

RESTAURANT AND BAR OWNERS/OPERATORS

Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) Amendments

January 1, 2015



Our government is determined to have the lowest smoking rates in Canada. Despite significant progress in curbing the use of tobacco products, 13,000 people in Ontario die each year as a result of tobacco-related disease. The government is committed to a *Smoke-Free Ontario* and especially in preventing our young people from taking up smoking. These changes will strengthen our ability to reduce kids' exposure to tobacco use in their daily lives.

Starting January 1, 2015

- Smoking is prohibited on all patios (covered or uncovered).
- Smoking is prohibited on patios during all seasons. Patrons, visitors and staff will be prohibited from smoking on the patio at all times.
- A restaurant and bar patio is defined as:
 - An area that is not an enclosed public place or an enclosed workplace
 - The area is part of or operated in conjunction with an area where food or drink is served, sold or offered for consumption (i.e. the outdoor seating area outside a coffee shop or the tables provided near a food service truck)
 - The area is open to the public (whether or not a fee is charged for entry)
 - The area is worked in or frequented by employees
 - The area is not primarily a private dwelling
- Any Legion branch that had an uncovered patio prior to November 18, 2013 may continue to permit smoking on the patio.

Signage

Signage will be provided by the Grey Bruce Health Unit. The signs are required to have the international "no smoking" symbol and be 10X10cm as set out in Ontario Regulation 48/06. In all cases, the signs shall be sufficient to inform patrons that smoking is prohibited. More signs are available from Public Health if required.

Two (2) signs are recommended; one at each of the primary entrances to the patio. If there is only one entrance to a patio, one sign may be used. Excess signs may be used as needed.

Proprietor Obligations

Under the SFOA, any person who owns or occupies a place where smoking is not permitted shall place required signs at each entrance and exit of the patio. It is recommended all signs be posted at a level that is not obstructed and easy to see for people entering a restaurant and bar patio.

Communication with the Public

The ministry will develop communication materials to educate the public, retailers and businesses on the changes to the regulations. Smoke-Free Ontario fact sheets and FAQs will be up-dated and made available on the ministry's public website at www.health.gov.on.ca

For more information contact the Grey Bruce Health Unit, Tobacco Enforcement and Education Officers at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 or log on to www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca