

## **PROPOSAL FOR A CREDIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE INDOOR AIR POLICY: THE VENTILATION OPTION**

Adequate and measurable ventilation standards in hospitality establishments provide an economical and workable alternative to smoking prohibitions. Ventilation can provide indoor air quality in smoking areas equivalent to no-smoking establishments without resorting to separate rooms and separate systems. Not only can adequate ventilation remove tobacco smoke, it can also remove other contaminants in the air.

### **Proposed Ventilation Policy:**

*Designated smoking areas be permitted in bars, restaurants, dinner theatres, private clubs, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, bingo halls and casinos, providing that the air quality in such establishments is comparable to the air quality in enclosed public places where there is no smoking.*

### **Principles of the Ventilation Option:**

The ventilation option is based on the following principles:

1. Sustainable over the long-term;
2. Proposed standards are measurable;
3. Easily understood by owners/operators and regulators;
4. Economically viable and consistent across all establishments;
5. Consistent regulatory approach is established;
6. Open to new technology;
7. Enforceable at a minimum cost; and
8. Adoption of policy proposal guarantees that alternatives such as a smoking ban or separately enclosed and ventilated rooms will not be required now or in the future.

### **Proposal Synopsis:**

1. The proportion of smoking allowed may vary providing adequate ventilation and directional air flow are maintained at all times.
2. Designated smoking areas must be equipped with ventilation systems that either:
  - a) exhaust the air from such spaces to the outside; or
  - b) dilute the air using ventilation rates set by ASHRAE 62-1989; or
  - c) use filtration to remove impurities before the air is re-circulated; or
  - d) any combination of the above options.

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3. Ventilation patterns must ensure that the air from smoking areas does not flow into no-smoking areas.
4. Air quality must be measured using an air quality monitor to ensure standards are met.
5. To be effective long-term, ventilation systems must be regularly maintained according to manufacturer requirements. Detailed maintenance records must be maintained and available on demand to inspectors designated by the appropriate authorities.

**Phase In:**

Facilities in design or early construction phases at the passage of this proposal (into by-law or legislation) must adopt the requirements outlined above into their planning and construction process.

Owner/operators of existing establishments should ensure that these recommendations are in effect not later than [date] to be able to allow smoking on their premises.

**Rationale for Policy Standards:**

a) **Ventilation Rates:**

Ventilation rates, as demonstrated by Newfoundland, can be set and measured. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) have defined ventilation rates for a wide variety of establishments, room uses and smoking levels. These are described in ASHRAE 62-1989. These standards are used world-wide as a reference for those concerned with maintaining a healthy work and living environment. The Newfoundland Smoke-Free Environment Act includes them in its requirements.

b) **Carbon dioxide:**

Environmental tobacco smoke is a complex mixture of many compounds, most of which are not unique to ETS and cannot be measured on a consistent basis easily and inexpensively. However Carbon Dioxide levels are an accepted and easily measured indicator of both air quality and ventilation rates. Permanently installed CO<sub>2</sub> sensors can be used to pro-actively control ventilation and thus air quality. Standards for CO<sub>2</sub> levels are available and can be set.

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