



Smoke Free Kings is an organization made up of volunteers and professionals committed to reducing harm related to tobacco use and exposure in Kings County since 1994

# Protecting our Children

In the Town of Wolfville

Spring 2007

## Why we need a smoke free vehicle bylaw...

- Children in Nova Scotia continue to be exposed to smoke in private vehicles.<sup>5</sup>
- 35% to 45% of children are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke from adults using tobacco in homes and cars.<sup>4</sup>
- Harvard School of Public Health researchers have shown that smoking in cars can produce unsafe levels of secondhand smoke, even with windows open.<sup>4</sup>
- Infants and children are more severely affected by exposure to secondhand smoke because they are smaller, have higher respiration rates, have less mature immune systems and their respiratory tracts are still developing.<sup>1,2,4</sup>
- Levels of secondhand smoke in vehicles can be far higher than those found in smoke filled bars.<sup>4</sup>
- Exposure to secondhand smoke in a car is 23 times more toxic than in a house.<sup>3</sup>
- Secondhand smoke is linked to asthma, respiratory disease, sudden infant death syndrome and childhood cancers.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

### References:

1. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2006. Measuring Air Quality to Protect Children from Secondhand Smoke in Cars.
2. The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit. 2006. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act: Extend Protection to Children in Vehicles.
3. Ontario Medical Association. Exposure to second-hand smoke: are we protecting our kids? A Position Paper by the Ontario Medical Association. October 2004. Available from URL, <http://www.oma.on.ca/phealth/smoke2004.pdf>.
4. Harvard School Of Public Health. 2006. Secondhand Smoke in Cars May Lead to Dangerous Levels of Contaminants For Children.
5. Statistics Canada. Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) 2005: Summary of Results for the First Half of 2005 (February—June). [cited 2006 June 20]

## How you can become involved.....

Support the bylaw by contacting your local councillor via email, telephone and or in person.

For additional information please visit [www.smokefreekings.org](http://www.smokefreekings.org)