

# Backgrounder

---

## ***City of Hamilton Public Health Services Tobacco Control Program Accomplishments***

Since 1996 the City of Hamilton supported the identification, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive tobacco control programs and services. Recognizing the vital interplay between tobacco use prevention, protection and enforcement, cessation, and tobacco industry denormalization, the City's Board of Health and Council have supported Public Health Services (PHS), and its many community partners, by installing the governance and fiscal frameworks necessary to achieve the goal of reducing the mortality and morbidity associated with tobacco use, and by extension improving the overall health and wellbeing of our community.

### ***Youth Tobacco Use Prevention***

In 2001 the City of Hamilton became a leader in youth tobacco use prevention by replicating and tailoring prevention programming and services that demonstrated great promise and results in the United States. Public Health Services used a youth-centered, engagement approach to youth tobacco use prevention programming. During this period PHS emerged as an innovator of creative youth tobacco use prevention programs in Canada, and is frequently consulted by colleagues in the field on the subject at the federal, provincial and local level. Public Health Services' work in this area has garnered the interest, attention and participation of highly regarded organizations such as the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, University of Toronto | Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, University of Waterloo | Propel Centre for Population Health Impact, Non-Smokers' Rights Association, Health Canada, various provincial Ministries of Health, State Health Authorities in the United States, and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

### ***Making the Healthy Choice the Easier Choice***

The City of Hamilton is a leader amongst Ontario municipalities that have adopted innovative tobacco enforcement practices and introduced municipal by-laws prohibiting smoking in order to make the healthy choice, the easier choice. The installation and enforcement of smoke-free environments is designed to not only protect human health but also convey that the City of Hamilton has a vision of non-smoking being the community norm.

Smoke-free legislation introduced locally and provincially includes:

- [City of Hamilton By-law Prohibiting Smoking in Public Places and Workplaces](#) By-law No. 02-054 came into effect June 1, 2002, which regulated smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces beginning on May 31, 2004 and May 31, 2008
- The Smoke-Free Ontario Act came into effect on May 31, 2006 and prohibited smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces as well as all school grounds in Ontario

- On May 31, 2008, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act was amended to include display and promotion requirements for tobacco retailers so tobacco products are not visible to the customer before purchase
- In 2009 the Smoke-Free Ontario Act was amended again to prohibit smoking in cars with children under 16 effective January 2009
- On May 31, 2012, Hamilton By-law No. 11-080 Prohibiting Smoking Within Parks and Recreation Properties came into effect and prohibited smoking in city parks and on all recreation properties
- On January 1, 2015, Smoke-Free Ontario Act Regulation 48/06 prohibited smoking on playgrounds and sports fields in Ontario, as well as smoking on restaurant and bar patios
- On January 1, 2016, the amended Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibited sale of flavoured tobacco products and the Electronic Cigarettes Act prohibited sale of e-cigarettes to those under age 19. Additionally, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulation 48/06 banned smoking on hospital properties.
- More recently the City of Hamilton Board of Health advocated that the Ontario Government take immediate action to reduce child/youth access to e-cigarettes at retail and prohibit exposure to vapour from e-cigarettes, as well as endorsed of a letter from the Canadian Cancer Society respecting Plain Packaging on Tobacco Products

### ***Cessation***

In recent years the City of Hamilton has emerged as a leader in smoking cessation programs, services and community collaboration. In 2007, Public Health Services introduced a Quit Smoking Clinic, with intensive cessation counseling and free pharmacotherapy for individuals wanting to quit smoking. That same year Public Health Services' launched a Cessation Community of Practice comprised of various health care providers, who work together in our community to share knowledge and resources to help people quit smoking. Our community health partners, including area hospitals, Community Health Centers, Family Health Teams, and social services agencies, work with us and each other to increase access to smoking cessation programs and services. Public Health Nurses train and support health care professionals to use best practices in tobacco control. Public Health Services is also a CAMH STOP On the Road and STOP @ Addictions Agency partner, providing free pharmacotherapy for people wanting to quit smoking.

For more information on visit [www.hamilton.ca/tobacco](http://www.hamilton.ca/tobacco).