
Community pharmacist,
Morden, Manitoba*

“If tobacco-free pharmacies are to be created in a manner that is successful and fair, the provincial government must amend the legislation that controls the sale of tobacco in the province.”

*-Linda Lytle
Registrar,
B.C. College of Pharmacists*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In order to contribute actively to the reduction of tobacco consumption and include tobacco control in the public health agenda at national, regional and global levels, it is hereby agreed that health professional organizations will:

1. Encourage and support their members to be role models by not using tobacco and by promoting a tobacco-free culture.
2. Assess and address the tobacco consumption patterns and tobacco-control attitudes of their members through surveys and the introduction of appropriate policies.
3. Make their own organizations' premises and events tobacco-free and encourage their members to do the same.
4. Include tobacco control in the agenda of all relevant health-related congresses and conferences.
5. Advise their members to routinely ask patients and clients about tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke –using evidence-based approaches and best practices–, give advice on how to quit smoking and ensure appropriate follow-up of their cessation goals.
6. Influence health institutions and educational centres to include tobacco control in their health professionals' curricula, through continued education and other training programmes.
7. Actively participate in World No Tobacco Day every 31 May.
8. Refrain from accepting any kind of tobacco industry support – financial or otherwise –, and from investing in the tobacco industry, and encourage their members to do the same.
9. Ensure that their organization has a stated policy on any commercial or other kind of relationship with partners who interact with or have interests in the tobacco industry through a declaration of interest.
10. Prohibit the sale or promotion of tobacco products on their premises, and encourage their members to do the same.
11. Actively support governments in the process leading to signature, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
12. Dedicate financial and/or other resources to tobacco control – including dedicating resources to the implementation of this code of practice.
13. Participate in the tobacco-control activities of health professional networks.
14. Support campaigns for tobacco-free public places.



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Adopted and signed by the participants of the WHO Informal Meeting on Health Professionals and Tobacco Control; 28-30 January 2004; Geneva, Switzerland