

# Health Unit Media Release



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## **The Smoke-Free Ontario Act comes into effect in the early morning hours of May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Past the strike of midnight tonight all enclosed public places and workplaces in Ontario should be smoke-free.** The requirements of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act will go a long way in protecting the public from exposure to second-hand smoke and keeping tobacco products away from young people.

### **Some of the changes to expect include:**

- Smoke-free enclosed public places
- Smoke-free enclosed workplaces including vehicles
- Smoke-free licensed private home day cares whether a child is present or not
- Smoke-free bar and restaurant patios that are completely or partially covered
- Smoke-free hospitals and other health care facilities

### **Some of the provisions to keep tobacco out of the hands of children include:**

- No outside advertising of tobacco products
- No countertop displays of tobacco products
- Cigarettes can only be displayed in individual cigarette packages. Cartons are no longer to be visible before purchase
- No self serve tobacco displays
- All promotion of tobacco products is no longer allowed
- Retailers are required to ask identification of anyone who appears to be under 25 years of age each and every time they purchase tobacco products
- Youth test shopping is a required Ministry of Health Promotion activity for ensuring tobacco vendor compliance with the legislation

For information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Ontario Regulation 48/06 associated with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

**Visit our website at [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org) or email your questions to [SFOA@healthunit.org](mailto:SFOA@healthunit.org)**

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