

Survey of School Board Smoking Policies In Alberta

February/March 2003

SURVEY RESULTS

Total surveys distributed N = 64
Total no response/refused N = 16

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED N = 53 (83% response rate)

PART A: SCHOOL BOARD DIVISIONAL SMOKING POLICY

Q1. Has your school board adopted a divisional smoking policy?

YES N=47 (89%)

Q2. In what year did your divisional smoking policy take effect?

(If your smoking policy has been amended, please indicate the amendment date rather than the date of the original policy)

1987 THROUGH 2003

PART B: STUDENT SMOKING POLICY

Q3. On January 22, 2003 the Alberta Government proclaimed the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act (Bill 208). This law prohibits the possession and use of tobacco products by minors under the age of 18. This law comes into effect on April 1, 2003.

Does your current divisional smoking policy specifically prohibit student possession of tobacco products on school grounds?

YES N=18 (34%)

Q3a. Does your school board have any formal plans to amend the current smoking policy to prohibit student possession of tobacco products on school grounds?

YES N=21 (40%)

Note: 13 of the 28 (46%) who stated in Q3 above that they did not have a currently policy specifically prohibiting student possession of tobacco products on school grounds DID indicate plans to introduce amendments to their current smoking policies.

Q3b. When do you expect these amendments to take effect?

Most respondents indicated planned amendments would take effect between March and June 2003.

Q4. Does your current divisional smoking policy specifically prohibit tobacco use (including spit tobacco) by students in any the following locations?

YES

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. In all school buildings | N=46 (87%) |
| 2. Outside, on school grounds | N=33 (62%) |
| 3. In school buses or other vehicles used to transport students | N=42 (79%) |
| 4. At off-campus, school-sponsored events..... | N=27 (51%) |

Q5. Does your divisional smoking policy allow smoking by students in any of the following situations?

YES

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Smoking in designated and specially ventilated areas..... | N=0 (0%) |
| 2. Smoking in designated outdoor areas only | N=15 (28%) |
| 3. Smoking in designated areas in senior high schools only | N=8 (15%) |
| 4. At off-campus, school-sponsored events..... | N=3 (6%) |

Q6. Does your divisional smoking policy require schools to include smoking awareness and prevention education for students in the curriculum?

YES N=12 (23%)

Q6a. If YES, please briefly describe curriculum and programs offered (e.g., wellness choices, Tobacco Free Kids, PAL Smoking Prevention Program, Smokefree Class of 2000, etc.)

Responses included BLAST, Butt Out, CALM classes, DARE, Kick the Nic, Smokefree Class of 2000, Teaming Up for Tobacco Free Kids, wellness choices, general health curriculum and AADAC and health unit presentations/promotional materials.

Q7. Does your divisional smoking policy require schools to provide assistance to students who wish to quit smoking?

YES N=5 (9%)

Q7a. If YES, please briefly describe the type of assistance available to students (e.g., cessation counselling, cessation programs such as Kick the Nic, etc.)

Responses included counselling, AADAC-sponsored programs, referral to AADAC and Kick the Nic.

PART C: STAFF SMOKING POLICY

Q8. Does your divisional smoking policy specifically prohibit tobacco use by faculty and staff including volunteers in any of the following locations?

YES

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. In all school buildings | N=46 (87%) |
| 2. Outside, on school grounds | N=31 (58%) |
| 3. In bus barns & maintenance shops | N=40 (75%) |
| 4. In school buses or other vehicles used to transport students | N=41 (77%) |
| 5. At off-campus, school-sponsored events | N=19 (36%) |

Q9. Does your divisional smoking policy allow smoking by faculty and staff including volunteers in any of the following situations?

	YES
1. Smoking in designated and specially ventilated areas.....	N=1 (2%)
2. Smoking in designated outdoor areas only	N=13 (25%)
3. Smoking in designated areas in senior high schools only	N=2 (4%)
4. In bus barns & maintenance shops	N=2 (4%)
5. At off-campus, school-sponsored events.....	N=6 (11%)
6. Smoking permitted after-hours only	N=4 (8%)

Q10. Does your school board offer assistance to faculty and staff who wish to quit smoking?

YES N=18 (34%)

Q10a. If YES, please briefly describe the type of assistance or supports offered (e.g., financial assistance for smoking cessation aids and programs, self-help resources).

Both counselling and financial support are offered. Most respondents indicated that this assistance is offered through EAP (Employee Assistance Programs) programs, district wellness programs and employee benefit & health plans.

PART D: COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Q11. Does your divisional smoking policy specifically prohibit smoking by visitors in any the following locations?

	YES
1. In all school buildings	N=43 (81%)
2. Outside, on school grounds	N=31 (58%)
3. In school buses or other vehicles used to transport students.....	N=40 (75%)
4. At off-campus, school-sponsored events.....	N=18 (34%)

Q12. Does your divisional smoking policy allow smoking by facilities users/renters during private functions?

YES N=3 (6%)

PART E: SIGNAGE AND ENFORCEMENT

Q13. Does your divisional smoking policy require schools to post No Smoking signs in any of the following locations?

	YES
1. Within school buildings	N=25 (47%)
2. At the entrance of school buildings	N=22 (42%)
3. Outside, on school grounds	N=7 (13%)
4. In school buses or other vehicles used to transport students.....	N=17 (32%)

Q14. Does your divisional smoking policy contain guidelines for dealing with staff, students or visitors who violate the smoking policy?

YES

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Guidelines for staff | N=11 (21%) |
| 2. Guidelines for students | N=19 (36%) |
| 3. Guidelines for visitors/public | N=10 (19%) |
| 4. Guidelines for facility users (including private functions) | N=11 (21%) |

Q15. Does your divisional smoking policy require mandatory cessation counseling for students who violate the smoking policy?

YES N=0 (0%)

Note: This question should have read "for students who repeatedly violate ..."

PART F: TOBACCO INDUSTRY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Q16. Has your school board adopted a policy prohibiting tobacco industry sponsored school-based smoking prevention programs (e.g., Wise Decisions*)?

YES N=3 (6%)

* Imperial Tobacco sponsors Wise Decisions.

Q17. Do any of the schools within your school division currently utilize or participate with tobacco industry sponsored programs such as Wise Decisions or Operation ID School Zone?

YES N=1 (2%)

PART G: OTHER

NOTE: Q18 is for School Boards who do NOT already have a school smoking policy.

Q18. On January 22, 2003 the Alberta Government proclaimed the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act (Bill 208). This law prohibits the possession and use of tobacco products by minors under the age of 18. This law comes into effect on April 1, 2003.

Does your school board have any formal plans to introduce a smoking policy?

YES N=2 of 5 (40%)

Q18a. When does your school board plan to introduce a divisional smoking policy?
(Please specify month and year, if applicable)

May/June 2003

[The remaining questions were open to all respondents]

Q19. Has your school board consulted with any governmental or non-governmental organizations/agencies with regards to school board divisional smoking policies?

YES N=17 (32%)

Q19a. If YES, please specify name of organization and type of assistance sought.

Organizations mentioned include AADAC (N=6), RCMP (N=3), Alberta Learning, ASBA, local health region, anti-smoking coalitions and community partners.

Q20. Has your school board consulted with any of the following with regards to school board divisional smoking policies?

YES

- 1. Staff N=34 (64%)
- 2. Students N=20 (38%)
- 3. Parents/public N=29 (55%)
- 4. Other (responses included School Board Committees, School Councils & RCMP)

Q21. Over the next year, we will be conducting workshops throughout Alberta on building capacity for smoke-free environments. If you were to choose three (3) of the following tobacco-related topics, which would you say are MOST important to your school division?

(Please choose 3 only) (N) = Number of hits

- 1. Regional trends in youth tobacco use (18)
- 2. Health risks associated with environmental tobacco smoke (30)
- 3. Policy information materials (e.g., legislation, tobacco free school guidelines and handbooks) (29)
- 4. Information on smoking policies in other school divisions in Alberta (25)
- 5. Information on the tobacco lobby in Alberta (3)
- 6. Information on tobacco industry sponsored programs (5)
- 7. Information on the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act (Bill 208) (30)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SURVEY PLEASE CONTACT

ASH ACTION ON
SMOKING &
HEALTH

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