



Wednesday, February 02, 2005

## **ARPA applauds Health Minister's call for Smoke Free Workplaces**

**Edmonton, AB** - ARPA applauds the efforts of Health and Wellness Minister Iris Evans in moving towards a smoke-free Alberta. Earlier this month, Evans had called for a provincial workplace ban on smoking.

In 2003, the ARPA membership voted to support the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission's (AADAC) Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy.

"ARPA should be a leader in advocating for the reduction of tobacco use in leisure and recreation facilities, programs and services", says ARPA President Kay Kenny. "Our membership supported the adoption of a tobacco reduction policy and we are pleased to see Minister Evans moving this issue forward on a more province-wide basis".

ARPA policy states that the Association 'has a role to play in promoting safe and healthy workplaces for those who are employed in the recreation and parks field moving forward to protect Albertans from second-hand smoke'.

While many Alberta communities have adopted smoke-free policies, there is a patchwork of differing bylaws throughout the province. "Provincial legislation", says Kenny, "will ensure that all Albertans are afforded the same protection from second-hand smoke".

In addition to supporting provincial workplace smoking restrictions, The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association influences the quality of recreational environments in the province by encouraging its membership to promote and support smoke-free events, activities, and facilities.

ARPA (pronounced A.R.P.A.) is a provincial, not-for-profit, charitable organization made up of volunteers committed to building healthy citizens and communities in Alberta through recreation, sport, arts, culture and parks. Serving Albertans since 1952, ARPA members include community and public recreation agencies, educators, corporate elected members, lay members and student members.

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