

Smoke and Vape-Free Outdoor Spaces

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA, 2017) prohibits the smoking or vaping, of tobacco, nicotine or cannabis in the following spaces:



Public (enclosed) spaces and workplaces

Includes all indoor areas and work vehicles



Schools and childcare centres

Within 20 metres of schools, daycares, and playgrounds



Community and recreational areas

Within 20 metres of sports fields, skate parks, and playgrounds



Hospitals

Both indoors or on any hospital grounds



Long-term care homes

Both indoors and within 9 metres of entrances



Cars with children under 16

To protect children from second-hand smoke and vapour



Shared spaces in apartments or condos

Includes hallways, stairwells, lobbies, and other common areas



Patios at bars and restaurants

Within 9 metres of patios

Outdoor public spaces not covered under the SFOA 2017:



Beaches



Parks



Trails



Outdoor festivals/special events



Walking pathways



Municipality owned property, including parking lots

Benefits of expanding smoke and vape-free outdoor spaces to areas not covered under the SFOA 2017:



Reduces the health risks of second-hand smoke



De-normalizes tobacco, cannabis and vaping use



Creates a supportive space for people that wish to quit



Creates a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone

Municipalities can help build healthier communities

Municipalities have the opportunity to build upon the SFOA 2017, by creating or updating their smoke-free bylaws to include additional outdoor areas where people work, live and play. Many municipalities across Ontario have implemented bylaws that go above the SFOA 2017, and they can be found at [Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary – 2025](#). Bylaws are listed with links for review, date when bylaw was passed/amended, and a brief bylaw description highlighting what is included in the bylaw (e.g. tobacco smoke, cannabis smoke, vapour, waterpipe etc).

Minimal cost to implement Smoke and Vape-Free Outdoor By-laws:

- Increasing community awareness about bylaw change (i.e. media release, social media, website updates, etc.)
- Signs are posted to increase awareness of the bylaw and many print signs in house
- Most municipalities use existing municipal enforcement staff (warnings first, then tickets), and work within existing budgets

Community support for Smoke and Vape-Free By-law

There has been a shift in attitude over the past two decades and research shows and overall trend that people are in support smoke-free spaces. Local survey results show our communities support in the creation and implementation of outdoor smoke and vape-free bylaws that go above and beyond the SFOA, 2017. Some individuals that were current smokers indicated that Smoke-free bylaws helped them to reduce the number of cigarette's they smoked per day.

Next steps:

- Review your municipality's current No Smoking bylaw to determine how it can be enhanced
- Review the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 to know where it ends and understand where opportunity for bylaw creation and enhancement begins
- Review a draft of a [Smoke and Vapour-Free Bylaw](#)
- Review the current Ontario annual summary report, and consider surrounding Municipal Smoke and Vapour-Free Bylaws: [Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary – 2025](#)
- Connect with Southwestern Public Health for consultation and support

Resources:

- [Government of Ontario](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Timiskaming Health Unit](#)
- [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)
- [Southwestern Public Health](#)