

# Survey of Municipal Smoking Bylaws

In Alberta

January to March 2003

## HIGHLIGHTS

The following highlights are based on the findings of a province-wide survey of municipal smoking bylaws conducted by Action on Smoking & Health as part of an 18-month project titled "Building Capacity for Smoke-Free Environments in Alberta". A three-page, self-administered questionnaire was distributed to senior administrators of 358 Alberta municipalities between January and March 2003. Of the 358 questionnaires sent, 292 completed questionnaires were received resulting in an 82% response rate.

### TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED

**N = 292**  
**(82% response rate)**

#### Municipal Smoking Bylaws

- 23% (67) of responding municipalities indicated they have adopted a municipal smoking bylaw.
- Roughly 12% of municipalities with bylaws indicated plans to amend their existing bylaws. The expected implementation of these amendments ranged from 2003 to 2008.
- Of the 225 municipalities indicating no current bylaw in place, 7 (3%) reported formal plans to introduce a smoking bylaw within the year.

#### Plebiscites and Public Votes

- 3% of municipalities reported having held a public vote regarding a smoking bylaw in the past and 6 municipalities anticipate a public vote on a smoking bylaw in the next 12 months.

#### Municipal Smoking Policy

- 180 (62%) municipalities have policies in place that address smoking in municipal offices and 136 of those policies include 100% smoke-free municipal offices.
- 126 (43%) have policies in place that address smoking in municipal facilities (e.g., recreation facilities). 68 of those are 100% smoke-free.

#### Licensing Tobacco Sales

- 7 (2%) of the 292 responding municipalities specifically license the sale of tobacco products.

## Consultations

- 14% of municipalities indicated that they have sought assistance from outside sources with regards to municipal smoking bylaws or policies.
- Those sources included consulting bylaws from other municipalities, regional health authorities, tobacco coalitions and agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and the Alberta Union of Municipalities Association (AUMA).

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SURVEY PLEASE CONTACT**



Suite 1101, 10080 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1V9  
Phone: (780) 426-7867  
Fax: (780) 426-7872

This project is funded through a grant from the Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy.