

Smoke-Free Cars With Children

Smoke-Free Kings
February 5, 2007
Presentation to Committee of Council
Town of Wolfville

Smoke-Free Kings

- Smoke-Free Kings (SFK's) was founded in 1994.
- A community based organization made up of volunteers and professionals.
- Committed to reducing harm related tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke in Kings County.

A Successful History

- In 2000, SFK's approached the four Councils in Kings County to advocate for Smoke-Free Public Places bylaws.
- Wolfville demonstrated strong leadership by becoming the first smoke-free town in NS.
- Wolfville was the catalyst that inspired the development of provincial legislation.
- SFK's is excited to continue working collaboratively towards a healthier, smoke-free community.

Smoking in Cars With Children

- Children in Nova Scotia continue to be exposed to smoke in private vehicles.
- 35% to 45% of children are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke (SHS) from adults using tobacco in homes and cars.
- Harvard School of Public Health researchers have shown that smoking in cars can produce unsafe levels of SHS, even with windows open.
- There is a lack of legislation protecting children from SHS in private vehicles.

Secondhand Smoke Poses a Potentially Serious Threat to Children's Health

- Infants and children are more severely affected by exposure to SHS because they are smaller, have higher respiration rates, have less mature immune systems and their respiratory tracts are still developing.
- Levels of SHS in vehicles can be far higher than those found in smoke filled bars.
- Secondhand smoke is linked to asthma, respiratory disease, sudden infant death syndrome and childhood cancers.

What Work is Currently Underway?

- Several surveys have shown strong public support for such legislation, even among adults who smoke.
- In Ontario, for example, public support for banning smoking in vehicles carrying children increased from 68% in 2002 to 78% in 2005. Increases occurred among smokers and non-smokers.
- Legislation banning smoking in cars with young children as passengers has been enacted in Arkansas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and recently Bangor, Maine.

To Sum Up.....

- Smoke-Free Kings strongly encourages Wolfville Town Council to continue to demonstrate leadership that fosters the health of our community.
- Enact a bylaw to protect children under age 16 from being exposed to secondhand smoke in vehicles.

Thank you.



Any Questions?

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. Harvard School of Public Health. 2006. Secondhand Smoke in Cars May Lead to Dangerous Levels of Contaminants For Children.