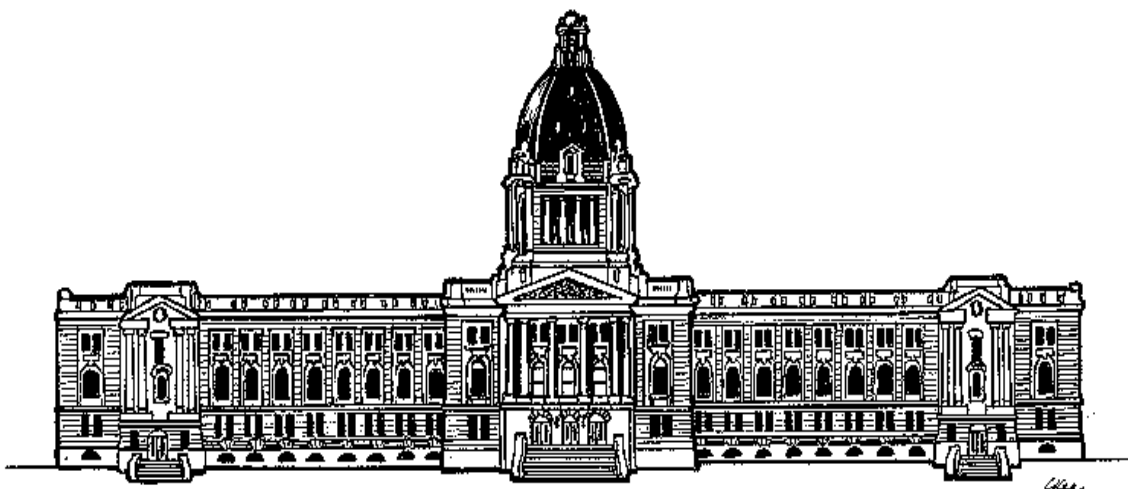




Special Committee on Tobacco Control

Hansard Verbatim Report

Lloydminster – March 9, 2000



Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fourth Legislature

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TOBACCO CONTROL
2000**

Myron Kowalsky, Chair
Prince Albert Carlton

Doreen Eagles, Vice-Chair
Estevan

Graham Addley
Saskatoon Sutherland

Brenda Bakken
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Bob Bjornerud
Saltcoats

Debbie Higgins
Moose Jaw Wakamow

Mark Wartman
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley

The committee met at 7:05 p.m.

The Vice-Chair: — Could we get started, please. I'd like to thank you all for coming here tonight. It's a pleasure to be in Lloydminster. And we are having a real experience travelling around with the Special Committee on Tobacco Control.

We will begin our evening by showing you a short slide presentation, and then after that we will have your participation in the form of presentations. So with that we will get started.

The members of our committee. The Chair is Mr. Myron Kowalsky — he's the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Prince Albert Carlton; he is not with us tonight, unfortunately. My name is Doreen Eagles — I'm the MLA from Estevan, and I am the committee Vice-Chair. Other members of the committee: Mr. Bob Bjornerud, MLA from Saltcoats; Mr. Graham Addley, who wanted me to say that he was the good looking one — he's from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you. I appreciate that.

The Vice-Chair: — Ms. Deb Higgins is the MLA from Moose Jaw Wakamow; Mr. Mark Wartman is MLA from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley; and Ms. Brenda Bakken is the MLA from Weyburn-Big Muddy. And this is an all-party committee. There's members from the government side as well as the opposition side here tonight.

The staff to the committee are Ms. Donna Bryce, our committee Clerk; and Tanya Hill is our research officer. And we also have Darlene Trenholm, as our *Hansard* technician, and Alice Nenson is right there. And we also have Ihor Sywanyk as our broadcast technician — that's a tough one.

The first thing — our job. What is the impact of tobacco use in Saskatchewan, especially on children and youth? What provincial laws do we need to protect people, especially children and youth? What should we do to protect the public from second-hand smoke? Do we have designated smoke-free places? And who should do it? What should we do to prevent and reduce tobacco use — enforcement, pricing, education, and public awareness? The public hearing process is that we listen to the views of the people in Saskatchewan. We're travelling to 17 communities and 14 high schools.

This is the situation. I don't know if you can all see the graphs there, the list of current smokers by province — age 15 to 19 are in the dark bars; age 15 and above is in the white bars — and you'll notice in Saskatchewan, we have the second highest rate in the 15 to 19 year age; second only to Quebec. We're at 34 per cent; they're at 36 per cent.

And the average amount smoked daily by age and sex. Daily smokers, age 15 to 19 and 15 plus, and this graph is based on the years of 1981 to 1999. The top line — the bold, black line — is all ages, male. The second line — the short dotted line — is all ages, female. The short dash is the age 15 to 19 males and the long dash is 15 to 19 females. And you can see how in the 15- to 19-year-old females, it is quite various and it's actually on an increase right now, or it was in 1999.

This is the percentage of youth reporting that they smoke cigarettes or cigars everyday — by province, area, and gender. The black line is the north of Saskatchewan and that takes in everything north of Saskatoon. The central district is between Saskatoon and Regina, and the white area is the southern area of the province, everything south of the No. 1 Highway. And you can see by that, that the people in the northern areas of the province actually have a higher percentage than those in the southern area.

Tobacco control legislation in Saskatchewan — The Minors Tobacco Act. The provincial legislation that was revised in 1978 prohibits the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 16 and allows merchants to sell to minors with written consent from parents. The maximum fine for selling to minors is \$10. Urban Municipalities Act, 1984 gives urban authorities power to regulate smoking in public places. Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 regulates smoking in workplaces.

Tobacco control legislation in Saskatchewan. There was federal legislation passed in 1997 that is enforced in Saskatchewan, and that prohibits the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 18 and it allows for fines as high as \$3,000 for the first offence and \$50,000 for the second offence for merchants who sell to minors. It also prohibits advertising of tobacco products, and it currently allows sponsorship of adult-oriented events, and regulates the packaging of tobacco products.

And here's one of these little jokes that we have up here — I don't know if you can all see it — "These pictures of diseased lungs on my cigarette package really make me nervous." And the lady says "Me too." And I guess it really makes them so nervous that they need a smoke.

The cost of tobacco smoking in 1997. The direct costs are \$87 million — that's hospitalization, physician services, drug costs, and fire loss. Indirect costs, \$179 million — that's mortality which is early death; morbidity which is days in the workforce; another cost, ETS, which is environmental tobacco smoke; low birth weight, etc. And the total annual cost is \$266 million.

Taxation of tobacco products in Saskatchewan. Taxes collected on a carton of cigarettes is \$17.20 — that's \$125.8 million in revenue this year. The federal taxation on products is \$10.85 per carton plus GST (goods and services tax) — that's \$2.2 billion in revenue in 1998-1999. Saskatchewan smokers paid \$67 million in federal tobacco taxes.

The hot topics are the health effects, youth issues, smoking in public places, and recovering health care costs, and accountability.

Now this is the number of deaths attributable to tobacco use and it also . . . on the graph it shows the death from AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), traffic accidents, and suicide. And you can see that smoking there's about 1,100 deaths — which is more than the other three combined actually.

Provincial health costs versus tax revenue. And there again you can see that it's about \$266 million that it costs us and the tax revenue is just you know, a-hundred-and-some million dollars.

Okay, here's another one of these little jokes. And it's a little kid taking his first drag of a cigarette and his dad says, "You okay?" And he goes, "Oh, you smoked some of that cigar, didn't you?" And he says, "Yeah. Mom, I think I caught the cancer." And he's moaning away there and his dad says, "Should we tell him it's just nausea?" And his mother says, "All in good time."

And here's another one. Some people may think that this is the answer. He's kind of got his head stuck in a jar there, and he's living in his own smoke environment while everybody else is having a smoke-free environment.

And you can visit us on our web site. It's www.legassembly.sk.ca-tcc, and you can fill out our user survey on that web site. Okay.

And at this point, we'll call on presentations, and our first presenter is the Teens Against Smoking and Tobacco Everywhere and that's Teri-Lynn Patterson.

Mr. Magdanz: — Hi. I'm Alex Magdanz.

Ms. Patterson: — And I'm Teri-Lynn Patterson.

Mr. Magdanz: — And we're representatives from our TASTE group which is Teens Against Smoking and Tobacco Everywhere, and we're from E.S. Laird Middle School.

Our presentation tonight we called: "Where We Have Been and Where Are We Going", and we're talking about smoking. And basically, it's about some facts that may surprise you about smoking that we have gathered in a survey. And I'll let Teri start.

Ms. Patterson: — How does tobacco affect youth? We know for a fact that smoking causes all kinds of diseases but this is how it affects our friends and other youth.

Mr. Magdanz: — Youth who smoke have a perception that they have a lower grade point average and they are also less active.

Ms. Patterson: — Smoking is addicting. Because of youth's biology, it becomes easier to become addicted to nicotine. In Alberta, 25.8 per cent of youth between 15 and 19 are smokers. That survey was taken in 1994.

Mr. Magdanz: — Sixteen per cent started before age 13 or younger; 55 per cent began between 14 and 17. In fact, people over the age of 21 normally have to smoke for a year or longer to develop a tobacco addiction. So the most dangerous age, you can see, is in our youth when they can get addicted to tobacco.

Ms. Patterson: — We also know that second-hand smoke affects us too. Approximately 4,700 Canadians die yearly from second-hand smoke.

Mr. Magdanz: — The tobacco companies want us to feel guilty about asking smokers to refrain from smoking in public places. But breathing in someone's smoke is essentially the same as breathing in their spit mixed in with disease-causing chemicals.

Ms. Patterson: — What are we doing as a group about youth tobacco use? Our school has participated in Weedless Wednesday, we have formed this group on Bill 208, and we are establishing a plan to gain support and awareness to have this Bill come into effect in Lloydminster.

Mr. Magdanz: — Our TASTE group presented information to elementary students on the dangers of tobacco use. E.S. Laird formed a parent patrol that goes around our school in a two-block radius and just checks that there are no people smoking. And we also had tours through the toxic tunnel and it informed about the effects of tobacco.

Ms. Patterson: — What does Alberta think about restricting tobacco use among youth? Over 81 per cent of Albertans support the government doing all that it can to reduce smoking. Ninety-one per cent of Albertans support health agencies taking a strong effort to reduce the use of tobacco.

Mr. Magdanz: — What we want to happen. We would like less youth smoking. Teens will be unable to use tobacco in public places. If teens are caught using tobacco, there would be consequences. Prove to people that smoking in public places is disrespectful to non-smokers. Gain support for the tobacco restrictions from community leaders and the rest of the public.

Ms. Patterson: — Lower the amount of advertisements that suck youth into smoking, and have more advertisements that show that smoking is not cool nor does it make you more mature.

Mr. Magdanz: — Thank you very much. Is there any questions?

The Vice-Chair: — Does anyone have any questions?

Ms. Bakken: — So you go to school in Alberta, not Saskatchewan?

Mr. Magdanz: — No.

Ms. Patterson: — Our school is located in Saskatchewan.

Ms. Bakken: — But you talked about Alberta. Is this Bill 208, is that an Alberta law that you're trying to . . . I'm unaware of what Bill 208 is.

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes.

Ms. Bakken: — It's an Alberta law that . . .

Ms. Patterson: — Bill 208 is actually the Bill that makes . . . if any youth are caught smoking in a public place, they can be fined up to \$100 and their tobacco may be confiscated.

Ms. Bakken: — So that's a law in Alberta, right?

Ms. Patterson: — Well it's trying to be passed, like . . . I think in Lloydminster, so I'm not sure if it's Alberta or Saskatchewan.

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes, we're trying to get Lloydminster to be . . . How am I supposed to say this . . .

Ms. Patterson: — Like on both sides of the city.

Ms. Bakken: — Is it a municipal bylaw?

Mr. Haaf: — Just to clarify — Bill 208 was passed in Alberta on December 14. It's enabling legislation that allows communities to pass bylaws which restrict the possession and use of tobacco products by anybody under 18, and allows the communities to fine those youth for up to a maximum of \$100 for being in possession. And my name is Dean Haaf.

Ms. Bakken: — But it's up to each community to decide that?

Mr. Haaf: — Correct.

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you.

Ms. Patterson: — Any more questions?

Mr. Wartman: — Yes, I was interested to know about . . . a little bit more about what you were doing in the school. You talked about a toxic tunnel, and is this a school-wide program? Is it something that your group put together?

Ms. Patterson: — It's with the public health people and actually it's . . . it was brought to Lloydminster and we were able to take it to schools and bring classes through it, and it's just to aware people about the dangers of smoking and drugs. And they seemed to enjoy it and it just went through Lloydminster schools.

Mr. Wartman: — Well what kind of reactions did you get from the . . . did you pick up from the other students, from the smokers in your school, and did you . . . can you tell me a little bit about that?

Mr. Magdanz: — From?

Mr. Wartman: — From the other students in the school — how did they react to the toxic tunnel and the information?

Mr. Magdanz: — To the toxic tunnel, I don't think . . .

Ms. Patterson: — Well they learned lots of new facts about smoking and they had . . . they saw pictures of bad lungs and stuff. So it caused them to rethink about smoking again, and why they were doing it, and what kind of dangers it was causing.

Mr. Wartman: — Thank you.

Mr. Addley: — I just wanted to thank you for your presentation, and just to give you some feedback from some of the schools and other groups that we've been meeting with that it's important to have legislation. It's important to have adults giving advice. But one of the strongest factors of keeping kids not smoking is peer pressure.

How old would you guys be, about?

Ms. Patterson: — Fourteen.

Mr. Addley: — Fourteen. Because most of the people that are

really affected by peer pressure are ages 10, 11, 12, up to 14. So a 14-year-old telling an 11-year-old not to smoke has a very major impact. So don't underestimate — you're the most important link to that child to get them not to start smoking. So I really commend you for taking the extra effort to do this. Thank you.

The Vice-Chair: — Any more questions?

Mr. Wartman: — I'm also interested to know if you're aware of the SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) program that is developed. It's kind of in connection with Students Against Drinking and Driving. The offices are beside each other.

SWAT is Students Working Against Tobacco, and they have speakers and they've got program ideas. Have you heard about that in your schools at all?

Ms. Patterson: — No, I haven't heard of it. But I'm interested in learning more about it. Thank you.

Mr. Wartman: — Tanya, do you have information on that? Okay. Tanya will be able to help you with that later.

And there was one other thing I wanted to ask you as well. The Bill that you referred to is dealing primarily with underage people who purchase and possess tobacco and smoke in public places. Do you have any thoughts about those people who break the law by selling to minors? Do you think that — are they dealt with clearly enough? Should they be dealt with more clearly?

Mr. Magdanz: — I'm not sure on that one. I think that they're being dealt with fairly enough in the Bill. And the Bill's main focus, I agree with you, is on the youth. But I don't think that there needs to be any more put on the sellers.

Mr. Wartman: — Do you think that the sellers, the retailers, are complying with the laws that say you cannot sell to anybody under 18 years of age?

Mr. Magdanz: — I think that depends where you go. Like some of them, I think are . . . fell for it; they're complying completely. But others, you know, I think there's one or two places that really, they will sell automatically to people that are under age. But from what I've heard in our schools, that most people get their tobacco from their older brothers or sisters.

Mr. Wartman: — From kids who are old enough. Okay.

One of the neat things that we heard yesterday, two girls from Cut Knife school had gone out to merchants in North Battleford. They were both 14 years old. And they went around to all the merchants and purchased cigarettes, or tried to purchase cigarettes. They wanted to see if their age would be checked or not. And they were able to purchase cigarettes without identification at, I believe it was 56 per cent, or 58 per cent of the retailers.

And what they did following that was they called the enforcement officer. The enforcement officer wrote warnings to each of the merchants who sold to them, and they wrote letters to each of them telling them, did you know that you were

breaking the law by selling to minors? And then to those merchants that didn't break the law, they sent letters . . . or they were talking about sending letters out saying congratulations for keeping the law and helping our youth not to smoke.

So just some other ideas that other schools have picked up on and done. And I know that, I think it was Balfour also had done similar program of checking around.

Mr. Addley: — And just on that point, when they followed up on it a second time, they did it a couple of months later — some other students in the class — they found that the rate of selling tobacco to kids had dropped quite a bit; that a lot of the merchants didn't know about the law, and those that did were starting to comply with it. So I think it's a global approach, that there's no magic solution by any one group.

Ms. Bakken: — Your group that you have, did you form this at school? How was it started? Who's in . . .

Mr. Magdanz: — Well it branched off from PACERS, which is our Peers Are Confidential Ears Responsible Supporters group.

Ms. Bakken: — And that's in your school?

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes, that's in our school. And with the help of Mr. Dean Haaf, who came up here, and Mr. Kohlman, we have a group, probably about 15 people . . .

Ms. Patterson: — Probably a bit more than 15.

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes.

Ms. Patterson: — Closer to 20 or 30.

Ms. Bakken: — And so your parents are directly involved too then, I understand, because you're talking about the parent patrol.

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes.

Ms. Bakken: — Is that volunteer or . . .

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes, it's volunteer.

Ms. Bakken: — And how does that work? Like what do they actually do?

Mr. Magdanz: — What they do is they walk around — there's groups of two parents that will walk around. And if they see students from E.S. Laird smoking, they will ask them to stop or they'll try and . . . they'll, like, take the cigarettes away trying to . . .

Ms. Patterson: — And they will report back to the principal and tell them about it. And it may lead to a suspension or something like that.

Ms. Bakken: — So how often do they do this? Daily?

Ms. Patterson: — Every day.

Ms. Bakken: — Every day?

Ms. Patterson: — Yes, during lunch hour and after schools because that's when they find that most teens have gone within a two-block radius of the school to go smoke so that they won't be caught by teachers around the school. So when they walk around there they catch people that have just walked away from the school. And they usually find quite a few people, I understand.

Ms. Bakken: — And has this decreased the amount of kids that go out and smoke, because they know this is happening?

Mr. Magdanz: — Yes, a few students were actually suspended just recently for smoking. And I know that they're a little bit more cautious now. They still smoke but they're starting to learn the bad parts of smoking.

The Vice-Chair: — Are there any comments or questions?

Ms. Higgins: — Just one quick question. I'm assuming then that you don't have a smoking area in your school?

Mr. Magdanz: — No.

Ms. Higgins: — Not at all? Good. Thank you.

The Vice-Chair: — All right, I want to thank you both very much for your presentation and thank you for your efforts. You did a good job.

Members: Hear, hear!

The Vice-Chair: — The committee would now like to hear from Fraser Haggarty. And one comment I neglected to say before was when you approach the mike would you please introduce yourself, and also limit your presentation to a maximum of 20 minutes. You can go less if you want.

Fraser is not here. Okay, then I will call on representatives from the Lloydminster Health District, Dean Haaf. And again would you state your name when you come up to the mike, please.

Mr. Haaf: — Good evening. My name is Dean Haaf. Tonight I'm representing the Lloydminster Health District. I'm a former Moose Jaw resident.

What I'd like to present tonight is a presentation that I've done quite a few times on what does Lloydminster Health District care about you smoking. Just plain and simple — smoking kills.

Presently four out of the top five causes of death within our health district are related to tobacco. Heart disease was number one; lung cancer was number two; stroke was number three; liver disease, which is not related to tobacco, was number four; pneumonia was number five.

Each of those four of the top five had a least 50 per cent were related to smoking. Eighty per cent of children admitted for respiratory disease have at least one or more parents smoking in the home. That came out of a Sask Health study.

Saskatchewan . . . or sorry, I should say two years ago we spent

\$16.7 million in health care within the Lloydminster Health District. And Dr. O'Shea from population health promotion branch of Saskatchewan Health estimates 30 per cent of our health care dollars were going towards treating smoking.

What is the Lloydminster Health District doing about it? In 1998 we tackled a youth tobacco survey which I'll be talking about in just a minute. We did a deglamorization campaign, we offered smoking cessation courses, and we promoted smoke-free environments throughout our community.

Our vision statement with the Lloydminster Health District is health and wellness for all. One of our long-term goals is increasing the percentage of population 12 and over who do not smoke.

The background for our youth tobacco survey — our objectives were to create a benchmark of use and attitudes; track the progress of initiatives that we're undertaking; discover influences on youth behaviour as to why they start smoking and why they stop smoking; be a basis for us to balance our programming on; create a basis for communication like we're doing here tonight; and create a tool to influence public policy development, which I hope we also could do here tonight.

We had many partners in this survey. It was quite a comprehensive undertaking. School boards, superintendents, and principals joined in on this. This wasn't just the Lloydminster Health District, but it was also East Central health authority to the west of us which covers basically from our city limits out to Stettler, Alberta; Action on Smoking and Health, which is an Alberta-based organization; Alberta Tobacco Reduction Alliance; and local coalitions within those communities.

Many of our questions came from the 1994 youth tobacco survey done by Health Canada, which was a benchmark set for what kind of questions they ask and how they define smoking. Some other survey tools that have been used since then — we had a consultant hired which we used to meet with external stakeholders and we also had a health researcher who coordinated the survey for us.

The survey was conducted over a two-week window from February 23 to March 5, '98. Nine different school divisions, 66 schools, 3,161 students in grade 7 and grade 10 exclusively, representing 92 per cent of those students, filled out the survey. So we feel that our survey is very valid and very strong because of the numbers that we had, and that it has been validated by outside sources.

Lessons that we've learnt from this survey, was in grade 7, 46 per cent of the students in Lloydminster had attempted smoking at one point which was over . . . As you can see, the national average by the Canadian study was 36 per cent. By grade 10 we were at 72 per cent. So we were quite concerned when this came out.

Currently 6 per cent of our grade . . . smokers were smoking at that time, which was double anywhere else in the survey area; 30 per cent of our grade 10's. And that equates basically to what you guys found in your survey that I saw earlier.

Initiation. More students were starting earlier than anywhere else. Surprisingly, we found very few differences between genders. They were starting at the same age; they were smoking just as much. It's just that males were smoking more and they were also more likely to use chew, cigars, or use a pipe.

Location abuse. At that time 45 per cent of grade 10 use smoked around the school. This is second highest in the survey. Thirty per cent were smoking in restaurants, which was the highest in the survey; 25 per cent were smoking in their cars or at home, which was the lowest in this survey.

My reading of this is our youth felt very comfortable smoking in public places.

Acquisition. At that time 45 per cent of the students indicated that they got their cigarettes from gas stations; 23 per cent said corner stores; 8 per cent said supermarkets. Those were all the highest in the survey.

I'd like to note since that time we worked with the tobacco enforcement officer. Before 1988 he would come once every two years to Lloydminster. We called him up, asked him why. He said he didn't have any youth in here to go out and do checks. We arranged for him to have youth. He came up, we had a 33 per cent compliance rate. He came up another time and the same thing happened.

We then said we need to work with the stores, not against them. We called them all in; we did a workshop. Out of the 31 stores that were selling at that time, 21 showed up for the workshop, and we gave them a different side of the story. That this just isn't legislation; this is our kids' health that's at stake here. And since that time we've been running over an 80 per cent compliance rate, and I think the last year has been either 92 or 100 per cent compliance rate. So it's made a significant difference.

Influences and beliefs that came out of the survey matched that of the national survey. Peer pressure was most identified reason why youth smoke. Relationship was discovered that youth who smoke perceive themselves as being poor performers academically.

The recommendations that our researcher gave us were that we need to focus on tobacco reduction with an emphasis on prevention of initiation. Build partnerships with parents, schools, and other stakeholders. Support and expand public policy measures to reduce youth tobacco sales . . . or reduce youth tobacco use, right . . . sales to minors. Non-smoking policies in schools and other public places. Marketing. Effective tax policy.

Increase awareness of the immediate risks of tobacco which deals with . . . Don't tell youth that they are going to have a heart attack at 55 instead of 65. Tell them that their teeth are going to turn yellow. Tell them that they are going to get the wrinkles around their eyes at 20 instead of 40. Tell them about how their breath is going to stink. Things like that that are meaningful to youth at their age.

Encourage development and implementation of comprehensive high-school-based prevention programs and support

community-based education. This was one of the points that the researcher brought out. In Lloydminster we have the breakaway program that goes to every grade 5 student so we've already been acting on that. Raise awareness that family and friends can be important positive role models.

Tobacco reduction strategies do work. In California they reduced the rate of sales to minors by 37 per cent; Massachusetts reduced it by 28 per cent. They went from a 30 per cent smoking rate down to a 17 per cent smoking rate. We need to look at the research and look at bringing it here.

Our next steps with our survey are communicating the results as we're doing here tonight. We've communicated it with the school boards. We hope to bring it out to other public forums like this.

Support the ATRA (Alberta Tobacco Reduction Alliance) public policy which is proceeding on basically the same lines as you discussed earlier tonight; the private Bill, private members' Bill 208 which was discussed earlier here tonight.

Support the Saskatchewan Tobacco Free 2000 Campaign which has been supported by the health district; complete our 1999 and beyond tobacco reduction plan and work with the TASTE group — Teens Against Tobacco and Smoking Everywhere.

And that concludes my presentation. Thank you very much.

The Vice-Chair: — Thank you Dean. That was very interesting. When you mentioned about smokeless tobacco, lots of times that is a part of tobacco that we forget about.

And yesterday we had a presenter that went into quite a bit of detail about it and he was telling us that a pinch of snuff is equivalent to four cigarettes. And he also said that the average person, you know, has a couple pinches an hour. So like that's eight cigarettes an hour.

And he also said like the little plugs they get and that . . . I guess it's really cool or some girls consider it really cool now if they chew, but they don't consider it cool to spit it so they swallow this and there is a greater risk of cancer of their throat and esophagus and everything else.

Mr. Haaf: — I believe off the top of my head you're seven times more likely to die of cancer by using chew than just cigarettes alone.

I didn't mention in the slide presentation, but Lloydminster had the highest use of chew throughout the region, and we're the only one who has the Skoal rodeo here in town.

The Vice-Chair: — I'm sorry?

Mr. Haaf: — The Skoal rodeo — the chew. It's a chew, and they come out with a big billboard and put it up and leave it out for two or three weeks before the rodeo. So when you look at advertising, I encourage you to look at sponsorship of rodeo events here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Bjornerud: — In Lloydminster, in your skating rinks and your other facilities that are public facilities where the kids, you

know, go to do sports or whatever, are they smoke free or what are they?

Mr. Haaf: — City council bylaws says that they are going to be smoke free unless rented by a private provider.

Ms. Higgins: — Congratulations on all the work you've done; it was impressive. How successful do you feel the program has been so far, and what plans do you have to continue on?

Mr. Haaf: — We plan on continuing the breakaway program in the schools. I can't really speak towards the future; I've recently taken a position in Alberta. I know that the toxic tunnel that was mentioned earlier is another activity that they plan on using in the future. It was another initiative that we copied from Alberta. It's been very successful; it's a very interactive way of getting the youth involved in it.

I believe the health district will support the Alberta version of SWAT which is called BLAST (Building Leadership and Action for Schools Today) which was another stimulant for the TASTE group happening here. The health district has provided partial sponsorships for students who wanted to go to this conference in the past and we've been very successful that way.

As you mentioned before, I believe it was a Mr. Eldon . . . that said that pure education is one of the most effective ways, so we've been involving our peers as much as possible.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you.

Mr. Haaf: — As a front-line worker, there's just so much we can do at a local level; we need the provincial support with advertising, you know, legislation of advertising with taxation with enforcement.

The Vice-Chair: — Any other comments or questions? I thank you very much, Dean, for your presentation.

Mr. Haaf: — I'll give you a copy and I'll try and get you some more copies.

The Vice-Chair: — Great, that's wonderful. Thanks. Is there — we are expecting another presenter but he hasn't arrived yet apparently — is there anyone from the audience that would have anything that they'd like to put forward? No one has any comments they'd like to make? Well with the permission of the committee we could just recess for 10 minutes, and everyone could grab a cup of coffee or whatever, and hopefully this person will show up. And if not, well I guess that would conclude our evening. Sorry.

Mr. Wartman: — I just wanted to say that if folks had individuals that you wanted . . . like if you want to approach any of us on the committee, if you have comments that you'd like to make individually, you're welcome to do that.

The Vice-Chair: — Certainly. You'll have to come to the mike and identify yourself though.

Ms. Morgan: — I'm Darlene Morgan, and I'm actually here on behalf of the Lloydminster Public School Division where the middle school presenters were from. But I have a question. One

of the concerns that we have in Lloydminster is our high school smoking. And you've travelled around the province. You questioned whether or not we had a smoking spot at the high school. We currently do not, and so they smoke on the curb. What is happening provincially?

Unless we get some sort of legislation of some sort, it really makes it very awkward from a health standpoint. We don't want a smoking spot on the school from a public perception. From a safety standpoint — having them on the curb is not good. What is happening in other places and any words of wisdom? That's my question.

Mr. Wartman: — There's a variety of things happening throughout the province. Some schools have chosen to have butt lounges as they call them — smoking areas — some of those are on school property. Some of them say you cannot smoke on school property, and the children go to the sidewalk or just outside the school property and smoke.

Estevan was one of the early schools that we went to. They had said you can't smoke on school property, and the kids were going across a very busy piece of road, and it was really a danger. And so they finally gave up and said we'll build a caged-in area, and you can smoke in the cage. And they put a tractor tire in there that the kids could sit on. So they've made it very comfortable for them in the middle of winter.

However, there are other real concerns around this. You know how they gather in large groups in those areas. The perception we have heard from elementary school children is that about 80 per cent of high school students smoke. That's the perception, because they see all these kids outside the school smoking. In fact we have been told that the numbers would be more around 24, 25 per cent, and some even less.

So I think we have had young people say to us that they would like legislation to say no smoking on school property. We have had others say we need to have this lounge because we're addicted and school is so stressful and life is stressful and we need a place to smoke. And we should have it around our school, so that we can run out and get a smoke when we're feeling stressed, and then come back in.

So we've had a variety of proposals as well. And my hope is that we're able to — and I'm speaking personally when I say this — my hope is that we are able to set a standard of legislation that will say no smoking in public places and wherever youth are . . . have access. And if that's possible, that would definitely mean that there is no smoking around schools.

So I have a hope that we may get there, but there's always lots of discussion and challenge about what direction we'll take.

Mr. Addley: — Just further to that. Schools that have butt lounges or permit smoking in different areas have a higher rate of smoking in their population than those schools that don't permit that in some of the surveys that we've been presented.

We had a presentation from some students who had attended a private school, and they were not permitted to smoke anywhere on school grounds, and they were not permitted to be smoking even off school grounds or they had some problems with their

teachers and had some consequences.

So what they found was that the kids basically smoked on their way home at lunchtime or on the way to school. And they had a very low percentage of kids that actually smoked in the school. And it wasn't . . . no one saw anyone smoking and that was a big role modelling for smoking. So if it was out of sight, less people started.

At present there is no legislation in Saskatchewan that anyone can enforce for those kids that are standing on the street corner or usually in front of somebody's house, throwing cigarette butts on the lawn. If they were drinking beer, then the police could be called, and they'd be charged. But basically there is nothing that can be charged with.

So that's part of the reason we're having this, is that we know on the one hand if you are permitted to smoke in school, you're going to encourage other people to smoke. But if you don't have that there, then there is nothing that legislation can do. So hopefully we'll have something to address that very shortly.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Partly the same as what Graham had talked about, but I'd like your opinion. Some of the discussion we've had around the province is that the sellers of cigarettes that sell to minors can be charged. And I don't think the enforcement has been followed very strict on that, but say it had . . . What would your feeling be on also the youth that was trying to purchase the cigarettes, he really would be breaking a law if that was brought into place — what's your feeling on that?

Ms. Morgan: — I'm speaking personally here.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Yes, that's what I'm asking though. What do you think?

Ms. Morgan: — Personally I would like to see that happen. My concern is when you talk to municipal people, they say we are having a hard enough time funding police forces to take care of traffic problems and bigger crime issues. You know, we cannot have our money being spent on tobacco patrol. And so from a personal standpoint, I very much think that you have to have enforcement if it's going to make any difference. On the other hand, I also understand financially where municipalities are at and I think it would end up being a municipality thing.

And I can very much understand, you know, if you have a choice between catching people who are going to be killing people with vehicles and catching people who are going to be killing people with cigarettes, that the general populace would prefer the money to go towards traffic control.

And so I understand those things but I also don't think that you can . . . If you don't have a punch in your legislation, it's not going to make any difference.

But I also understand that a number of years ago we brought in seat belt legislation that a lot of people didn't like and complained about and there was that whole personal rights and all that kind of stuff. Well the majority of people now wear their seat belts, not all of them, but I mean it takes time and I think if you're willing to take time and enforce it, it'll come.

But people have to . . . If there's no punch, it's worthless legislation; and then to me it's better not to have a law than to have a law that you can't enforce.

Mr. Addley: — Just to follow up on what Bob said, one of the things Doreen pointed out in her slides is that cigarette smoking kills more people than the traffic accidents, so the civic people think that traffic accidents are the ones where they should be putting a lot of the priority in.

But one of the things that we've heard is the suggestion is rather than charging the kids that you write them a ticket, which may seem like the same thing but really isn't. And then one of Doreen's comments in the past is community service so that, you know, the students wouldn't be able to pay the hundred dollar fine but they'll be able to do some other things that will help with the education, so.

And the other thing too is as you said, it's more of you have the law there and an education and then enforcement, and then eventually you can start getting tougher with it. Just like the drinking and driving laws and as you said, the seat belt. So go ahead then.

Ms. Higgins: — To get back to your initial comments about the schools and suggestions. One of the schools we went to was Balfour Collegiate in Regina. And they have a very proactive group there that have just done some very positive things. And it was nice to see the attitude that they took.

One of the things that they have done was provided things to do over the lunch hour so the kids that were staying there over lunch had things to do — or came back early — had activities like foosball tables, and they had set up kind of a video lounge where the kids could sit around and watch videos, different things on the go there.

And it was kind of a novel idea. But they had declared areas of the school grounds smoke free. So in effect what they ended up doing was moving the smokers to the back parking lot. But it was just kind of a nicer way of doing it, a little more positive approach, that this was a smoke-free area so you, you know . . . They didn't kind of segregate them out and make it more noticeable.

But they are a very active group and had done some of the elementary school visits. That had gone over very well. And I think all the high schools have said if we leave the education and the work until high school, we've left it too late, that it has to be earlier. But they were a very good group.

Mr. Wartman: — Thank you. One of the things that the municipal people and actually many people point to around enforcement is that we don't have the funds. We can't hire the enforcement officers. And I was doing some of the reading today in documents that we had received. I came across a novel idea from Manitoba, and they were talking along the lines of licensing the tobacco manufacturers to have access to the province.

And doing so . . . And I think their figure was based on cost of enforcement, cost of education and advertisement. They weren't dealing so much with the health side of it. And they based it on

\$7 per capita for the province, which amounted to about \$7 million a year that the tobacco companies would pay simply to be able to do business in the province. And that would provide . . . that would go a long ways to providing enough enforcement officers and also to help them with education and advertisement.

So there's some very novel ideas that are available and we're trying to get a handle on all of them and explore them and bring them forward.

The Vice-Chair: — Okay, any other questions or comments? I thank you, Darlene, very much.

Ms. Morgan: — Thank you.

Mr. McComb: — May I speak?

The Vice-Chair: — You certainly can, sir. Please identify yourself.

Mr. McComb: — My name is Orval McComb and I'm from Biggar, Saskatchewan. And I'm a businessman. I'm also here today basically representing the Hotels Association of Saskatchewan; I'm past president of that association.

And I beg your forgiveness with regards to not having a formal presentation tonight, but I neglected to read my input letter that I should phone to get an appointment. But consequently the committee said that it would be fine if we did speak anyway. And I feel that this might be a good time before the coffee break because after that, maybe everybody will go home.

But I guess a couple or three points that I want to make in answer to some of the other questions I think that have been brought up this evening. First of all, over the last three weeks I've had an opportunity to visit approximately 15 small hotels in rural Saskatchewan. And that's in my district which basically takes in the eastern and western part of the province here, and basically north and south up as far as Lloydminster.

And in sitting down and talking to the folks about this kind of situation and particularly your committee meeting, these folks have little awareness of what it's all about. But they do have a definite concern when you sit down with them and talk to them about it, to the degree that . . . I have to commend the people that came forth with regards to the students because I think our association is fully in agreement with regards to the restriction of smoking in areas where children are and young adults are. There's no question about that. It's like motherhood. You can't fight that kind of thing. I have small grandchildren also, and sons and daughters, and I think that we would not ever go against that particular kind of curriculum.

But in the small communities that I visit where there may be one hotel in the town who looks after a whole lot of things — they look after the coffee break things in the morning, they look after the gathering place at dinnertime — and they are about the only place in that community that people congregate and gather, other than maybe their skating rink and the curling rink, if they have one at all.

And their concern is that if a smoking bylaw came in to the

hotel association situation, particularly in beverage rooms, that they would have to close their door. In fact I had two or three of them tell me that if it did come, they would certainly try and sell the hotel, which would be almost an impossibility at that particular point. Because it is a gathering place, but more so it's a gathering place of adults.

It's a gathering place of people who can consent to whether or not they wish to sit beside someone who smokes or someone who doesn't smoke, and have a coffee or a drink or whatever they should desire at that particular premise. And they have that real concern that what will these people do if that were the case, because they gather in groups of 10 and 12. And that's the way small town communities are in Saskatchewan.

When you get into the larger places such as the cities, most of them are carrying bylaws now that have been put in by their town councils. Saskatoon right now doesn't have one because it's in the courts. But I think that they were very adamant that they were quite happy with what they had with regards to their dining rooms and their banquet rooms and the lobbies being smoke free, and so on and so forth, where young families may meet.

But I think at that particular point we have to be concerned as to how far the committee may go with regards to beverage rooms. We're all trying very, very hard to put in ventilation systems that make it more adequate for people. In fact I was in some small bars, Luseland would be a good example.

The fellow bought two \$3,000. machines to put in his bar that will eliminate the smoke. Takes the smoke out, filters it, and so on and so forth. There's \$6,000 investment with regards to having a ventilation system or smoke filtration system within his bar, and he's a small town operator. And he's gone that far to make sure that his customers are well looked after.

So I would like to caution the committee with regards to the sociability of these things within small communities. We're not talking about health problems now, we're talking about people's livelihood. We're talking about people going out of business.

And I don't think the committee really wants to put legislation forth on the table with regards to those kinds of things, particularly as I said before that we're dealing with adult people who can consent where they want to sit or they don't want to sit with regards to that scenario.

And that's really all I'm going to say about that. Because we have some . . . (inaudible) . . . ideas with regards to our own board of directors. And we're still, we're still at the break-even point of trying to come up with some consensus with regards to what we could live with and what we couldn't live with.

But I do believe that in the larger centres where we have a lot of seats, that I think we can set aside a percentage that may be non-smoking. And I don't think that percentage should be really, maybe that large but . . . however, I think they can.

But when you get into small-town Saskatchewan where you've got folks that have 30 seats in their beverage room or 60 seats in their beverage room, and they only have 10 people in there

anyway that are giving them any business, and then all of a sudden we say that, well if you want to smoke you go down to the far end and sit all alone and the rest of the folks will be up here. And it doesn't really, I think, work.

So let's be conscious of that when we sit down and think about small-town Saskatchewan because I know that we sometimes always focus with regards to the main populous of our country.

I'm also a retailer of cigarettes. I have a service station/convenience store. And I know what the tobacco policemen are like, and I've got letters. The one thing I really don't like in this whole scenario is that they're making us responsible. They put in laws, and then they expect us to be the bad guys to make these laws work. And that's the toughest part with any law.

Now if there's laws put in, and people have to be responsible for them, and somebody said with regards to should the kids be fined, I would say definitely should. They should never walk up to a counter and ask a young employee who is busy with regards to a pack of cigarettes.

And I know that entrapment is one of the worst things that we have in this system. And it really gets us uptight as a retailer when we have that kind of thing happen — the entrapment that happens.

I'm 60 miles out of the city. They'll bring kids out that are 17- and 18-years-old and they look like they're 35. Send them in to buy a pack of cigarettes. And you know it . . . and then when it's all done, they go out and the employee says well gee, why would I ask him? Take a look at him. And then they write us a letter, and of course tell us that we were prepared to sell this particular person cigarettes on such and such a day and so on and so forth. Don't let it happen again.

But entrapment doesn't really work. Send a 14-year-old kid in and let's test us all out, you know. And that's what I'm saying is that these kids are coming forward and you can't tell whether or not they're 16 — and particularly the girls.

You ladies know what I'm talking about. You can find 16-, 17-year-old girls that look like they're 25 any day of the week. When they get dressed up, prettied up, boy, I tell you, you can't tell the difference. So entrapment is one of the things I think is not right.

I also think that we really have to, we really have to put the onus on the people that try to buy also, and that's my point that I want to make there. The kids are doing their best in trying to keep kids informed in high school and that's great. But the ones that do break the law makes it bad for everybody else.

And I think basically that will wrap up my say for tonight. There was a couple of other things, and I've forgot some of the points that they had made. And I was just going to try to answer those on behalf of a retailer, but I think that will wrap up my presentation. And if there's any questions, I'd be more than happy to discuss them.

The Vice-Chair: — I thank you very much, Orval. We have met with several people involved in the hospitality industry.

Mr. McComb: — That's correct.

The Vice-Chair: — And so, you know, we do realize the concerns that are out there. And this panel consists of seven different people with very different opinions on some issues. But in the end, hopefully we will be able to come up with something that will be agreeable to folks like yourselves and also folks, you know, on the other side of the issue.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you for your presentation. I come from a town originally of 350 people, so it has one hotel or a bar, so I understand where you're coming from. And I think this committee is cognizant of the fact that we're not trying to put people out of business. That's not the goal here.

The goal is to try to save some lives and encourage kids not to smoke and help those that do. And basically the buzz word is denormalization, and make smoking not normal, not socially acceptable.

Just some of the issues that we have heard from people that are raising for the hoteliers or people in the hospitality industry is that some of the reasons the American firms are getting out of . . . or providing smoking places . . . non-smoking establishments is because they're concerned that their employees who don't smoke, but who are forced to work there because they can't find a job somewhere else, will be suing that company five years down the road when they develop the lung cancer.

Also some of the . . . well you know your own business, but a lot of them are women, a lot of them are single women, and they have children or get pregnant, and the prenatal care or the cause of smoking to the fetus is quite serious.

Some of the issues that we've heard too is, just sort of anecdotal on the side, that well, you know, we don't go into hotels or to bars because there's smoking there. And 70 to 80 per cent of the population doesn't smoke right now, but because bars are considered legitimate smoking areas, that they don't go into those places. So I just thought you'd want to know that.

The other thing some of the businesses we've been hearing from said, that as long as there's a level playing field then we can live with it. We don't like it, we wouldn't advocate it, but as long as it's a level playing field, we're entrepreneurial, we can compete with everybody else as long as the competition is fair. But if you're in there making legislation where you're picking winners and losers that this one is a bar and this one is a restaurant but does the same thing that the bar does, then you're picking winners and you're picking losers.

Some of the other people are saying, it would help me because I won't have to buy \$6,000 ventilation equipment; I can just have a smoke-free place and people can come and eat their meals and leave.

The other thing with small towns is that there is no choice. Basically you either go into a smoky place or you don't have anywhere to go. And so that's a concern.

I am honestly concerned about your livelihood and the business livelihood, so I have asked these questions to students and to

people. And even today in North Battleford, I asked that very question as to what do I say to someone who's just made this presentation. And they just said, well they're earning money on death, can't they go into something else? I didn't have an answer for that but I was beat up a little bit by asking that very question.

So I guess my question is this, that you indicated that entrapment doesn't work. What would you . . .

Mr. McComb: — No, I didn't say it didn't work. I said it's really not fair to have entrapment as a way of trying to control something.

Mr. Addley: — Right. Well I think also you said it's not very effective or it doesn't work. But do you have something, an alternative to that, that you'd like to see for . . .

Mr. McComb: — I just said the alternative was that if in fact the tobacco person comes in and fines someone that is buying cigarettes, that they should fine that particular person under age.

Mr. Addley: — Okay.

Mr. McComb: — Okay, that should be . . . There's no sense telling kids that they can't do something unless there's some degree of response to it. Like you said earlier about writing out a ticket — it's not really a fine, it's just a ticket.

Mr. Addley: — No, it would be a fine, as opposed to taking you to court to establish the fine.

Mr. McComb: — Yes, okay, and we have the same problem with shoplifting. The court systems of the day will not recognize shoplifters under 18 years of age. They want you to put them to work within the community. On a number of occasions we have tried to do that with volunteer help at various public functions, and these kids will not show up. They just . . . they just say no, I don't have to go, you know.

So what good has it done? Because now they've just said that the law doesn't have . . . not going to make me go, so I just don't bother going. And so nothing has really happened to them. And so consequently we just ban them out of our place of business, and tell them, come back when they're 18, when the law will stand up and fine them.

Mr. Addley: — We're finding that there's no magic one solution, that it's basically a tool box approach that we have to . . . we have to make sure that, you know, people who sell to children are . . . there's consequences for that. That when underage people go to buy cigarettes, that there's consequences if they possess it; or if people, adults buy for kids, there's consequences for that; that it's a global approach.

So basically how we handle alcohol, that's how we should handle cigarettes — except cigarettes are more deadly.

But thank you for taking the time to give the presentation, I appreciate it.

Mr. Wartman: — Thank you. I appreciated the first part of your presentation where you were speaking about the concern

for young people, and it's a common concern that's shared. With regard to the second part of your presentation — and I saw it in three parts — the second part with regard to small business hoteliers, bar owners, we've heard some very clear presentations on that and I have, I think, a fairly good understanding, having lived in small-town Saskatchewan, of the sociology that we're dealing with there.

I mean I think of Alameda, a town where I lived and knew everybody and was known by everybody. There the old legionnaires would go into bar in the morning and they'd sit in there and they'd drink coffee and they'd smoke cigarettes, and they were lonely and they'd talk to the bartender and to anybody else who came along, and drink beer as the day wore on and smoke a whole lot more cigarettes. And that was their place and other people from the community came in.

And so there's a . . . I think amongst all of us here there's a pretty good awareness of what the situation is there, that it's different from the cities.

We had some very, very good presentations by people who talked about knowing their community, knowing that in the general population there may be a 70/30 split in terms of 70 per cent don't smoke, 30 per cent do. But they know their community well enough to know that even if it was ruled a smoke-free place that most of that 70 per cent in their community still wouldn't go into a bar. And so I think there's a fair . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . there's other reasons, that's right, and there's a fairly good awareness of that.

However with regard to the third part which was the business where you sell cigarettes, personally I have . . . I feel like probably more strongly than what Graham said that, yes indeed, there needs to be laws around possession, probably some good enforcement there. But I am no more enamoured of children breaking the law than I am of adults breaking a law in selling cigarettes to children.

And there are businesses that have taken very, very clear steps to make sure that their employees card everyone who doesn't look at least 25 years old and they will not sell, and they have forms that have to be filled out at the beginning of the day and the end of the day by their employees. An admirable job done by 7 Eleven to educate their staff and to clearly have a good understanding of the law and what needs to be done for compliance.

And if entrapment is used or if youth come out from the school to purchase and then inform that certain stores are not obeying the law, I'm all for it. There is a law. It needs to be complied with by adults and business people just as surely as a possession law would need to be complied with by children.

So I feel quite strongly about that and primarily for the reason that Graham brought forward and that is that we're talking about death, major death. And we don't want kids to start and we don't want them to have access.

Mr. McComb: — Don't get me wrong, Mark. Don't get me wrong, Mark. We do what the law tells us to do, okay. I'm not saying that everybody out there breaks the law. And there are some bad guys, okay, and we talked about those a little earlier

and they really shouldn't be in the business of selling anything because there are those that are out there.

These students said you get them at a service stations. Well, that's the quickest place and the easiest place to go. And do you know why it is? It's because a lot of service stations use part-time people who are themselves are in teens, okay, working their way through high school. They get lots of jobs pumping gas. That's where those kids work, so that's why the young people go there is because those young people are there.

And then you have a peer pressure situation where the kid comes in and says, George, you know me, like you have to sell me some cigarettes. And you know, those are the kinds of things that I'm talking about is . . .

Mr. Wartman: — I think I would agree with you there. And it is a real problem. And hard-nosed guys like me are trying to say that, well what we need to do is really limit who can sell as well. And who and where we don't know yet. But I mean I've got my definite ideas but there are others who are not pushing that far. But I . . .

Mr. McComb: — There will be people that quit selling.

Mr. Wartman: — There will be people who quit and there will be people who are not able to sell. And I think that as we care for the health of the people of this province, personally I believe that's where we need to go. I know that there's people who'll argue with me on that but that's where I feel. And I hope we get there.

Mr. McComb: — Well I don't disagree with you at all but there's . . . My feeling is this, that whatever law that you make, don't have us being the bad guys or the people that have to look after it.

In other words, if you put no smoking into dining rooms and they don't set up a smoke-free room — as most of them will but if they don't — I don't think the owner should have to be responsible to go around and say, well you're in the wrong area; you have to put that cigarette out. Or in a beverage room. Because the law is not made by us, it's made by the government and I don't think that we should have to go out and be the tobacco people, cops for it.

The Vice-Chair: — So the long and short is, you're saying it's the government makes the law . . .

Mr. McComb: — Enforce it.

The Vice-Chair: — . . . that they should be the ones to police it, not you?

Mr. McComb: — Absolutely, absolutely.

Mr. Bjornerud: — I guess, Orval, I come out from a little different perspective than Mark and them do. I represent a constituency with mostly small towns. And I know my hoteliers, knowing that I was on this committee, have contacted me.

And I also see every day the service that the hotels are

providing in small-town Saskatchewan right now, especially if you lose your restaurant or get down to one restaurant. I know a number of mine have got to the point where they've had to serve meals to survive now. So they're serving another purpose.

And I guess the feeling that comes out of them . . . and I tend to agree with them to the point that we need them badly in small-town Saskatchewan because each one of these things we lose is another nail in the coffin.

And I guess one of the concerns they brought to me was that the clientele in there is 19 or over and the kids aren't in there. So at least, you know if there's a good side to it, at least we're not smoking where the kids have to . . . you know, the younger people have to inhale this.

I tend to agree with you to the degree that if you are breaking the law by selling cigarettes, I agree that then the young person that's buying them should also be breaking the law. I think it's a double-edged sword. I can't see how on one hand we can make you try and police it and put no onus on the young person going in.

Another concern — my constituency runs along the Manitoba border and I think the concern they have over there to a degree is too, that if we come in with very stringent laws for the bars, that a lot of our people will go across the border, vote with their feet, and it will be the nail in the coffin. And you may be in the same position on this side — similar to the sales tax that we've saw and we've heard a number of times about — that a lot of your patrons may jump the border. And once again it hurts the Saskatchewan side.

Mr. McComb: — It happens, yes. Particularly in Lloydminster — in particular.

Mr. Bjornerud: — And I'm not here to plead your case, but I've heard these same concerns.

Mr. McComb: — No, that's great. Thank you.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Orval. I guess I have a problem with a few of the same things that Mark and Graham have and . . . I mean we realize the problem, especially in the smaller towns, that this is going to be. But I also have a concern with your feeling a little bit overworked or pressured to enforce the laws that . . . the few laws that are in place when you are selling tobacco to minors.

And I feel that it should be a responsibility of both. But when you're talking about entrapment and not being able to tell the age of some of these people that come in, that would make it in my view even more important to ID (identify) people. And tobacco is a controlled substance to a certain extent.

And this is one of our big problems is that if you looked at the rules the same way — the people in your hotel association — and said I don't want to be the policemen for the government's rules, the hotel associations and the bars wouldn't stay in business very long.

But being tobacco is such an accepted portion of society and it plays such an accepted role, for some reason we don't see it as

important — the rules that govern it. But they are. And that's one of our big problems is we have to denormalize the use of tobacco, that it is and should be as regulated as much as alcohol because it can be more dangerous.

I guess I have problems with that. They're in the same category but yet in our society we don't view them that way.

Mr. McComb: — I know why you're having problems, Deb, is because I would have the same problem. To the degree that you're talking about alcohol and liquor control laws, we set up premises within our province that sell alcoholic beverages in controlled areas of 19 years of age and over. And so everybody that walks in that door, we have one function in mind and that's to make sure that they're 19 when they're there.

But we never have to go and check them after we've made that decision. They're there for one purpose and that's to consume alcohol, and we do that, and there's a couple of other things with regards to overdrinking that we have to look after and that sort of thing.

Tobacco is . . . in a beverage room is a little different ball game because now we may be saying — and I hope what I heard from Graham and Mark won't happen in some of these smaller areas — but what we're saying now is that you, if you're a smoker, you must stay here. And if you're a non-smoker, you must stay here. And, God, how do we control that from people not moving around in a beverage room? It's almost an impossibility.

You guys have been to beverage rooms and you know how people move around. They have the rules and regulations now that they can pick up a drink, and they can move over and talk to Joe or Sam or whoever. So you have a different kind of control we're talking about.

Ms. Higgins: — I think one of the presentations that we had earlier was that I think as Canadians we are a fairly law-abiding people. If there's a . . . And that smoking regulations are basically self-enforcing. If there's a no-smoking sign, people won't light up. If they know one side's smoking, one side's not, people aren't going to be totally obnoxious. I mean sure you're going to run across the odd ones that wander back and forth but it's not going to be everyone. It's not going to be a free-for-all for heaven sakes.

Mr. McComb: — Well, Deb, you can't put beverage rooms under the same umbrella as dining rooms. Dining rooms — you and I will walk in and we will say no smoking. We go to that no-smoking section. We're there for an hour. We eat. We leave the premises.

Ms. Higgins: — So now these . . .

Mr. McComb: — In a beverage room . . .

Ms. Higgins: — When you talk about beverage rooms and regulations, when you also sell tobacco in your service station — I'm not sure what it is, sorry — those . . . I mean tobacco has the same restrictions to a certain extent as what tobacco has. So you as a retailer . . . If a minor is coming in and trying to buy tobacco and if they are in possession, I feel also that they should

have some penalty for that.

But you as a retailer who have chosen to sell a product that has restrictions and laws limiting its sale, you have an obligation to enforce those rules.

Mr. McComb: — I don't disagree with that because we're talking two different things; we're talking sale and we're talking consumption. And consumption in a beverage room of cigarettes is a lot different than a sale that I make in my service station.

And I don't disagree with the law with regards to the sale of tobacco. We adhere to the laws. In my place of business I have a sign that you must be . . . have identification ready if you're 25 years or younger so that you can be asked. Okay? And can be refused if you don't have that identification. And I have no qualms with that, none whatsoever. We can live with that law; that's a good law. We can live with that.

But what I'm saying is that there's a . . . I talked about one thing, about beverage rooms, and then I decided that I would do something about . . . talk about the selling of tobacco also. And I don't have no qualms with regards to the selling of tobacco, none whatsoever. Okay? So please don't take me to task on that because most of us, like you say, are law-abiding citizens and we will make sure that that law is held on to.

And we will make sure that we ask people. Our signs are there. Okay? But I don't want that to be mistaken for sale of tobacco and consumption of tobacco in beverage rooms where alcohol is being consumed. Okay? I hope I made my point.

Ms. Higgins: — No, I understand. Maybe also I am confusing the two or mixing a question that should be kept separate.

The Vice-Chair: — Okay the speaking order is Brenda, Graham, and Mark, so Brenda Bakken.

Ms. Bakken: — I'd just like to comment that I understand where you're coming from. I come from a smaller city and I also run a business. And I have a strong belief that when you own a business you do have some true ownership because you have an investment in it, and you will make decisions so that you will have clientele and you will survive. You're in it to make a profit and to make a living, and you will not do things that will drive clientele away or drive the majority. You will do things that will . . .

And so in your business I believe you have a legitimate concern that your clientele want to be able to come there and smoke. And something that I think we need to be well aware of, and I think you mentioned it to some extent and Bob did too, that in a small town you do need a place to meet. And it's very, very important not only for the business at the bar, but it's also important for any other businesses that are in that community.

Because when people lose ownership of their communities and don't feel like they belong and they have no focal point, they start losing commitment to those communities and they find it easy to go to a bigger centre to purchase their other goods and to do everything. And they fade away because they have no bond. So I think we have to be very aware of what we're doing.

Rural Saskatchewan has been hit very hard by this government and they will continue to be, and we have to make sure that we don't do anything more to drive that wedge that is there on what's happening.

Also, I agree with you about the entrapment. I think that if a business owner is legitimately breaking the law then they should be charged accordingly. But to deliberately try to entrap someone by doing something, I think is wrong because you're going there with the intent of finding them in an illegal situation rather than that they were doing something illegal to begin with. So I support you on that; I think it's wrong and I thank you for your presentation.

Mr. McComb: — Thank you.

Mr. Addley: — I guess, I feel I should have a rebuttal on some of . . . (inaudible) . . . comments but I'll refrain. I guess you know living the first half of my life or longer actually in a small town, I understand where you're coming from. I just want . . . a couple of points that, you know, with business rights come business responsibilities, and when you said that you don't feel that you should be enforcing any kind of laws that a government makes, that's the same kind of argument that was made when the laws governing drinking and driving came out where you know you can't serve drinks until the person's drunk and let him drive from your establishment; that you could be held responsible for that. And I think there was a lot of opposition to that, but I think now it's pretty well accepted that that's the norm and it's acceptable.

I guess just to comment on what you were saying about different smoking sections. The people that — and I haven't made up my mind, I'm going to wait until after the committee's done before I conclude this — but what they're advocating is a total ban on smoking in restaurants and bars. So it's not that there will be a smoking section and a non-smoking section. They're advocating that there's no smoking in bars.

Mr. McComb: — Could I just ask Mr. Graham, who are they?

Mr. Addley: — Most of the health professionals. I mean, if you have access to *Hansard* you can go on and look through that and it's actually recorded on *Hansard*. So it's quite a few people. And some of them are business people. Most of the business people we've talked to are not advocating that, but most of the health care people are.

Mr. McComb: — They should let us go to health, and they can come out and run our businesses in the small-town communities. See how they make out.

The Vice-Chair: — I feel that I should intervene at this time and again remind you that we all have very different opinions as people and they are our personal opinions. And as a committee we will be hashing this out when it's all said and done.

Mr. Addley: — Right. Just a final . . . I want to wrap up my points. I agree with what Brenda was saying, that it is a focal point and it's an all inclusive and you have to have a place to go for people to congregate. And usually the bar or the restaurant, that is the location.

But we have heard from some of the smaller communities that they don't want to . . . They're non-smokers, they can't go into an establishment where there's smoking. But it's the neighbour, it's the friend, it's the person they curl with; they don't want to raise an issue, they don't want to raise a stink. So they don't mention it.

But some of the business people that we have talked about or have heard from is that it's a transitional period when they go to non-smoking. That there's an initial loss of business for a month or two, marginally, but that it starts to grow after that and they actually get more business. It was in Saskatoon that they were raised in. So just to give you that feedback on some of the things and some clarifications.

But we're certainly not in this to put you out of business, or to drive a wedge between you and your customers.

Mr. Wartman: — Thank you. And I just had one comment. You were, I felt, indicating that we were advocating smoking sections in bars. I'm not an advocate of that. I really agree with what some of the kids have said. And I've heard a number of times now that having smoking sections the way that most places have them is like having peeing sections in a swimming pool.

And I mean as far as small town bars are concerned, I don't see any gain for anybody to put them non-smoking — personally. I am more and more convinced that what we need to do is, wherever children have access, to do whatever we can to take smoking out of those places — wherever they have access.

Because there's such a mix between rebelling and role modelling that children look for. And they see parents, adults, maybe the hero of the community — the hockey player, the curler, whatever — smoking. And there's a role model. Or maybe their parents tell them not to and they rebel against it. They smoke.

Well if we can make it as out of their sight and as abnormal as possible, I'll be a happy camper.

But I don't want to see a non-smoking section because most often they're not very effective. Voluntarily you may want to put one in. I think Don yesterday probably gave us the best picture. He said in his restaurant in Stoughton, he's got this fan that just draws the smoke out of there so much if you put your hand on a light switch on the other end, or a plug-in, you can feel the air coming in from the plug-in. And he says the smokers are in the section right underneath the fan, and the non-smokers are in the other.

Well that way it might work. I think it could help. But overall, I think we have . . . I mean, despite political differences, the reality is that we want the best for the province and we certainly want the best for the youth of our province. And I hear that coming from you as well. So thank you for your presentation and for forbearance in dealing with our struggling with ideas here as well.

Mr. McComb: — No, I appreciate your comments particularly. And I'm glad to see I've got you all on the right track. And thank you very much.

The Vice-Chair: — Thank you, Orval. Does anyone else have any comments they'd like to make? Dean Haaf.

Mr. Haaf: — I'd like to ask Orval a question. Orval, how would you like to make more money? Orval, how would you like to make more money in your business?

The Vice-Chair: — I don't think that we can get into a . . .

Mr. Haaf: — What I want . . . My point is I come from a research background. All the work I've done is based on research. I've spent a lot of time doing the research, and when we looked at our policies that we initiated, we looked to what was successful.

We looked at California. Right now they have smoke-free bars. That didn't happen overnight. That was a period of 25 years of hard work and baby steps. I encourage you to look at taking baby steps.

Their very first baby step was to make smoke-free environments for children after 4 p.m. Coffee goes in the small-town businesses could go have their cigarette during the day which they did. At 4 o'clock, they said, that's it, no more smoking. Patrons came in. Non-smoking or all . . . sorry, the smokers came in too but they sat down, they had their meal, and they left.

They found out that smokers take three times as long to eat. Smokers come in, they light up a smoke. What does smoking do? It's not a stimulant. It decreases your appetite so they order less. When they came in, they didn't smoke, they ordered more. They had their meal, they left. The smokers came in, they had their smoke, they sat down. They ate less and then they had another smoke. So they had their tables turning over three times faster.

They had a 34 per cent increase in profit from the 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. area, and they made more money. There's an opportunity here for all businesses across Saskatchewan to make more money.

The Vice-Chair: — Well I thank you for that and I respect your opinion, but I also respect Orval's. And I mean the hoteliers have done research and they come up with different statistics. So I mean in all fairness we have to respect both sides of the story.

Mr. Haaf: — Another point of clarification I'd like to make is that I know for a fact in northern Saskatchewan the tobacco enforcement officer does not use anybody over 16 and they are not allowed to lie. So I personally do not buy into the entrapment argument.

Mr. Addley: — . . . study.

Mr. Haaf: — Actually it's available on the Internet from the California Health department.

Mr. Addley: — Okay could you e-mail it to Tanya or . . .

Mr. Haaf: — Yes, I can.

Mr. Addley: — . . . or get the information and then we can take a look at that.

Mr. Haaf: — And we noticed that here in Lloydminster, our Tim Horton's went smoke free. They were told to expect a loss of business and from the day they went smoke free they had an increase of 34 per cent business; and they opened a second store and haven't lost any business and they're both smoke free.

Mr. Addley: — Thank you.

The Vice-Chair: — I thank you for your report. And I'll repeat that we do respect your opinion but we respect the hoteliers and we respect their statistics as well. So thank you.

And I think that concludes our evening and I would just like to thank everyone for participating. It was actually quite lively and enjoyable so I thank you all for coming.

The committee adjourned at 8:37 p.m.