

VOTE for health


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Election issues

Public policy plays a major role in disease prevention. In fact, about half of all cancers can be prevented through healthy living and policies that protect the health of Canadians. That is why the Canadian Cancer Society advocates for things like tougher tobacco product regulations and policies that restrict non-essential pesticide use. The Canadian Cancer Society believes the following health issues should be top priorities for municipalities across Alberta.

Non-essential use of pesticides

Municipal Policy Position: The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that municipalities pass bylaws, prohibiting the use of non-essential pesticides on public and private green spaces.

There is serious concern about the use of non-essential or cosmetic pesticides on private and public spaces. Non-essential pesticide use is the use of any herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide or fumigant for purposes other than for health.

Research linking pesticides to serious health issues is significant and growing. Leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, breast, brain, prostate, lung, pancreatic, stomach, kidney and other forms of cancer have all been linked to pesticides. Learning disorders, reproductive issues and acute health effects are also associated to pesticides. By eliminating the non-essential use of pesticides, exposure to these harmful chemicals will drastically decrease, contributing to better overall public and environmental health.

[WANT TO LEARN MORE? CLICK HERE.](#)

Smoke-free parks & playgrounds

Municipal Policy Position: The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that municipalities adopt bylaws that prohibit smoking tobacco in parks, playgrounds and other outdoor venues where children are present (i.e. festivals).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Contact your candidates

Call, write or email your candidates and ask them if they support action on these important health issues.

 [Sample letters/e-mails to candidates](#)

 [Letter template – pesticides](#)

[Letter template – smoke-free parks and playgrounds](#)
[Letter template – smoke-free vehicles carrying children](#)

Attend a candidate forum

Question your candidates in public so that others can learn about the issues too.

 [Sample questions for candidates](#)

Vote For Health

On October 18, vote for a candidate that supports healthy public policy. [Find candidates in your community.](#)

Smoking in select outdoor spaces, such as parks and playgrounds, can be detrimental to both our health and the health of the environment.

Outdoor smoking results in outdoor tobacco smoke, which poses the same health risks as second-hand tobacco smoke. There is particular concern about children being exposed to adult smoking behaviour in youth friendly areas like playgrounds. Not only does it teach children that smoking is acceptable, it unnecessarily exposes them to second-hand tobacco smoke.

Outdoor smoking also has a negative impact on the environment. Trillions of cigarette butts are littered worldwide each year and, being made of plastic they take years to biodegrade. Outdoor smoking is also a cause of fires in our provincial parks.

Prohibiting smoking in certain outdoor places de-normalizes the act of smoking tobacco, protects public health and contributes to a healthier environment.

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Municipal Policy Position: The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that municipalities pass bylaws to prohibit smoking in vehicles transporting children under the age of 18.

Prohibiting smoking in vehicles carrying children under the age of 18 will help protect children and youth from the harmful effects of second-hand tobacco smoke.

Second-hand tobacco smoke increases the risk of leukemia, brain and other childhood cancers, asthma and ear infections in children, and is related to sudden infant death syndrome and poor respiratory health.

While overall exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in public places is decreasing, children are still at risk of exposure in private homes and vehicles. Since young people are more severely affected by exposure to second-hand smoke and less able to protect themselves against it, it is important that policy is in place to protect them.

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