

Tobacco Facts for Schools

Halton Region's tobacco programming aims to:

- **Prevent** young people from smoking and **protect** people from second-hand smoke;
- Help people **quit** smoking;
- **Denormalize** the tobacco industry.

Prevention and Protection: The Law

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places. This means smoking is prohibited in public schools and private schools. The Act also prohibits smoking outside on public and private school property. Schools are required to post "No Smoking" signs. Tobacco Enforcement Officers and/or Public Health Inspectors from the Halton Region Health Department carry out inspections and investigate complaints in schools in order to enforce the act.

Responsibilities of School Administration:

- Ensure that employees, students and visitors are aware of the smoking prohibitions.
- Remove ashtrays and any object that serves as one.
- Ensure that employees, students and members of the public do not smoke on school property.
- Ensure a person who does not comply, does not remain on the property.
- Post "No Smoking" signs at all entrances, exits, washrooms, and other appropriate locations in order to ensure that everyone knows that smoking is prohibited. For information on acquiring required signage, please contact Halton Region at 311.

Penalties:

- For individuals 16 years and over, there is a minimum fine of \$305 for smoking on school property. Individuals younger than 16 must attend court with a parent or guardian. Selling, supplying or sharing tobacco products with anyone under 19 can result in a minimum fine of \$365.
- There is no maximum corporate fine under the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* for smoking on school property. An individual could be subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000.

Cessation help

Young people underestimate the power of nicotine addiction. It's a fact that 90 per cent of the youth still smoking by age 19 will become long term smokers. Halton Region offers resources to help people quit smoking such as The Stop Smoking Clinic, which provides free personal counselling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) by a public health nurse, nurse practitioner and trained health professional.

Denormalizing the industry

Make Sports and Recreation Tobacco Free (TFSR)

Tobacco Free Sports and Recreation means that everyone taking part in a sport or recreational activity refrains from using all forms of tobacco – participants, spectators, coaches and leaders do not smoke, snuff, dip, or chew tobacco. www.tfsr.ca

Crave Peer Leaders

Crave is a group of youth from Halton, employed by Halton Region's Health



Department and funded under the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy. Crave's mission is to expose the Tobacco Industry's tactics and lies, and to empower youth to bring about positive change in their communities. www.cravethetruth.ca

High School Action Grants

The High School Grants Program provides schools with grants of up to \$1,000 to support students to take action to prevent and reduce tobacco use among their peers.

New: An additional submission category has been added to the 2009 Halton Student Film Festival. Students are invited to use their High School Action Grant to produce a video that explores the tactics used by the tobacco industry to convince consumers that they want and even "need" to buy tobacco products. www.theeddies.ca

Visit www.halton.ca or call 311 to learn more about Halton Region's tobacco programming.