



September 28, 2011

Keith Karasin, Executive Director
Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan Division
1910 McIntyre Street
REGINA SK S4P 2R3

Dear Mr. Karasin:

Thank you for your letter of August 23, 2011, on issues of importance to the Canadian Cancer Society and Saskatchewan residents. I am pleased to respond on behalf of our Party.

The Saskatchewan Party will release its election platform to the public during the Fall provincial election campaign. However, in regards to your specific inquiries, our government stands by its record.

Banning smoking from around doorways, windows and air intakes of public buildings, and all tobacco use on school grounds is part of our government's Tobacco Reduction Strategy, to eliminate exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

Our government has also banned smoking in vehicles with children under 16. Studies show that although the concentrated level of smoke in vehicles is harmful to everyone, it is especially harmful to those still physically developing.

We are especially mindful of children and youth as they are particularly vulnerable to this exposure because their lungs are still developing and their intake of the chemicals present in environmental tobacco smoke is greater than adults, relative to their size. There is evidence that tobacco smoke in vehicles reaches unhealthy levels, even in realistic ventilation conditions.

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We are also limiting access to tobacco products by our young people by requiring that pharmacies, or stores that contain a pharmacy such as supermarkets, must not sell tobacco or tobacco-related products (e.g. cigarette papers, cigarette makers, etc.). If a retail establishment that contains a pharmacy chooses to continue to sell tobacco and tobacco-related products in the existing building, a separate retail area must be constructed in the building so that customers of the pharmacy cannot access the area where the tobacco products are sold except by the use of a separate exterior doorway. Our government has also:

- Prohibited smoking in the enclosed common areas of multi-unit residential dwellings;
- Prohibited the sale of little cigars in packages of less than 20;
- Prohibited the display of outdoor signs that advertise or promote tobacco or tobacco-related products;
- Restricted the number of cartons that can be purchased tax-free on First Nations;
- Restricted the display of indoor signs that indicate the price of tobacco and tobacco-related products, and;
- Prohibited tobacco and tobacco-related products from being visible from outside of retail premises.

As you may know, on January 1, 2011, two smoking cessation prescription drugs were added to the Saskatchewan Formulary. Regional Health Authorities throughout the province are also offering tobacco cessation assistance.

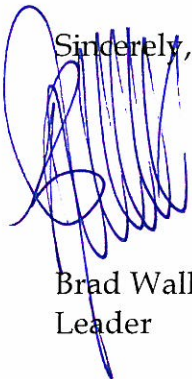
Our government takes the health of Saskatchewan people and of our environment very seriously. In Saskatchewan, agriculture is a key component of the provincial economy and the policies implemented by our government are designed to strike a balance between the needs of the agricultural sector and environmental considerations. Our government defers to the mandate and expertise of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

Pesticides such as Compound 1080 may be applied in Saskatchewan only by licenced individuals who have received accredited training from the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment also tightly controls the distribution of the product only to licenced and trained people, most of whom are employees of the Ministry of Environment.

There is growing evidence that the ultraviolet (UV) radiation from tanning beds may damage the skin and increase the risk of developing skin cancer. Our government agrees that access to information will improve healthy living outcomes. Through our online *HealthLine* service, and the screening programs and awareness campaigns of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, we strive to improve outcomes in prevention and detection of cancer in our population.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these important matters for Saskatchewan residents.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall
Leader