
INVEST IN CANCER PREVENTION

Background:

The Canadian Cancer Society BC and Yukon has long paved the way for strong public health policies related to cancer prevention. Once again, as in 2009, the Society will be asking for all-party support to help put cancer prevention on the provincial election agenda. On May 14th, 2013 citizens across BC will be casting their votes. We need your support to show government that cancer prevention is an election issue!

Why do we need to invest in cancer prevention?

Regrettably, cancer continues to grow. The statistics tell us that two out of every five of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime, and one out of every four of us will die of this disease. Based on current cancer statistics, we expect the number of cancer cases will increase by 70% by 2030. In addition, the BC Ministry of Health has estimated that by 2017, without any new action to promote health and prevent chronic disease, the Ministry of Health will require 71.3% of the BC government's total budget.

The good news is, about half of all cancers can be prevented by a combination of healthy living and healthy public policies.

Just imagine if half of the 23,300 British Columbians expected to get cancer this year – didn't.

We believe that advocating for public policies that protect all British Columbians from known and suspected carcinogens is an effective cancer prevention approach that will help to protect people from getting this disease.

What we are asking for:

The Canadian Cancer Society is asking the BC government to invest in cancer prevention by supporting three initiatives:

- Provide financial support to help the Society build its Cancer Prevention Centre;
- Amend the Tobacco Control Regulation to include the outdoor patios of bars and restaurants, as well as beaches, parks and playgrounds; and,
- Implement strong legislation that would ban the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides in British Columbia.

What you can do:

- Invest in cancer prevention by supporting the Society's Cancer Prevention Centre.
- Support amendments to the Tobacco Control Regulation to include smoke-free outdoor public places.
- Support a ban on the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.

SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES

Background:

Municipalities in BC have paved the way for province-wide smoke-free laws. And today, as in the past, many municipal bylaws go beyond the minimum standard in provincial smoke-free laws. In Canada, virtually all indoor workplaces and public places are smoke-free. Now, municipalities are banning smoking in specified outdoor areas. To ensure equitable access to strong public health policies, the Canadian Cancer Society is asking for province-wide legislation that would give British Columbians access to smoke-free outdoor public places – where children play - in BC. This would be done through amendments to the current Tobacco Control Regulation to include outdoor public places.

Our position:

The Canadian Cancer Society strongly believes that all British Columbians, especially children, should be protected from cancer-causing substances at home, work, and in their environment. The evidence is indisputable: second-hand smoke kills. It causes cancer and increases the risk of heart disease, asthma and stroke. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals and at least 50 of these are known to cause cancer. Every year 6,000 British Columbians die of tobacco related illnesses including cancer. Every year approximately up to 140 non-smokers in BC die from diseases brought on by second-hand smoke.

Because second-hand smoke is a serious public health issue, the Society is asking for strong province-wide legislation that:

- Bans smoking in patios of bars and restaurants; and,
- Bans smoking on beaches, parks, and playgrounds

Benefits of Smoke-Free Legislation:

- Protects the public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke
- De-normalizes smoking and encourages smokers to quit or cut back
- Provides healthy role models for children and youth

What you can do:

- Support amendments to the Tobacco Control Regulation to include smoke-free outdoor public places and encourage members of your caucus to do the same.
- Include smoke-free outdoor public spaces as a platform issue during your election work.

PROVINCE-WIDE BAN ON COSMETIC PESTICIDES

Background:

The Society has long advocated to the BC Government to implement strong, province-wide legislation that restricts the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides. In October 2011, the BC government established a bipartisan committee to consider potential legislation to address the cosmetic use of pesticides. Close to 9,000 submissions were collected by the Committee. The majority of submissions were in support of a province-wide ban. To date, no decision by government has been made.

Our position:

Cosmetic pesticide use is a public health issue, particularly for children. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests a connection between pesticides and various cancers. Pesticide bans work, and alternatives to pesticides are available and good for business. There is broad public support for cosmetic pesticide legislation in BC. More than 70% of British Columbians support provincial legislation to restrict pesticide use, and 76% are aware of the link between pesticides and cancer. Because cosmetic pesticide use is a public health issue, primarily for young children, the Society is asking for strong province-wide legislation that:

- Bans the use, sale of cosmetic pesticides used mainly for cosmetic purposes (e.g. pesticides used on lawns, gardens, parks, playgrounds and sports fields).
- Allows for exemptions only to protect public health.
- Allows municipalities to uphold their right to enforce more restrictive bylaws to regulate, restrict, or prohibit the sale or use of pesticides used mainly for cosmetic purposes.
- Provides a white list of low-risk pesticides that is regularly updated.
- Provides for a public education campaign to bring awareness and understanding of cosmetic use of pesticides and alternatives to cosmetic pesticide use.

What you can do:

- Support strong province-wide legislation that bans the use and sale of pesticides on lawns, gardens, and non-agricultural landscaping.
- Encourage members of your caucus to support strong province-wide legislation that bans the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides.
- Include cosmetic pesticide legislation as a platform issue during your Provincial election work.