

May 2006

History of Smoke-free Legislation in Toronto

- 1979** Former City of Toronto passes a No Smoking By-law banning smoking in retail stores, elevators, escalators and service line-ups.
- 1985** Federal *Non-smokers Health Act* is passed, prohibiting smoking in all federal buildings and workplaces, including banks.
- 1986 - 1994** Former Toronto municipalities pass or strengthen public place and workplace smoking control by-laws. The former City of Toronto Workplace Smoking By-law (1993) requires every employer to adopt a written workplace smoking policy that satisfies all non-smoking employees.
- 1990** Ontario *Smoking in the Workplace Act* is passed with less restrictive provisions than Toronto's by-law.
- 1994** Province of Ontario passes the *Tobacco Control Act* that regulates the selling and supplying of tobacco, restricts where smoking is allowed and not allowed and sets fines for infractions.
- 1995 - 1996** Most pre-amalgamation Toronto municipal by-laws allow no more than 25% smoking area in restaurants. Smoking banned in most public places except bingo halls, bowling establishments, bars, casinos, and billiard establishments. Motions passed by GTA Mayors to advocate for a province-wide environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) by-law to provide a level playing field for business operators.
- 1997** New Provincial Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines include an objective for local health units to increase the proportion of smoke-free public places and workplaces to 100% by 2005. Former North York City Council and former Toronto City Council pass 100% smoke-free by-laws. These are rescinded shortly after enactment.
- 1998** Six former municipalities amalgamate to become City of Toronto.
- 1999** Toronto City Council passes harmonized No Smoking By-law No. 441-1999 (renamed in 2000 to Municipal Code, Chapter 709 – Smoking) requiring all public places and workplaces to be smoke-free, with exceptions by classes of establishments. By-law to be implemented in three phases: October 8, 1999, June 1, 2001 and June 1 2004. By-law exempts workplaces that are also private clubs.
- 2001** Phase Two Municipal Code, Chapter 709: June 1, 2001. All restaurants, dinner theatres and bowling centres must be smoke-free, except in a designated smoking room (DSR) no larger than 25% of public space (bingo halls allowed DSR no larger than 50%).

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- 2003** In April Toronto Council passed By-law No. 344-2003 to amend Toronto's No Smoking By-law and address concerns expressed by the Medical Officer of Health about designated smoking rooms (DSRs). The amendment prohibits the entrance of persons under 19 to a DSR, requires self-closing doors and removes all food preparation and liquor dispensing from all new DSRs. In May the Toronto Board of Health sent a letter to the Premier urging the provincial government to require closure of all Designated Smoking Rooms with the enactment of province-wide no smoking legislation.
- 2004** Phase Three Municipal Code, Chapter 709: June 1, 2004. All bars, billiard halls, bingo halls, casinos and the racetrack must be smoke-free, or provide an approved DSR no larger than 25% of public space (bingo halls allowed DSR no larger than 50%).
- In December the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care introduced Bill 164 to prohibit smoking in all workplaces and enclosed public places in the province.
- 2006** The Smoke-Free Ontario Act comes into effect on May 31, prohibiting smoking in enclosed workplaces and public places. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act replaces the Tobacco Control Act and the Smoking in the Workplace Act. Private clubs go smoke-free under workplace provisions. Designated Smoking Rooms can no longer be used for smoking. Ashtrays and Health Warning Signs must be removed.