

**The Manitoba Society of Pharmacists and
The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association
Joint Position Statement
Removal of Tobacco Products from Manitoba Pharmacies**

Smoking is the foremost cause of preventable disease and death in Canada and in 2009, Manitoba experienced the smallest decline in smoking rates nationally. As Canada's most accessible health care professionals, pharmacists are well positioned to assume an expanded role in helping patients improve their health outcomes and quality of life.

The Manitoba Society of Pharmacists feels that pharmacists have an opportunity to:

- reduce the impact that the use of tobacco products has on public health
- motivate attempts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate the use of tobacco
- actively support those trying to quit
- prioritize the needs of those populations who are most at risk

The sale of tobacco in a retail pharmacy is inconsistent with the pharmacist's role in advocating the prevention and treatment of disease. It sends a confusing and misleading message to the public that consumption is acceptable if a health care professional has it available for sale. British Columbia, Manitoba and the Yukon are the only remaining jurisdictions in Canada that allow the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

Implementation dates of legislation banning the sale of tobacco products from a pharmacy:

1. Ontario (Dec. 31, 1994)
2. New Brunswick (July 1, 1997)
3. Quebec (June 19, 1998)
4. Nova Scotia (Jan. 1, 2000)
5. Nunavut (Feb. 1, 2004)
6. Newfoundland & Labrador (Jan. 1, 2005)
7. Prince Edward Island (Jan. 1, 2006)
8. Northwest Territories (Jan 21, 2007)
9. Alberta (January 1, 2009)
10. Saskatchewan (April 1, 2011)

A December 2010 survey indicated that 88 % of MSP members feel that tobacco should not be available for sale from a pharmacy. There is also long standing support from The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association (MPhA) on prohibiting tobacco sale in pharmacy. MPhA Council supporting the following statement in Feb 2002:

"The Association is of the opinion the sale of tobacco products is contrary to public health and should not be for sale in a pharmacy. In addition, the Association is also in support of any legislative action to prohibit tobacco sales from pharmacies in the province of Manitoba. Council also strongly recommends to government that the cost of smoking cessation programs and products be covered by Manitoba Health when provided by pharmacists."

This statement was reaffirmed by MPhA Council in April 2009, shared with Minister of Health in June of 2009 and reaffirmed in June 2011 as part of the preparation of this joint statement.

The Manitoba Society of Pharmacists has adopted a formal position and endorses the introduction of comprehensive tobacco legislation that would prohibit the sale of tobacco within the premises of a business that owns and operates a pharmacy. It is further recommended that upon proclamation, a six month transition period be provided prior to implementation of the legislation.

