

**Position Statement**  
**Removal of Tobacco Products From Manitoba Pharmacies**

Manitoba's pharmacists are performing an increasingly important role in the health care of Manitobans. As the most accessible and well-trusted frontline health professionals, pharmacists promote health awareness, prevention and treatment of diseases through appropriate drug therapy and non-drug decisions;

Manitoba's pharmacists and the Manitoba Society of Pharmacists have assumed professional responsibility in tobacco reduction initiatives and smoking cessation programs in the overall goal of wellness promotion and recognize that selling tobacco puts these pharmacists in a conflict;

Five provinces have already prohibited tobacco sales in pharmacies and in establishments containing pharmacies (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario) and stakeholders including physicians, MANTRA, MPhA, dentists, and the public are supportive of removing tobacco from pharmacies;

A recent survey of members of the Manitoba Society of Pharmacists found that 84% of respondents do not support tobacco products being sold in pharmacies, and 86% of respondents believe that the Manitoba Society of Pharmacists should adopt a formal position with respect to the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies;

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Society of Pharmacists takes the position that comprehensive tobacco reduction legislation be adopted that does not allow the sale of tobacco products within premises with a pharmacy; that the legislation must apply to all businesses that operate a pharmacy; and that, upon proclamation, a 12-month transition period be provided prior to implementation of the legislation.

Adopted: Dec. 8, 2004

Board of Directors  
Manitoba Society of Pharmacists