

December 8, 2005

## **Alberta Legislature to be smoke-free in the New Year**

Edmonton... Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, issued the following statement today:

"The Alberta Legislative Building and its Annex will be completely smoke-free effective New Year's Day when the new *Smoke-Free Places Act* comes into force. We will remove the designated smoking rooms in the two buildings and ban smoking throughout, including in Ministers' and MLAs' offices.

"This decision was reached following further discussion of the issue in Caucus today. Members of Caucus heard the concerns raised by Albertans regarding plans to retain designated smoking areas in the two buildings and agreed to prohibit smoking altogether. They understand that although the new law allows for designated smoking areas, it is important that government be seen to be leading by example.

"As a physician and an advocate for healthy living, I applaud my colleagues' decision and wish to thank them for showing leadership and a commitment to the spirit of the new legislation."

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